

Year 18 • No. 15

Friday, August 10, 2018

The *Saratoga*

# Special

Saratoga's Daily Racing Newspaper since 2001

## Hello Saratoga

**Goodbye Brockley (right) noses  
way to Statue of Liberty win**



**MEET TRACEY PRICE  
LOOKING BACK AT RED GIANT  
ENTRIES & HANDICAPPING**

# LOOK FOR SELECTED YEARLINGS BY CLAIBORNE STALLIONS AT THE FASIG-TIPTON NY BRED SALE

## BLAME

Arch - Liable, by Seeking the Gold

Already **10** Stakes Winners this year incl.

**FAULT (G1), MARAUD (G2), MARLEY'S FREEDOM (G2),  
MISS KENTUCKY (G3), BEYOND BLAME (G3),** etc.

**#547** C. o/o Pavati (Taylor Made, Agt)

**#624** F. o/o Summer on the Lawn (Taylor Made, Agt)

## FIRST SAMURAI

Giant's Causeway - Freddie Frisson, by Dixieland Band

Sire of **4 Millionaires** incl. **G1** winners **LEA** & **JUSTIN PHILLIP**

'18 Stakes Horses incl. **SHAMAAL NIBRAS, SHARP SAMURAI,  
BAL HARBOUR, Chelsea Cloisters,** etc.

**#557** F. o/o Prom Princess (Paramount Sales, Agt)

## FLATTER

A.P. Indy - Praise, by Mr. Prospector

**#1** Active Sire by 2YO Stakes Winners (3)

Sire of '17 Eclipse Champion **WEST COAST**

'18 Yearlings have sold up to **\$520,000 (Sale Topper)**

**#341** C. o/o Wild Grace (Indian Creek, Agt)

**#484** F. o/o Lemon Lashes (Blake-Albina, Agt)

**#574** C. o/o Road to Mandalay (Seth Gregory, Agt)

**#613** F. o/o Spoken Not Broken (Taylor Made, Agt)

**#622** C. o/o Stowe White (Summerfield, Agt)

**#623** F. o/o Summer Escape (Blake-Abina, Agt)

## LEA

1st Foals are Yearlings this Year!

First Samurai - Greenery, by Galileo (IRE)

International **G1**-performer with an International **G1** Pedigree

**GSW** on both Turf & Dirt with **> \$2.36M** in earnings

First-crop Weanlings sold up to **\$230,000 (Sale Topper)**

**#358** F. o/o Ballade's Girl (Four Star Sales, Agt)

**#359** C. o/o Barbarenda (Blackburn Farm, Agt)

**#410** C. o/o Evangelical (South Point Sales, Agt)

**#606** F. o/o Silver Valley (Seth Gregory, Agt)

## ORB

Malibu Moon - Lady Liberty, by Unbridled

'18 Runners incl. undefeated Stakes Winner **AUTUMN WARRIOR,**

debut winner Der LU for Baffert (**\$900,000** 2YO @ '18 FTFMAR),

★ **TDN Rising Star** ★ Explorer for Baffert, etc.

**#366** C. o/o Black Escort (Chilly Bleak Farm, Agt)

**#490** C. o/o Lonestar Angel (RFHF Bloodstock, Agt)

**#513** C. o/o Miss Ten (RFHF Bloodstock, Agt)

**#599** F. o/o Show Me the Carats (Gainesway, Agt)



Saratoga Selected Yearlings Sale

August 11-12 at Fasig-Tipton NY

ClaiborneFarm.com

859-987-2330 (Bernie Sams)



Connie Bush

**Pizza is Life.** A backside squirrel enjoys a slice Thursday morning. He told us he tried to order it with nuts.

## here&there...at Saratoga

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### COOL EVENT OF THE DAY

The David Cassidy band performs at Putnam Place (63A Putnam Street) Tuesday, Aug. 14 at 7:30 p.m. to benefit the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation. Special guest bass player Gary Contessa – yes, that Gary Contessa – will sit in at the concert performed in memory of Cassidy, who passed away in November. The band includes Teri Cote, Craig Snider, Matt Sullivan, Vance Brescia and Darrell Craig Harris – plus the trainer and friend of Cassidy. Tickets are \$50 per person and available at [trfinc.org](http://trfinc.org).

### BY THE NUMBERS

**1:** Email from Gore Mountain ski resort about buying a season pass received by The Special's Joe Clancy Thursday. It's 90 degrees people.

**1:** Fan telling owner Mike Dubb that World Of Trouble is a "Royal Ascot horse" after his win in the Quick Call.

**8:** Golf carts – not in post-position order – parked on the backstretch road near the half-mile pole at 8:32 Thursday morning.

### LICENSE PLATE OF THE DAY

KEEN ICE, New York.

### NAMES OF THE DAY

**Plebe, 10th race.** The 2-year-old colt is by Midshipman.

**Always Sunshine, ninth race.** The 6-year-old is by West Acre out of Sunny Again.

# Main Street

No stallion under \$50,000 can match **Street Sense's** four Graded Stakes winners on the main track this year.



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### WORTH REPEATING

"I'm tellin ya, there aren't enough full-length mirrors in the world."

**The Special's Shayna Tiller, no context needed**

"You got all the quotes right too, unfortunately."

**Linda Gaudet to The Special's Ben Gowans, after she read the Quick Call preview**

"Excuse me, why don't you like the 5 here? I saw you talking to Andy."

**Older racing fan to The Special's Shayna Tiller before race 6 Wednesday. No, fans, she is not Gabby Gaudet. The 5 finished last. Good decision Gabby.**

"Arnaud just has to get some blacktype and we'll all be good."

**Doug Cauthen, no pressure on trainer Arnaud Delacour, after clients Roy and Gretchen Jackson went to \$1 million Tuesday night to buy Hip 143, a filly by Medaglia d'Oro**

"Is that what you do down there?"

**The Special's Todd Koch, when he heard Virginian Sean Clancy included "kicking cats" in his Cup of Coffee column**

"Do you have any connections that could get me on a horse?"

**UHY's Kylie McKenna to Brandon Valvo during the accounting firm's annual 'Breakfast at the Track' event Thursday morning**

"Just like Alka-Seltzer only it's not the same family. I wish it was, because then I probably wouldn't have to sell yearlings."

**Breeder Ed Seltzer, on how to spell his last name**

Yearling purchase that produced multiple G3 winner,

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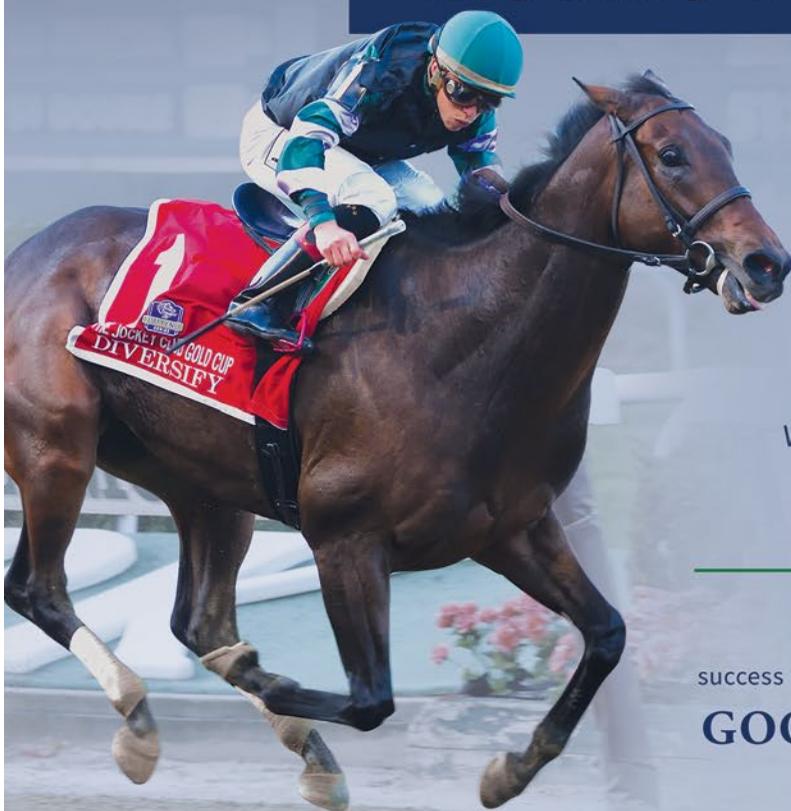
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# BIG

## RESULTS IN THE “BIG APPLE”

\*Horses bred by Fred Hertrich/partners & sold at the FT NYB sale



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**Michael Dubb** found  
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### GOOD LUCK GUS

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At the Fasig-Tipton NY Bred Sale | August 11 & 12

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I made Eric Guillot. Without me he's nothing. Zero."  
Albany Times Union writer Tim Wilkin, after Guillot and Southern Phantom were in the New York Times



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### WORTH REPEATING

"I'm a little behind on my bills, so I have to walk."

Owner Alan Brodsky, following trainer Mark Hennig's golf cart to the track to watch training Thursday morning

"She used to put her head on my shoulder. Now I put my head on her shoulder."

Owner Bonner Young about the height of granddaughter Caroline Rich

"Trying to walk it off. About 500 more laps and I should be good."

Owner Anthony Bonomo, hitting the pavement in the stable area Thursday morning

"Nice piece, I was thinking of doing it. Now you've put me off."

Trainer Graham Motion to The Special's Sean Clancy about his Cup of Coffee column Thursday about the Real Rider Cup

"Do you have a reservation? We're kind of full tonight. You might need one."

The Brook Tavern to The Special's Tom Law, calling at 9:30 p.m. to see how late the kitchen stayed open (don't let anyone tell you business is slow in Saratoga on a weekday)

"That was amazing and you made a little girl's dream come true."

A mother after she and her daughter took a stroll through Ron Moquett's shedrow in the Stakes Barn

"This is the best horse you'll ever sit on."

Then exercise rider Phil Gleaves, when Eddie Maple asked who Gleaves was riding after an unraced 2-year-old outworked Grade 1-placed Chumming, the unraced 2-year-old and "the best horse you'll ever sit on" was Devil's Bag

"This is not a social experiment, this is work."

The Special's Tom Law, explaining the purpose of a morning at the track

"Love the Hemingway quote."

Longtime reader Rob Griffo, about a column in The Special

"Maybe Honor Code's Whitney, I'm not sure. Hopefully it's been since then."

Bill Farish, when he was asked the last time he was in a Saratoga winner's circle photo following Ticonderoga's win in Thursday's sixth race

"Anybody, I need two Worth Repeating's or this paper cannot go to press."

The Special's Joe Clancy

"There's one."

The Special's Ben Gowans

## Maryland, My Maryland Country Life Farm



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# The Top 10

The Special keeps up with a list of the meet's best – performances, achievements, oddball feats of human or equine wonder. We'll update it daily, or try to any-way. **Bold means they're new.**

**1.** Imperial Hint. Vanderbilt July 28. You going to argue with that performance? Special, small sprinter won Grade 1 with speed, style, simplicity. And we wrote about him 18 months ago.

**2.** Diversify. Yo. Now that's a Whitney. Best older horse on the grounds breaks on top and rips it up from there – winning in hand and stretching his streak to three.

**3.** Monomoy Girl. C.C.A. Oaks July 22. How good was that? Unquestioned queen of the meet. As Dylan sang, somebody get her a brand new leopard skin pillbox hat.

**4.** Weekend Hideaway. John Morrissey July 26. Who you callin' old? Dismissed at 10-1, he won the N.Y.-bred stakes for the second time – four years after the first one.

**5.** Chad Brown. Just when you thought Steve Asmussen and others had a chance, the training-title favorite seized control. He won two stakes Saturday, including a 1-2 in the De La Rose and is up by eight in the standings.

**6.** Turf tie. Even 1 3/8 miles couldn't decide who won the Bowling Green July 28. Glorious Empire and Channel Maker dead heated, as trainer Chuck Lawrence won his first graded stakes since 1996 and Bill Mott won his first since two Saturdays earlier.

**7.** Irad Ortiz Jr. The meet's leading jockey won two Wednesday and FOUR Monday. He's going to be tough to catch.

**8.** Sistercharlie. Wait, wait, wait some more, then pounce. Irish-bred mare caught Ultra Brat in the final half-stride to win the Grade 1 Diana July 21. Chad Brown trainee is a head from being 3-for-3 this year.

**9.** Catherinethegreat. Opening Day's first star, she won the Schuylerville with disdain. Can't wait for the Spinaway.

**10.** Hofburg and Tenfold. Curlin and Jim Dandy winners are the local leaders for the Travers, though Haskell winner Good Magic is on the grounds too. Midsummer Derby might turn out OK after all.

**On the bubble:** Farrell, Mucho, Lyrical Lady, Promises Fulfilled, quick starts by Steve Asmussen and Joe Sharp, Arch Kingsley winning two over jumps, the 144 Beyer put up by the rain, trainer Barclay Tagg's double.

Presents the

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PHOTO OF  
THE DAY

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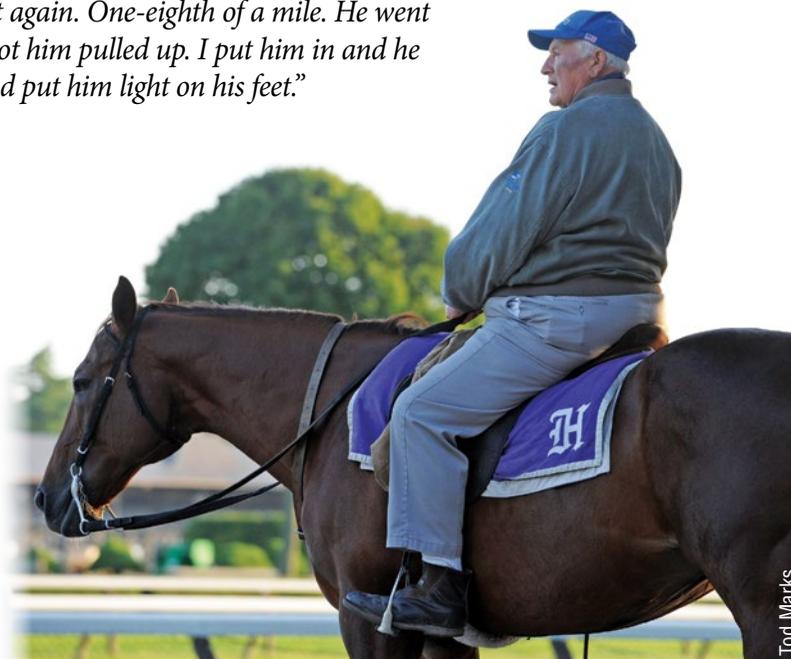
## The Chief... Day 15

*"I had a horse that wasn't trying. I had two or three good guys who could do anything I tell them. I said, 'I want to blow this horse out an eighth of a mile and I don't want you to be taking a quarter of a mile shot at the pole and another three-eighths of a mile to pull him up. I want to go one-eighth of a mile, get it?' 'OK.' Came back. 'That what you wanted?' 'Yeah.' So, the next day, do the same thing. He had a harder time pulling him up. We skipped a day. Did it again. One-eighth of a mile. He went three-eighths of a mile in :35 by the time he got him pulled up. I put him in and he won. I just thought it would shake him up and put him light on his feet."*

– Trainer Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015



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Tod Marks

# STABLE TOUR

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## With Ron Moquett

Ron Moquett loves Saratoga. He loves Oaklawn Park, too, rightfully so as Hot Springs is where he started and the place he calls home. He loves just about any place like those two spots, where racing dominates the scene and the conversation, everywhere from the backstretch to the butcher shop.

Ask him sometime about the butcher shop; you won't be disappointed at the story.

Moquett's career is a story in itself. Raised in Fort Smith, Ark. – for a significant portion of his childhood in foster care after the death of his mother – his earliest racing experiences started at little Blue Ribbon Downs in Oklahoma. Moquett eventually learned to ride, competed in match races at bush tracks and small pari-mutuel venues. He eventually gravitated to Thoroughbred racing, lived in tack rooms and feed rooms to work his way up and immerse himself with everything at the barn and landed a spot as an assistant to Bernie Flint in Kentucky.

Moquett took out his training license in 1997, won his first race in 1998 at Prairie Meadows, cracked six figures in earnings in 1999, saddled his first graded stakes winner in 2001 and won his first Grade 1 stakes in 2006 with Seek Gold in the Stephen Foster Handicap. The trainer won more than \$1 million in purses for the first time in 2012 and competed in back-to-back runnings of the Kentucky Derby in 2015 and 2016.

He brought another small string to Saratoga this year, bedded down again in the stakes barn not far from the paddock. He won with his second starter, The Red Dude, in a \$25,000 claimer the first Sunday of the meet and hopes for more success with runners today and into the weekend. He'll swap horses from the Saratoga group with others from his main spring/summer/fall base at Churchill Downs.

"My goal right now is if they drag you to the races here, run them here. If not, then we'll wait," Moquett said. "The two places you want to do well obviously, besides Keeneland, are Oaklawn and Saratoga. That's where I want to win. Whatever we can do to do that.

"My owners are interested in that. I tell everybody I've never been asked if I won a title. Everyone wants to know what races I've won. 'Have you won this race, the Rebel, the Forego.' That's what I'm focusing on, winning races with names. I want to do the best with every horse that I can. I'd like



Tod Marks

Ron Moquett greets The Red Dude after his win here July 22.

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to get the most out of them for the pedigree and for the owner. I want, when it's all said and done, to say, 'Remember when we won this race?' Most of all I'm a huge fan of horse racing. I love these horses. I appreciate what they do."

Moquett, who continues to bounce back from a diagnosis of the autoimmune disease atypical sarcoidosis this winter in Hot Springs, went through the Saratoga string Thursday morning with his friend and assistant Jeff Meckor and The Special's Tom Law.

**Whitmore:** The big horse is back at Churchill Downs, prepping for the Grade 1 Forego Aug. 25. Winner of the Grade 3 Count Fleet this spring at Oaklawn, 5-year-old Pleasantly Perfect gelding is 10-for-21 lifetime with \$1,671,000 in earnings. "He ran last time in the Belmont Sprint Championship, beat by Limousine Liberal, which we bumped off the rail and did all

that crazy stuff. He keeps it exciting. He's a good boy. Nobody would ever think he is as good as he is, because of his pedigree and all that. He's a freak. The Breeders' Cup Sprint, that's my main thing. Last year we played on their field, it was an away game. This year it's home. If they don't think that advantage is real then we'll talk about it after this race, right? There's something to be said about walking out of your stall and going to the races. Especially with my horse, who I haven't figured out a way to make him as comfortable when he ships. He kicks all the way up there, all the way home. He runs everywhere, he's a good boy."

**San Juan Diego:** Moquett's and William Sparks' 3-year-old New York-bred son of Heavy Breathing walks the shed during the tour. He finished third in a state-bred maiden Aug. 2. "He ran here last weekend. He's a good boy. I wish they would write a mile or further race for New York-breds that wasn't on the turf. He's a route dirt horse. He's a half to Musket Man, who was a pretty good route horse."

**Petrov:** Four-time winner is multiple graded stakes placed, including a third in the Grade 3 Smile Sprint two back. Four-year-old son of Flatter finished sixth in the Grade 1 Vanderbilt

**Continued on page 9**

# Stable Tour —

## ■ Continued from page 8

last time for Moquett, Rialto Racing and Head of Plains Partners. “He’ll run in an allowance race at the end of the meet. He was unlucky down in the race in Florida, ran third, and got banged around. The race was flattered when that horse that was basically in a dead-heat with him was second to Imperial Hint. I knew he had the ability. He’s a closing sprinter and that means you’ve got to have the trip.”

**Wild Moment:** Alex and JoAnn Lieblong’s 2-year-old daughter of Medaglia d’Oro is out of champion She Be Wild. Moquett gives her a few pats and fixes her forelock. “She’s just as smart a horse as you’ve ever been around. You can tell she’s meant to be early because her mother was such a good 2-year-old. She won the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Fillies. She does everything like that kid waiting behind somebody else, while you’re teaching them how to swing, she’s watching, then she goes up and knocks it out of the park. She’s like, ‘I know what I’m doing.’ She’ll run here.”

**Frosted Ice:** Catherine Adams-Hutt’s homebred gray 2-year-old by Bellamy Road finished fourth in state-bred maiden on the main track in his debut July 27. “He’s a route horse, I had to run him once 5 1/2 (furlongs) and they spent 10 minutes talking about him on TVG. He comes flying. He’s definitely a bet back.”

**Swing And Sway:** A \$117,000 buy at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred sale that Westrock Stables bought as a 2-year-old for \$185,000, 4-year-old Maclean’s Music filly is 5-for-17 with \$361,490 in earnings. A three-time stakes winner, she finished third last time in the Saylorville at Prairie Meadows July 5. “We’re going to run her next week in the Union Avenue (Aug. 16). She’s won two stakes this year, she’s very good.”

**Treble:** Runner-up two starts back in the Grade 3 Winning Colors, 4-year-old Macho Uno filly finished eighth in Grade 2 Princess Rooney on Gulfstream Park’s Summit of Speed card June 30. Owned by Rialto Racing and Moquett, she’s in today’s third race, an allowance-optional going 6 1/2 furlongs. “She finished an unlucky second in a Grade 3. She’s cool. We bought her for \$35,000 and she’s made \$222,000 and doing well.”

**Our Majesty:** One of two runners Moquett trains for the all-female It’s All About The Girls Stable, 4-year-old Grade 2-placed daughter of Majesticperfection finished second in optional at Prairie Meadows July 27. “She’s probably the unluckiest horse you’ve ever seen. How many horses do you know from eight outs have been disqualified from wins twice and not their fault? She didn’t get in, get out, come over on somebody. One of the DQs was in a stakes (the 2017 Purple Martin at Oaklawn).

I’ve only had three disqualifications in my career. One needed to be disqualified, his name was Biker Boy and he needed it. There’s a picture of him savaging another horse. He needed it. She didn’t do anything, but she’s a graded-stakes caliber filly. She’s won five out of eight, but two of them were disqualifications. The stakes she was DQ’d in she beat Vertical Oak, Golden Mischief and just beat them easy and was placed fourth. Instead of not being a stakes winner we’re not even stakes-placed. She’ll run at the end of the meet. Either an allowance race or we’ll wait for the stakes at Belmont, the Gallant Bloom. Made \$194,000, but it should be eight starts, five wins and maybe \$310,000. Let me tell you, there’s nothing like winning for a bunch of cool ladies like them who love horse racing.”

**The Dustman:** The Lieblongs bought 3-year-old son of Tiznow for \$125,000 at 2016 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale. Finished 10th in his debut here July 26. “He’s a half to Coup de Grace and Dancing Rags, who won the Grade 1 at Keeneland. I had the weirdest thing happen. This horse can run. He was one of those ones that when the light comes on it’s going to be fun. He’s a serious horse. I ran him that day and it was sticky. I was about to scratch. I didn’t want to run a first-time starter over a drying out track. We were 20-1 regardless, Tom Albertrani had the Discreet Cat (Fully Vested) coming back, everybody else had a horse that’s had an out and were ready to run. I’ve seen enough in the morning to think, ‘if he goes out there and shows us he might be OK. He might not be the kind of horse that needs three or four races, he might do well.’ Then the temperature goes up, it’s very humid and I’m looking up there, still excited thinking about the workouts and he comes out of the gate and I’m like, ‘what the heck?’ It didn’t seem like he was tied in, focused, whatever. He came back and for whatever reason he was a little dehydrated. That happens on drying out, goes from being cool to being real humid. He just didn’t metabolize the right way. We got him off the straw, put him on shavings, put him on the SlimFast diet and tried to get him to tuck up a little bit. I’m excited when he puts it all together because he’s a beautiful, athletic horse.”

**Laughing Fox:** Union Rags colt cost the Lieblongs \$375,000. He’s entered in Saturday’s second race, a 7-furlong maiden that also drew the hyped Southern Phantom and buzz horse Chief Executive from Todd Pletcher’s barn. “He’s 16-2, all boy, probably going to be a route horse. Definitely going to be a route horse. He drew the inside, which it seems like I’ve been doing quite a bit. For a first-time starter it doesn’t seem like the optimum place but we’re going to let him go out there and figure it out. He has a beautiful stride and he’s got some ability, but right now he’s in that herd mentality. If he goes out there and runs like he can, he’ll be fun. He won’t have any pressure on him, he’ll be 20-1, we’ve got the Bodemeister (Southern Phantom) that’s all

colored up in there, he ran a good final sixteenth, a bunch of first-time starters, the one for Todd. My deal is I want him to be a professional, do something, give an account of himself and lead me to believe we’re on the right track. I’ve got horses that I try to win first out and then there’s horses that I think it’s better for their health and their career to allow them to learn it in the races. We don’t have training races anymore.”

**Cabot:** A \$400,000 purchase by the Lieblongs at last year’s Fasig-Tipton Saratoga select sale, Will Take Charge colt is training at Churchill. “Cabot is actually named after a powerful warlock. And it’s a town in Arkansas. Since Alex owns it, I’m going to say it’s Arkansas. His momma’s name is Mystic Mama and his dad is Will Take Charge. I Googled it, put down Mystic Mama and Will Take Charge and a book came up that listed all the warlocks. I started reading them. I told my son Chance about it, he went to working on it, after that we found like five warlock names. I asked Alex, what do you think of the name Cabot, he said, ‘Yeah, it’s a town in Arkansas. Perfect.’”

**Unnamed colt by Into Mischief out of Lady Belsara:** John and Louis Cella purchased him for \$215,000 at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May 2-year-olds in training sale. He’s also in training at Churchill. “He’s a very nice horse. Let me show you what I like about him. I don’t use all the name-brand riders on the first-time starters. If you notice, Whitmore

was ridden by Didiel Osorio, Petrov was ridden by Jack Gilligan. I hardly ever use name riders, unless I’m at Oaklawn then I use Ricardo Santana. Gilligan knows me, he gets on a lot of good horses for me. Check out this text, he said, ‘I love him.’ I’m a big fan of him.”

**Proverb:** Eric Johnson’s Harlow Stables bought 2-year-old Flatter colt for \$170,000 in April. Out of the winning Yes It’s True mare Peisinoe, he’s worked three times at Churchill. “He’s really nice. When I bought him I was looking for a nice 3-year-old for these people. That’s what I think he’s going to be.”

**Tipazar:** William Sparks’ 3-year-old daughter of Tapizar cost \$45,000 as a yearling. She’s also back at Churchill prepping for her debut with a steady work tab that includes a half-mile breeze from the gate in :48.20 July 26 and 5 furlongs in 1:01.60 Sunday. “I just got her about 50 days ago. I thought she was going to be a very nice filly. She had a little something that I thought needed some time. That owner is really cool about that. My owners, if I say that to them they’re like ‘Ok.’ It’s funny, I tell everybody that it’s weird all my owners are so cool. The reason is I sift the other ones out, in a hurry. It went from, ‘hey, we’re going to run on Thursday and her next out is going to be a stakes,’ to ‘I think I want to kick her out.’ He said OK. I really believe she’s going to teach him that if you do the right thing by your horses they will do right by you. She’s a cool son of a gun. Super fast.”

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Tod Marks

My Boy Tate puts his five-race winning streak on the line.

# Nevin's Boy

## My Boy Tate attempts to keep win streak alive

BY BEN GOWANS

He's not your typical horse trying to win his sixth race in a row. Yet My Boy Tate will try to do just that when making his first start against open company in today's 6-furlong Tale Of The Cat Stakes. And, he's the 6-5 favorite on the morning line in the \$100,000 race restricted to horses who have not won a graded stakes in 2018.

The New York-bred started his career in two races around two turns. He finished fourth first time out and then was only beaten a nose in his subsequent start.

Little Red Feather Racing bought a majority interest in My Boy Tate af-

### TALE OF THE CAT STAKES PREVIEW

ter that effort. Trainer – and breeder – Michelle Nevin kept the horse in her barn and kept a percentage of ownership.

He was third when cut back to a mile in his first start in a new pair of silks. Cut back in distance even more to 6 furlongs, the son of Boys At Tosconova started his win streak at Saratoga almost a year ago. He started with a 4 3/4-length win in a New York-bred maiden special Aug. 13 to start the winning streak. He followed

**Continued On Page 12**

## NORMANDY INVASION

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Sunday, August 12, 10 a.m., Saratoga Springs, N.Y.



# Tale of the Cat —

■ Continued from page 10

the maiden score with a 6 3/4-length triumph in a first-level allowance at Aqueduct, and then knocked out the next allowance condition with a 9 1/4-length romp. It was time for his stakes debut.

That came Jan. 13 in Aqueduct's Say Florida Sandy Stakes. The Ozone Park, N.Y. oval had canceled all but two races in the previous two days of racing. Officially, the Aqueduct surface was sealed and muddy. Unofficially, it was dead-of-winter-at-Aqueduct muck.

He won by 3 lengths crossing the wire in 1:27.14 for 7 furlongs. That might sound slow, but when you consider the surface, it wasn't.

"He's just steadily improved and gotten his confidence," Nevin said. "From the time he broke his maiden, he's run on a fast track, a good track, a muddy track, and then in a blizzard, so he's definitely not concerned about the surface."

He won another New York-bred stakes Feb. 19, taking the Hollie

Hughes Stakes five weeks after his first stakes win.

Then came the time off. My Boy Tate enters today's feature off a nearly 6-month layoff. Nevin would have liked to run My Boy Tate in the state-bred John Morrissey Stakes July 26, but opted for this spot in order to have the 4-year-old ready to run at his best.

"That's what I planned on doing, we just weren't ready in time. I didn't want to rush him," she said of the Morrissey. "He was running pretty strong through the winter. He knocked out a couple of races back to back and he just got very light on us. We just wanted to stop, give him some time off, get some weight back."

Nevin bred My Boy Tate and she's quite familiar with his parents.

"They've all been winners. So far, she's done well," Nevin said of the Sharp Humor mare Backslash and her foals. "I just liked the mare. I didn't really have any big theory going, just liked her. I used to gallop Boys At Tosconova, I really liked him. I thought they would be a good match."

Backslash, an \$85,000 yearling purchase by Paul Pompa Jr. in 2009, start-

ed just three times for Nevin's former boss Rick Dutrow Jr. — winning once at Aqueduct in December. She's produced two other foals to race including three-time winner Linkappleyard and maiden winner Charlie McCoy (who was second here July 27).

Manny Franco — who rode My Boy Tate in his first five starts — has the mount today from the inside post.

Brian Lynch's Silver Ride is the 5-2 second choice on the morning line.



Trainer Michelle Nevin.

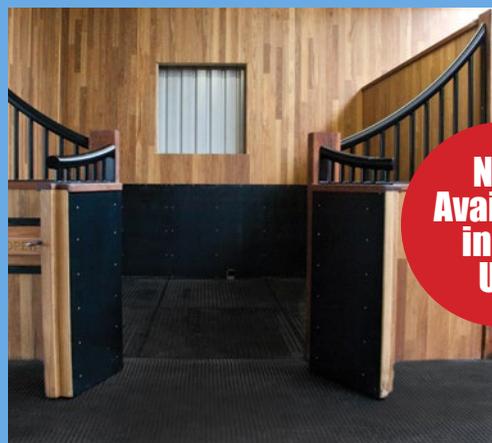
Tod Marks

He beat the Nevin-trained Wonderful Light by a nose in his last start, an allowance optional at Belmont Park June 22. The 6-year-old had been off for 13 months prior to that effort. The gelding owned by Jim and Susan Hill won a Saratoga first-level allowance at 38-1 on Woodward Day in 2016.

Always Sunshine (7-2) seems to be rounding back into form. The winner of the Grade 3 Maryland Sprint in 2016 scored impressively last time out in Delaware Park's Hockessin Stakes. The 6-year-old was fourth after a troubled trip in Belmont's Grade 2 True North in his previous start. Ned Allard ships the sprinter up from his Parx base.

Ben Colebrook brings Mr. Crow back on short rest, 13 days to be exact. The son of Tapizar was involved in a quick pace in the Grade 1 Vanderbilt and tired to finish fourth. He won his start for Colebrook Derby week at Churchill Downs and ran well to be second in the Grade 3 Aristides a month later.

Pop The Hood is the other New York-bred in the field. The 6-year-old owned by Chester and Mary Broman is the longest shot on the board in the five-horse field at 10-1.



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- 491 *colt* FREUD - LOVE MY GIRL
- 494 *colt* CENTRAL BANKER - MAKING A POINT
- 495 *colt* CENTRAL BANKER - MALIBU MYSTIQUE
- 501 *colt* ANIMAL KINGDOM - MARSHTINI
- 510 *filly* CENTRAL BANKER - MISS BODINE
- 525 *filly* SUMMER FRONT - MYSELF
- 532 *colt* CENTRAL BANKER - NO PESO NO SAYSO
- 538 *colt* CONGRATS - ONE WISE COWGIRL
- 542 *colt* CENTRAL BANKER - OUR MISS JONES
- 564 *colt* POINT OF ENTRY - RAHY'S COLORS
- 590 *filly* THE FACTOR - SEA WIND
- 602 *filly* FLASHBACK - SIGN OFF
- 611 *colt* SHAKIN IT UP - SOUTH WING

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Friday, August 10.

### 1ST (1:00PM). \$28,000, CLM \$14,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

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

1	.....	Best Surprise	.....	R. Maragh	.....	B. Levine	.....	7-2
2	.....	Taruca	.....	M. Luzzi	.....	W. Catalano	.....	9-2
3	.....	Quai Voltaire	.....	L. Reyes	.....	G. Sciacca	.....	12-1
4	.....	Planet Trailblazer (BRZ)	.....	L. Saez	.....	P. Serpe	.....	2-1
5	.....	Ninetyeighttwo	.....	J. Rosario	.....	G. DiPrima	.....	20-1
6	.....	Cavallotto	.....	D. Davis	.....	H. Bond	.....	3-1
7	.....	Kenyan	.....	E. Cancel	.....	G. Sciacca	.....	5-1

### 2ND (1:33PM). \$45,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....	Kickin Kimberly	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	8-1
2	.....	Red Curls	.....	L. Saez	.....	R. Lerman	.....	12-1
3	.....	Umoveover	.....	K. Carmouche	.....	P. Fout	.....	20-1
4	.....	Amazing Audrey	.....	J. Velazquez	.....	T. Pletcher	.....	8-5
5	.....	Love to Share	.....	J. Lejaroux	.....	B. Walsh	.....	4-1
6	.....	Secret Quality	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	M. Maker	.....	3-1
7	.....	MTO Mrs Vargas	.....	Rider TBA	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	6-5
8	.....	Miss Loyalty	.....	M. Franco	.....	G. Weaver	.....	8-1
9	.....	Appreciate	.....	R. Maragh	.....	J. Toscano, Jr.	.....	15-1
10	.....	Golden Vale	.....	D. Davis	.....	B. Tagg	.....	20-1

### 3RD (2:06PM). \$95,000, AOC \$80,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 6 1/2F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....	Quick Release	.....	J. Lezcano	.....	M. Dini	.....	5-1
2	.....	Treble	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	R. Moquett	.....	3-1
3	.....	Luz Mimi	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	J. Englehart	.....	5-2
4	.....	You Know Too	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	M. Gorham	.....	2-1
5	.....	Thirteen Songs	.....	L. Saez	.....	D. Stewart	.....	6-1
6	.....	Always On My Mind	.....	J. Castellano	.....	B. Cox	.....	8-1

### 4TH (2:40PM). \$44,000, CLM \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

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

1	.....	Lookin At Blessing	.....	L. Saez	.....	N. Zito	.....	8-1
2	.....	Long Gray Line	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	A. Stall, Jr.	.....	3-1
3	.....	Stronger	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	M. Hennig	.....	8-1
4	.....	Single Gem	.....	D. Cohen	.....	R. Diodoro	.....	5-1
5	.....	Infield Is In	.....	L. Reyes	.....	R. Metivier	.....	15-1
6	.....	Trustworthy	.....	E. Cancel	.....	A. Quartarolo	.....	4-1
7	.....	Malibu Strings	.....	J. Velazquez	.....	T. Pletcher	.....	5-2
8	.....	Shamsaan	.....	K. Carmouche	.....	P. Fout	.....	10-1

### 5TH (3:14PM). \$85,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	.....	Dance for Daddy	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	H. Motion	.....	10-1
2	.....	Oceans of Love	.....	F. Geroux	.....	M. Casse	.....	8-1
3	.....	Fierce Scarlett	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	C. Brown	.....	5-2
4	.....	Kenai Cool	.....	L. Saez	.....	J. Sharp	.....	8-1
5	.....	MTO Dovey Lovey	.....	Rider TBA	.....	G. Contessa	.....	8-1
6	.....	Global Exchange	.....	J. Alvarado	.....	J. Toner	.....	15-1
7	.....	Two Shakes	.....	J. Velazquez	.....	W. Ward	.....	3-1
8	.....	Devious Charm	.....	J. Lejaroux	.....	M. Casse	.....	15-1
9	.....	Foggy Kitten	.....	J. Rosario	.....	W. Ward	.....	8-1
10	.....	Pakhet	.....	J. Castellano	.....	T. Pletcher	.....	4-1
11	.....	MTO Mo Wheels Up	.....	L. Saez	.....	J. Sharp	.....	3-1

### 6TH (3:48PM). \$77,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

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

1	.....	Altesino	.....	R. Maragh	.....	H. Bond	.....	10-1
2	.....	Sicilia Mike	.....	D. Davis	.....	G. Sciacca	.....	6-1
3	.....	Proletariat	.....	L. Saez	.....	L. Gyarmati	.....	4-1
4	.....	Leap to Glory	.....	J. Rosario	.....	C. Baker	.....	8-1
5	.....	Formal Start	.....	K. Carmouche	.....	S. Jerkens	.....	6-1
6	.....	Elios Milos	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	J. Abreu	.....	5-2
7	.....	Candy Zip	.....	F. Geroux	.....	L. Rivelli	.....	10-1
8	.....	Zonic	.....	J. Bravo	.....	T. Albertrani	.....	7-2

### 7TH (4:24PM). \$92,000, AOC \$62,500, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 3/8M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....	Empress of the Nile	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	H. Bond	.....	8-5
2	.....	La Manta Gris	.....	J. Lezcano	.....	G. Arnold, II	.....	6-1
3	.....	Violet Blue	.....	M. Franco	.....	J. Toner	.....	5-2
4	.....	Sweet Sandy	.....	J. Lejaroux	.....	D. Hodsdon	.....	15-1
5	.....	Nyx Warrior	.....	A. Wolfson	.....	T. Beattie	.....	30-1
6	.....	Bengala (FR)	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	C. Clement	.....	4-1
7	.....	Lady Joan	.....	L. Saez	.....	P. Serpe	.....	5-1

### 8TH (5:02PM). \$48,000, CLM \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....	Questeq	.....	J. Lezcano	.....	J. Toscano, Jr.	.....	8-1
2	.....	Little Nanny	.....	M. Luzzi	.....	G. Sciacca	.....	30-1
3	.....	Discreet Image	.....	J. Rosario	.....	D. Donk	.....	10-1
4	.....	Alley to Calvary	.....	R. Maragh	.....	J. Lostritto	.....	15-1
5	.....	Front Row Debbie	.....	J. Velazquez	.....	D. Romans	.....	8-1
6	.....	She Doesn't Mind (FR)	.....	M. Franco	.....	J. Abreu	.....	9-2
7	.....	Cause Me Grief	.....	J. Castellano	.....	P. Reynolds	.....	4-1
8	.....	Kat O Mine	.....	J. Alvarado	.....	W. Mott	.....	8-1
9	.....	Theater in the Round	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	C. Brown	.....	3-1
10	.....	Scripted	.....	D. Davis	.....	G. Sciacca	.....	15-1
11	.....	Caitlin's at the bar	.....	L. Reyes	.....	B. Brown	.....	30-1
12	.....	Emerald Quality	.....	F. Geroux	.....	P. Kelly	.....	30-1
13	.....	AE Zenbennie	.....	D. Cohen	.....	C. Morgan	.....	10-1

### 9TH (5:40PM). \$100,000, STK - THE TALE OF THE CAT, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	.....	My Boy Tate	.....	M. Franco	.....	M. Nevin	.....	6-5
2	.....	Mr. Crow	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	B. Colebrook	.....	4-1
3	.....	Silver Ride	.....	L. Saez	.....	B. Lynch	.....	5-2
4	.....	Pop the Hood	.....	A. Lezcano	.....	R. Ubillo	.....	10-1
5	.....	Always Sunshine	.....	F. Pennington	.....	E. Allard	.....	3-1

### 10TH (6:17PM). \$75,000, MSW, 2 YO, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	.....	AE Analyzethis and that	.....	W. Garcia	.....	R. Cash	.....	12-1
1a	.....	AE Center City	.....	A. Lezcano	.....	R. Cash	.....	12-1
2	.....	1 Southern Brigade	.....	J. Castellano	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	8-1
3	.....	2 Veterans Beach	.....	M. Franco	.....	D. Donk	.....	10-1
4	.....	3 Ro Jo	.....	D. Davis	.....	D. Schettino	.....	15-1
5	.....	4 Floyd Unger	.....	J. Bravo	.....	J. Englehart	.....	8-1
6	.....	5 Wisecrack	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	R. Violette, Jr.	.....	3-1
7	.....	6 Lost in Manhattan	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	S. Asmussen	.....	5-2
8	.....	7 Bydawnsearlylight	.....	L. Reyes	.....	T. Albertrani	.....	20-1
9	.....	8 Lumberer	.....	J. Rosario	.....	C. Englehart	.....	20-1
10	.....	9 Plebe	.....	J. Lezcano	.....	D. Cannizzo	.....	7-2
11	.....	10 Waynes Footsteps	.....	K. Carmouche	.....	M. Dilger	.....	15-1
12	.....	AE Yowza Yowza Yowza	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	J. Samaniego	.....	12-1
13	.....	AE Not That Brady	.....	K. Carmouche	.....	G. Weaver	.....	5-1
14	.....	MTO Tapit Tango	.....	J. Rosario	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	4-1

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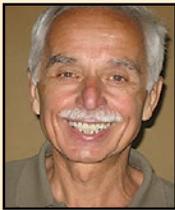


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# WINNER'S CIRCLE BEER

the  
**Power  
grid**

Race #	 <b>John Shapazian</b>	 <b>Charles Bedard</b>	 <b>Tom Law</b>	 <b>Donald Phillips</b>	 <b>Kate Welshofer</b>
<b>1</b>	Planet Trailblazer Best Surprise Cavallotto	Cavallotto Best Surprise Kenyan	Planet Trailblazer Best Surprise Cavallotto	Planet Trailblazer Cavallotto Kenyan	Cavallotto Planet Trailblazer Best Surprise
<b>2</b>	Mrs Vargas Amazing Audrey Secret Quality	Mrs Vargas Secret Quality Amazing Audrey	Amazing Audrey Love To Share Secret Quality	Amazing Audrey Love To Share Secret Quality	Kickin Kimberly Amazing Audrey Secret Quality
<b>3</b>	Treble You Know Too Quick Release	Luz Mimi You Know Too Quick Release	Treble Luz Mimi You Know Too	Treble You Know Too Luz Mimi	You Know Too Luz Mimi Treble
<b>4</b>	Malibu Strings Trustworthy Stronger	Long Gray Line Malibu Swings Trustworthy	Long Gray Line Malibu Strings Single Gem	Long Gray Line Trustworthy Malibu Strings	Malibu Strings Single Gem Stronger
<b>5</b>	Mo Wheels Up Two Shakes Fierce Scarlett	Mo Wheels Up Kenai Cool Fierce Scarlett	Fierce Scarlett Pakhet Global Exchange	Two Shakes Pakhet Devious Charm	Dovey Lovey Fierce Scarlett Foggy Kitten
<b>6</b>	Elios Milos Proletariat Candy Zip	Elios Milos Proletariat Zonic	Elios Milos Proletariat Zonic	Zonic Proletariat Elios Milos	Leap To Glory Zonic Formal Start
<b>7</b>	Bengala Empressof The Nile Violet Blue	Empressof The Nile Violet Blue Bengala	Empressof The Nile Bengala Violet Blue	Lady Joan Expressof The Nile Violet Blue	Bengala Lady Joan Empressof The Nile
<b>8</b>	Theaterintheround She Doesn't Mind Cause Me Grief	She Doesn't Mind Theaterintheround Cause Me Grief	Theaterintheround Cause Me Grief Kat O Mine	She Doesn't Mind Theaterintheround Scripted	Cause Me Grief Kat O Mine Theaterintheround
<b>9</b>	My Boy Tate Mr. Crow Silver Ride	My Boy Tate Always Sunshine Silver Ride	My Boy Tate Silver Ride Mr. Crow	My Boy Tate Always Sunshine Silver Ride	Mr. Crow Always Sunshine Silver Ride
<b>10</b>	Tapit Tango Wisecrack Lost In Manhattan	Lost In Manhattan Plebe Wisecrack	Wisecrack Veterans Beach Plebe	Plebe Ro Jo Wisecrack	Wisecrack Lost In Manhattan Bydawnsearlylight
2018 Records	<b>59/178</b>	<b>43/178</b>	<b>39/178</b>	<b>33/178</b>	<b>25/139*</b>

Our fifth handicapper will be a special guest each day.

## Guest Handicapper

Today's guest handicapper is Kate Welshofer, reporter and anchor for Day-break on WGRZ in Buffalo and former evening anchor and host of Toga Today for Spectrum News in Albany.

We invited Kate back after she picked three winners – including Kate Is A Ten (\$11.40) and D'funnything (\$8.90) finished atop the guest handicapper standings last summer by return on investment.

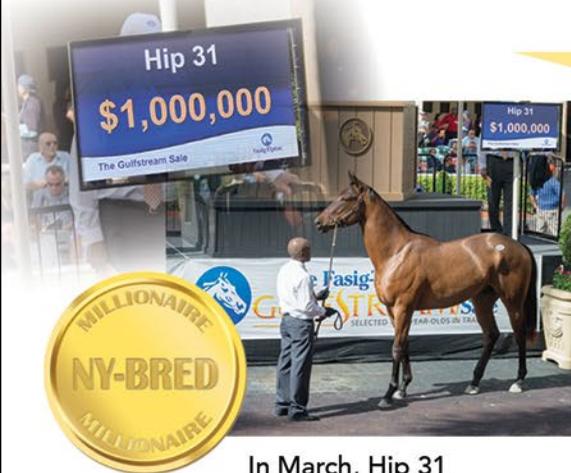
Thursday, Jesse Ullery picked four winners to take the lead in the 2018 guest handicapper standings.

\* Guest win total does not include most Mondays or Wednesdays, when only the regular handicappers' picks appear online at thisishorseracing.com.

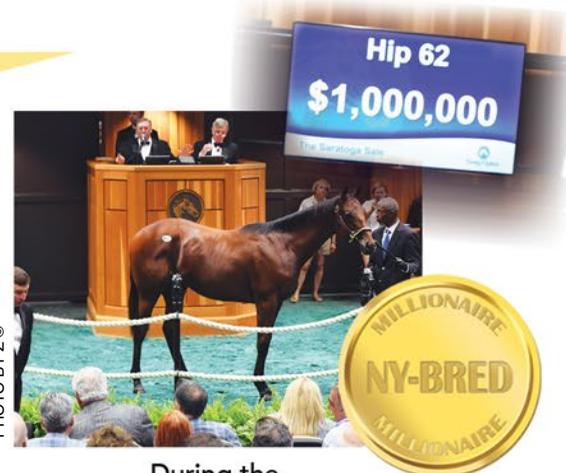
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During the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Selected Yearling Sale Hip 62 was the highest-priced colt of the opening session on August 6.

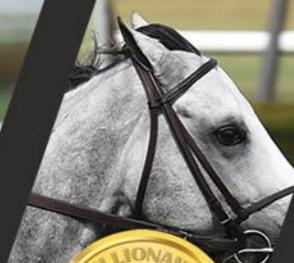
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**NY-BREDS START WITH AN ADVANTAGE**

# One Mare Band

Goodbye Brockley wins New York stallion race for small breeders

BY TOM LAW

Tony and Pat Smith don't keep a lot of broodmares in their Hilly Fields Stable breeding operation. They own only one in fact, Ladywell Court.

What a one to own.

Goodbye Brockley, the middle foal of three old enough to make the races for the Smiths' lone broodmare, delivered a victory in a New York Stallion

Continued On Page 20



Tod Marks

Goodbye Brockley (right) fights off Wegetsdamunnys near the finish of Thursday's feature.

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## Statue of Liberty —

■ Continued from page 18

Series stakes for the second straight year for her owner and breeder with a tight win in Thursday's \$100,000 Statue of Liberty at Saratoga.

Goodbye Brockley, named for an area in southeastern London where Tony Smith grew up, and Luis Saez edged Wegetsdamunnys by a nose in the 1-mile restricted stakes to join her half-sister Lady Joan as Stallion Series winners produced by Ladywell Court.

The Cosmonaut filly is a third-generation homebred for the Smiths, who bought her granddam, the Ontario-bred Deputy Commander mare Commander's Lady, for \$40,000 at the 2001 Keeneland September yearling sale. She won two of 15 starts, placed in the 2003 Wonder Where Stakes at Woodbine, and earned \$112,043 carrying Hilly Fields' brown and blue colors.

"When we had Commander's Lady, who was a very good horse, we said, 'Why don't we get into breeding?' " Tony Smith said, "knowing it was going to take two, three, four

years and so on."

Ladywell Court was Commander's Lady's second foal. She won two of five starts for Hilly Fields and trainer Phil Serpe, who trains Goodbye Brockley and also trained Commander's Lady.

"Unfortunately Commander's Lady died giving birth. She had a couple foals and one was Ladywell Court," Smith said. "Now we breed Ladywell Court, every year to a New York stallion and she's done well. It's been pure luck. Do you believe that, just one mare?"

Goodbye Brockley joined Lady Joan as a winner out of Ladywell Court last year, winning a state-bred maiden special weight in July at Belmont. She missed the rest of the year after that win and returned this spring at Aqueduct, finishing fourth in an optional claimer on the grass and then winning an allowance. Shortened up to 7 furlongs for her next start, the Cupecoy's Joy division of the New York Stallion Series, she finished second to fellow Statue of Liberty entrant Kreesie.

Serpe freshened her up a bit after

**Continued On Page 22**



Pat Smith leads Goodbye Brockley into the winner's circle.

Tod Marks



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# Statue of Liberty —

■ Continued from page 20

that race, not breezing the filly until he and assistant Lisa Bartkowski shipped their string to Saratoga in July. Sent off as the 9-5 favorite in the field of seven for the Statue of Liberty, ahead of the 3-1 pair of Kreesie and Bysell, Goodbye Brockley checked off the heels of Bysell, Crashing Connie and Miss Jen as the field made its way toward the first turn. Saez kept her behind the three-way scrimmage for the lead through a slow opening split of :25.01 over the inner course saturated by rains overnight and listed as yielding.

Goodbye Brockley moved into third while three wide outside of Bysell and Crashing Connie through a half in :50.98. They were just ahead of Miss Jen, Kreesie and Wegetsdamunnys around the far turn. The field bunched up heading for home and in midstretch Goodbye Brockley emerged from a six-way scrap to get past the two early leaders with Wegetsdamunnys and Manny Franco coming hard on the outside.

Those two settled it in deep stretch and hit the finish together.

Jeremiah Englehart, trainer of Wegetsdamunnys, didn't want to call it as he walked down to the winner's circle after watching from a box past the finish line. "I'd take it," he said when a dead-heat was predicted.



Tod Marks

**"First place, Lisa we got first place."**

He didn't get it as a few moments later the judges put up Goodbye Brockley's number. As fans near the winner's circle asked, "are you guys sure?" Serpe and Bartkowski made their way to meet the winner.

"That was very tight," said Serpe, who added the Statue of Liberty to a win with Weekend Hideaway in the John Morrissey July 26. "At first, when I was watching the race I actually thought she won,

but then you start looking at the slow-motion views and they might make you crazy. You're like, 'Did we? Didn't We? Maybe?' I had no idea."

Goodbye Brockley improved to 3-for-7 with the victory and boosted her earnings to \$176,900. She's the second leading earner for Hilly Fields behind her half-sister and \$268,580-earner Lady Joan, who runs in today's seventh race.

Serpe helps with the matings for Hilly Fields and is proud of his deep ties to Goodbye Brockley's pedigree.

"They are runners. They are determined horses," he said of Commander's Lady, Ladywell Court, Lady Joan and The Postmaster, a 2-year-old ridgling full-brother to the Statue of Liberty winner. "And they win multiple races, not just one or two races. Obviously not The Postmaster, he's just 2-year-old, his whole future is ahead of him."

Serpe also trained Cosmonaut for Flying Zee Stable at various points of his graded-stakes winning career. The son of Lemon Drop Kid stood at several farms in New York before being pensioned after the 2016 season. Ladywell Court was bred in back-to-back seasons to Cosmonaut, producing Goodbye Brockley in 2015 and The Postmaster in 2016, after multiple matings to other New York stallions.

"We bred to Courageous Cat twice, Cosmonaut twice and now War Dancer twice," Smith said. "So we have six in various years and ages. The ones who have raced have done well. We've been lucky. If you talk to Phil he might say it's more than luck, it's something else."

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# Battle Won

## Ticonderoga scores in allowance for Woodford Racing, Brown

In 2016, Ticonderoga made his career debut at Saratoga Race Course and lost by a head to eventual Grade 2 winner Good Samaritan.

Two months ago, Ticonderoga lost by a neck to Grade 1-winning stablemate Almanaar in a Belmont Park optional claimer.

Thursday, Woodford Racing's 4-year-old son of Tapit found easier competition in the sixth race. Woodford Racing's Bill Farish stuck around following this week's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga select yearling sale to watch Ticonderoga run.

"We were going to run in the (Lure Stakes), but when they brought the allowance back we thought 'Why not, it's only a \$5,000 difference,'" Farish said of the \$95,000 purse.

### THURSDAY'S RACING RECAP

Farish started Woodford Racing in 2006 and the partnership has evolved over the years.

"We kind of hatched the idea with Mark Casse a long time ago," Farish said. "We bought a bunch of horses for Woodbine and had a lot of fun and success with it. Then we wanted to come down and run where partners could see their horses a little more."

Trained by Chad Brown, Ticonderoga won the 1 1/16-mile optional by 1 1/4 lengths over Aquaphobia with the Casse-trained Siding Spring third in the field of six. The victory

**Continued On Page 26**



Tod Marks

Ticonderoga eases to the finish with a win in Thursday's sixth race.

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## Thursday —

■ Continued from page 24

was Brown's 19th of the meet, giving him an eight-win lead in the trainer standings through 18 days.

Black Tide sped off as the field went around the first turn, King Kreesa was asked to settle behind the leader and Ticonderoga loped along in last. The leader started to tire around the second turn. Aquaphobia and Siding Spring began to advance and Javier Castellano searched for a lane aboard Ticonderoga. He found it as Ticonderoga rallied inside Aquaphobia and outfinished that foe by 1 1/4 lengths.

"When I saw the form, I was happy," Farish said. "There was enough speed in there. He doesn't need a ton of speed to run at, but this wouldn't have been his favorite surface to run on today, so the added speed really did help him close. I don't think he was ever really comfortable over that turf course, he likes it a little firmer."

— Ben Gowans

• Pink Twist ran to her 6-5 odds in the seventh, winning by 2 3/4 lengths

under Luis Saez for trainer John Terranova and owners Eric Fein, Harris Fein, Christopher McKenna, Guri Singh and Jerry Walia.

The Malibu Moon filly won for the second time in six starts in the 9-furlong allowance on the main track.

"She was the big favorite; we liked her coming in," Terranova said. "I was happy about getting to stretch her out to a little more ground. We've just been trying to find the right spots for her."

Pink Twist finished second in her last start, a 1-mile allowance at Belmont July 11.

"She got caught behind some of the speed in her last start; she got hemmed down inside a little bit," Terranova said.

That race came after an eighth in an off-the-turf 7-furlong allowance May 27, the worst showing in her career.

"We did a little experimenting, which didn't work two starts back, so we just forgot about that and figured her out," Terranova said. "She likes things her own way, and she got 'em today. We kind of had to learn things

Continued On Page 28

### Hip 301

C. by Bustin Stones  
o/o Tabuha

### Hip 523

F. by Shanghai Bobby  
o/o Myfriendthebird

### Hip 597

F. Japan  
o/o Shesabitdistorted

### Hip 619

F. by Ghostzapper  
o/o Stone Maker

### Hip 489

F. by Uncle Mo  
o/o Little Polka Dot

### Hip 529

F. by Daredevil  
o/o New Harmony

### Hip 600

C. by Competitive Edge  
o/o Shuffle the Deck



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Tod Marks



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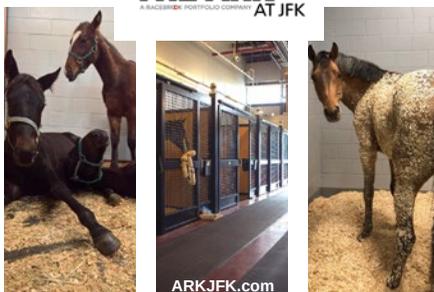
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## Thursday —

■ Continued from page 26

quick with her. She's a little bit late to the game but she should go on to be a solid New York-bred."

Terranova added that Pink Twist is a competitive filly, but tends to be highly strung.

"She's temperamental, big and strong. She's got an attitude to her," he said. "Even when she hit the front she started idling a little bit and waiting on the competition, but I'm happy she ran like she's been training."

Eric Fein also bred Pink Twist, out of the Louis Quatorze mare Pumpkin's Pride. Pink Twist improved to 2-for-6 with three seconds and \$113,210.

"We've know each other for a little while now," Terranova said of Fein. "This year he's given us a big opportunity and he's pretty much put his entire stable in our hands. We've got some young ones that are coming up and developing now for him and we're hoping to have some good success and cultivate a strong stable for him in New York."

— Sarah Newman

## Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS	1ST
Chad Brown	19
Steve Asmussen	11
Todd Pletcher	11
Bill Mott	9
Joe Sharp	6
Jeremiah Englehart	5
Robertino Diodoro	4
Kiaran McLaughlin	4
Rudy Rodriguez	4
JOCKEYS	1ST
Irad Ortiz Jr.	26
Luis Saez	21
Javier Castellano	19
Jose Ortiz	14
Manny Franco	13
Joel Rosario	13
Ricardo Santana Jr.	13
John Velazquez	12
Junior Alvarado	10
Through Thursday	

• Mamma White Socks jiggled into the winner's circle, flashing bright stockings on her front legs as she froze for the photo alongside trainer Sal Iorio Jr. and the members of Old First Ward Stable. She later pranced

off to the test barn fresh from her victory in the finale, a 5 1/2-furlong state-bred maiden moved from the turf to the dirt after overnight showers Wednesday into Thursday soaked the turf courses.

"I had high expectations for her, which is why we brought her here," said Iorio, who is based at Finger Lakes. "I'll be curious to see how she'll run on the turf because she's pretty much bred for it. I wasn't disappointed to see it come off the grass and get five scratches, knowing she can run on the dirt and knowing the speed she has being in the 1-hole."

The 3-year-old daughter of Courageous Cat was purchased privately by Rip Simonick of Old First Ward Stable. She debuted second by a neck and was eighth with two trainers earlier this year before transferring to Iorio's barn in June. She posted two additional seconds by a head and neck for Iorio at Finger Lakes in July.

"I got her and she was running already, I was kind of just keeping her sane and fit," said Iorio. "I thought she was going to run really well."

With Dylan Davis aboard for

Continued On Page 29

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# Thursday —

## ■ Continued from page 28

the first time, Mamma White Socks chased Mama Mary early and to the three-eighths pole. Davis angled wide going into the stretch before pushing Mamma White Socks forward to win by three-quarters of a length over Carrera Cat.

“We told Dylan that she has speed and she really likes to run head-to-head, which is why she lost so much,” said Simonick. “Sometimes she waits too much for horses. Today Dylan did a great job and just waited, and when the time came she just took off.”

Mamma White Socks earned Simonick his first Saratoga winner, and his eyes welled as he reflected on the filly’s career.

“I had bought her in an estate sale,” said Simonick. “I’ve had her since she was a baby and she’s been very good to me. It means a lot. The silks are the most important. I work for the Buffalo Sabres so we have the Sabres logo. My wife’s initials are on there and she passed away seven years ago.”

The win was also special to Iorio, who last won at Saratoga in 2001.

“I won one before, my first start I had here Eye Of The Comet back in – I don’t even know what year it was,” said Iorio. “So this was cool to finally win again. It’s always good to win at Saratoga. It’s great.”

– Shayna Tiller

• Decked out in pink saddlecloths, the horses in the third raced in support of The Breast Cancer Research Foundation and Fabulous Fillies Day, a day to honor women and their contributions to the industry as well as raise money for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Surface Strike and Manny Franco won the \$40,000 maiden claimer by 6 1/4 lengths.

A check was presented to representatives from the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and Play For P.I.N.K in the winner’s circle after the race. Play For P.I.N.K., a volunteer organization raises funds through sporting and



Dave Harmon

Saratoga Race Course presents a check to Play For P.I.N.K.

lifestyle events, stands for Prevention, Immediate diagnosis, New technology, and Knowledge.

“The Saratoga Fillies Day for Play for P.I.N.K and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation is one of the most special days,” said Dawn Brown, an executive board member of Play for P.I.N.K who has been involved in the non-profit for the past sixteen years. “We get to come and be with the people of Saratoga and bring our mission home and they support us so much that it’s our favorite event of the year. We come back every year; everyone is excited; no one says no and it’s no work at all, just a beautiful day,”

“About 20 years ago, I lost a few friends (to breast cancer) and I never wanted to do that again so I found this organization and I started doing events with them and I saw that they were changing medicine and the world. I haven’t lost a friend to breast cancer in 10 years. The word cure is commonplace now and it’s my favorite word. They’re changing the world. Science works.”

In addition to raising money and honoring women in the industry, Fabulous Fillies Day is designed to introduce new people to racing.

Brown said she was introduced to racing through the event.

“I actually didn’t know horse racing until Saratoga, but now I go all over New York,” Brown said. “It’s just fun. The people are great and everything is exciting and it’s a really exhilarating less than two minutes – or maybe one minute – I’m not sure. It’s heart pumping and just makes you feel good.”

Other festivities of the day included a ceremony honoring Vivien Malloy, owner of Edition Farm in Hyde Park, after the fourth race as well as the Sizzling Hot Pink Saratoga Hat Luncheon.

– Sarah Newman

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## SARATOGA RESULTS

Thursday August 9.

### FIRST \$75,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 7F

4	Time Warp	J. Castellano	\$12.60	\$6.00	\$4.90
1	Jot	J. Ortiz		\$4.40	\$3.90
8	Honorable Rose	L. Saez			\$4.70

Gr/ro Filly 2016, by Cairo Prince - Two Hearts by Deputy Minister  
Owner: Walking L Thoroughbreds, LLC. Trainer: Kenneth McPeck.

Breeder: Joseph Picozzi & Saratoga Glen Farm LLC (NY).

Time: 1:24.56

Exacta (4-1), \$26.25; Superfecta (4-1-8-6), \$36.00; Trifecta (4-1-8), \$70.62

### SECOND \$45,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$40,000, 3 & UP, 6 1/2F

3	Malarkey	J. Ortiz	\$6.40	\$3.30	\$2.10
2	Sacrifice	E. Cancel		\$7.10	\$4.20
5	Parlapiano	M. Franco			\$4.60

Ch Filly 2015, by Maclean's Music - Consilia by Vindication

Owner: Bruner, Terry. Trainer: David Donk.

Breeder: Joseph Duffel (KY).

Late Scratches: Florida First, Free Kitty

Claimed: Malarkey claimed by Rice, Linda for \$40,000

Time: 1:17.19

Daily Double (4-3), \$20.90; Exacta (3-2), \$21.90; Quinella (2-3), \$12.80; Superfecta (3-2-5-6), \$15.92; Trifecta (3-2-5), \$48.37

### THIRD \$45,000, NY-BRED MDN CLAIMING \$40,000, 3 & UP, 5 1/2F

6	Surface Strike	M. Franco	\$3.10	\$2.40	\$2.30
5	Cross Multiply	J. Rosario		\$3.80	\$2.70
9	Ed's Quick Cat	C. Camilo			\$3.90

Dk B/ Br Colt 2014, by Smart Strike - Spritley by Touch Gold

Owner: Paradise Farms Corp. and Little Red Feather Racing.

Trainer: Michelle Nevin.

Breeder: Chester Broman & Mary R. Broman (NY).

Late Scratches: The Mason Factor, Foxie's First Pick, Enchanted Forest

Time: 1:04.38

Daily Double (3-6), \$6.60; Exacta (6-5), \$4.50; Superfecta (6-5-9-1), \$6.05; Trifecta (6-5-9), \$13.62; Pic 3 (4-3-6), \$40.75

### FOURTH \$58,000, CLAIMING \$32,000, 3 YO, 7F

7	Maimo	I. Ortiz, Jr.	\$10.00	\$5.10	\$3.50
4	Single Gem	D. Cohen		\$4.30	\$3.00
1	Spectacular Plum	M. Franco			\$3.90

B Gelding 2015, by Maimonides - Sarah Supreme by Golden Missile

Owner: Randall Manor Racing, Cutair Racing and Dark Horse Racing Stable. Trainer: Raymond Handal. Breeder: Zayat Stables, LLC (KY).

Late Scratches: Flat Bill, Year of the Kitten, Congruity

Claimed: Steelersfanforlife claimed by Zamarota Racing Stables for \$32,000

Time: 1:23.61

Daily Double (6-7), \$6.20; Exacta (7-4), \$13.20; Quinella (4-7), \$7.00; Superfecta (7-4-1-8), \$19.10; Trifecta (7-4-1), \$27.37; Pic 3 (3-6-7), \$38.25

### FIFTH \$32,000, CLAIMING \$16,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

9	Potomac	J. Ortiz	\$4.80	\$3.10	\$2.60
6	Desert Lights	L. Saez		\$3.90	\$3.30
5	Foolish Ghost	M. Luzzi			\$5.40

Ch Colt 2015, by Speightstown - Platinum by Mineshaft

Owner: Repole Stable. Trainer: Bruce Levine. Breeder: Peter E. Blum Thoroughbreds, LLC (KY).

Claimed: Potomac claimed by M and M Racing for \$16,000, Desert Lights claimed by Kantarmaci Racing LLC for \$16,000, Southeast claimed by Deeb, Dennis L. for \$16,000. Time: 1:22.22

Daily Double (7-9), \$10.20; Exacta (9-6), \$8.00; Superfecta (9-6-5-2), \$80.00; Trifecta (9-6-5), \$31.00; Pic 3 (6-7-9), \$15.50; Pic 4 (3-4/6/7/8-7-9), \$62.50; Pic 5 (4-3-4/6/7/8-7-9), \$437.50

### SIXTH \$95,000, AOC \$80,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M

4	Ticonderoga	J. Castellano	\$3.00	\$2.30	\$2.10
7	Aquaphobia	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$3.00	\$2.20
8	Siding Spring	L. Saez			\$3.30

B Colt 2014, by Tapit - Keertana by Johar

Owner: Woodford Racing, LLC. Trainer: Chad Brown.

Breeder: Bryant H. Prentice, III (KY).

Late Scratches: Team Colors, Secret Passage

Time: 1:41.93

Daily Double (9-4), \$4.60; Exacta (4-7), \$3.30; Superfecta (4-7-8-6), \$3.52; Trifecta (4-7-8), \$6.70; Pic 3 (7-9-4), \$18.90

### SEVENTH \$77,000, NY-BRED ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

5	Pink Twist	L. Saez	\$4.40	\$3.00	\$2.50
4	Pas de Deuce	R. Maragh		\$7.00	\$3.80
2	Puffery	J. Ortiz			\$2.80

Ch Filly 2014, by Malibu Moon - Pumpkin's Pride by Louis Quatorze

Owner: Fein, Eric, McKenna, Christopher, Fein, Harris, Singh, Guri and Walla, Jerry. Trainer: John Terranova II. Breeder: Eric Fein (NY).

Time: 1:51.76

Daily Double (4-5), \$3.50; Exacta (5-4), \$13.10; Superfecta (5-4-2-3), \$19.67; Trifecta (5-4-2), \$19.37; Pic 3 (9-4-5), \$12.00

### EIGHTH \$100,000, NEW YORK STALLION SERIES S., 3 YO, F, 1M STATUE OF LIBERTY

2	Goodbye Brockley	L. Saez	\$5.60	\$3.20	\$3.20
6	Wegetsdamunnys	M. Franco		\$4.20	\$3.10
3	Kreesie	J. Ortiz			\$2.80

B Filly 2015, by Cosmonaut - Ladywell Court by Powerscourt (GB)

Owner: Hilly Fields Stable. Trainer: Philip Serpe.

Breeder: Hilly Fields Stable (NY).

Late Scratches: My Roxy Girl, Mentality, Starlite Mission, Codrington, Aunt Babe

Time: 1:39.25

Daily Double (5-2), \$6.50; Exacta (2-6), \$12.30; Superfecta (2-6-3-8), \$34.95; Trifecta (2-6-3), \$16.25; Pic 3 (4-5-2), \$10.50; Grand Slam (5/6/9-4/7/8-2/4/5-2), \$4.90

### NINTH \$75,000, NY-BRED MDN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 & UP, 5 1/2F

6	Mamma White Socks	D. Davis	\$15.60	\$6.30	\$3.20
10	Carrera Cat	R. Maragh		\$6.00	\$3.00
7	Mama Mary	L. Saez			\$2.40

B Filly 2015, by Courageous Cat - Three's a Charm by Three Coins Up

Owner: Old First Ward Stable. Trainer: Sal Iorio, Jr..

Breeder: William Niarakis Jr. (NY).

Late Scratches: Quietly Quick, Dreamers and Me, Ed S Queen, Andretta, Something Joyful

Time: 1:04.79

Daily Double (2-6), \$23.30; Exacta (6-10), \$40.50; Superfecta (6-10-7-9), \$16.10; Trifecta (6-10-7), \$36.00; Pic 3 (5-2-6), \$61.00; Pic 4 (2/3/4-5-2/7/9/10/11/12-6), \$47.00; Pic 5 (9-2/3/4-5-2/7/9/10/11/12-6), \$162.75; Pic 6 (7-9-2/3/4-5-2/7/9/10/11/12-6), \$24.60; Pic 6 (7-9-2/3/4-5-2/7/9/10/11/12-6), \$1,477.00

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Sean Clancy

Tracey Price rides through the stable area on March.

# Talking Horses

## Former jockey, exercise rider Price loves what she does

Tracey Price, formerly known as “Downtown Brown,” is an exercise rider for Jonathan Thomas. Born in Richmond, Va., Price began riding horses when she was 5, gradually getting involved in 4-H, which included barrel racing and trail riding.

When Price turned 12 she started competing in rodeos before moving into Thoroughbred racing. Bert Allen helped get Price started at Warwick Park Stables, where she started from the ground up; cleaning stalls, taking care of lay ups, and breaking babies. Price learned how to gallop on Allen’s 3-furlong track. Well, it was in a dirt field with no rails.

After a few years with Allen, Price headed to Maryland hoping to get started as a jockey. Eventually Price headed to Delaware and then the rest of the East Coast. Price was based in

Delaware where she worked for John Kimmel for 11 years. She spent her summers as a jockey in Delaware and went south to Gulfstream Park for the winters.

Price rode races for 14 years before deciding she wanted to just be an exercise rider. In the late 90s, Leprechaun Racing noticed her and decided to give her a shot as a breeze rider for the 2-year-old sales, and that’s when Price became addicted to breezing and hasn’t stopped since, venturing to Belmont Park and Saratoga this summer before going back to Bridlewood Farm, where Thomas is based in the winter.

Price sat down with The Special’s David Woods to talk about her career in Thoroughbred racing.

**Continued On Page 33**

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# Price —

■ Continued from page 32

## What inspired you to work with horses?

“Well, none of my family has ever been involved with horses, I don’t know where this came from, but I just knew since being a very little girl, I wanted to be a jockey. You watch the TV, you watch the racing on TV and I said, ‘I’m going to do that one day’ and I did, it was sort of like a dream come true really.”

## What do you think you would be doing if you weren’t involved with horses?

“I’d be a nurse. I dropped out of nursing school to become a rider. I just love taking care of people, which is probably why I was so attracted to horses, because as the rider you do so much to take care of them and help them progress.”

## What was your experience as a jockey like?

“I had a really good experience being a jockey, it was hard being a girl, and you had to show all the guy riders that you were tough and worked hard, so that’s exactly what I did. I would ride days and nights, I would even wake up early and ride as many horses as I could before I would need to be at the track. When I started working for Kimmel I would ride for him and still do my days and nights. I got to travel a lot, I started in Laurel, I based my tack in Delaware for the next 11 years, but I would travel to Jersey, Pennsylvania, I also rode in Atlantic City before they closed, that was a fun one, and I rode in Virginia at Colonial Downs. I also rode in New York a few times, but just basically the East Coast top to bottom.”

## Over the years I’m sure you have ridden some great horses, who do you think was the best or your favorite to ride?

“That’s hard to say, as a jockey I had several that I won a lot of races on, it’s hard to recap them all. As an exercise rider I rode a lot of great horses for Kimmel. These days I get to ride Catholic Boy, Tillie’s Lily who’s undefeated in four starts, March who has made over \$650,000, and several

other good horses at Bridlewood, I get to get on those horses every year, but I have been very blessed to get on Catholic Boy. I would say he’s definitely one of the best horses I’ve ever ridden; the most intelligent and big-hearted horse I’ve ever got on.”

## What were some of the hardest moments of your career, and how did you push through them?

“Some of the hardest moments of my career probably were losing some of the horses I rode to catastrophic injuries or illness, them going away to be stallions or broodmares, just them going onto to a different lifestyle, and I missed them. Being separated from friends who really became family, that’s been hard to do but at the end of the day I wouldn’t trade anything I’ve done in my career, it’s been good and I’m happy where I am.”

## What’s the driving force that has kept you involved with horses over the years?

“Watching and being on them when they make that transition from young horses to great horses, them succeeding and winning, watching them go on to become great broodmares and stallion prospects. It’s so rewarding to watch people work so hard on young horses and turn them into great athletes, I love being a part of that, part of the process of riding them, teaching them, developing them, and watching them grow like kids, that’s probably the most rewarding driving part is watching them succeed, because at the end of the day they become like my kids, and what mother doesn’t want to see her kids go on to be successful.”

## How much longer will you ride?

“As long as I get up in the morning and I love what I do I’m going to keep on doing it. When I don’t anymore I won’t, but as long as I have that drive you’ll always be able to find me on top of a horse.”



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*Every horse starts somewhere, even Saratoga superstars. Keeneland Sales helps The Special look back at some memorable graded stakes winners – and Keeneland graduates – at the Spa. We'll re-connect and dig up some memories. Enjoy.*

## Red Giant

Fourstardave Handicap 2008

BY JOE CLANCY

John Fort watched Red Giant breeze on the turf course at Oklahoma in 2008 and headed back to the barn with trainer Todd Pletcher, who asked the exercise rider how the horse felt in his final tune-up for the Grade 2 Fourstardave in a few days.

“Like a Maserati.”

Red Giant ran like a Barchetta, revving up late and running down Stalingrad in the final stages to win the \$150,000 stakes by a neck for Fort, Pletcher and jockey John Velazquez. The win, which came Aug. 3, 2008, was part of a string of successful starts for the Kentucky-bred and a highlight to his 12-start career. Red Giant lost his first three starts, all on the dirt in 2006 and 2007, then reeled off nine consecutive 1-2 finishes on turf in 2007 and 2008. The string included:

- Maiden, win at Aqueduct in April.
- Allowance, second at Belmont in May.
- Allowance, win at Belmont in early June.
- Restoration Stakes, win at Monmouth Park two weeks later.
- Grade 2 Virginia Derby, win at Colonial Downs in mid July.
- Grade 1 Secretariat Stakes, second (to European invader Shamdinan) at Arlington Park in early August.
- Grade 2 Jamaica Handicap, second at Belmont in early October.
- Grade 2 Fourstardave, win at Saratoga in August.
- Grade 1 Clement Hirsch Memorial, win at Santa Anita in late September.

“A lot of memories,” Fort said Thursday. “He was a fun horse to own. I don’t think any memory is any better than the Fourstardave. It might have been the first stakes I won at Saratoga, and it was definitely one of the first. Races at Saratoga



NYRA Photo  
Red Giant charges to the front in the 2008 Fourstardave.

are hard to win, which I think everybody knows, and stakes are even harder.”

Fort, who races under the name Peachtree Stable, bought Red Giant at Keeneland September 2005, going to \$350,000 to land the Giant's Causeway colt from the Dromoland Farm consignment. Bred in Kentucky by Ed and Marilyn Seltzer, the chestnut didn't meet his reserve as a weanling the previous November and was unsold at \$150,000.

A few months made a big difference. Red Giant was walking when Fort came by Dromoland's consignment.

“Wow, what a lovely horse,” Fort told himself then. He then watched as someone kissed the colt on the nose before he went into the sales ring.

“I don't know what that meant, but I was watching and it at least meant they cared about him,” Fort said. “People place an awful lot of emphasis on the way horses walk, but there's more to it. Red Giant, when you walked him, he got on the muscle a little bit and he didn't relax and

really stride out. He short-strided a little bit if you really looked at it, but he just looked like he could run to me.”

Breeder Ed Seltzer agreed with the assessment, which is why the colt out of his Kingmambo mare Beyond The Sun went back to Keeneland for the yearling sale after not selling as a weanling.

“He was a beautiful horse and I just wasn't happy (at the November sale),” he said. “I wheeled him back and sold him as a yearling. We've had a lot of success with that family and he was fun to watch.”

In the Fourstardave, on yielding turf, Red Giant had to fight. Inca King set the pace and led into the stretch with Red Giant in behind him along the hedge. To their outside, Stalingrad launched a bid and ran past the tiring Inca King to take over. Still third and inside, Red Giant found some daylight when Stalingrad swept past, moved outside a path to pass Inca King before sweeping by Stalingrad in the final 20 yards.

**Continued On Page 35**

# Red Giant —

■ Continued from page 34

“Barry Schwartz’s horse (Stalin-grad) had gone to the lead at about the three-sixteenths pole and Red Giant hadn’t really unleashed his run,” said Fort. “About the eighth pole you could see Red Giant coming and he just blew by everybody. Barry was sitting sort of catty-corner two boxes away and he looked back at me like . . . ‘What was that?’”

A Maserati. Well, the equine version. Pletcher sent the 4-year-old to California next and Red Giant really put on a show. Facing five others in the Grade 1 Hirsch at 1 1/4 miles, he let You Got Me Rocking go early and he put up fast fractions of :23.52, :45.63 and 1:08.86. Third after a mile in 1:32.88, Red Giant followed Out Of Control toward the front, but was still 3 lengths down with a quarter-mile to go. Straightening up, Out Of Control took a short lead only to feel Red Giant pull alongside at the eighth pole and see out a narrow head victory in 1:57.16.

Yes, you read that correctly. Red Giant set a stakes, course and world record. Fort and his wife Elizabeth were there with family, but still barely believe it.

“Elizabeth’s father was there, and her brother was there too,” said Fort. “They aren’t really involved in racing in any way and they came to see Red Giant, and they saw that race. They flashed ‘NWR’ for new world record on the tote board and Trevor Denman announced it. I don’t know too many California owners, but they were all congratulating me.”

Red Giant never raced again. He was a stallion at Hill ‘n’ Dale Farm and Three Chimneys in Kentucky before being sold to New Zealand and, more recently, Turkey.

“He never really turned out for whatever reason to be very successful as a stallion here,” said Seltzer. “I was disappointed, but I wound up breeding to him one day and got a pretty nice horse — Surgical Strike. He won a Grade 3 last year. He’s pretty good. Everybody wants instant happiness. They want something that can run as a 2-year-old in Saratoga. Real world, there’s more to it.”

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# Got an idea

Have you heard of the Thoroughbred Idea Foundation? In their words, “TIF was established to create an active forum for the exchange and curation of ideas designed to improve the prospects of the Thoroughbred industry and its creators.”

I like it. They want ideas. I suggest sending your ideas. Here are a few of mine.

**Distance races.** Racetracks have gotten away from carding distance races, citing the lack of interest, which creates a lack of field size in distance races. But it's a self-fulfilling prophecy, the fewer distance races, the fewer distances horses. Card them, run them and it'll change quickly. I'm not saying change all of them, but just card a few a week to keep distance horses – a mile and a quarter and farther – vibrant and productive. There will be a correction, but if trainers and owners look up and there's a five-horse field going a mile and a half for a decent purse, they'll have distance horses in their barns.

**Claiming and aftercare.** One way to help with after care is to tweak the conditions and offer an alternative to claiming. This would allow owners and trainers to take good care of their horses while they race, rather than forcing them to drop into claiming races. As an owner, I don't want to ever run a horse in a claiming race and would campaign horses season after season, but am forced to because there aren't alternatives. I'm not saying get rid of the claiming game, but I am saying offer an alternative for the people who want it.

**Whips.** Forget about banning the whip, that's too extreme, at least for now, but here are two ideas that might work. First, educate the jockeys about whip use, there is nothing worse than a home-and-hosed winner being hit needlessly, actually, there is one thing worse, when a hopelessly beaten horse is being whipped. I'm not saying fine the riders, but

bring it to their attention and you might begin to change the culture. Jockeys on some circuits hit horses less than jockeys on other circuits, so it must be a learned approach. Beyond that, could the whip be used down rather than up? If a jockey couldn't cock his whip into the overhand position, his whip would stay low, never coming above his shoulder, it would look better to the public and certainly be better for the horse. Think about that one.

**Claims of foul.** I've written this before, why do stewards still talk to the jockeys? It's an archaic system, one created when quality video wasn't available and one that certainly skews steward's decisions, perhaps, not for the best. We interview jockeys every day. Some are articulate, composed and speak English eloquently. Others, well, others are different.

**Uniform medication rules in every state.**

**Customer service.** Racing is a customer-service business, which for some reason doesn't consider customer service. Long lines and inept service are a given at most tracks. As a fan, we simply expect and take it. That has to change.

**Entry days.** It doesn't matter that much in New York where it's a circuit almost unto itself, but in the Mid-Atlantic area, each state, each track enters on different days. Sometimes, you'll enter Monday for a race Saturday and Tuesday for a race Friday. Trainers often skip a race to wait for another race, then the second race doesn't go and they would have rather run in the first race than not race at all. It would take cooperation by the racetracks, but it would certainly increase field size and help trainers find spots for their horses. There are a lot of horses ready to run, who simply can't find races. Certainly, uniform entry days would be a start.

Fewer races in a day. Racing days aren't meant to last six, seven hours.

**Creative conditions.** Card 2-year-old races for horses who sold for less than \$100,000 at a public auction the previous year or who are by stallions who stood for \$25,000 or less when the horse was conceived. The numbers can vary, but it gives horses and horsemen a chance to compete without running against top-dollar horses and it doesn't force owners and trainers to run horses for a claiming price. The purses can be cut in half.

**Spread the wealth.** Owners hold the key to the super-trainer problem. If owners with a lot of horses took a few horses and spread them around, other owners would follow.

**Winner's circle.** Face the winning horse toward the crowd. For some inexplicable reason we face the winners away from the crowd instead of toward the crowd. In Europe, the first four walk into the winner's enclosure, toward the crowd, creating a natural amphitheater and a cacophony of energy that will make your hat rattle on your head. In America, the winners are turned away from the crowd. The ultimate snub.

**Training facilities.** American training facilities are sub-standard. We take the best horses man has ever bred and force them to gallop left-handed on a flat surface that has more hoof prints than Chincoteague. Spend money on the training facilities. At Saratoga, for example, create a jogging track around the whole outside of the stable areas. Renovate the fields below Nick Zito's barn into rolling gallops. Offer a free hyperbaric and spa treatment every time a horse makes a start. Anything to help the horse.

OK, I'm out of room. I have a lot more.

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