

Year 21 • No. 9

Saturday, August 7, 2021

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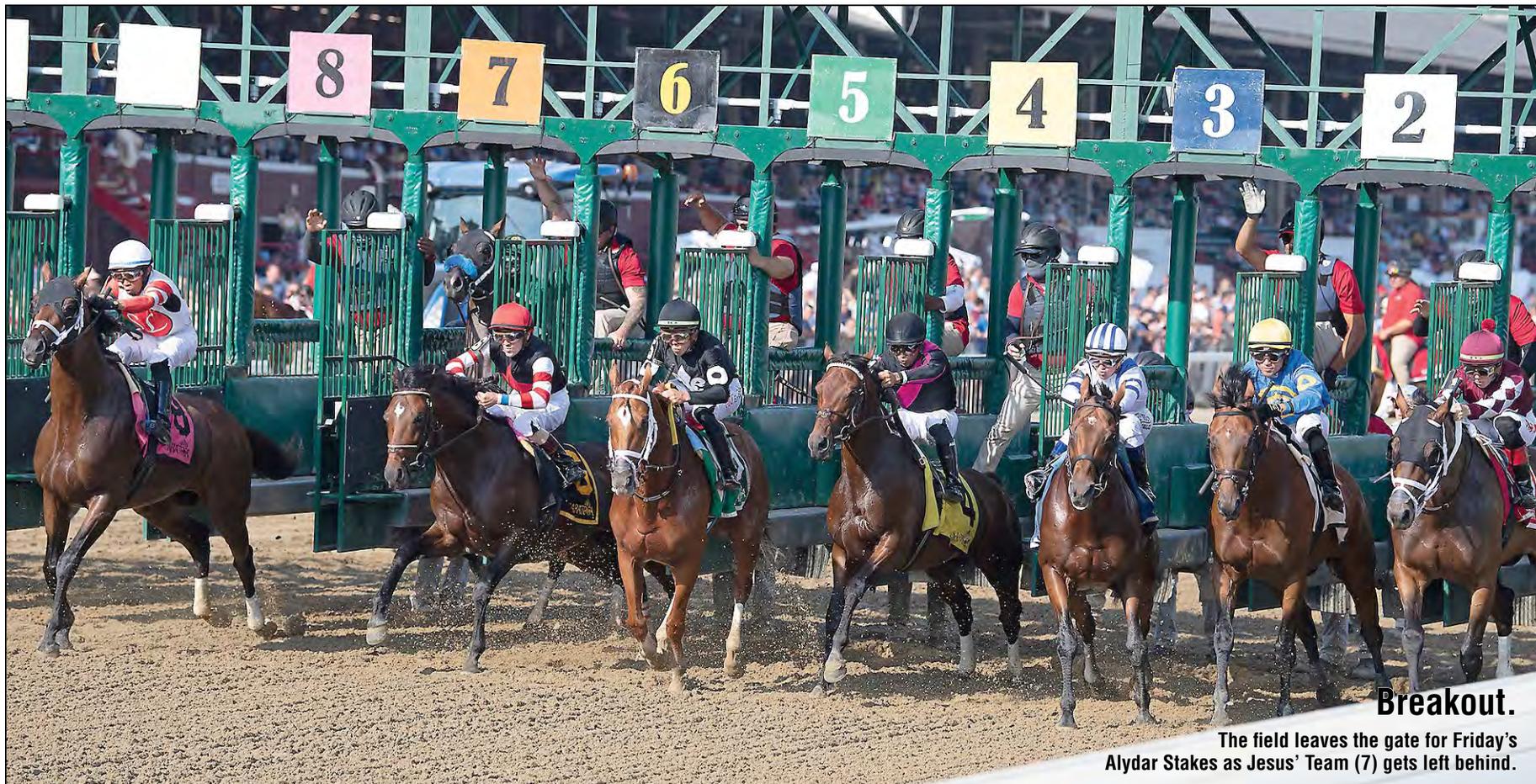
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Breakout.

The field leaves the gate for Friday's Alydar Stakes as Jesus' Team (7) gets left behind.

Tod Marks

Here&There...in Saratoga

T-SHIRT OF THE DAY

Jimmy Winkfield

BY THE NUMBERS

20:22: Time of Nolan Clancy's Saratoga Stryders' trail 5K (let's just say it was by far the fastest of anyone involved with The Special).

36,460: Steve Asmussen once said to us, "Do you know how many races I lose in a day?" It was in the context of losing a few races in a row at Saratoga. The Hall of Fame trainer tied Dale Baird for the all-time win mark with 9,445

wins Friday. Asmussen should break the tie today. It's an incredible achievement. Yes, he's lost 36,460 races. The game takes resiliency.

18:28: Time of Mike Repole's introduction speech for Todd Pletcher at the Hall of Fame.

4:58: Time of Todd Plecher's acceptance speech.

Remembering Nancy Brennan

A brief memorial service will be held for Dr. Nancy Brennan at 11am this Sunday, August 8th, at the new rec center pavilion on the Oklahoma side. All are welcome.

NAMES OF THE DAY

Shutters, fourth race. The 3-year-old colt is by Get Stormy.

Bolshoi Ballet, ninth race. Have you seen him walk?

State Of Rest, ninth race. Team Valley's colt is out of Repose.

Keepcalmcarrion, fifth race. Words to live by.

Imminent Storm, fifth race. The 2-year-old filly is by Flatter and out of Sea Trial.



The Saratoga Special

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Tod Marks

Hall of Fame Homework. Trainer Todd Pletcher studies his training charts on the morning of his Hall of Fame induction.

Here&There...in Saratoga

WORTH REPEATING

“He was amazing, that horse. Just amazing.”

Trainer Charlie LoPresti about Hall of Fame inductee Wise Dan

“Well, you know, it depends on the weather. Right now, we bring him in during the day, the boys brush him off, pick their feet, let them rest in the stall, around 3:30, 4 o'clock, out they go and they spend the night out. In the winter, it depends, sometimes they're out all the time, if the weather's bad, I might put them in but they don't care.”

LoPresti on the turn-out schedule of Wise Dan and Successful Dan

“It does my heart good. They're happy, they've done what they've done and they're just horses.”

LoPresti about brothers Wise Dan and Successful Dan

“What an incredible honor to be here and to be associated with a horse like Wise Dan.”

LoPresti opening his acceptance speech for Hall of Fame inductee Wise Dan

“I should have listened to Joe Clancy, he told me I had too many pieces of paper.”

Jack Fisher who managed to get through the first two pages of his Hall of Fame speech

“He did it his way and it was great.”

Katharine Maroney, Fisher's sister

“Mark politely took my short list, read it for about 10 seconds and then crumpled it up right in front of me and tossed it on the ground.”

Aron Yagoda, about his first sale experience with Hall of Fame inductee Mark Casse

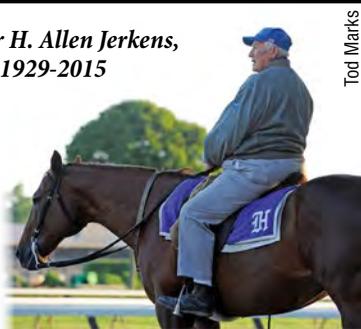
“Stay positive.”

John Fahey's words of wisdom

The Chief

Trainer H. Allen Jerkens,
1929-2015

“Political Force worked a good mile before the Woodward. It's different if they haven't been out in two months, then you do a little more with them. If they're running every three weeks, it's different.”



Tod Marks

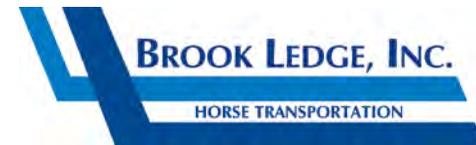


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QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Horse racing has always been my life. When I was little, I was reading the Racing Form instead of comic strips.”

Trainer Mark Casse in the opening moments of his Hall of Fame speech



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Here&There...in Saratoga

WORTH REPEATING

"In our sport as well as in life, loyalty and longevity are hard to come by but with Mark it's commonplace."

Yagoda about Casse

"My son Colby was 10 or 11, I said, 'Colby, Mom and Dad have to go to Canada tomorrow, Dad's up for a Sovereign Award.' He said, 'You think you have a chance, Dad?' I said, 'Well, I think we have a pretty good chance.' He said, 'Yeah, Todd Pletcher doesn't run much in Canada.'"

Casse in his Hall of Fame speech

"Co."

Trainer Steve Asmussen when The Special's Tom Law called him the all-time leader after Asmussen tied Dale Baird for career wins

"It was awesome."

Miles Clancy about his recently concluded performance at Hill School Theatre Camp

Photography School II

"I'm not sure I'm believing you took these...which is a good thing, I guess."

Nolan Clancy, after seeing Sean Clancy's photos of Maxfield (Nolan is a good teacher)

"Great tribute to Tom Law. Makes me wish I had more chances to know him better. Terry Hill's posts reaffirm my dream of having lots of time and energy to pursue my racing interests when I retire from my current career. Thanks for giving him the chance. Now how do you keep the Special going 25 years from now so I get my shot to intern?"

Longtime reader Shawn Meyers

"People helping people."

Trainer Al Stall after texting Joe Clancy what time Dalika would train in the morning

"I got a text from NYRA, post time will now be 3:00, last race will be 9:45."

Owner Mike Repole, introducing Todd Pletcher and running over time at the Hall of Fame

"If I can't have it, I'm not going to hold it."

Repole, handing off Pletcher's Hall of Fame blazer

"He's got to get up at 3 in the morning and I go to bed at 3 in the morning so we cover all 24 hours in a day."

Repole about the sleeping patterns of an owner and a trainer

"One of the cool things about being a horse trainer is that pretty much every day can be bring your kid to work day. We have shared some great moments."

Todd Pletcher in his Hall of Fame acceptance speech



Tod Marks

Hoop Head. Whitney contender Knicks Go eyeballs breakfast at trainer Brad Cox's barn Friday.

CREAM OF THE CROPS

Nyquist has the \$2.6m top-priced juvenile of 2021 from his second crop. Plus: **four G1 two-year-olds from his first crop – an achievement no stallion has ever bettered.** Third-crop Saratoga yearlings selling now.

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With Kenny McPeek

Kenny McPeek was making entries Wednesday morning, and man did it feel good.

“Put Swiss in the Whitney. Irad. King Fury in the Derby. Jose. In the Lure, put Fighting Seabee in and I’m going to need a jock . . . I don’t have any extra in front of me. Do you have a maiden New York-bred 25 or 40? Put Far Away Look in that. Ortiz. Jose. Sorry.”

After answering a simple, “No,” to questions about horses for other races, McPeek punched off his phone and would have been excused for thinking – even briefly – about spiking it to the ground like a kick returner after a 99-yard touchdown run.

It’s been that kind of start to Saratoga 2021 for McPeek, who ran three horses Opening Day and then had to wait out the quarantine of his barn after a horse trained by neighbor Jorge Abreu tested positive for the equine herpesvirus. The 21-day racing shutdown – McPeek and Abreu horses could train on the Oklahoma track after regular training hours, they just couldn’t race – cost several horses in McPeek’s barn major opportunities.

The situation got even more complicated when the trainer wasn’t allowed to enter until the quarantine was lifted Aug. 1. NYRA entries close several days ahead of the actual races (entries for Aug. 1 closed July 29, for example), costing McPeek even more time. His horses trained with the regular horse population at Saratoga Aug. 1, and he ran his first horse since Opening Day on Thursday (three racing days post quarantine) when He’s No Lemon finished seventh in the Birdstone Stakes and had three more runners Friday.

The phone conversation Wednesday morning concerned entries for today, when the McPeek barn will be represented by Swiss Skydiver in the Grade 1 Whitney, King Fury in the Grade 1 Saratoga Derby, Fighting Seabee in the Fasig-Tipton Lure Stakes and Semble Juste in an allowance turf race.

McPeek said that last bit was unexpected, and avoidable, and he and attorney Drew Mollica have asked for a hearing with the New York State Gaming Commission.

“It’s the added days that disturbed me,” McPeek said. “We had everything teed up and ready to go and I don’t want the next owner or trainer or agent or horse to be set up in this bad position. I think they failed to really have some structure.



Tod Marks

Preakness winner Swiss Skydiver takes on the boys again in today’s Whitney.

There needs to be some structure to this. Black and white, no gray. There’s too much money on the line. We had horses set for big races, we had horses set for \$100,000 maiden races, a \$120,000 stake, a \$150,000 stake.”

Commission steward Braulio Baeza Jr. cited the legal action as a reason for declining to comment on the matter, but McPeek called it an incorrect decision even if he understood the original quarantine restrictions.

“We spent a week not knowing what was going on, then we spent two weeks thinking we were going to be able to run on the first of August,” he said. “And then we spent more days unable to.”

The good news is the horses seemed to handle the delay, and McPeek is optimistic about getting back to work with his Saratoga string bedded down in the Oklahoma Annex across Fifth Avenue from the Oklahoma stable area. Opening with, “There’s some good horses in here,” he went through his dry-erase board with The Special’s Joe Clancy and picked out a few highlights.

Swiss Skydiver. Peter Callahan’s 4-year-old filly was supposed to run in the Shuvee July 25, but will instead take on males in a tough edition of the Grade 1 Whitney today. She

beat them in last year’s Preakness Stakes, and tries to duplicate Whitney triumphs by distaffers Black Maria (1928), Bateau (1929), Esposa (1937), Gallorette (1948), Lady’s Secret (1986) and Personal Ensign (1988). Daughter of Daredevil has breezed five times at Saratoga, including a 5-furlong move on the main track Aug. 1, after opening the year with a Grade 1 win in the Beholder Mile in March and a third in the Apple Blossom in April. “She’s been ready. Ideally, I would have loved to have run in the Shuvee because I wanted to get her back to winning ways. This is a swing-for-the-fences race, but she’s good right now. She likes to train early so that wasn’t an advantage, but they all handled it fine.”

King Fury. A \$950,000 yearling at Fasig-Tipton Saratoga in 2019, son of Curlin makes his third start of 2021 in today’s Saratoga Derby on the turf for Three Chimneys and Fern Circle Stable. Won twice as a 2-year-old and opened this year with a victory in the Grade 3 Lexington at Keeneland before finishing second behind Masqueparade (and in front of Keepmeinmind) in the Grade 3 Ohio Derby in June. They were second and third (in the opposite order) in the Jim Dandy July 31 while King Fury dozed in his stall. So now it’s a turf debut in a Grade 1. “I’d have rather run him in the Jim Dandy. You had to think he would have been in the mix. I can’t say I’m completely thrilled about running him on the grass, but I think he’ll run well. The last time he was on the grass he was with his mother. Saratoga has been good to him. He’s ready to run.”

Continued On Page 7

Stable Tour —

Continued from page 6

Crazy Beautiful. A \$250,000 Fasig-Tipton October yearling purchase in 2019, the Phoenix Thoroughbred runner won twice as a 2-year-old at Ellis Park last year and placed in two graded stakes. This year, it's been an Oaks tour as she's won three — Gulfstream Park, Summertime and Delaware — while finishing 10th in the Kentucky version. McPeck considered Sunday's Saratoga Oaks on the turf, but will wait for the Alabama Aug. 21. "She was slated for the Coaching Club — another one that got put on the bench. She's obviously a very good filly."

Simply Ravishing. A \$50,000 Fasig-Tipton October purchase by Harold Lerner, New York-bred 3-year-old filly was a star in 2020 — winning her first three including a Saratoga maiden, the P.G. Johnson Stakes here and the Grade 1 Darley Alcibiades at Keeneland. Fourth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies and Golden Rod to close 2020, she opened this year with a sixth in the Grade 1 Ashland at Keeneland. The Saratoga Dew for New York-breds could be a return spot Aug. 12. "She's already a Grade 1 winner. She had a throat issue in the spring and had to be turned out for a little while."

Tabor Hall. Lee Pokoik's homebred 3-year-old filly broke her maiden in January and won an allowance at Churchill Downs June 25. Daughter of Candy Ride and the Mineshaft mare State Treasure could step up in the 1 1/4-mile Alabama Aug. 21. "There's an outside chance I could have three in the Alabama — Tabor Hall, Simply Ravishing and Crazy Beautiful. I might have run one in the Coaching Club, at least, but we got redirected."

Fighting Seabee. A \$105,000 Fasig-Tipton July yearling sale of 2018, Walking L Thoroughbreds' colt won the With Anticipation at Saratoga in 2019 and was winless in four starts last season. His 4-year-old year looks better with a Keeneland allowance score in April and a third last time at Churchill Downs. He runs in today's Lure at 1 1/16 miles on the turf and prepped with a 5-furlong turf breeze in 1:01.20 Aug. 1. "He had a troubled 3-year-old season, a lot of issues and is coming back to form. He worked really well here the other day."

Laughing Boy. Owned by Three Chimneys, Fern Circle and C&H Diamond Racing, 3-year-old colt eyes a maiden start at Saratoga off a third at Churchill Downs in June. Son of Distorted Humor and Applauding, started just once as a 2-year-old and has worked twice at Saratoga this summer. "He ran really well last time and he's coming up to a maiden race

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Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 7

well. He's trained super up here all summer. He's been ready to run for a while too."

Camp Hope. A \$200,000 purchase by Walking L at Fasig-Tipton July in 2019, 3-year-old colt by Summer Front won his debut at Churchill Downs last year to earn a start in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile where he was 12th. McPeek eyes a turf start next, off a dull dirt effort on Opening Day. "I thought he was going to be a really good horse at first. I'm going to try grass in his next race."

Semble Juste. Bred in Ireland and purchased in France by McPeek, the 3-year-old filly is entered today (main-track only in the 12th) and Sunday (on the dirt) at Saratoga. Daughter of Shalaa lost both starts last year but has rounded into form this season with a last-out maiden win going a mile on the dirt at Churchill Downs June 12. "I think good horses come from a lot of places and we have enough turf racing here to justify (shopping overseas). Some of the breed-shapers have come out of France over time. I enjoy it. It's the same. A horse sale is a horse sale."

He's No Lemon. Owner David Bernsen asked McPeek about claiming the four-time



Tod Marks

King's Fury tackles the turf in today's Saratoga Derby.

winner from trainer Graham Motion here July 23 and they dropped the slip for \$80,000. Stakes-winning son of Lemon Drop Kid and graded winner It's Tea Time was fifth that day on the turf and went to the dirt for Thursday's Birdstone where he was a well-beaten seventh going 1 3/4 miles.

Penny Saver. A \$65,000 Fasig-Tipton October yearling purchase by McPeek, daughter of Super Saver is entered in Sunday's second race for owner Milam Farm. Opened her career with a second to eventual Schuylerville winner Pretty Birdie at Churchill Downs June 18 and has impressed her trainer ever since.

Friday morning she was walking off the Oklahoma track as McPeek made plans for paddock-schooling and a Saturday morning gallop on the main track. "That might be the next really good one. She's in Sunday. She's a really good filly – big, strong, fast as the wind."

Epona Bay. Unraced 3-year-old daughter of American Pharoah and the Johannesburg mare Helena Bay is a half-sister to Grade 1 winner Collected and eyes a Saratoga debut off four works here. "That's a very good filly. She's training really, really well. I'd like to run her a mile turf first time out, but there's no race so I think we're going to give her one run going 6 1/2 furlongs."

Rattle N Roll. Lucky Seven Stable's 2-year-old son of Connect finished third in his debut at Churchill Downs in June. "He's getting ready. I'm probably going to run him long on the 14th (of August)."

Royal Tryst. Winless in five starts, 3-year-old Medaglia d'Oro colt owned by Three Chimneys, Fern Circle, C&H Diamond Racing and Summer Wind Farm looks to get back on track at Saratoga. He was fourth last time, going 1 1/8 miles on the turf at Churchill Downs in June. "He's struggled a bit, and been a bit of a disappointment so far, but this summer and fall he could have a good season."



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To the Max

Once-beaten colt takes aim at Saratoga Grade 1 for Walsh

BY SEAN CLANCY

The text came at 4:14 Friday morning.

7:30. Main Track.

And at exactly 7:30, Brendan Walsh guided lead pony Dan Cutter to the side of Whitney contender Maxfield and exercise rider Tom Molloy and they began the long walk from D. Wayne Lukas' old barn in the far corner of the Oklahoma side to the main track. Four white polos. Ring bit. Tongue tie. Padded noseband. The dark bay colt towered above Dan Cutter, at least two hands taller.

Following Roger Horgan and Crump, Walsh sidled toward the stone dust path and off the pavement as they walked down Jimmy Jerkens

WHITNEY STAKES PREVIEW

lane, opening up on a lagging security guard. No man can keep up with a horse. The trio ambled up the ramp and onto the old Horse Haven track, under the trees and around the bend, passing Chad Brown's barn on the right.

Oracle Bloodstock's Conor Foley slowed his golf cart, four gawkers ogled.

"He looks good."

Everyone nodded.

Seventeen-time winner Mr. Buff and Junior Alvarado, strolled the opposite direction for a breeze on the

Continued On Page 12



Sean Clancy

Maxfield looks to clean up in today's Grade 1 Whitney.

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Whitney —

■ Continued from page 10

Oklahoma. Two fighters, two different weight classes, two rings.

Rob Massey guided a Todd Pletcher colt home from the main track and saw his friends, three on horseback, one walking. The walker with a camera gave it away.

“Something serious is going on here,” the former steeplechase jockey said.

Everyone nodded.

“We’re going to stand in the gate and come back off this gap,” Walsh said as the trio walked onto the main track at the quarter-pole gap. They picked up a jog, the security guard caught up, took a deep breath.

“You guys are fast,” he said.

Maxfield galloped past a few minutes later, part one of his Friday morning exercise. Cameras clicked. Molloy’s hands stayed low and long as the seven-time winner cruised past. Pulling up out of sight, Maxfield joined Dan Cutter and walked to the gate, stood routinely and quietly before backing out. He walked out of the chute, unfussed.

“Most horses will get stirred up after standing, not him,” Walsh said.

Maxfield launched into part two of his exercise, rolling past the quar-

ter-pole gap, Molloy bracing more, his hands two inches above Maxfield’s mane, the star tattoo on his right elbow bobbing above a sweat-soaked neck. Maxfield eased to a stop near the outside rail at the head of the stretch, shook his head and walked toward Dan Cutter and Walsh.

“OK?” Walsh asked, weaving a leather strap through the left side of the bit.

“OK.” Molloy answered, loosening the back buckle and then the front buckle of his girth.

Walsh twisted and pulled off the rubber tongue tie, wrapping it around the horn of his saddle and gave Maxfield a long, slow pat on the right side of his mane as they crossed Union Avenue and passed Mr. Buff again as they made a right onto Horse Haven.

“He’s the last racehorse I’ve been on,” Walsh said. “I jogged him after the Matt Winn.”

Asked if that was because it went that well or that bad, Walsh laughed.

“They say go out on top,” Walsh said.

Maxfield and Molloy, Dan Cutter and Walsh meandered home.

“How’d it go?” Jimmy Jerkens asked.

“Good,” Walsh said. “Good.”

Exactly how you would have want-

Continued On Page 14



Maxfield gallops with Tom Molloy Friday morning.

Sean Clancy

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Whitney —

■ Continued from page 12

ed a day before the \$1 million Whitney.

Bred and owned by Godolphin, Maxfield drew the outside post in the field of five for the 9-furlong stakes. Jose Ortiz, undefeated in five rides aboard the son of Street Sense, takes the call.

Maxfield made his debut at Churchill Downs in September 2019. Walsh had a plan for the promising colt.

“When he ran the first day, a one-turn mile at Churchill, my plan was he would run a nice race and we’ll break his maiden at Keeneland,” Walsh said. “Then we’ll run him back in the Jockey Club at Churchill and we’ll have a nice horse for the winter, for the Derby.”

Maxfield and Ortiz broke from post two, lagged in 10th and blew up Walsh’s plan with a wild rally to win by three-quarters of a length.

Ortiz met Walsh at his barn the next morning. “What’s your plan next?” Ortiz asked, enthusiastically.

“I don’t know, we’ll see,” Walsh said, conservatively.

“You wouldn’t run him back in the Grade 1?” Ortiz asked.

Walsh thought about it.

“It did not for a second enter my head until then,” Walsh said. “That was three weeks ago. We

ran him, what he showed that day...and he was just a frame of a horse at the time.”

Maxfield drew off to win the Grade 1 Claiborne Breeders’ Futurity at Churchill Downs by 5 1/2 lengths.

“What he did as a 2-year-old...”

Maxfield chipped his right front ankle leading up to the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile, requiring surgery and forcing him to miss the rest of the season. As fast as he jumped on the Derby Trail, he was off. Well, until Covid-19 changed the world. Maxfield returned to win the Grade 3 Matt Winn at Churchill in May and was back on the re-routed Derby Trail. And then he wasn’t. A condylar fracture in his right front cannon bone, needing surgery, sidelined him until December.

“A lot of people ask me if I was frustrated when he got hurt,” Walsh said. “Well yeah, but it was never anything we couldn’t fix. I always knew once he grew into himself...”

That process had been completed long before Friday morning.

Maxfield returned for the second time with a win in the Tenacious Stakes at Fair Grounds in December. He followed that with a win in the Grade 3 Mineshaft. Shipped west for the Grade 1 Santa Anita Handicap, Maxfield suffered his only loss, finishing third. Walsh, again, was far from distraught.

“Santa Anita this spring was maybe the best thing that could have happened. He really had to fight that day, it just might have added another dimension,” Walsh said. “I know he got beat, but

sometimes you have to do that to get to this. He changed, he’s more aggressive, it just built up a little bit of killer in him.”

Maxfield returned to Kentucky and dominated the Grade 2 Alysheba and the Grade 2 Stephen Foster at Churchill.

“From the very beginning, we thought he was a star. He’s all boy, he’ll nip at you, but that’s all,” Walsh said. “You see him in the paddock before his races, he’s cool. The last day before the Stephen Foster, he just stood there. He’s special.”

This year’s Whitney is special as four stalwarts line up against Maxfield.

Knicks Go breaks to the inside of Maxfield and will certainly use his potent speed to establish control early. The \$4.8 million earner has won five of seven starts since joining Brad Cox’s barn before the 2020 season. Knicks Go arrived in Saratoga this week.

“He just shipped in, trained for this at Ellis. If he takes to the track he’ll be fine,” Cox said Thursday morning. “Obviously it can be a demanding surface, the mile and an eighth here at Saratoga. That’s the question mark I believe and if he takes to it, he’ll be extremely tough.”

Owned by Korea Racing Authority, the son of Paynter won two allowance races, the Breeders’ Cup Dirt Mile and the Pegasus before finishing fourth in the Saudi Cup and fourth in the Met Mile.

“The Met Mile was a weird race for him. I don’t

Continued On Page 16

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Whitney —

■ Continued from page 14

think that's his thing, the one-turn mile. The race around one turn, in Grade 1 competition, is just not his thing," Cox said. "I'm hopeful that we'll see the same horse we saw in the Pegasus, Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile, Cornhusker, and he takes to the track we'll be OK."

A month after the Met Mile, Cox ventured to Prairie Meadows in Iowa to regain some confidence with an easy score in the Grade 3 Cornhusker. The 5-year-old led every step and won by 10 1/4 lengths. Joel Rosario rides for the seventh consecutive time.

Knicks Go has led through the first three calls in every start for Cox. That won't change.

"To the front for him. On paper if he runs his race he'll be hard to keep up with early. Then he's going to have to somehow stay," Cox said. "He seems to run horses off their feet. Then they go into chase mode around the far turn trying to catch him and he just continues to cruise on. If that's the case I think we'll be in good shape.



NYRA Photo

Silver State looks to repeat his win in the Met Mile.

No secrets with him, not at all."

Silver State rides a six-race win streak into the Whitney. Owned by Winchell Thoroughbreds and Willis Horton Racing and ridden in every start by Ricardo Santana Jr., the son of Hard Spun won one of his first five

starts while dabbling on the Derby Trail. Freshened after finishing seventh in the Grade 2 Louisiana Derby last spring, the bay colt has been flawless since, capping his streak with a win in the Grade 1 Metropolitan Handicap at Belmont June 5.

The \$1.7 million earner could cap off a historic day for trainer Steve Asmussen, who tied Dale Baird as the all-time winningest trainer Friday. With 14 entries spread from Saratoga to Ellis to Monmouth Park to Louisiana Downs, the Hall of Famer could be adding lengths to his lead by the time the Whitney springs to life.

Swiss Skydiver lands in the Whitney after being caught in the equine herpesvirus quarantine at the Oklahoma Annex this season. Trained by Ken McPeck, the 4-year-old filly takes on the boys for the first time since upsetting the Preakness in October. Owned by Peter Callahan, the daughter of Daredevil owns seven wins from 14 starts for \$2.1 million. Irad Ortiz Jr. rides for the first time.

By My Standards completes the field for Allied Racing and Spendthrift Farm. Trained by Bret Calhoun, the 5-year-old has notched seven wins and \$2.2 million in a dance-every-dance career. The son of Goldencents has yet to win a Grade 1 after gallant runner-up efforts in last year's Whitney and this year's Met Mile. Regular rider Gabriel Saez has the call.

Additional reporting by Tom Law.



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Two Way

Brown sends out Search Results, Always Carina in filly Grade 1

BY TOM LAW

Chad Brown isn't about to go into the gunfight that will be today's Grade 1 Test Stakes at Saratoga with just a knife. He's going double-barreled, with Klaravich Stable's Search Results and Three Chimneys Farm's Always Carina, and he's going to need it in a salty renewal of a race that always shapes up as one of the most arduous of the meet.

Perhaps gunfight doesn't even do it justice, not for political correctness' sake but rather defining the strength of the field.

"It's a war," said Todd Brown, the trainer's brother and frequent fishing partner, while they walked from the

TEST STAKES PREVIEW

barn to the Oklahoma Training Track to watch a set of breezers Friday morning.

The \$500,000 Test brings together Brown's duo, the latter the winner of the Grade 1 Acorn and runner-up in the Kentucky Oaks in her last two starts; along with graded stakes winners Souper Sensational, Zaajel and Obligatory, stakes-winning New York-bred Make Mischief and the stakes-placed duo of Illumination and Bella Sofia.

Considering the accomplishments in the five-start career of Search Re-

Continued On Page 20



Tod Marks

Search Results is one part of trainer Chad Brown's approach to the Test.

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Test —

■ Continued from page 18

sults — she's won four of those outs and is the 5-2 morning-line favorite — it could be understandable to rate her the better of the two. Always Carina, odds-on runner-up in the Grade 2 Mother Goose, goes as the 3-1 second choice and on the level if you listen to her trainer.

“Search Results and Always Carina,” Brown said when asked about his Test entrant Search Results.

A half-sister to Brown's 2019 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf winner Structor, Always Carina races for her breeder and comes into the 7-furlong Test off her second to Zaaajel in the Mother Goose. The 3-year-old daughter of Malibu Moon won her two prior starts, going 6 furlongs and 1 mile in New York, and shortens up from her 1 1/16-mile trip last time.

Search Results shortens up for the second straight start, after giving Malathaat a stiff test when second by a neck in the Kentucky Oaks at 9 furlongs and winning the 1-mile Acorn by a half-length over Obligatory on Belmont Stakes Day. The daughter of Flatter won the 1-mile Busher Stakes in early March and the Grade 3 Gazelle at 9 furlongs in early April, both at Aqueduct.

Brown considered stretching Search Results out again but preferred a little more spacing between races.

“At some point I will again,” he said. “If the Coaching Club was a little more time I would have waited and run but it was a little tight. Cutting back works and hopefully it works again. I like the move, cutting back from long to short.”

Always Carina figures to be in the mix early with Illumination, in from Southern California for embattled trainer Bob Baffert, and Jersey Girl Stakes runner-up Bella Sofia from the immediate inside and outside posts, respectively. Illumination will be Baffert's first starter in New York since a federal judge found that the New York Racing Association's suspension related to the alleged positive drug test of Kentucky Derby winner Medina Spirit was unconstitutional. John Velazquez rides from post one on the 12-1 outsider. Rudy Rodriguez trains Bella Sofia, a 6 1/2-length winner of a 6-furlong allowance in her most recent start at Belmont Park July 11, and gives the call to leading rider Luis Saez.

Search Results and jockey Irad Ortiz Jr. figure to be in the second group behind the early pace, possibly along with Zaaajel and Make Mischieff, who go for the recently inducted Hall of Fame trainers Todd Pletcher and Mark Casse, respectively.

“I would see Always Carina being closer than Search Results on the cutback,” Brown said. “They're posted fine, outside a bit, so hopefully they can work out a trip. It will be interesting to see how it develops down the backside. Obviously there's some speed in there. Rudy's horse is very fast and (Illumination) on the inside. We'll see.

“Search Results is doing really well but she has

to carry top weight. She's never carried this much weight before. It's a challenge. That's my one concern but she's doing really well.”

Obligatory won the Grade 2 Eight Belles at 7 furlongs on Kentucky Oaks Day in her start before the Acorn. Trained by Bill Mott and for owner and breeder Juddmonte Farm, the daughter of Curlin drew post 4 is 4-1 on the early line with Jose Ortiz. Bella Sofia and Souper Sensational are both 6-1 on the line, the latter with Ricardo Santana Jr. named for Casse and Live Oak Plantation off a win in the Grade 3 Victory Ride at Belmont July 10.

The Test goes as the eighth race and the middle of five consecutive stakes with post time of 4:34 p.m.



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Cadillac makes another U.S. trip as part of deep European squad

BY JOE CLANCY AND TOM LAW

SARATOGA DERBY PREVIEW

Richie Galway, Irish trainer Jessica Harrington's son-in-law and assistant, watched the action on the Oklahoma Training Track just after the harrowing break Friday morning and had one thought.

"It's quite different, isn't it?" he said as horses jogged right-handed on the outside rail, breezed on the inside rail and galloped in the middle (oh, and came and went off the gap). "We have our own private training place for starters, it's just us. Our surfaces would be slightly deeper, and we use a lot of hills. This guy is regularly trained on a 4-furlong, uphill, very steep sand gallop."

This guy is Cadillac, a contender for owner Alpha Racing and Harrington in today's \$1 million Saratoga

Derby at 1 3/16 miles on the inner turf. The day's ninth race, with a 5:10 p.m. post time, drew a field of 11 – five who are either based overseas or made their most recent start there. Irish raider Bolshoi Ballet, who won the Grade 1 Belmont Derby at Belmont Park July 10, is the 2-1 favorite but he's got company in the 4-1 second choice Cadillac in from Ireland, 6-1 third choice Secret Protector from England, plus 10-1 State Of Rest also from Ireland and recent import Soldier Rising at 12-1. The latter makes his American debut for trainer Christophe Clement, off four starts in France.

Continued On Page 24



Joe Clancy

Cadillac heads back to the barn after training Friday.

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Saratoga Derby —

■ Continued from page 22

Du Jour, fourth in the Belmont Derby, leads the home team at 8-1. Trained by Bill Mott, the Temple City colt won his previous three capped by the Grade 2 American Turf at Churchill Downs May 1. Mark Casse tries again with Palazzi, sixth in the Belmont Derby. Yes This Time exits a Grade 3 win at Delaware Park July 3 and rides a five-race winning streak for trainer Kelly Breen. Rusty Arnold counters with Cellist, third in the Belmont Derby after winning a stakes at Churchill Downs in May. California shipper Flashiest (3-for-4 lifetime) and Grade 3 winner King Fury (in his turf debut) complete the field.

The Europeans get the chatter, but Galway won't dismiss the Americans — or their training habits.

"There are very good horses in America so it works, it's just different," he said while watching Cadillac and rider Adrian Bolger walk in a circle after galloping. The bay son of Lope de Vega has delivered plenty for his 14 partners since being purchased for \$43,597 at the 2019 Goffs Orby Sale — winning his debut by 9 lengths last summer at Leopardstown, just missing in a Group 2 at The Curragh next time, winning Leopardstown's Group 2 KPMG Champions Juvenile in September and finishing fifth in Newmarket's Group 1 Darley Dewhurst. That record earned a trip to America last fall, and Cadillac fin-

ished fourth (beaten 3 3/4 lengths) in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf at Keeneland in November.

He earned an extended rest and returned in late June to win a Group 3 at The Curragh against older horses by a nose. Six weeks later, he's in Saratoga looking for more. Friday morning, he looked fresh and happy — training among the crowd at Oklahoma and walking the horsepath home with a bounce in his step.

"He's a relaxed horse," said Galway. "He's a good horse to travel, he gets quite fresh and quite well in himself but in general he eats, he sleeps, he's relaxed in his training. He's taken to traveling very, very well. It's a huge help to have a horse like that. He gives himself a chance."

Shane Foley, aboard in all six prior starts, comes over for the ride from post four. Galway paid credit to that June run as the reason to think about Saratoga.

"He was very tough and tenacious and we thought we saw improvement in him," he said. "It's obviously a very deep race, but we're really excited to be here. It's a million dollars, which is a huge pot, and it fits into his program."

Alpha was formed by Harrington and Galway as a way to introduce people to racing — the business of racing. The syllabus calls for buying young horses at relatively modest prices, get them started and see what materializes from there. Alpha is normally quick to sell if a horse shows promise, or if it

Continued On Page 26



Bolshoi Ballet looks tough in the Saratoga Derby.

Tod Marks

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Saratoga Derby —

■ Continued from page 24

doesn't, but Cadillac turned out to be more than anyone expected.

"It is a trading syndicate and we try and be somewhat commercial on the horses we buy," Galway said. "We sell them on if we get strong offers or if they're not up to racing. We don't keep hold of them. With Cadillac we decided to roll the dice because he was so impressive as a 2-year-old. We let him run, the partners were keen to let him run. He's bringing us places we didn't think we'd get to see."

Bolshoi Ballet leads the European contingent in his return to the U.S. after shipping in from Ireland to win the Belmont Derby. He shipped back to Coolmore's Ballydoyle training center after that win and arrived in Saratoga Saturday.

The 3-year-old son of the late Galileo trained on the main track before the break Friday morning, just as he did throughout the week. He galloped Friday, after making the trek from the USDA quarantine facility on the Oklahoma Annex across Fifth Avenue and through the Oklahoma grounds and eventually across Union Avenue.

O'Brien's traveling assistant T.J. Comerford walked alongside the beaten favorite in the Epsom Derby both ways and liked what he saw as the colt worked up a bit of a sweat on a morning not quite as crisp as the last few days.

"He's doing good, been good since he's been here," Comerford said when he and Bolshoi Ballet reached the end of the horse path that runs alongside the soccer pitch and near the Horse Haven Kitchen. "It's a little warmer today than it's been but it was warm at Belmont, too. He handles it well. Nothing seems to bother him."

Bolshoi Ballet stopped and wheeled around when he reached the end of the path that connects with Horse Haven. Comerford helped his rider, grabbed the colt's bridle, led him onto the stone-dust covered old track and let go once they made it past the greenhouse and trainer Chad Brown's barn.

Bolshoi Ballet looks to become O'Brien's first winner at Saratoga.

He ran two in the 2019 Saratoga Derby — Cape Of Good Hope (third) and Mohawk (eighth) — and finished second with his first Saratoga starter

in the 2018 Travers with Mendelssohn.

"This is the type of horse that should handle it around here," Comerford said.

- The Saratoga Derby is one of three turf stakes on the Whitney Day card, along with the Grade 2 Glens Falls for fillies and mares and the \$120,000 Fasig-Tipton Lure for older horses. A dozen entered the 1 1/16-mile Lure, including defending champ and 50-1 longshot Ballagh Rocks, main-track-only entrant and multiple graded stakes winner Tacitus, three runners from Chad Brown's barn and two from Tom Morley's string.

Tell Your Daddy and Temple run for Morley and Jason Provenzano's Flying P Stable, which won Thursday's Birdstone Stakes with Lone Rock. Tell Your Daddy, 8-1 on the morning line with John Velazquez, finished seventh in the Grade 3 Poker last time after back-to-back close finishes in the Elusive Quality and Seek Again at Belmont Park. Morley and Provenzano claimed the 5-year-old Scat Daddy gelding for \$40,000 in late January at Fair Grounds.

"We're a very active claiming barn, and Jay Provenzano has been a great supporter this year," Morley said. "Identifying horses with some class is always the key and (Tell Your Daddy) had run very well in the Shakertown going 5 1/2 furlongs. He had previous success going longer and winning races going 1 1/16 and we felt that, if we could get him to Belmont, he would really excel at 6 and 7 furlongs with the way he finished in the Shakertown."

Tell Your Daddy finished sixth in the Grade 2 Shakertown at Keeneland in July 2020 for trainer Neil Pessin. He's won three of 22 starts, the last win a grass score at 1 mile Feb. 14, 2020 at Fair Grounds.

"He can be a little quirky on the track," Morley said. "He's great around the barn, but on the track he's a bit of a character."

Brown sends out the two favorites for the Lure in Klaravich Stable's Value Proposition, 2-1 with Irad Ortiz Jr.; and Juddmonte's Flavius, 3-1 for Flavien Prat. Both come out of seconds in stakes, the former in the Grade 3 Forbidden Apple the second day of the meet and the latter in the Seek Again May 22 at Belmont.

— Tom Law
and IV Hendrix

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Sara Gordon

Dalika and Chelsey Moysey stroll through Clare Court Friday morning.

Her Way

Dalika tackles Gr. 2 turf stakes while seeking seventh U.S. win

BY JOE CLANCY

Dear racehorse trainers, Dalika would like a word about your program.

No.

Bred in Germany and imported by owner Paul Varga's Bal Mar Equine after three European starts in 2018, the now 5-year-old mare makes the rules around trainer Al Stall's barn and Stall is OK with it – mostly.

"Look at her," Stall said as she went on a 15-minute trot/gallop/walkabout at the Clare Court training track Friday morning. "There's no sullenness in her world, that's for sure. The only thing she's got that's sullen in her world is me."

The 9-2 third choice in today's

GLENS FALLS STAKES PREVIEW

\$250,000 Glens Falls Stakes takes on six rivals led by 6-5 favorite War Like Goddess from trainer Bill Mott's barn and 3-1 second choice My Sister Nat from Chad Brown. Look for Dalika and jockey Miguel Mena up front early, because that's the way she does things and Stall is finished trying to change her.

Dalika finished sixth in her American debut for Stall in May 2019 going 1 1/16 miles. She stretched to 1 1/8 miles the next time and won by a head. And just missed when beaten a head in the 1-mile Riskaverse at

Continued On Page 30

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Glens Falls —

■ Continued from page 28

Saratoga that summer. Second in the Grade 2 Mrs. Revere in November, she wrapped up her first season in the U.S. with two wins, two seconds and plenty of questions.

“The first time we ran her was Preakness Day (at Churchill Downs) and the war was on,” Stall said. “Her head came up and it was brutal. We let her out the next time and she won. It took us a while to learn what kind of horse she is because she’s not your straightforward normal horse. She wasn’t that aggressive early on, she just kind of got that way a little bit.”

Stall trained her in draw reins, “German lines,” and whatever else you want to think about then cut her back to turf sprints last year – thinking that a fast pace might keep Dalika behind horses and slightly settled. She won going 5 1/2 furlongs in May, finished second in the 6-furlong License Fee at Belmont in June and was favored when fifth the 5 1/2-furlong Caress here last summer.

“We just didn’t want to have to



Tod Marks

Temple City Terror gets a rematch with Dalika in today’s Glens Falls.

grab her,” Stall said. “They go :21 or :22 in front of her and you don’t have to grab her and you don’t fight her. She figured that out though. She ran well in the allowance at Churchill, then she ran well in the License Fee at Belmont, Joel (Rosario) rode her in the Caress and she was strong – here we go – so we regrouped.”

With Miguel Mena aboard, Dalika won at Kentucky Downs going 1 mile

and 70 yards and racing up front most of the way. She closed 2020 with a fourth in the Grade 1 First Lady going a mile. With Mena back aboard, she won at the Fair Grounds in December and again in February and Stall went for the big stretch-out. Fifth in the 1 1/2-mile Bewitch at Keeneland in April, she came back in Churchill Downs’ Keertana at the same distance and put on a display out of the Tour

de France. Mena put his hands down leaving the gate and Dalika opened an immediate lead from post 10. Ears pricked and head high, she opened 5 lengths, 10, 15, 20 (pick your number) and almost made it last as Temple City Terror caught her in the final yards to win by three-quarters of a length. Mena told Stall and Case Clay, who advises Varga and helped make the original purchase, she might have won with a braver ride. If he had it to do over, the jockey would have sat still in the stretch and the gray mare might have lasted.

“She just wants to go and she doesn’t really want to be told otherwise,” said Clay. “She’s not unhappy about anything. It was insightful of Miguel, he got right off her and said he shouldn’t have urged her. He said he should have just held on to her and she might have hung on.”

At Delaware Park July 10 in the Grade 3 Robert G. Dick Memorial, she had company up front from Candy Flower, but Mena again sat still early. Dalika galloped to the front alone on the final turn and held off all comers including Temple City Terror

Continued On Page 31

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Glens Falls —

■ Continued from page 30

to win by a length. Stall hopes for more of the same today.

“Miguel helps, he knows her,” Stall said. “A rider who doesn’t know her will try to slow her down and reach up and grab her. She’s going to fight you. He kept her gathered up at Delaware and she kind of kept going. It’s the way she is.”

Dalika stayed with Delaware-based trainer and exercise rider Chelsey Moysey after the win, and arrived in Saratoga Thursday. Moysey drove the truck and trailer, brought a bitless hackamore bridle from her tack room and was aboard for the Friday morning training session.

“Chelsey gets along with her, too,” Stall said. “She’s a top of the line rider, and balances things with her.”

After making her Clare Court laps, Dalika exited the track and did a full circuit of the infield barn area — speed-walking past Horacio DePaz’s barn, Ian Wilkes’ base at the far end, the old carriage barns in the center — while Stall and Clay tried to keep pace.

“Look at that tail going back and forth, back and forth,” Stall said. “That’s that free hip I like. If I saw a yearling walk like that, he’d be on my short, short, short list. Blame (trained by Stall to an older-male Eclipse Award in 2010) literally would clean the shedrow when he walked. Just total hips, comfortable and loose and going.”

She gets a chance to show them off again today as the likely lone speed in the Glens Falls, but will have some competition. Off since April, War Like Goddess has won four of five including the Bewitch and the Orchid this spring. Julien Leparoux rides the daughter of English Channel. My Sister Nat won the Waya at 1 1/2 miles here last year and finished second in the 1 3/8-mile Glens Falls a month later. She looks for her first win of 2021, off a second behind Mean Mary in the Grade 2 New York for jockey Jose Ortiz. Luck Money, second in the Dick at Delaware, ships in for trainer Arnaud Delacour while Temple City Terror (trained by Brendan Walsh) returns for a third consecutive match with Dalika. English-bred Call Me Love exits back-to-back wins for Christophe Clement while French-bred Orglandes also represents the Brown barn.

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SARATOGA ENTRIES

Saturday, August 7.

1ST (12:35PM). \$100,000, MSW, 2 YO, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

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

1	1	Gooch Go Bragh	I. Ortiz, Jr.	T. Pletcher	7-2
2	2	Dripping Gold	J. Lezcano	C. McGaughey III	9-2
3	3	Morning Thoughts	J. Ortiz	B. Lynch	6-1
4	MTO	Under the Gun	R. Santana, Jr.	S. Asmussen	5-2
5	5	Boston Flagship	M. Franco	W. Mott	5-2
6	6	Piqua	J. Velazquez	H. Motion	10-1
7	7	Steal the Cash	L. Saez	M. Maker	12-1
8	8	Speak Unity	F. Prat	J. Thomas	5-1
9	MTO	K Club	Rider TBA	T. Pletcher	2-1
10	10	Slim Slow Slider	J. Rosario	W. Ward	8-1

2ND (1:08PM). \$72,000, CLM \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

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

1	1	Journeyman	L. Saez	M. Maker	5-1
2	2	American Tattoo (ARG)	T. Gaffalione	N. Casse	3-1
3	3	Zoomer	J. Rosario	S. Klesaris	9-2
4	4	Heirloom Kitten	J. Ortiz	D. Duggan	4-1
5	5	Fort Peck	D. Cohen	R. Diodoro	10-1
6	6	Alkhaatam	F. Prat	T. Pletcher	6-1
7	7	Shotski	I. Ortiz, Jr.	J. O'Dwyer	8-1
8	8	Grumps Little Tots	M. Franco	R. Atras	6-1

3RD (1:44PM). \$103,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	Life Changer	J. Rosario	J. Terranova II	6-1
2	2	Tuggle	I. Ortiz, Jr.	J. Englehart	6-5
3	3	Newbomb	J. Ortiz	K. Breen	3-1
4	4	Stage Left	J. Velazquez	W. Ward	9-2
5	5	Dream Bigger	L. Saez	R. Rodriguez	4-1
6	6	Ampersand	J. Lezcano	P. Serpe	20-1

4TH (2:18PM). \$85,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF)

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

1	1	Umbria	J. Velazquez	L. Rice	12-1
2	2	Sportini	L. Saez	M. Stidham	6-1
3	3	Sandro the Great	J. Rosario	T. Bush	10-1
4	MTO	Gold Panda	Rider TBA	C. Baker	1-2
5	5	Ruse	D. Davis	T. Hills	3-1
6	6	Athenry	M. Franco	M. Nevin	8-1
7	7	Dreampoint	J. Lezcano	G. Sciacca	6-1
8	8	Big Castle	T. Gaffalione	B. Levine	12-1
9	9	Shutters	I. Ortiz, Jr.	C. Brown	5-2
10	10	Hot Doctor	J. Ortiz	L. Rice	10-1

5TH (2:52PM). \$100,000, MSW, 2 YO, 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	Seal Beach	L. Saez	M. Maker	6-1
2	2	Brigadier General	J. Velazquez	D. Stewart	3-1
3	3	Keppcalmcarryon	J. Rosario	T. Pletcher	9-2
4	4	Martini'nmoonshine	T. Gaffalione	T. Amoss	15-1
5	5	Big Skipper	M. Franco	C. Brown	6-1
6	6	Vodka Mardini	I. Ortiz, Jr.	S. Asmussen	8-1
7	7	Stellar Tap	R. Santana, Jr.	S. Asmussen	5-1
8	8	Imminent Storm	J. Ortiz	C. McGaughey III	12-1
9	9	Immokalee	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	10-1
10	10	Predicted	J. Castellano	A. Dutrow	15-1

6TH (3:24PM). \$120,000, STK - THE FASIG-TIPTON LURE, 4 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (TURF)

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

1	MTO	Tacitus	J. Velazquez	W. Mott	1-1
2	2	Delaware (GB)	J. Ortiz	C. Brown	9-2
3	3	Value Proposition (GB)	I. Ortiz, Jr.	C. Brown	2-1
4	4	Fighting Seabee	J. Alvarado	K. McPeck	20-1
5	5	Flavius	F. Prat	C. Brown	3-1
6	6	Midnight Tea Time	L. Saez	J. Sharp	15-1
7	7	Tell Your Daddy	J. Velazquez	T. Morley	8-1
8	8	Guildsman (FR)	D. Cohen	R. Falcone, Jr.	30-1
9	9	South Bend	J. Rosario	W. Mott	12-1
10	10	Ballagh Rocks	D. Davis	J. Englehart	50-1
11	11	Dreams of Tomorrow	J. Lezcano	C. McGaughey III	8-1
12	12	Temple	T. Gaffalione	T. Morley	15-1

7th (3:58PM). \$250,000, STK - THE GLENS FALLS, 4 yo's & up, F & M, 1 1/2M (Inner turf)

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

1	1	Call Me Love (GB)	J. Alvarado	C. Clement	8-1
2	2	Temple City Terror	T. Gaffalione	B. Walsh	6-1
3	3	War Like Goddess	J. Lejaroux	W. Mott	8-5
4	4	Orglandes (FR)	I. Ortiz, Jr.	C. Brown	10-1
5	5	My Sister Nat (FR)	J. Ortiz	C. Brown	3-1
6	6	Dalika (GER)	M. Mena	A. Stall, Jr.	9-2
7	7	Luck Money	J. Castellano	A. Delacour	8-1

8TH (4:34PM). \$500,000, STK - THE LONGINES TEST, 3 YO, F, 7F

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

1	1	Illumination	J. Velazquez	B. Baffert	12-1
2	2	Souper Sensational	R. Santana, Jr.	M. Casse	6-1
3	3	Zaajel	J. Rosario	T. Pletcher	8-1
4	4	Obligatory	J. Ortiz	W. Mott	4-1
5	5	Always Carina	F. Prat	C. Brown	3-1
6	6	Make Mischieff	T. Gaffalione	M. Casse	12-1
7	7	Search Results	I. Ortiz, Jr.	C. Brown	5-2
8	8	Bella Sofia	L. Saez	R. Rodriguez	6-1

9TH (5:10PM). \$1,000,000, STK - THE SARATOGA DERBY INVITATIONAL, 3 YO, 1 3/16M (TURF)

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

1	1	Soldier Rising (GB)	I. Ortiz, Jr.	C. Clement	12-1
2	2	Du Jour	J. Rosario	W. Mott	8-1
3	3	Palazzi	T. Gaffalione	M. Casse	20-1
4	4	Cadillac (IRE)	S. Foley	M. Harrington	4-1
5	5	Yes This Time	L. Saez	K. Breen	15-1
6	6	Bolshoi Ballet (IRE)	R. Moore	A. O'Brien	2-1
7	7	Secret Protector	M. Smith	C. Appleby	6-1
8	8	Cellist	J. Lejaroux	G. Arnold, II	12-1
9	9	State of Rest (IRE)	J. Velazquez	J. O'Brien	10-1
10	10	Flashiest	J. Lezcano	L. Powell	20-1
11	11	King Fury	J. Ortiz	K. McPeck	10-1

10TH (5:48PM). \$1,000,000, STK - THE WHITNEY, 4 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	By My Standards	G. Saez	W. Calhoun	10-1
2	2	Silver State	R. Santana, Jr.	S. Asmussen	4-1
3	3	Swiss Skydiver	I. Ortiz, Jr.	K. McPeck	6-1
4	4	Knicks Go	J. Rosario	B. Cox	6-5
5	5	Maxfield	J. Ortiz	B. Walsh	8-5

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SARATOGA ENTRIES

11TH (6:23PM). \$105,000, AOC \$80,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	..... 3.....	Danny California.....	L. Saez.....	R. Rodriguez.....	5-2
1a	..... 7.....	Musical Heart.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Atras.....	5-2
2	..... 1.....	Superfecto.....	J. Velazquez.....	R. Nicks.....	7-2
3	..... 2.....	Risk Taking.....	M. Franco.....	C. Brown.....	6-1
4	..... 4.....	Candy Tycoon.....	J. Rosario.....	T. Pletcher.....	12-1
5	..... 5.....	Empty Tomb.....	T. Gaffalione.....	M. Maker.....	7-2
6	..... 6.....	Air Attack.....	D. Davis.....	J. Toscano, Jr.....	8-1
7	..... 8.....	Lost in Rome.....	J. Ortiz.....	O. Noda.....	8-1
8	..... 9.....	Chestertown.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	S. Asmussen.....	8-1

12TH (6:55PM). \$103,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	..... 1.....	Madam Maclean.....	D. Cohen.....	P. Reynolds.....	20-1
2	..... MTO.....	Off We Go.....	Rider TBA.....	T. Amoss.....	8-1
3	..... 3.....	Sussex Garden (IRE).....	J. Castellano.....	A. Delacour.....	4-1
4	..... MTO.....	Harper's in Charge.....	Rider TBA.....	C. Clement.....	3-1
5	..... 5.....	Train to Artemus.....	J. Ortiz.....	W. Ward.....	15-1
6	..... 6.....	Risky Mischief.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	J. Englehart.....	7-2
7	..... 7.....	Time Limit.....	L. Saez.....	M. Maker.....	9-2
8	..... 8.....	Bay Jewel.....	J. Lezcano.....	P. Reynolds.....	10-1
9	..... 9.....	Spicy Marg.....	T. Gaffalione.....	W. Ward.....	8-1
10	..... 10.....	Bay Storm.....	M. Franco.....	J. Thomas.....	6-1
11	..... 11.....	Miner's Queen.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	S. Asmussen.....	6-1
12	..... 12.....	Back Channel.....	J. Vargas, Jr.....	R. Rodriguez.....	12-1
13 MTO.....	Semble Juste (IRE).....	J. Ortiz.....	K. McPeck.....	8-1
14 MTO.....	Easy to Bless.....	D. Davis.....	J. Ferraro.....	5-1

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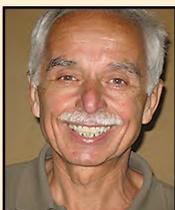
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Race #

1	K Club Boston Flagship Speak Unity	Boston Flagship Gooch Go Bragh Dripping Gold	Piqua Gooch Go Bragh Under The Gun	Boston Flagship Slim Slow Slider Dripping Gold	Speak Unity Piqua Dripping Gold
2	Heirloom Kitten Journeyman Alkhaatam	Grumps Little Tots Journeyman American Tattoo	American Tattoo Journeyman Heirloom Kitten	Alkhaatam Grumps Little Tots Journeyman	Journeyman Alkhaatam American Tattoo
3	Tuggle Dream Bigger Life Changer	Tuggle Dream Bigger Newbomb	Tuggle Dream Bigger Stage Left	Tuggle Newbomb Dream Bigger	Stage Left Tuggle Newbomb
4	Gold Panda Shutters Sportini	Ruse Shutters Sportini	Gold Panda Ruse Umbria	Ruse Sportini Hot Doctor	Ruse Shutters Sportini
5	Brigadier General Stellar Tap Big Skipper	Stellar Tap Keppcalmcarryon Immokalee	Keppcalmcarryon Big Skipper Vodka Martini	Brigadier General Keppcalmcarryon Stellar Tap	Imminent Storm Brigadier General Seal Beach
6	Flavius Value Proposition Delaware	Flavius Value Proposition Dreams Of Tomorrow	Flavius Delaware Value Proposition	Tacitus Delaware Value Proposition	Delaware Tell Your Daddy Flavius
7	War Like Goddess Dalika Call Me Love	War Like Goddess Dalika My Sister Nat	My Sister Nat Dalika War Like Goddess	Dalika War Like Goddess Orglandes	War Like Goddess Call Me Love My Sister Nat
8	Search Results Obligatory Bella Sofia	Search Results Obligatory Zaajel	Search Results Souper Sensational Bella Sofia	Zaajel Search Results Obligatory	Search Results Obligatory Souper Sensational
9	Bolshoi Ballet Du Jour Secret Protector	Bolshoi Ballet Cadillac Secret Protector	Bolshoi Ballet Cadillac King Fury	Cadillac Bolshoi Ballet Secret Protector	State of Rest Bolshoi Ballet King Fury
10	Knicks Go Maxfield Silver Skate	Maxfield Knicks Go By My Standards	Knicks Go Maxfield Swiss Skydiver	Knicks Go Silver State By My Standards	Maxfield Swiss Skydiver Knicks Go
11	Dubb entry Empty Tomb Superfecto	Dubb entry Chestertown Superfecto	Superfecto Empty Tomb Candy Tycoon	Chestertown Dubb entry Lost In Rome	Danny California Superfecto Chestertown
12	Harper's In Charge Time Limit Risky Mischief	Risky Mischief Sussex Garden Time Limit	Harper's In Charge Bay Storm Risky Mischief	Time Limit Risky Mischief Bay Jewel	Time Limit Sussex Garden Bay Storm

2021 Records

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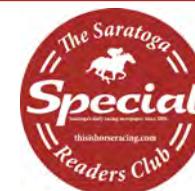
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Family Matters

Pletcher, Casse, Fisher, Wise Dan head 20-21 Hall of Fame classes

BY PAUL HALLORAN

Mark Casse first visited the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame with his father, Norman, in 1972. Awestruck, and demonstrating the confidence and youthful naiveté of an 11-year-old, he told his father, “I will be in here someday.” His father told him, “Yes, Mark, you will.”

Friday was that day.

Casse was inducted into the Hall of Fame during a two-hour emotion-filled ceremony at Fasig-Tipton’s Humphrey S. Finney Sales Pavilion. He was voted in last year, but the induction was postponed due to the pandemic.

“We did it,” Casse said to close his acceptance speech, acknowledging several owners who have played

a meaningful role in his career, in which he has won 3,122 races and more than \$190 million in purses. He was inducted into the Canadian Thoroughbred Hall of Fame in 2016 and won Canada’s Sovereign Award as champion trainer 13 times.

“As a kid, I read the (Daily) Racing Form. I wasn’t interested in comic strips,” he said. “I always knew I wanted to be a horse trainer.”

An emotional Casse said his father encouraged him to “follow his passion,” and called his wife, Tina, to the stage to relay a story about asking his mother if he could live with his father after his parents divorced when he was 13. “Mom, if you really

Continued On Page 38



Tod Marks

Hall of Fame trainer Mark Casse accepts his plaque with his wife Tina Friday.

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Hall —

Continued from page 36

love me you'll let me stay with dad," Casse recalled, wanting to stay in Florida where the horses were instead of moving back to Indiana.

"Who knows where my life would be today if it weren't for her," Casse said.

Casse passed on the passion for racing to his son, Norm, who won his first graded stakes at Saratoga when Pretty Birdie took the Opening Day Schuylerville.

"I'm very proud because I know how much it means to dad and I'm proud to be associated with the horses who stamped dad as a Hall of Famer," said Norm, who was an assistant to his father when he trained champions Tepin, World Approval and Classic Empire.

Todd Pletcher, a member of the Hall of Fame Class of 2021, along with trainer Jack Fisher and Triple Crown winner American Pharoah, was the final inductee Friday, making it to the podium after a marathon yet extremely entertaining introduction

by one of his leading owners and good friend Mike Repole.

"You have to get a lot of breaks along the way to get here," said Pletcher, a former assistant to Hall of Famer D. Wayne Lukas, whom he said taught him that "everything matters. Every horse matters, every owner matters."

Owner Ahmed Zayat accepted on behalf of American Pharoah, who in 2015 became the first Triple Crown winner since Affirmed swept the series in 1978.

"This is not about the Zayat family, it's about American Pharoah and what American Pharoah has achieved," Zayat said. "He was the people's horse."

Zayat recalled being amazed at the elation displayed by the Belmont Park crowd after his horse won the Belmont Stakes to complete the Triple Crown.

"That sight will always be in my heart," he said.

Steeplechase trainer Jack Fisher was a 2020 selection who was inducted Friday. A former jump jockey, Fisher has been the leading steeple-



Tod Marks

Continued On Page 40

Owner Mike Repole (right) introduced new Hall of Fame trainer Todd Pletcher.

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Hall Moments



Tod Marks

Trainer Charlie LoPresti (right) watches the video tribute to new Hall of Famer Wise Dan.



Tod Marks

Tom Durkin helps new Hall of Fame trainer Jack Fisher with his blazer.



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Hall —

■ Continued from page 38

chase trainer by wins 13 times in a career that dates back to 1987. He is the only trainer in steeplechase history to surpass \$1 million in purse earnings in a year, which he's done five times.

"The first horse I rode was Juggernaut and I realized at that point it's always about the horse," said Fisher.

Jockey Darrel McHargue, who won 2,533 races, almost \$40 million in purses and the Eclipse Award in 1978, was also a 2020 selection. He won the 1975 Preakness and rode the legendary John Henry to three wins. He was not in attendance Friday.

Trainer Charlie LoPresti represented the Fink family for Wise Dan, a gelding who won 23 races, including 11 Grade 1s, and six Eclipse Awards. A back-to-back winner of the Breeders' Cup Mile, Wise Dan in 2012 became the first gelding to win Horse of the Year since John Henry in 1984.

"Wise Dan is an incredible horse who touched a lot of people," LoPresti said. "As a trainer you wait your whole life to have a horse like that."



Tod Marks

From left, Headley Bell, John Chandler, Mike Bell and Reynolds Bell accepted the Pillar of the Turf plaque for Alice Headley Chandler.

Tom Bowling, the 1873 Horse of the Year, was selected as a horse of yesteryear by the Hall of Fame's Historic Review Committee. A son of the prolific sire Lexington, he won 14 of

17 starts for trainer Ansel Williamson, a former slave who became a Hall of Famer.

Honored as Pillars of the Turf were steward J. Keene Daingerfield

Jr., breeder and Jockey Club Chairman George D. Widener Jr. and Mill Ridge Farm founder Alice Headley Chandler.

Hall of Famers who were in attendance and recognized, with their year of induction: Braulio Baeza (1976), Javier Castellano (2017), Angel Cordero Jr. (1988), Ramon Dominguez (2016), Janet Elliot (2009), Sandy Hawley (1992), Julie Krone (2000), Chris McCarron (1989), Shug McGaughey (2004), Bill Mott (1998), Jose Santos (2007), Gary Stevens (1997) John Velazquez (2012) and Nick Zito (2005).

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Making Milestones

Public Sector wins Gr. 2 for Brown

BY PAUL HALLORAN

HALL OF FAME STAKES RECAP

There will be a time – likely in 2032 – when Chad Brown finds himself in the spotlight in the morning on Hall of Fame Day in Saratoga Springs. On Friday, he was happy to be in the winner's circle in the afternoon, after Public Sector won the National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame Stakes at Saratoga Race Course.

Brown, who started training in 2007 and under the current guidelines will be eligible for induction to the Hall of Fame after 25 years, recorded his 1,999th career victory in the \$200,000 Grade 2 race and later he reached 2,000 when Digital Software

took the finale. The Hall of Fame was the first win at Saratoga for Flavien Prat, who took a red-eye from California after winning the nightcap at Del Mar Thursday.

“The first time I rode him, I was really close to the pace and he ran a nice race (to win),” said Prat, who has won twice and finished second aboard Public Sector. “The last time (July 4 at Belmont) there was a slow pace, I was stuck between horses and I had to make up a lot of ground. Today, we

Continued On Page 44



Tod Marks

Public Sector lands the Hall of Fame Stakes for trainer Chad Brown Friday.

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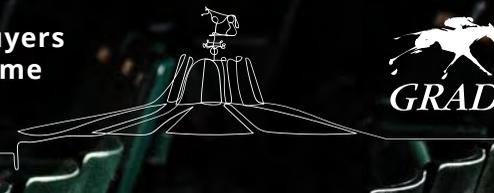
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ONE HORSE

Keeneland September buyers and sellers remember some names from the past.



JACKIE'S WARRIOR, 2019. *Steve Asmussen, buyer & trainer*



To: Mark

Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen didn't have to search too far for his One Horse as he went right to recent Amsterdam Stakes winner Jackie's Warrior, a \$95,000 purchase for owner Kirk Robison from Taylor Made Sales Agency.

"I was fortunate to train his sire Maclean's Music and he was and is a beautiful horse. I thought I saw similarities and I wanted him. I spoke with Kirk and he said, 'Go get him.' He didn't cost near as much as we planned on paying. We planned on stretching and he was way below budget. My first memory of Keeneland yearling sales was short-listing for my dad in early '90s. It's always been a special thing like that. I always get to see my parents and my family at Keeneland so you look forward to it. There are a bunch of great horses there. The numbers and the volume of horses that you've seen and misjudged or correctly judged over the years have modified your opinion to today. I tell the kids all the time, the only way to change an opinion is to have one to begin with."



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Hall Stakes —

■ Continued from page 42

had a good draw and he broke well and put me in the race.”

Next broke third and went to the lead, followed by Public Sector on the inside, Easy Time in the middle and Wolfie's Dynaghost on the outside. Next maintained the lead down the

backstretch, tracked by Wolfie's Dynaghost, while Prat bided his time through a half-mile in :47.56 and three-quarters in 1:11.37. It looked as if Prat might have to take the overland route, but he waited for an opening and moved through on the inside, taking the lead with just under a furlong to run and outdueling Annex to the wire to win by a length.

“I thought I was going to be able to go around the leader, but then I saw

the leader came out and I dropped in and had room,” Prat said. “We were pretty much making the move together but when I really asked him to make the move, he responded well.”

There was some commotion behind the winner, as Annex appeared to drift in, causing Original to clip heels and be pulled up by Luis Saez. After a lengthy inquiry, the stewards opted to leave the results unchanged.

Seth Klarman bought the English-bred son of Kingman out of the Montjeu mare Parle Moi for \$217,822 (U.S.) at the 2019 Tattersalls October Yearling sale. He broke his maiden at first asking at Saratoga last August 15, then ran second in the Grade 2 Pilgrim at Belmont and 12th in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf at Keeneland.

“We've become very close friends and he's such a loyal supporter of our stable,” Brown said of Klarman and his Klaravich Stables. “He provides us with these wonderful horses like you saw today with Public Sector. He's a real sportsman and always does the right thing by the horse and he gets rewarded because of that.”

The professional relationship between Brown and Prat is proving to

be quite rewarding as well, as the French-born jockey has won the Grade 1 Manhattan at Belmont and the Grade 1 United Nations at Monmouth for him this year.

“He is giving me a lot of opportunities and I'm trying to get the best out of it,” said Prat, who was happy to get his first win on Union Avenue. “It's one of the oldest tracks in America, there's so much history here and such a good atmosphere.”

With the pace being slower than expected, Brown was pleased Prat got Public Sector into the race early.

“Our plan was to leave out of there with intention,” Brown said. “It looked like there was a lot of speed on paper but make them go, get our spot and if they're going to go, go. If not, we'll be there. As it turned out, they actually weren't going. The 47 and 3 (half-mile) is solid but it's been dry here and in a graded race at Saratoga, that's not that fast for these horses.”

“There are many wonderful things about Flavien, which you saw today,” Brown added. “He gives you a chance to win right away. If you give him the right horses, he's going to deliver. He rode great. He's a big-money rider. You can count on him.”



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SAFELY KEPT

was the first sprinter to have ever earned more than two million dollars. She is the leading all-time Maryland-bred distaff earner of \$2,194,206 and was inducted into the National Racing Hall of Fame in 2011

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Tod Marks

Fast Boat (left) passes Carotari in the stretch of Friday's Troy Stakes.

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Good Vibes

Turf sprinter Fast Boat evokes memories of ill-fated Shore Runner

BY TOM LAW

TROY STAKES RECAP

The Troy Stakes always brings out a little emotion in Joe Sharp, his family and his team.

They won the race in 2015 with Shore Runner, who completed a sweep of the two turf sprint stakes at Saratoga Race Course for older horses and looked headed to that year's Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint before a fatal injury in his final prep.

The fond memories of Shore Runner – and not the gritty city of Troy in the midst of a minor reboot after some rough decades – do the trick and those thoughts were on plenty of minds when Brad Grady's Fast Boat stormed down the Mellon Turf Course to win the 2021 edition Friday. Sharp watched the Grade 3

stakes unfold from a front row box on the finish line, with his wife Rosie Napravnik and other family and friends, springing from his seat when Tyler Gaffalione guided the 6-year-old City Zip gelding to a half-length win over Carotari.

After Fast Boat ran the 5 ½ furlongs over the firm turf in 1:01.24, Sharp made his way through the winner's circle to embrace a weeping Lorita Lindermann on the track before doing the same.

"We all work really hard and we claimed this horse years ago," Sharp said after the post-race formalities.

Continued On Page 47

Troy —

■ Continued from page 46

“We won this race with Shore Runner years ago for the same connections and we lost him in a racing accident before the Breeders’ Cup at Keeneland. It was a very emotional time for all of us. To come back and win it for the same owner, with a different horse that’s equally as important to us was a little extra special and that’s where I think a little of that emotion came from.”

Sharp and Company took over Shore Runner’s training through the claim box, haltering him for \$62,500 in June 2015. A little over a month later he won the Lucky Coin Stakes and a month after that he won the Troy.

Grady and Sharp claimed Fast Boat for \$40,000 in the fall of his 3-year-old year at Belmont Park. He’s since won nine times for his current connections, including the Grade 2 Twin Spires Turf Sprint on Kentucky Oaks Day and the Pulse Power Turf Sprint Stakes in late January at Sam Houston Race Park. Fast Boat bounced back from a sixth on good turf in the Grade 1 Jaipur on Belmont Stakes Day to improve to 3-for-5 in 2021 after the Troy.

“He was training pretty forward into the race,” Sharp said. “He’s a horse we’ve gotten to know really well, we know all his isms and when he’s doing well and run a big race. Everything pointed to a big effort today and the weather cooperated.”



Tod Marks

Fast Boat (left) shows the way late in the Troy Stakes.

“He prefers a firm turf course. Last time before the Jaipur we had a ton of rain the night before so he lost his opportunity at the Grade 1 with the give in the ground. Not taking anything away from today, we’re super proud to be here. Honored. Winning at Saratoga is big, let alone a graded stake.”

The connections of a dozen turf sprinters sought that same graded stakes win when entries were drawn last weekend. Three scratched, including

Jaipur winner Casa Creed, and Fast Boat went to the post the 10-1 fifth choice of nine.

Fellow longshot Carotari, who blazed a half-mile on the Oklahoma turf course in :45.40 in his penultimate work for the Troy, put that sharpness on display early and led through the opening quarter-mile in :21.74. He and jockey Javier Castellano

Continued On Page 48

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Troy —

■ Continued from page 47

continued to lead around the far turn and past the half-mile mark in :44.15, ahead of European import Lazuli, Imprimis, Classy John and 2-1 favorite Bound For Nowhere.

Gaffalione stayed on the inside around and only a few lengths back the far turn before moving out a few lanes on the bend and ultimately a few more out in the stretch. Carotari, who opened up 2 lengths at the eighth pole with Fast Boat barreling down in deep stretch, tried to fight back late but couldn't hold off the winner. Gear Jockey also closed well in the lane to finish third, a length back of Carotari and 2 clear of a fading Imprimis.

"I didn't expect to be that close, but he was travelling pretty easy and I just let him do his thing," Gaffalione said. "I didn't want to get in his way and when I tipped him out he really finished his job. Mr. Sharp has done a great job with him. You can tell when he's in that five-and-a-half to three-quarters range, he really runs his race."



Tod Marks

Joe Sharp tells how it happened.

Sharp said a return trip to Kentucky Downs, where Fast Boat won a starter allowance in September 2019, could be next with an eye on the Nov. 6 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint at Del Mar. Grady didn't make the trip to Louisville for the Twin Spires Turf Sprint or to Saratoga Thursday, but Sharp hopes he might reconsider his notion to stay away down the road.

"He had a few choice words when he saw we won, then he said he's never coming because he wasn't there on Oaks Day either," Sharp said. "Hopefully we'll see him at the Breeders' Cup."



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Christophe Clement.....	8
Brad Cox	8
Rob Atras.....	6
Bill Mott	6

JOCKEYS	1ST
Luis Saez.....	31
Irad Ortiz Jr.....	25
Jose Ortiz.....	24
Joel Rosario.....	16
Tyler Gaffalione	16
Ricardo Santana Jr.....	11
Manny Franco	9
Jose Lezcano	9
Dylan Davis	7
Javier Castellano	5

Through Friday

9,445

Asmussen ties Baird for record

Steve Asmussen stood on the ground floor in the Race Replay area of the Saratoga Race Course clubhouse, arms crossed and watched the sixth race at Ellis Park. If he blinked, no one noticed.

A small circle of family, friends and reporters surrounded Asmussen. His wife Julie stood on his left, youngest son Eric to his right, as Shanghai's Dream went to the post. For 1:10.79 he stood stoic and expressionless.

Then, as the 4-year-old colt won a \$30,000 claimer at a racetrack 934 miles away, a section of Saratoga erupted.

Asmussen stood, gaze intact, and watched his 9,445th winner gallop out from his come-from-behind victory. Finally, the Hall of Fame trainer unfolded his arms, leaned to his

FRIDAY RACING RECAP

left, kissed his wife, cracked a smile and returned son's high five. Then he grabbed his phone and made a call after tying Dale Baird for the North American record for training victories.

"Our middle son Darren is a camp counselor," Asmussen said. "I haven't spoken to him since last week - they turn their phones in because they're responsible for a bunch of young kids. He's driving from Missouri to Dallas tonight to fly up here tomorrow."

Asmussen's Ellis Park-based assistant, Darren Fleming, saddled his record tying winner.

"Being in horse racing, it can be

Continued On Page 50



Tod Marks

Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen tied Dale Baird for the all-time win record Friday.

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Friday —

■ Continued from page 49

an unbelievably humbling sport,” Asmussen said. “But the rewards are amazing. For me, horse racing is family. Darren Fleming, Scott Blasi, they’re family 24-7, 365 days a year.”

Asmussen grew up working at his parents’ Laredo, Texas-based training operation and racing has always been a family affair.

“Every minute of every day, it still feels like I’m in their barn,” Asmussen said. “I really feel like an extension of what they established. Anybody who’s ever met my mother, she is unbelievable as far as her outpouring of support and how she can verbalize how she feels.”

While Keith and Marilyn Asmussen won’t make the trip up to Saratoga today, Asmussen will watch his six Saratoga entries with his wife and sons Eric and Darren.

“The fact we’ll be able to watch them all together as a family, we’ll savor it,” he said. “The significance of tying Dale Baird today is truly amazing and what better day than Whitney

Day to possibly exceed that mark.”

Asmussen moved within one of the tie when he saddled the winner of the fourth at Saratoga – Jalen Journey for owners Rockingham Ranch and David Bernsen. The record-tying winner came for owner Mike McCarty.

Asmussen could surpass Baird today at Saratoga. He entered six on the 12-race card, including Silver State in the Grade 1 Whitney, along with two runners in the fifth race and single entries in the first, 11th and 12th. They’re joined by two entries at Louisiana Downs, three at Ellis and three at Monmouth Park.

Now tied and poised to reach his longtime goal of becoming racing’s leading trainer by wins, Asmussen summed up his thoughts in three words: “Anxious, very anxious,” he said.

Two hours after his record-tying win Asmussen made his way out of the clubhouse into the backyard, where fans in lawn chairs and at picnic tables cheered racing’s latest record-setter.

“Are you the champ Steve? Are you the champ?” one fan asked.

Continued On Page 51



Tod Marks

Art Collector rolls home with a win in the Alydar Stakes Friday.

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Friday —

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“I’m tied,” Asmussen responded, while more fans along the walk past the jockey’s room and toward the horsemen’s parking lot cheered, “go get ‘em Steve,” “you the man,” and “you got this.”

— IV Hendrix

• Owner Bruce Lunsford celebrated in the Carmen Barrera Horseman’s Lounge Friday, a glass of champagne in his hand and a smile on his face as he watched the replay of Art Collector’s Alydar Stakes victory.

“I felt pretty good right there,” Lunsford laughed as he took another look at the opening quarter-mile fraction of :24.51.

Hurried out of post four by Luis Saez, Lunsford’s Art Collector made the lead early, something he failed to do in his last start after breaking wide and losing all chance at the start.

“In his last race, it wasn’t (jockey Brian Hernandez’s) or the horse’s fault; he took off to the right and veered out,” said Lunsford. “This time, we had Luis get him to the front and we couldn’t be happier.”

With Art Collector undefeated when on or near the lead, Saez knew Art Collector would perform best with a front-running trip.

“The plan was to break well from our post and see if we can get the lead, and everything went the way we planned it,” Saez said. “Breaking from there, we got ahead and he kept going. I saw Manny (Franco aboard runner-up finisher Night Ops) coming, but I knew I had a lot of horse, so I was patient with him.”

After leading the field of eight

through easy fractions, Art Collector opened up by 3 1/2 lengths in the stretch, only asked for a bit more when Saez shook the reins at the sixteenth pole as Night Ops began to make up ground in second. Art Collector turned back the challenge, crossing the finish 1 1/2 lengths the best of Night Ops with 10 1/2 lengths back to Math Wizard in third. Art Collector won in 1:48.20 for the 9 furlongs.

The Alydar marked the first time Saez had gotten a leg up on Art Collector since he rode him to a seventh in Keeneland’s Grade 3 Dixiana Bourbon Stakes in October 2019. It was a happy reunion for Saez, who had been looking forward to getting back on the 4-year-old son of Bernardini after more than two years.

“I was pretty excited. I rode him first time out (to a second) and really liked him,” he said. “Unfortunately, I couldn’t ride him (to break his maiden) at Kentucky Downs but I always thought ‘one day I’ll get back on him.’ Today was the day, and he ran pretty big for me. He traveled nicely. He loved the competition.”

Art Collector made his first start for trainer Bill Mott, who received the colt from Thomas Drury about six weeks ago. Lunsford made the change because he wanted to run in New York.

“He was down in Kentucky and Tom has trained with us for years,” Lunsford said. “Tom’s a great trainer and has done well for us. Mott and I go way back. We almost won the Travers and Belmont together (with Vision And Verse). I wanted to come (to New York) and I wanted Saez to ride the horse here.”

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Friday —

■ Continued from page 51

Mott was confident that Art Collector would run his race.

“All I had to do was look at his form and see what he had done before,” Mott said. “If you look at his 9-furlong races, you saw he had done very well for the previous trainer. But Tom and I had trained for Bruce and Bruce wanted the horse in Saratoga, so Tommy sent the horse up to us and he was in good shape when he came.”

Now a six-time winner, Art Collector’s career is highlighted by a victory in the Grade 2 Blue Grass Stakes where he defeated eventual Preakness Stakes winner and champion 3-year-old filly Swiss Skydiver. The Blue Grass win was part of a four-race win streak that put him on the road to the Kentucky Derby, a race he didn’t make due to a heel injury. Now back in good form, Mott is open to the idea of stepping him back up to Grade 1 company for the first time since a start in the Breeders’ Cup Dirt Mile last year.

“I would think there’d have to be

consideration for the Woodward,” Mott said. “We picked out a softer spot (in the Alydar). I’m glad we were able to do that and get us and the horse off on the right foot.”

— Mary Eddy

- About two hours after earning win number 1,999 with Public Sector in the Grade 2 Hall of Fame Stakes, Chad Brown found himself in the winner’s circle again with Seth Klarman to take the winning photo with Digital Software in the finale for his 2,000th win.

“I’m very appreciative and reflecting on all the people that contributed to this,” said Brown, four-time Eclipse Award winner and 15-time Breeders’ Cup winner. “So many people go into this and you heard a lot about that at the Hall of Fame today from the inductees. It’s all the way down to milestones like this, there’s a lot of people that play a role in it from family to mentors.”

One of the most prominent mentors in Brown’s life was his former boss and Hall of Fame trainer Bobby Frankel. Through Frankel, Brown

Continued On Page 53



Tod Marks

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Friday —

Continued from page 52

learned lessons that he attributes to the success he has had in his career.

“Bobby taught me to be patient with the horses, be honest and work as a team,” he said. “I’m running the ship and calling the shots, but I can’t do it without all my wonderful co-workers, all the great horses and all the people that taught me along the way.”

Klarman, one of the primary owners he has trained for in his 14-year career, has been a part of some key moments with Brown. Together, they captured the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf in 2018 with Newspaperof-record and the Grade 1 Test Stakes here with Separationofpowers the same year. Klarman said being involved in Brown’s 2,000th win is something special.

“It’s so great that we can be a part of it,” Klarman said. “It’s obvious that he’s extraordinarily talented. I am happy for him. He’s fantastic . . . a gifted horseman and a great friend.”

Making his fourth start for Brown and Klarman, Digital Software gave his connections a thrill as he charged home late to grab the win from Bail Out by a head at the wire. Irad Ortiz Jr., aboard for many of Brown’s 2,000 words, rode Digital Software.



Tod Marks

Roaming Union scores in Friday’s second for trainer Charlton Baker.

“I ride a lot for Chad and I have had a lot of success with him,” said Ortiz. “He’s one of those guys who is always there for me and he’s helped me a lot. I wish him all the best and that he can continue having success. I respect him a lot and I enjoy everything he’s done so far.”

— Mary Eddy

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The Hall of Fame. The highest honor in racing – in anything really – beckons only a select few and the class of 2021 (and 2020 since racing missed the ceremony because of the coronavirus pandemic) is one of the most special in history as seven-time Eclipse Award winner Todd Pletcher goes in during his first year of eligibility and 13-time leading steeplechase trainer Jack Fisher joins him. Technically inducted last year, trainer Mark Casse gets his due in 2021 after joining Canada's Hall in 2016.

We get each to discuss a special horse in each edition. These aren't top 20 lists, just examples of the kinds of horses it takes to get trainers to the Hall of Fame. We asked a simple question: Who got you here? And they answered.

Jack Fisher

Mr. Hot Stuff. A full-brother to Travers winner Colonel John, Mr. Hot Stuff won once in 18 starts for WinStar Farm and Eoin Harty before being purchased as a hurdle prospect. The son of Tiznow won six races over hurdles for Gillian Johnston, including the Grade 1 Grand National at Far Hills in 2017 and the Grade 1 A. P. Smithwick at Saratoga in 2013. The third highest earner in Fisher's career retired in 2018.

"Oh, Mr. Hot Stuff. Did you know he ran in the Kentucky Derby? (laughs). I bought him for Nick Arundel. When he died, I had a sale at my barn. I forget what Gill told me to go to, it wasn't what I did, I went higher. He was basically an underachiever, he just wanted to look cool. That day



Tod Marks

Mr. Hot Stuff.



Tod Marks

English Channel.

when he won the Grand National, believe me, he looked cool. Danny Mullins gave him a great ride. Gill has pictures of him all over the place. If you took a picture of that horse, he would always have his ears pricked, like, 'I'm cool.' He had tons of talent. He could have stayed on the flat if he wanted. He's the type of horse I look for, he's well-bred, won one race on the flat but showed enough talent for them to run in the Derby. He did the Thoroughbred Makeover with Quinn (Scala) and now he's at Gill's, in a big field with a bunch of polo ponies and other retired jumpers, Swagger Stick, Syros... Gill goes out there with one bag of carrots and they all come running up. He's a beautiful horse, just a beautiful horse."

Todd Pletcher

English Channel. How about this return? A \$50,000 yearling purchase by Jim Scatuorchio in 2003, son of Smart Strike went on to win 13 of 23 starts, earnings of \$5,319,028 and is in the midst of a successful stud career. English Channel ran in three straight editions of the Breeders' Cup Turf from 2005 to 2007, winning his final appearance in bottomless ground at Monmouth Park. He won six Grade 1s at 4 and 5, including back-to-back runnings of the United Nations at Monmouth.

"He was a superior turf horse. Certainly a sustained career so you can't use that against him. A really tough horse, ultra consistent. He was good at 2 but he was injured after his first start. Three-year-old year was great, just missed in the Joe Hirsch Turf Classic that year and came back to win the next two. Obviously went out on a great note. I

was worried about it. It was a bog that day. One of the only times he didn't really fire was in Dubai. We thought maybe they watered the ground there, it had a little bit of cut to it and we were concerned that he didn't handle that. But it was far different. Monmouth was a bog and he loved it."

Mark Casse

Sir Winston. The late developer. Tracy Farmer's homebred son of Awesome Again didn't sell as a yearling for \$50,000 and that turned out to be Casse's gain. He won two of five starts at 2, including a season-ending score in the Grade 3 Grey Stakes at Woodbine. That put him on the Triple Crown trail in the U.S. After Sir Winston went unplaced in three starts before the 2019 Kentucky Derby, Casse regrouped and ran him in the Peter Pan Stakes to prep for the Belmont Stakes. He finished second in the Peter Pan on the way to a victory over Tacitus and stablemate War Of Will in the Belmont. Beseated with injuries after the Belmont, he's made just five starts since but is on the comeback trail.

"What was crazy with him when he won the Belmont, we had won something like six classics in a row, between here and Canada. He did really well leading up to the Peter Pan and that gave me confidence going into the Belmont. That's when he really got on his roll, in the spring when it counts. We've had to stop and start with him a few times but he's about ready to run again. He spent some time at Fair Hill this spring and he's at Woodbine now. I'm hoping to run him on (Aug. 15) at Woodbine."



Tod Marks

Sir Winston.

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Sonny

"Today's seventh is named for 'Sonny' Sarrica. Apparently a well-known guy at the track. Gambler, fan. Used to hang out at the Big Red Spring. Picnic table. We need something on that."

That was the message on my iPhone from my editor after the third race Thursday. I check the program and note that the post time for the "Sonny" Sarrica Memorial is 4:29. I have a couple of hours to find out something about this guy.

I Google "Sonny Sarrica" looking for an obituary. Nothing.

Now I play the only clue I have. I head to the track's picnic grounds and wander over to Big Red Spring area. It's the usual crowd of horseplayers sitting on foldout chairs or at picnic tables studying their programs or watching the race replay on the JumboTron there. Feeling like a total idiot, I addressed a group of maybe 20: "Excuse me, I know that this is a longshot, but have any of you ever heard of a 'Sonny' Sarrica?"

Twenty hands shot up. If my voice had been louder, it would have been 80 hands, because that's how many people had come to celebrate Sonny's life in that northwest corner of the track. For a few years now, the place has been known as "Sonny's Corner" because every racing day the eponymous Sonny would get up at 5:30 a.m., drive to the track and commandeer a group of tables for his crew of friends and relatives.

One of his friends, John Tomassi, grabbed me and said, "You gotta talk to Danny, he grew up with Sonny."

As kids, Danny Hogan and Sonny used to play basketball and hang out in candy stores together in the Clason Point section of the Bronx. At 18 (the drinking age in New York at the time) they graduated to hanging out at an Irish bar called Hogan's



Tavern, conveniently owned by Danny's father.

"The place was populated by cops, gangsters, bookies, horseplayers and priests," Danny told me redundantly (he had already said it was an Irish bar).

"Sonny loved all sports," but his dad was a horseplayer, and he caught the horse racing bug early and hard. After he retired, about 13 years ago, he moved up here. His apartment was about four miles from the track, but his real home was right here in this corner."

For the next 20 minutes Tomassi and Hogan filled my recorder with stories. They talked about quirky characters Sonny had known and befriended, some great horses Sonny had seen run, Sonny's prowess as a high school basketball player, his love of the New York Giants (the Willie Mays New York Giants not the Frank Gifford ones), and a dozen other subjects. I felt as if Sonny's entire life was made up of scenes from Guys and Dolls or some other Da-

mon Runyon creation.

Sonny died at 80, just a week before the meet opened this year. They say you aren't really dead until the last person that knew you, remembers and tells stories about you dies. From the evidence of talking with his friends, Sonny's got a few more years to go.

This piece was supposed to be a race recap of the seventh race on Thursday with a line or two about someone named Sonny Sarrica. It wasn't an important race, a \$60,000 starter allowance for claiming horses, but my job was to report on it, so I left Sonny's friends and went to cover the race.

The "Sonny's Corner" sign I walked under as I left has the words "One of a kind" on it. I think you could use the same phrase to describe any of the 400-plus races at the Saratoga meet this year. I'll use Thursday's seventh as an example.

The race became dramatic in the stretch when the 3-year-old gelding Spectatorless, running for the very first time on the grass, spooked. He bucked, kicked out one of the slats in the breakaway rail and threw his rider, Jorge Vargas, to the turf. The horse had been a half dozen lengths in the lead when it happened with nine horses behind him. Several jockeys had to make alert, split-second veers to the outside to avoid Vargas on the ground.

One of those jockeys was Jose Lezcano, who still had enough focus to urge his mount Mr. Kringle to a 1 1/2-length victory. Unimportant race? Not according to That's Amore Stable's Carl Hansen, the majority owner of the winner. After being assured that Vargas was OK, Hansen and his fellow owners in the winner's circle were celebrating as if they had just won the Kentucky Derby.

Hansen, who lives in Milwaukee, but grew up in nearby Troy, said, "Believe me, any win at Saratoga is important. Believe me."

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Pitch and Putt

Darrel McHargue hit a sweet drive and was on his way to the green for a three-foot birdie putt on the 16th hole at Palm Desert Golf Course in California when his phone rang.

Brien Bouyea of the National Museum and Racing Hall of Fame was making his once-a-year, most-welcomed cold calls. This one was ice cold. Thirty-two years after he rode his last race, McHargue was being inducted into the Hall of Fame, a member of the class of 2020.

"It was shocking," the 65-year-old Oklahoma native said. "It was out of the blue, it was the furthest thing from my mind. I was floored. Absolutely floored."

McHargue, a walk-up single that day, stepped out of his cart and told the guy he was playing with that he had been inducted into Racing's Hall of Fame.

"He didn't know what horse racing was, but I told him anyway," McHargue said.

McHargue won 2,553 races, his horses earned \$39 million while based primarily in California. He won the George Woolfe Award and Eclipse Award in 1978, won six graded stakes on Hall of Famer John Henry, won stakes on Hall of Famers Ancient Title and My Juliet, partnered Vigors, Terlingua, Run Dusty Run and General Assembly. He won the Preakness aboard Master Derby in 1975 and stretched across the world to win the 1984 Irish St. Leger at the Curragh and the Jockey Club Cup at Ascot in 1984. After just 18 years, McHargue retired in 1988 and became a steward in 1990. He was promoted to the state's chief steward in 2015.

The Hall of Fame? It was more of a correction than a conflict in McHargue's life.

"I never really gave it a whole lot of thought," McHargue said. "People would ask me if I was in the Hall of Fame or they would introduce me as being in the Hall of Fame and I would correct them, 'I'm not in the Hall of Fame.' I can now say, 'Yeah,

you're correct, I'm in the Hall of Fame.' "

There is no correction like that.

Over 20 years of covering the Hall of Fame in *The Special*, the name that cropped up most often when talking about trainers, jockeys and horses jilted from inclusion was McHargue. Hall of Famer Chris McCarron volunteered him, vouched for him over the years, so did others, mostly jockeys, the ones who shared the precious space of a racetrack, the ones who know the difference between a jockey and a jockey's jockey.

"In my book, he's in the top 10 of all time," McCarron said. "He was one hell of a race rider, he taught me a lot. He was a very savvy rider and really knew what he was doing. Looked beautiful on a horse. I wondered all these years why his name wasn't on the ballot."

From a non-racing family, McHargue hooked up with a Quarter Horse trainer who taught him the basics, "from a halter to a bridle," and took him to Ocala. From there, he found his way to the racetrack, winning his first race at Arlington Park in 1972. He learned the game in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York and won the Preakness aboard Master Derby in 1975. That was big. For the win and the opportunity. Bobby Frankel watched McHargue's definitive, seam-slipping ride aboard the chestnut colt.

"When I saw him I introduced myself, that was fortuitous because he actually called me later on and said, 'why don't you come to California?'" McHargue said. "At the time, jockeys were deciding if they were going to ride in New York or Califor-



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nia. Those were the only two."

There he stayed, riding for Frankel and working his way into the best barns in the west. With the muscle and magic of agents Harry the Hat Hacek, Vince DeGregory and Scotty McClellan, McHargue went on a tear, winning a career best 405 races in 1974, setting a North American earnings record of \$6.1 million in 1978, the same year he led all jockeys with 37 stakes wins.

As quickly as it rose, it fell, but that didn't surprise McHargue.

"I wasn't able to get on the good horses any longer, it dried up. I made some business decisions, probably agent-wise, that weren't good career moves, I got injured and the reducing part," McHargue said. "It's a lot of sacrifice, if you get the good horses, then it's worthwhile. You see the longevity of all jockeys, 98 percent of the time it's the good horses that are keeping them around."

As seamless and effortless as he slipped Master Derby through a hole leaving the backside of the Preakness, McHargue transferred from a jockey to a steward in two years and has enjoyed a solid, satisfying second career.

"I always had an eye toward that because I knew my career wasn't going to be a long career, I was hoping it was but knew it wouldn't be," McHargue said. "I've enjoyed being still part of the game. It's a totally different set of circumstances, when you're a jockey, you're trying to be popular, that's what gets you on horses, more winners, more winners. This side of the game, if you're doing the job, correctly, you're not going to be popular. I would hope people who have been around me as a steward would think of me as being fair, consistent and firm."

As for a jockey, peers called McHargue savvy, stylish, an assassin on horseback.

As for that putt, well, it wasn't even close.

"I ran it 100 feet past the hole," McHargue said. Who could blame him?

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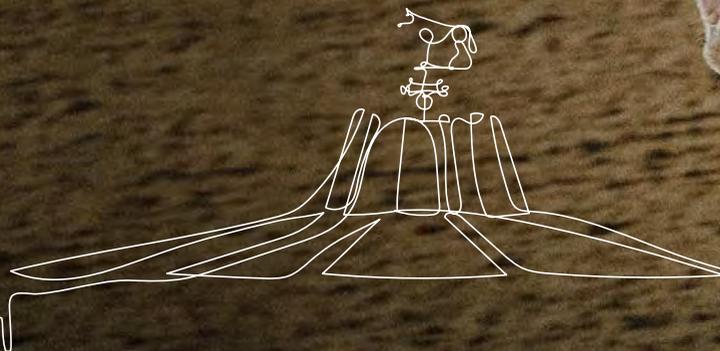
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