

Year 17 • No. 21

Sunday, August 20, 2017

The *aratoga*

Special

Daily Racing Newspaper since 2001



Elate romps in Gr. 1 Alabama

BRUCE BROWN STABLE TOUR • PROCTOR'S LEDGE WINS LAKE PLACID • ENTRIES/HANDICAPPING

Tod Marks



DATA LINK

GRADE 1 WINNER BY WAR FRONT

COURSE RECORD SETTER



STARDOZA

WON

MSW BY 10 3/4 LENGTHS
AUGUST 8TH



WAR FRONT - DATABASE

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Water Skier. An exercise rider elevates at Saratoga Saturday morning.

Tod Marks

here&there... at Saratoga

BY THE NUMBERS

1: Dale Murphy (old school Atlanta Braves outfielder) jersey on a guy headed to the track early Saturday afternoon.

1: Bicycle in a tree near Barn 58 on the Oklahoma side Friday morning.

97: Birthdays celebrated by Saratoga Springs city native, author and recognized "Queen" of our city's history, Minnie Clark Bolster, Saturday, Aug. 19. Happy Birthday from The Special and reader Mark Phillips.

NAMES OF THE DAY

Here And There, first race. Sorry, we couldn't resist. Somebody name one Name Of The Day and get it to Saratoga.

Complicit, third race. Paul Pompa's 3-year-old filly is by Blame.

Closing Statement, sixth race. The Phipps Stable homebred 2-year-old filly is by Blame out of Consequence.

In Jail, sixth race. Owned by Larry Johnson, R.D.M. Racing Stable and Mike Trombetta, she's by Into Mischief and is kind of a must-use in the exacta with Closing Statement.





Gibbet, sixth race. A gibbet is another word for gallows. The Claiborne Farm/Adele Dilschneider homebred is by War Front out of Cross and is kind of a must-use in the trifecta with Closing Statement and In Jail.

Cinder, eighth race. Michael Dahir and Sandra Bromagen own the 4-year-old filly, who is out of Powder Rock.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This is my third time back, I had to have a break. Ian Wilkes is right about those 40 nights. They're way worse than those days."
Owner Anita Cauley on the hectic pace of the Saratoga meet



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here&there... at Saratoga

LICENSE PLATES OF THE DAY

PIC 4, West Virginia (we think it was West Virginia anyway).

POST1ME, New York

WORTH REPEATING

"Do they even play high-school football in Maryland?"

Trainer Tom Proctor, who's from Texas and proud of it

"Nobody wants to give a cowboy a horse."

Proctor, on advice from his father Willard about dressing for success at the races

"I'm a better producer than I am a player."

Richard Migliore, sire of all-star poker player Joey

"You'll get a good picture of me arms being stretched here in a minute."

Exercise rider Rodney Paine, getting ready to gallop Diversify Saturday morning

"He'll be telling you a lot of lies now Tom."

Brendan Walsh, coming out of his shedrow while Ian Wilkes and The Special's Tom Law walked past

"He's been listening to you."

Wilkes, countering Walsh's assessment

"You sound like my barn over there."

Owner Roddy Valente, as retired trainer Frank Alexander rattled off his health ailments

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WORTH REPEATING

"Your lack of planning does not necessitate an emergency for me."

Sallee Horse Vans' Phil Hauswald,
quoting co-worker **Manu Davy** Saturday morning

"He does that by memory."

Trainer Bruce Levine, after veteran **Indycott** worked a half-mile Saturday morning

"I don't have the charm I once did."

Jack Clancy, 21, on delivering papers

"They put the guys who win races in there."

Owner Sol Kumin, jokingly, when jockey **Javier Castellano** asked if he was in **The Special** Saturday morning

"Hey, I grew up with them."

Bob Giordano, after catching a loose horse Saturday morning

"Tell Susan I love her."

Pete Fornatale, offering a message for his wife, as he was riding around in a golf cart with **Jake Ballis** Saturday morning

"Well, at least they match."

The Special's Linzay Marks, pointing out that co-worker **Tom Law's** suit and tie had spots Saturday afternoon

"If ever a horse should win in Saratoga..."

NYRA's Andy Serling talking about **Hookup** Saturday during **Talking Horses**

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Nosy Neigh-bors.

Connie Bush

The Chief... Day 21

"In all fairness, if you want to make a champion, you have to have it on your mind. Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying I could have done it, but I never had it on my mind. Like Duck Dance, he beat everybody at sprinting and they gave sprinter of the year to Ack Ack because he won going seven eighths in California, once. Duck Dance was a good horse, boy, he had those bunchy knees, you could hang your hat on them, it's amazing both those two good sprinters had those funny looking knees. He had one of the greatest grooms of all time, he used to put those spiders on him, cut a hole in the back, you know if a horse gets done up in those spider bandages, he'll finally get rubbed, he used to put the cotton around, take his scissors and cut the side of the knee and the back of the knee, then put the spider around."

– **Trainer Allen Jerkens**
1929-2015



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Tod Marks photo

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with Bruce Brown

The first win always provides a bit of a relief, not that Bruce Brown was showing any signs of pressure before You Like That broke his and the barn's maiden Thursday. You Like That won for \$40,000 and immediately got his trainer, owner and breeder thinking about what's next. Such is the life of a horseman.

"Now that we've got one we want to get two," Brown said Friday morning, staying out of the rain under the shedrow during one of the breaks on the Oklahoma Training Track.

Brown is bedded down in his usual spot inside Horse Haven on the Oklahoma, the same barn he ran Spring To The Sky from to victories in the 2014 Lucky Coin and Troy Stakes and where his runners won three races in each of the last two meetings. Spring To The Sky is back, along with a few other horses owned by loyal owner Anthony McCarthy. A large roster of owners that include Epona Racing Stable, Dark Horse Racing Stable, CJC Racing, Our Sugar Bear Stable and Manhattan Racing keep the barn stocked with a mix of promising youngsters, stakes and allowance runners and claiming horses.

Brown stood between his office and his dry erase board listing the runners in his barn and in a nearby barn Friday with The Special's Tom Law.

Extinct Charm: Epona Racing Stable's and Dark Horse Racing Stable's 4-year-old American Lion gelding placed in four straight stakes – the Grade 3 Pegasus, New York Derby, Albany and Temperance Hill Invitational – to close his 2016 campaign. He sports a steady work pattern, including 5 furlongs in 1:03.29 last Sunday on the Oklahoma for his return. "He could possibly run at the very end of the meet. He was the big horse last year, second in the New York-bred races, had a knee issue, returning from that but doing very good. He's



Linzay Marks

going to be ready right at the end if there's a race. Doing super."

You Like That: Brown's homebred Justenuff humor gelding put the barn in the win column in a maiden claimer Thursday, going to the front and staying put for Brown and jockey Kendrick Carmouche. "It's funny his mother, Australis Princess, who I ended up being partners with and took over ownership of, she always won wire-to-wire. She loved Saratoga and she did it that way here."

Spring To The Sky: Old faithful. Anthony McCarthy's 8-year-old Langfuhr gelding is 8-7-4 in 42 starts with \$635,789 in earnings. Winner of the 2014 Troy and Lucky Coin, he finished third after a slow start in 5 1/2-furlong turf allowance July 22. "He's pointing for the Lucky Coin. He ran great last time, got left and came running. He's kind of got his groove back. I was surprised when he got left and did that, because usually he's got to be up front. He showed another dimension."

Same Kinda Crazy: Posse filly finished fifth in allowance July 21 and fourth in allowance Aug. 13. "She's had some bad luck up here with breaking bad. She always runs hard and she'll get one more race up here. Something short on the grass, New York-bred a-other-than. With some racing luck she should be good."

Incorporate: Winner for \$40,000 tag at Belmont Park July 15, New York-bred Include

gelding is entered in Monday's seventh race, an allowance going 1 3/16 miles on the grass. "He's one we've always had high hopes for and he finally got it together and won right before we came up here. He's in and we're hoping for a good effort with him."

Belle Of The Spa: McCarthy's 3-year-old homebred by Pure Prize is 2-for-4 and comes off win in 1 1/16-mile allowance at Belmont June 30. "Really nice New York-bred filly that won a couple races down at Belmont. She's going for an allowance race at the end of the meet. She's classy and has some real upside. Still putting things together but she's got some talent."

She's Delightful: Our Sugar Bear Stable bought 2-year-old daughter of Mission Impazible for \$40,000 this year. She's worked twice at Saratoga, including a half in :50.04 on the Oklahoma Aug. 14. "She's a really talented New York-bred who could run toward the end. I thought she'd be ready but the race they put up was seven-eighths and I don't know. She'll run at the very end or when we first get down to Belmont. She seems more like a quick, speedy type. Seven is a tough trip, especially with a firster."

Unparalleled: Epona Racing Stable's, Dark Horse Racing Stable's and CJC Racing's 2-year-old filly by Line Of David finished seventh on debut Aug. 2 going 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf. She cost \$16,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale.

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"She was on the lead and didn't corner too well. She probably would have hit the board in that race but we kind of made some equipment changes. She'll run toward the end of the month and should be live. We put a ring bit on her, she had just a regular bit. Dylan (Davis) rode her in the race and he worked her the other day, liked her, said it seemed to do the trick. She was in a 5 1/2 turf race and it was almost like she was going too fast and he had to check her to make the turn, she overreacted and it really cost her the race."

Manifest Destiny: Brown signed \$150,000 ticket for City Zip gelding at 2015 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale. He's 1-for-9 with two seconds and a third and finished second in Aug. 6 allowance going 1 mile on the inner turf at 30-1. "He'll run back in that same kind of race. He's a turf horse, I have a lot of turf horses. Somebody said to me, 'you have a lot of turf horses, you must be a good turf trainer.' I said, 'that does me a lot of good in February at Aqueduct.'"

King Of Spades: Manhattan Racing Stable's 5-year-old Street Cry gelding finished sixth in Aug. 2 starter allowance going 9 furlongs on the turf. "He ran in a really tough starter allowance, finished even. Typical turf, sixth and got beat 2 lengths. Nice horse, he's more of a marathon kind of guy. The race they put up is a mile-and-a-sixteenth but I think he wants longer."

Battle Ready: Brown and Manhattan Racing claimed Union Rags gelding from Twin Creeks Racing and Todd Pletcher for \$30,000 when second in 1 1/8-mile maiden claimer on the dirt Aug. 10. "He ran a good second when we claimed him. Not sure if they'll have any races for him but we'll put him MTO wherever we can. He's a 3-year-old maiden who wants to go long. Those are tough up here, especially with the mile and an eighth. He's a real stayer, so we'll put him in as an MTO and hope to get lucky."

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Happy Day

Elate romps in Grade 1 stakes for Claiborne, Dilschneider, Mott

BY JOE CLANCY

Dell Hancock walked toward the Saratoga Race Course winner's circle after Saturday's Alabama Stakes, let out a satisfied sigh, smiled and spoke of another milestone to her family's lifetime of Thoroughbred involvement at Kentucky's Claiborne Farm.

"I've always wanted to win this race," she said. "It's just a filly race that's always been very close to my heart."

And one run 136 times without a Claiborne-owned winner until Elate stormed home by 5 1/2 lengths Saturday. First run in 1872, three years before the first Kentucky Derby, the Alabama counts among its roster of

ALABAMA STAKES RECAP

winners racing's biggest names – Bel-dame, Maskette, Top Flight, Vagrancy, Busanda, Gamely, Shuvee, Summer Guest, Our Mims, Love Sign, Go For Wand and so on. Elate, owned and bred by Claiborne and Adele Dilschneider, joined the honor roll by throttling eight other 3-year-old fillies.

The dark bay/brown filly paid no attention to a rammy Mopotism one stall to her right and broke well from post seven for Jose Ortiz. It Tiz Well and Unchained Melody went to

Continued On Page 11



Tod Marks

Elate rolls to the finish in Saturday's Grade 1 Alabama Stakes.

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Alabama —

■ Continued from page 10

the front and Ortiz set up four wide while making sure he held his spot going into the first turn with a look to his right. Wide around the turn, Elate trailed It Tiz Well, Unchained Melody, New Money Honey, Holy Helena and Mopotism through a first quarter in :23.46. California shipper It Tiz Well built a clear lead up the backstretch, and was followed by two sets of three horses. Elate was in the second flight, between Salty on the rail and Mopotism. Fifth after a half in :46.96, the winner advanced to fourth after 6 furlongs in 1:10.92 and set sail.

Exiting the final turn, It Tiz Well clung to her lead. Unchained Melody backed up on the inside, Queen's Plate winner Holy Helena ranged up like she might do something. All the while, Elate churned toward the front. Given some rein by Ortiz, she advanced to second like a racing sloop bearing down on a Sunfish and struck for real at the quarter pole.

"On the backside, I was very confident," said Ortiz. "She was ready 110



Elate (second from left) breaks with the field in the Alabama.

Tod Marks

percent today. It's taken a little while to mature, but she did, and you see what she can do. When she won her maiden (at Aqueduct in November), I thought she was going to be a really good filly, I breezed her from the gate before the race and I thought she was going to be this kind."

Mott was convinced even before that 12 1/2-length debut win.

"We liked her before she ran," he said. "I told the Claiborne guys, 'Get your coat and tie,' when she was a 2-year-old in the summer. She had some sore shins so she missed Saratoga and actually got her started a

little later than I wanted, I was going to try to get her started in September but she wound up with a little fever, I didn't get her started until the end of November, that put us behind from where I was planning to be, then she

Continued On Page 12

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Alabama —

■ Continued from page 11

broke her maiden.”

Early this year, Mott backed off some early thoughts of trying the Kentucky Oaks.

“I took her down to Payson and turned her out in a paddock, I started her back and she kind of let down on me a bit,” the trainer said. “We cranked her up, everybody was thinking Kentucky Oaks, I thought, ‘You know what, she’s really more of an Alabama filly than the Kentucky Oaks.’”

She proved it as the Alabama reached its crescendo Saturday.

Elate ran past It Tiz Well when shaken up by Ortiz coming off the turn, drifted in slightly while clear and widened once she got to the rail to complete 1 1/4 miles in 2:02.19. It Tiz Well hung on for second by a head over Salty. Trained by Bill Mott, Elate won for the third time in eight starts, adding the Grade 1 to a stakes victory in the Light Hearted at Delaware Park in June and avenging a game defeat to Abel Tasman here in the Coaching Club American Oaks July 23.

The Californian and Hall of Famer Mike Smith won the battle, crowding Elate on the rail in deep stretch and scoring by a head. Ortiz said things could have been different.

“She was ready to win the Coaching Club and then what happened happened,” Ortiz said. “Mike gave a great ride, I thought she should have won. Mike was in the middle of the track on the turn, I had five paths to go, I went, Mike had to take his whole repertoire out to beat me that day and he did, he did it good. But that’s done, you have to deal with it, if you were only going to win one of them, this is the one.”



Adele Dilschneider leads in Elate as trainer Bill Mott admires the Grade 1 winner.

Tod Marks



Elate and Jose Ortiz stretch for the finish line in the Alabama.

Tod Marks

The victory in the \$600,000 stakes also erased any lingering questions about the daughter of Medaglia d'Oro, who was pulled up as the favorite in the Grade 1 Ashland at Keeneland in April. Ortiz thought she took a bad step. The rest of the team wondered, worried and thought about Saratoga.

“At the Ashland when Jose pulled her up we went back to the barn and we were all befuddled,” said Hancock. “What happened? Adele and Bill and I were there and I thought, ‘I’ll trade the Alabama for this.’”

Will she ever. Hancock’s grandfather, Arthur B. Hancock Sr., started Claiborne Farm in Paris, Ky. in 1910 and turned it into the country’s leading Thoroughbred farm. A list of Claiborne-based stallions and homebreds would make a formidable Hall of Fame all by itself with Sir Gallahad III (sire of Triple Crown winner Gallant Fox), Blenheim II (sire of Triple Crown winner Whirlaway), leading sires Princequillo, Double Jay, Round Table, Nasrullah, Bold Ruler, Secretariat, Danzig, Mr. Prospector, Swale, Forty Niner and right on up to the current roster led by War Front. Twenty-two actual Hall of Famers were foaled or raised at Claiborne. Much of that history came under the direction of Arthur “Bull” Hancock Jr., Dell Hancock’s father, who succeeded his father at the helm. Bull Hancock’s son Seth (Dell’s brother) assumed the leadership in 1972 and in turn handed the management to his son Walker in 2015.

Saturday, Dell, Seth and Walker were in the winner’s circle after the Alabama, along with longtime partner Dilschneider (who took off her shoes and led in the filly barefoot). Bull Hancock would have loved it.

“He’d be so proud of Seth and Walker and all of us and the filly too, he’d be tickled to death,” said Dell. “It’s just a great thing to be part of.”

The path to Elate began with the \$1.025 million purchase by Seth Hancock and Dilschneider of broodmare Wild Applause at Keeneland November in 1992. The daughter of Northern Dancer and the star Graustark mare Glowing Tribute won graded stakes for her breeder Paul Mellon. Carrying a foal by Forty Niner, Wild Applause became a link to excellence:

- Her half-brother, Sea Hero, won the 1993 Kentucky Derby.
- The Forty Niner foal of 1993 was Roar, who earned \$487,507.
- Her 1994 foal, Praise, produced Congrats and Flatter.
- Her 2000 foal, Yell, earned \$598,903 and produced stakes winner Cheery, who (in 2014) delivered Elate.

And that’s the Cliff’s Notes version. Cheery is at Claiborne, so is Yell.

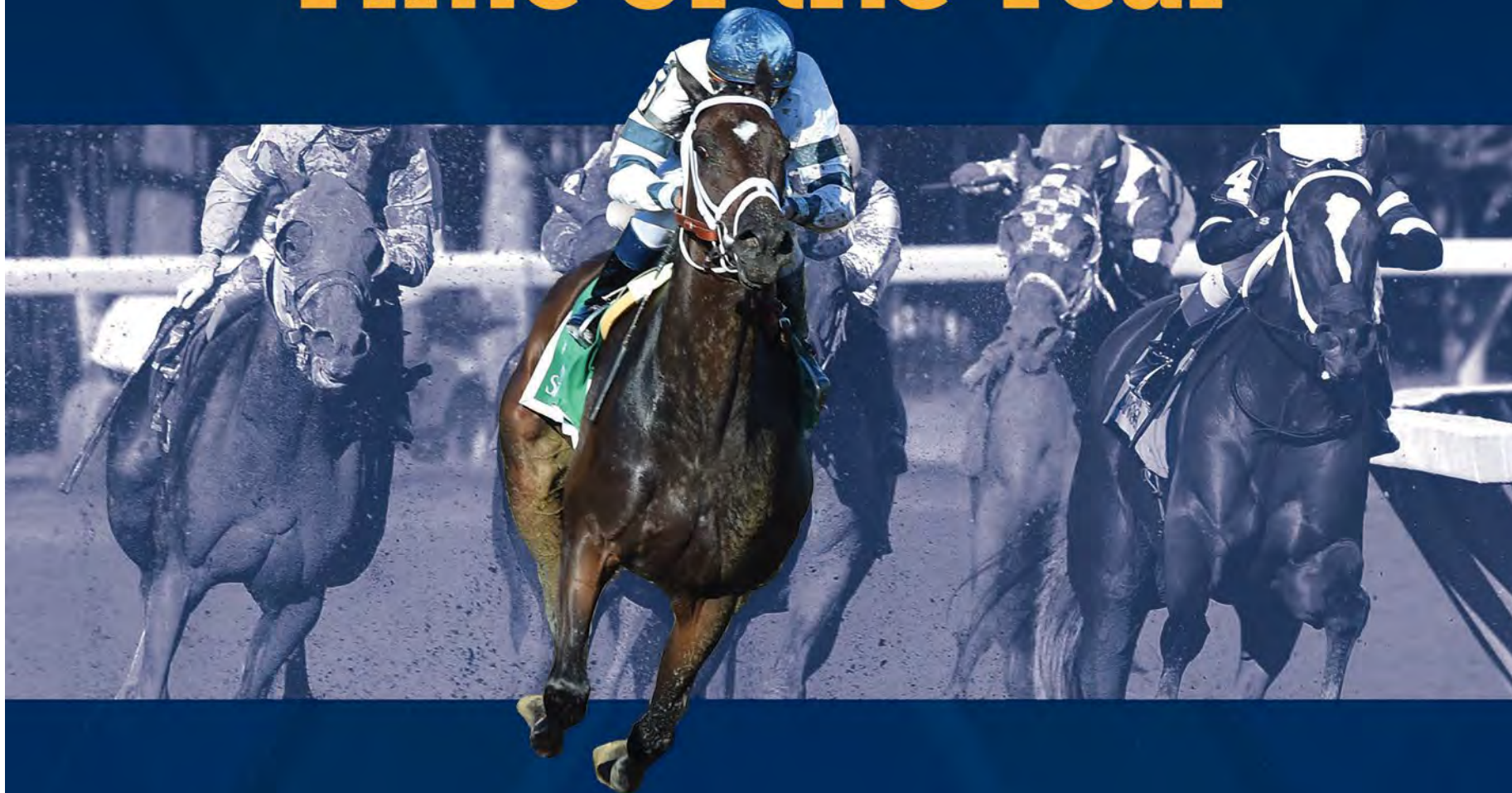
The latest star of the family looks the part. She strolled into the paddock Saturday with dapples for days, the buckle of the long leather reins placed on her withers as if painted by Munnings. She strolled around the paddock trees, surveyed the scene while getting tacked, went back to the walking ring as Mott saddled stablemate Lockdown. Across the way, the Alabama blanket of flowers hung on a fence near the paddock bar. If Elate noticed, she didn’t let on. A half-hour later, they were on her shoulders.

“All those fillies looked well,” said Dell Hancock of the Alabama field, which included five graded stakes winners and a Canadian classic winner. “She’s got a look about her though that’s old time and says, ‘I’ve got it under control.’”

Like all those Alabama winners before her.

Additional reporting by Sean Clancy.

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Dust Off

Ghostzapper filly Proctor's Ledge adds second graded stakes

BY TOM LAW

Brendan Walsh stepped out of his shedrow deep in the corner of Clare Court Saturday morning, swapped a few friendly jokes with a colleague, his arm and shoulder in a sling and looking a touch out of place being on the ground.

The Irish-born trainer is usually mounted up on one of his charges, and would have been all week if not for a leg-weary filly pitching him into the ground galloping out from a workout at Churchill Downs and leaving him with a broken collarbone.

Less than 10 hours later, his arm still in a sling and tucked under his suit coat but feeling no pain, Walsh watched what's becoming a familiar scene



Dave Harmon

Proctor's Ledge leads the crowd home in Saturday's Lake Placid.

as Patricia Moseley's Proctor's Ledge won a stakes named for an Adirondack lake in front of a packed house at Saratoga.

Proctor's Ledge added the Grade 2 Lake Placid to her victory in the Opening Day co-featured Grade 3 Lake George, giving Walsh a respite from the pain left from his broken collarbone and Mo-

seley reason to watch the replay of her homebred filly again and again and again some more while she sipped champagne in the Saratoga Room.

"It's unbelievable for her to go and win the two stakes here," Walsh said. "I don't think it happens

Continued On Page 15



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25th Anniversary

Lake Placid —

■ Continued from page 14

too often, I don't know exactly but I don't think it happens often. It takes a good one to do it. I'm delighted for the people that own her, they've been great supporters of mine. The guys that work for me, everybody's put in a great effort with this and it's a collection of all that together to bring her to here."

Proctor's Ledge, who held off a late run from 9-5 favorite Uni to win by three quarters of a length, is the third filly to pull off the Lake George-Lake Placid double. The others are Memories Of Silver in 1996 and Tenski in 1998.

Javier Castellano rode Proctor's Ledge in both victories and she finished the 9 furlongs of the Lake Placid in 1:47.74.

"It's great to watch her stretch out, prick her ears and hold them off," said Moseley. "Brendan was very confident, but I'm never confident. I've been in this game too long and know things can happen. She's amazing and in my heart she can't get any better."

Walsh said he felt more confident bringing Proctor's Ledge to the Lake Placid than he did before the Lake George.

Six days before he was pitched into the dirt at Churchill by Enthral, breezing for the first time since finishing seventh in Del Mar's Grade 2 San Clemente Handicap, Walsh got a leg up on Proctor's Ledge. They made the long and relaxing walk from Clare Court through the backstretch, across Union Avenue, into Horse Haven and eventually onto the Oklahoma Training Track turf course.

Breezing in front of the usual big crowd for Friday turf works, Walsh sent the filly for a half-mile work in :48.44. The breeze was the fastest of 45.

Considering only that it was faster than the usual suspects that worked that day — a litany of stakes winners and stakes-bound runners — it was a good work. Considering what Walsh felt — a more relaxed, more fit and amazingly an even bigger filly than when she arrived in Saratoga — it was even better.

"I worked her two works back and she just went around there real good," aid Walsh, who is in the midst of his best season in six full years as a



Tod Marks

Patricia Moseley leads in the Lake Placid winner.

trainer and winning for the third time in eight starts at the meet. "They're just maintenance works but it's her whole demeanor. That's how I knew. She's been eating good, doing good. I got here the other day and I hadn't seen her in seven, eight days, you look at her and see she's doing well again. I actually think she put on weight since

the last race. That's always a good sign. It's amazing really, she hasn't missed a beat since the spring."

A daughter of Ghostzapper out of the Arch mare Archstone, Proctor's Ledge is named for a place in Salem, Mass., known as an execution site

Continued On Page 16

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Lake Placid —

■ Continued from page 15

during the Salem Witch Trials in 1692 and 1693.

Proctor's Ledge is a fourth-generation homebred for Moseley, a New Englander to the core and longtime successful breeder who lives in Salem. The filly traces back to Drumtop, a daughter of Round Table who routinely beat males during her 17-win career in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Moseley said Proctor's Ledge reminds her of Drumtop, although she might be a bit bigger.

"She does remind me a bit of Drumtop, who of course beat older boys during her career," she said. "Drumtop was very small. Proctor is something though, she's just so casual about everything. Boy."

Castellano allowed Proctor's Ledge to be casual and settle toward the back of the compact field of five that started in the \$300,000 Lake Placid. After the break he settled in behind the three-way battle between Coasted, Party Boat and La Coronel through the lane the first time and into the clubhouse turn.

Uni, a two-time winner in France who finished third in the Grade 1 Belmont Oaks July 8 in her U.S. debut and first start for Chad Brown, also raced at the back early and trailed through the soft opening split of :24.39. The five fillies formed a line around the turn and into the backstretch as Coasted still led through a half in :50.03. Party Boat and La Coronel still chased while Castellano and Irad Ortiz Jr., aboard Uni, bided their time fourth and fifth.

Florent Geroux made the first move around the far turn, sending La Coronel up alongside Party Boat first and then taking aim at Coasted down on the rail. La Coronel spun five wide off the turn while Castellano switched Proctor's Ledge out even further, taking her nearly seven paths off the inside. A moment after Proctor's Ledge swung out Ortiz did the same with Uni, angling her from behind the foursome to make a bid for the lead.

The five fillies spread out across the Mellon course at the eighth pole — Coasted, Party Boat and La Coronel looking spent from their early efforts and Proctor's Ledge and Uni looking like they'd decide it in the final fur-



Tod Marks

Brendan Walsh.

long. Proctor's Ledge, running on her left lead, surged to the front while Uni bore down to her outside.

Proctor's Ledge opened up, took a few funny steps in a worn-out area on the course left from the starting gate in 1 1/16-mile races and held off Uni to win by three-quarters of a length. Party Boat held third, 1 1/2 lengths behind Uni with La Coronel fourth and Coasted fifth.

"I told Javier before the race 'she's just so laid back you can do pretty much whatever you want,'" Walsh said. "She's won from the front, she's won from off the pace, she's very versatile. I told him, 'just ride your own race,' and there's nobody better than him to do it. The pace was a little steadier today, shorter field, you're always worried it's going to get a little trappy. She's just getting better and better and she showed that today, they're very good fillies out there today. She just ran great."

Walsh splits his summer between his divisions at Churchill, Keeneland and Saratoga and was quick to credit his team in New York and Kentucky for the stable's fifth graded stakes success of 2017.

"The guys that work for me, everybody's put in a great effort with this and it's a collection of all that together to bring her to here," he said. "Tom Molloy, Paul Madden, Amanda (Olds), who's been helping us out up here, and Joe Herbert back at home. I've got three fantastic assistants and a great team of guys. There's too many of them to mention but they're the main ones and they've worked hard this year because we're growing. Every day they're under pressure and they're working hard, it makes my job at a lot easier."

Double Down

Honorable Treasure, workmate to Oskar Blues, wins for McPeek

Trainer Ken McPeek sent out Oskar Blues in a maiden special weight last Saturday at Saratoga Race Course and the Speightstown colt impressed, fighting back along the rail after being headed in the lane to record a nose victory at 33-1.

McPeek entered Oskar Blues' morning workmate, Honorable Treasure, into a maiden special going 1 1/16 miles on the grass Saturday, but got stuck on the also-eligible list. After Friday rains forced the race to the dirt and shortened the distance to 7 furlongs, McPeek, his team and owners Harold Lerner, AWC Stable, Nehoc Stable and Scott Akman became hopeful.

"Everybody involved was on their hands and knees praying when we heard the race was off the grass," McPeek said. "There was a little delay on all of that. We got fortunate that Shug's horse (Blockade) had scratched out and we had already treated with Lasix prior to knowing there was a scratch. We didn't find out there was a scratch until almost 11:00. We were ready to go. I was in a dilemma if we didn't get to run."

Honorable Treasure impressed his trainer in the morning and was ready for a big effort. Failure to draw into the race would have sent his trainer looking for another spot.

"He actually got the best of Oskar Blues a couple of works back," McPeek said. "We really felt like he needed two turns, but I didn't like the grass at all. His works on the dirt have been fantastic and the sky is the limit with this horse, both those colts."

After drawing into the second race, Honorable Treasure lived up to his expectations. After stalking Ezmosh through a :22.61 quarter-mile, Honorable Treasure drew on even terms with that rival past a :45.65 half. In the stretch, Honorable Treasure struck the lead and under left-handed Robby Albarado urging, passed

SATURDAY RACING RECAP

the furlong pole in 1:09.99. He went on to win the 7-furlong race by 6 1/4 lengths in 1:22.90.

McPeek bought Honorable Treasure, by To Honor and Serve out of the Dixie Union mare Tempest, at the Keeneland September yearling sale for \$210,000.

"It's what I do. I've worked sales for decades and the ultimate challenge is finding a good horse," McPeek said. "It's probably more difficult than training a good horse. But you've got to get a good horse in your hands first before you can train it. I've got a good team that backs it up."

"To me, it's a double-edged sword. If somebody else buys them and they can't run, they blame the trainer. And if I buy them and I train them, then it's all my fault. I'm ok with that, but I also reap the rewards when it works out. I like our program and it's worked for me for a long time."

McPeek said he loved Honorable Treasure's pedigree. The stallion, a multiple graded stakes winning son of Bernardini, stood out, and Honorable Treasure was an impressive physical specimen.

"I've found myself really attracted to a lot of the To Honor And Serves. I've bought quite a few of them and I've really felt like these are well-made," McPeek said. "He's got an injection of Deputy Minister on the bottom line. Of course, being by Bernardini gives them stamina. He's a good stallion and this is an exceptional individual by that stallion."

— **Brandon Valvo**

• Just a week old, Dylan Davis' son Michael Dylan Davis entered the winner's circle for the first time wrapped in the arms of his mother, Sara Rowland. The baby met his father aboard Asian's Way alongside trainer John Toscano Jr., celebrating the filly's vic-



Tod Marks

Honorable Treasure draws away from the competition in the second.

tory in the third.

"Dylan's a good up and coming rider," said Toscano, winning his first race of the meet in his 19th start. "He doesn't have the name some of the other guys have and when he rides he's got a big price usually. The kid does a good job and gets it done."

"I broke the schneid. I had second-itis with a couple of them."

Toscano sent Asian's Way into the 6-furlong starter allowance off a fourth in a \$40,000 claimer at Saratoga Aug. 6.

"I was amazed she was at such a big price," said Toscano. "She ran a good race last time out and was fourth in an 11-horse field. I thought she could be competitive."

Stalking leader Wildcat Belle from behind, Asian's Way steadily gained, was shoulder to shoulder with the leader and won by a head.

"It was exciting," said Toscano. "I thought she was going to be second, she really got up. On the turn I thought we had a shot, then when they straightened away she started hanging a bit and I thought we'd get a check in the money somewhere anyway, and then she kept on coming. That was great. It really was exciting."

The 4-year-old daughter of Trappe Shot was claimed for \$40,000 by

BranJam Stable at Belmont in May. She ran in two starter allowances in June and July, finishing third and fourth.

"She had all of the conditions," said Toscano. "She was only eligible for non-winners of two. We couldn't get the non-winners of two to go, I asked four or five times so I put her in the starter and we got lucky."

"She's a good filly to train. She's competitive. She's a good feeling horse. Hopefully she'll continue her success. I've got some nice horses. Got to get a little bit of racing luck and we'll get the job done with a few more."

— **Shayna Tiller**

• Brothers Kevin and J. B. McKathan have accomplished a lot in racing – the highlight breaking 2015 Triple Crown winner American Pharoah. The McKathans earned a historic victory of another kind in the fifth.

"This is the last time," Kevin McKathan said when asked the last time the McKathan family won a race at Saratoga.

Pure Shot, who won the 6-furlong maiden in his debut for Steve Asmussen, was bred in Florida by McKathan Bros. and is owned by their mother Norma McKathan and Scott

Continued On Page 18

Saturday —

■ Continued from page 17

Dilworth.

“I sold half of him to a partner of mine to race,” McKathan said of Dilworth.

The McKathan brothers don’t keep many, they’re usually buyers and then sellers from their base just outside Ocala, not breeders and then racers.

“The whole time I thought he was amazing,” McKathan said. “I had him in the (OBS) March 2-year-old sale and I just thought he was the most fabulous horse in the world. So, I was protective over him, I didn’t let him do enough. I kind of messed his breeze up, it was my fault. I thought he was going to go 9 and 3, he goes 10 and 1. But it’s just because I walked him for three days going in.

“We thought he was a really special horse. We were very fortunate to have a lot of really nice horses around him that we thought he was kind of one of. Instead of just going through the movements, we’re going to keep him, take the time.”

They made the right decision.

He didn’t run the first furlong in 9.60 seconds, but from the outside post in the field of 10 Pure Shot went straight ahead and blasted away from the stalls, clearing his rivals to get to



Pure Shot drives to the finish in the fifth.

Tod Marks

the rail under Ricardo Santana Jr. The son of Fast Bullet and the Darn That Alarm mare Darn That Girl turned away a brief challenge on the turn, opened up at the top of the stretch, and stayed clear of his competition to win by 2 1/4 lengths.

“I thought we’d come in and we’d be the bullet, like he’s the best horse, but he was overlooked, which is fine,” McKathan said of the colt who went off at 23-1 before going to cash his tickets.

— Ben Gowans

• Race Me Home was a fitting winner of the sixth, a 1 1/8-mile dirt allowance, less than two hours before the 137th running of the Grade 1 Alabama Stakes.

The 4-year-old colt is out of Society Selection, the Coronado’s Quest mare trained by Allen Jerkens who won the 2004 Alabama, as well as the Grade 1 Test three weeks prior.

The mare was sent to Ireland after being purchased by bloodstock agent Aisling Duignan for \$1.85 million at the 2010 Keeneland November breeding stock sale and has been bred to Europe’s leading sires in recent years.

That includes Oasis Dream, the sire of Race Me Home. Albaugh Family Stables bought the colt for \$185,000 at the 2014 Keeneland September yearling sale.

“I didn’t buy it, they sent it to



Tod Marks

Race Me Home (7) rallies to victory in the sixth.

me,” Dale Romans said. “Did anybody think an Oasis Dream would run on the dirt? It’s an odd pedigree, I’d like to talk to whoever did it, because they’re breeding a dirt mare to a strictly grass sire, I don’t know who came up with that. Whatever they did, somebody knew what they were doing. They look smart now, it worked.”

Race Me Home and Luis Saez raced toward the rear of the field early, made a five-wide move on the turn and surged past 4-5 favorite Meantime in the closing stages to prevail by a neck.

The Irish-bred colt had been winless since his maiden breaker in the last race on the 2016 Kentucky Derby day card. Following that win, he was second in the Easy Goer Stakes on the Belmont Day undercard five weeks later, and then made a trip to Saratoga, where he finished fifth in the Grade 2 Jim Dandy. He didn’t race again until May 12 when sixth in an allowance at Churchill Downs. He unsuccessfully tried turf twice following that effort.

“We just thought coming back off the layoff, with the Oasis Dream, he’d end up being a turf horse,” Romans said. “Last year we thought he was going to be a really good horse, and he ran like a good one today, hopefully he is going to be.”

— Ben Gowans

• Todd Pletcher, Tristan Barry, and J. J. Pletcher descended the clubhouse stairs in perfect fashion – the trainer and assistant striding in maroon ties, and the elder Pletcher following in a maroon sports coat. The triplet met the connections of Claiborne Farm in the winner’s circle, celebrating Chastise’s victory in the seventh, a 1-mile allowance on the inner turf.

Chastise, one of three foals bred by Claiborne and out of the Forest Wildcat mare Rapid Racer by Blame or his sire, Arch, upset at 21-1. Pletcher trains Chastise and her older half sister Moulton.

“We bought the mare in the November sale a few years ago with the idea to breed to Blame,” said Claiborne’s Walker Hancock. “We liked the sire line with Arch or Blame so that’s who we bred her to. It’s worked out. The first one was a winner and now she’s a double winner.”

Chastise debuted third at Saratoga last summer, before breaking her maiden at Keeneland by 3 1/2 lengths Oct. 12. She finished sixth in her last start in an allowance at Keeneland 14 days later.

“We probably made a mistake running her back at Keeneland, but she’d run so well there and came out of it well that we decided to run her back in two weeks,” said Pletcher. “It was probably back a little bit too soon.

Continued On Page 19

Saturday —

■ Continued from page 18

“We got down to Florida and she was a little stiff and acted like she needed a little break so Walker and Mr. (Seth) Hancock were nice enough to send her to my dad’s training center down in Ocala and gave her a little time off. She came in and had been training well and the team at Monmouth was pretty high on the way she was doing, so we decided to bring her up here and I’m glad we did.”

With John Velazquez aboard, Chastise chased behind the pace until the eighth pole, narrowing in and splitting horses before accelerating to win by a half-length.

“I was delighted to see her punch through that hole,” said Pletcher. “She’s a lightly raced filly so you always worry when you’re in tight quarters like that and she was really brave.”

While winning the turf allowance was sweet, Claiborne and Adele Dilschneider celebrated their homebred Elate’s victory in the Alabama two races later.

“It’s great,” said Walker Hancock. “Todd joked, he goes, ‘You must’ve come up to see Chastise win.’ The fact that she was running just made it even better. It’s a tough place to win and it makes it even more exciting.”

– Shayna Tiller

Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS	1ST
Todd Pletcher	28
Chad Brown	25
Kiaran McLaughlin	11
Bill Mott	9
Jason Servis	8
Linda Rice	7
Rudy Rodriguez	7
George Weaver.....	7

JOCKEYS	1ST
Jose Ortiz.....	39
Irada Ortiz Jr.	35
John Velazquez	28
Javier Castellano	22
Manny Franco	16
Luis Saez.....	16
Joel Rosario	13
Jose Lezcano	12

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Saturday August 19.

FIRST \$62,000, CLAIMING \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

8	Southside Warrior	J. Castellano	\$6.90	\$3.40	\$2.80
1	Mills	A. Arroyo		\$4.00	\$3.40
4	King of New York	J. Rosario			\$4.00

Dk B/ Br Colt 2013, by Warrior's Reward - Bamba by Not For Love
Owner: Bill and Vicki Poston Racing, Inc. and Smith, James Brad.
Trainer: Mark Casse. Breeder: Dark Hollow Farm (MD).
Late Scratches: Docs Legacy (IRE), Tashreeh, Turbo Street (AUS)
Claimed: Southside Warrior claimed by Johnson, R. Larry for \$40,000,
Mills claimed by Repole Stable for \$40,000, River Date claimed by Hui,
Michael M. for \$40,000
Time: 1:49.72
Exacta (8-1), \$25.20; Superfecta (8-1-4-6), \$138.00; Trifecta (8-1-4),
\$88.00

SECOND \$83,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 7F

12	Honorable Treasure	R. Albarado	\$9.20	\$4.40	\$3.10
8	Ezmosh	L. Saez		\$4.40	\$2.90
4	Congruity	J. Castellano			\$2.70

B Colt 2015, by To Honor and Serve - Tempest Treasure by Dixie Union
Owner: Harold Lerner LLC, AWC Stables, Akman, Scott K. and Nehoc
Stables. Trainer: Kenneth McPeck. Time: 1:22.90
Breeder: Gainesway Thoroughbreds Ltd. (KY).
Late Scratches: Hoard, Hyndford, Blockade, Escarapela, The Best Can-
dy, Another
Daily Double (8-12), \$46.60; Exacta (12-8), \$42.80; Quinella (8-12),
\$23.60; Superfecta (12-8-4-6), \$721.00; Trifecta (12-8-4), \$127.00;
Consolation Double (8-3), \$6.10

THIRD \$55,000, STARTERS ALLOWANCE \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

1	Asian's Way	D. Davis	\$21.60	\$8.50	\$4.60
4	Wildcat Belle	J. Ortiz		\$4.40	\$3.00
2	Pico Chick	A. Arroyo			\$3.10

Gr/ro Filly 2013, by Trappe Shot - Dblsecretprobation by Proud Citizen
Owner: Bran Jam Stable. Trainer: John Toscano, Jr..
Breeder: Old School Stable LLC (KY). Time: 1:11.38
Daily Double (12-1), \$170.00; Exacta (1-4), \$97.50; Superfecta (1-4-
2-6), \$1,743.00; Trifecta (1-4-2), \$347.50; Pic 3 (8-12-1), \$863.00;
(8-3-1), \$69.00

FOURTH \$93,000, AOC \$80,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 3/16M

1	Hello Don Julio	J. Velazquez	\$8.10	\$3.70	\$2.90
6	Manitoulin	F. Geroux		\$3.20	\$2.70
3	Scholar Athlete	R. Maragh			\$5.40

B Gelding 2012, by Afleet Alex - Faithful by Vindication
Owner: Dilger, Michael. Trainer: Michael Dilger.
Breeder: Peter E. Blum Thoroughbreds, LLC (KY).
Late Scratches: Flashy Jewel, Marengo Road
Time: 1:51.84
Daily Double (1-1), \$90.00; Exacta (1-6), \$19.60; Quinella (1-6),
\$9.00; Superfecta (1-6-3-2), \$302.50; Trifecta (1-6-3), \$127.00; Pic
3 (12-1-1), \$1,108.00

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

10	Pure Shot	R. Santana, Jr.	\$48.00	\$19.40	\$11.40
7	Allured	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$6.10	\$4.30
2	Super Sermon	J. Velazquez			\$5.60

Ch Colt 2015, by Fast Bullet - Darn That Girl by Darn That Alarm
Owner: Dilworth, Scott and McKathan, Norma.
Trainer: Steven Asmussen. Time: 1:11
Breeder: McKathan Bros. (FL). Late Scratches: Belle Tapisserie
Daily Double (1-10), \$237.00; Exacta (10-7), \$343.50; Superfecta
(10-7-2-6), \$10,867.00; Trifecta (10-7-2), \$2,412.00; Pic 3 (1-1-
10), \$2,108.00; Pic 4 (12-1-1-10), \$27,937.00; Pic 5 (8-12-1-1-10),
\$180,822.00

SIXTH \$85,000, ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

7	Race Me Home (IRE)	L. Saez	\$28.60	\$9.10	\$6.90
8	Meantime	J. Ortiz		\$2.90	\$2.50
5	Hookup	M. Franco			\$5.30

B Colt 2013, by Oasis Dream (GB) - Society Selection by Coronado's
Quest
Owner: Albaugh Family Stable. Trainer: Dale Romans.
Breeder: Society Selection Syndicate (IRE).
Late Scratches: Caviar Czar (IRE). Time: 1:50.25
Daily Double (10-7), \$1,005.00; Exacta (7-8), \$83.50; Superfecta (7-
8-5-9), \$5,933.00; Trifecta (7-8-5), \$674.00; Pic 3 (1-10-7), \$4,941.00

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

5	Chastise	J. Velazquez	\$44.20	\$17.40	\$7.70
8	Glory to Kitten	M. Franco		\$7.10	\$4.50
1	La Sola Ranger	J. Alvarado			\$4.90

B Filly 2014, by Blame - Rapid Racer by Forest Wildcat
Owner: Claiborne Farm. Trainer: Todd Pletcher.
Breeder: Claiborne Farm (KY). Time: 1:35.98
Late Scratches: Knarsdale, Just Got Out, Bow Town Cat
Daily Double (7-5), \$620.00; Exacta (5-8), \$330.00; Superfecta (5-8-1-
9), \$9,557.00; Trifecta (5-8-1), \$1,748.00; Pic 3 (10-7-5), \$14,788.00

EIGHTH \$300,000, STAKES - LAKE PLACID S., 3 YO, 1 1/8M TURF

4	Proctor's Ledge	J. Castellano	\$6.40	\$3.30	\$2.50
6	Uni (GB)	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$3.30	\$2.30
2	Party Boat	J. Rosario			\$2.70

B Filly 2014, by Ghostzapper - Archstone by Arch
Owner: Moseley, Patricia, L.. Trainer: Brendan Walsh.
Breeder: Patricia L. Moseley (KY). Late Scratches: Berned
Time: 1:47.74
Daily Double (5-4), \$244.00; Exacta (4-6), \$19.20; Superfecta (4-6-2-
3), \$105.40; Trifecta (4-6-2), \$52.50; Pic 3 (7-5-4), \$3,568.00

NINTH \$600,000, STAKES - ALABAMA S., 3 YO, 1 1/4M

7	Elate	J. Ortiz	\$10.60	\$6.00	\$4.20
3	It Tiz Well	D. Van Dyke		\$13.40	\$7.80
6	Salty	T. Gaffalione			\$4.50

Dk B/ Br Filly 2014, by Medaglia d'Oro - Cheery by Distorted Humor
Owner: Claiborne Farm and Dilschneider, Adele B..
Trainer: William Mott. Breeder: Claiborne Farm & Adele B. Dilschneider
(KY). Time: 2:02.19
Daily Double (4-7), \$51.00; Exacta (7-3), \$155.00; Superfecta (7-3-
6-9), \$5,945.00; Trifecta (7-3-6), \$907.00; Pic 3 (5-4-7), \$1,149.00;
Grand Slam (5/7/8-1/5/8-2/4/6-7), \$180.50

TENTH \$83,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

7	Remarqued	E. Cancel	\$15.60	\$8.50	\$4.90
4	Speighgal	A. Arroyo		\$9.90	\$7.40
2	Aoife	M. Franco			\$12.00

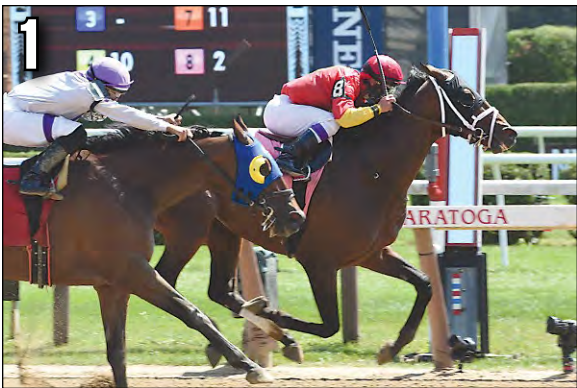
B Filly 2014, by Arch - Citizen Advocate by Proud Citizen
Owner: Keller, Marc. Trainer: Robert Ribauda.
Breeder: Whitehall Lane Farm (FL). Late Scratches: Tapella, Fashion
Week, Length, Wake Island, Boule, Economies of Scale
Time: 1:36.45
Daily Double (7-7), \$99.50; Exacta (7-4), \$164.00; Superfecta (7-4-
2-5), \$6,837.00; Trifecta (7-4-2), \$1,514.00; Pic 3 (4-7-7), \$529.00;
Pic 4 (5-4-7-7), \$14,992.00; Pic 5 (7-5-4-7-7), \$819,374.00; Pic 6
(10-7-5-4-7-7), \$13,131.00

Attendance: 40,971. On Track Handle: 6,297,500.
Inter-State Handle: 17,706,513

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Tod Marks

Fuhriously Kissed gets ready to step toward the gate Saturday morning.

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Name Game

Owner-breeder Cauley evokes passion in her horses' handles

BY TOM LAW

Anita Cauley is passionate about her horses. She'll occasionally slide between the fence boards at Lee Mc-Millin's Amende Place farm in Paris, Ky., to catch her mares and foals in their paddocks, freely relishing the horses enjoying their lives.

She's just as passionate about naming her horses, too.

The names she comes up with reflect her passion for, well, things that might evoke passionate thoughts. High Heels, Struttin, Grit And Grace, Purr, Superfly Girl, Mike's Honey Bunny, Lustful, Wicked In Heels and of course her best, On Fire Baby.

The latest potential star with a cleverly passionate name is Fuhriously Kissed, a daughter of Langfuhr and the Hussonet mare French Kiss. Cauley bred, named and raced the latter to \$284,513 in earnings. Fuhriously Kissed is one of seven fillies and mares entered in today's \$100,000 Summer Colony Stakes going 9 furlongs on the main track.

"I've had fun doing that," Cauley said of her naming habits before watching Fuhriously Kissed train Saturday morning. "And yes, I guess I have a little bit of a reputation when it comes to naming them. With this one people say, 'what's her name again?' I tell them Fuhriously Kissed and they just look at you and I'm like, 'oh come on, just once in your life haven't you been furiously kissed?' Then they're like, 'oh, I guess so.'"

Fuhriously Kissed is more than just a clever name. The chestnut filly, who schooled in the starting gate as Cauley and trainer Ian Wilkes looked on Saturday, comes off a win the first Monday of the meet.

Going the Summer Colony distance, she won from well back – preferred style. Fuhriously Kissed won by 4 lengths over Blue Prize, who also returns from trainer Ignacio Correias' base at Keeneland.

Fuhriously Kissed's victory came

SUMMER COLONY STAKES PREVIEW

on a sloppy track in her second start for Wilkes after a second in a 6 1/2-furlong allowance, also in the slop, at Churchill Downs June 22. The 4-year-old filly started her career with Gary "Red Dog" Hartlage, who trained On Fire Baby and 2007 Fantasy Stakes and Kentucky Oaks third-place finisher High Heel for Cauley.

Fuhriously Kissed won two of eight starts at 2 and 3, earned a freshening that stretched from December to May at Eisaman Equine in Ocala and returned to serious training with Wilkes at Skylight Training Center in May.

"We got to a point last fall where we felt she could use a break, so I sent her to Barry Eisaman's farm, where all my horses get started," Cauley said. "He's seen them and knows them. When I send them back, he already knows their history, that part is good."

"It's made a world of difference in her, she blossomed, came back looking like a different horse. To me it was right. She needed that time just to blossom a little bit."

Cauley got to know Ian and Tracey Wilkes when On Fire Baby came to Saratoga in 2013 for the Grade 1 Personal Ensign. The daughter of Smoke Glacken was bedded down in Wilkes' barn at the end of Clare Court and Cauley liked the vibe.

"I never had horses with him, but he was gracious enough to allow us to come into his barn," she said. "We got to know him and Tracey a little bit that week, thought it was such a great atmosphere. The opportunity presented itself and we were looking to move our horses to race at places where he runs."

Cauley and Wilkes hope Fuhriously Kissed runs well enough in the Summer Colony to earn some black type in her second stakes appearance. She didn't earn any in her first try in

Continued On Page 23

Summer Colony —

■ Continued from page 22

the Grade 3 Regret in June 2016 at Churchill, finishing ninth in her first start on turf.

Fuhriously Kissed tried the grass once more in a Kentucky Downs allowance race, finished sixth, and has raced on the main track in five starts since. She's run in two-turn races three times in that stretch and in a one-turn 1-mile race and the 6 1/2-furlong race in her other two starts.

"I love Langfuhr, that's what I was hoping for when I bred French Kiss to him, the opportunity to have both distance and possibly grass," Cauley said. "So far she hasn't shown that, but that was the goal."

Cauley entered French Kiss, along with the Yonaguska mare and On Fire Baby's half-sister Lustful and Lustful's weanling colt by Carpe Diem, in Fasig-Tipton's November sale. She still owns a 2-year-old filly out of French Kiss, the Majestic Warrior filly As I Please who finished third in her debut at Ellis Park Aug. 12 for Wilkes, and a yearling colt by Stormy Atlantic.

Wilkes breezed Fuhriously Kissed three times between her allowance win and the Summer Colony to hopefully move her closer to that black type, including a half in :49.88 Tuesday on the Oklahoma Training Track.

"I'm very pleased with her, I think she's trained very forwardly," Wilkes said. "I'm looking forward to it and if I can get some black type on her it would be great. This race was our goal coming here, to try and get some black type. We'll see. I'm leading a filly over there that's ready, so I'm happy at that."

Barclay Tagg is equally ready to run Verve's Tale after the daughter of Tale Of Ekati tangled with the likes of Songbird, Paid Up Subscriber, Highway Star, Bar Of Gold, Mo Green, Curlins Approval, Eskenformoney and Lewis Bay in her last five starts.

Each of those starts were graded stakes, including last time when she finished fifth by 5 1/4 lengths to Songbird in the Grade 1 Ogden Phipps. Verve's Tale won the Grade 3 Come-ly going 9 furlongs at the end of her

3-year-old campaign and finished second at the same distance in the Grade 3 Top Flight in April for Tagg and owner/breeder Charles Fipke.

"She's doing very well, we're excited about her and this race seems like the right spot for her, but you've got to have a lot of things go right in the race too," Tagg said. "She's trained forwardly, she's gotten bigger and stronger."

Tagg's longtime assistant Robin Smullen rides Verve's Tale in the morning and also hopes for another stakes win in the Summer Colony, which is restricted to fillies and mares 4 years old and up who have not won a graded stakes in 2017. Verve's Tale finished second in her only other Saratoga appearance, a two-turn maiden race last summer.

"She'll break well, she doesn't mind being inside and she'll probably sit right behind the leader," Smullen said. "At least that's how she's learned to run, she used to come from further back but now she wants to lay closer to the speed which is how this track's been playing."

"She takes a little while to warm up, but she gets a little strong. She gets into it. She's funny because she's laid back most of the time but when it's time to go to the race, forget it. She comes in there with her head bowed and it's like, 'Holy cow, where'd that horse come from?' I don't even recognize her. She's all about being a racehorse."

Chad Brown entered 8-5 morning-line favorite but is likely to scratch in favor of a race on Travers Day.

Rachel's Temper won last year's Summer Colony in her first start off the claim for trainer Charlton Baker. The 6-year-old Flatter mare made two more starts for Baker after that victory, finishing off the board in two graded stakes, before she was transferred to David Cannizzo. Rachel's Temper finished seventh in her only start this year, a 6 1/2-furlong allowance at Belmont Park July 3.

Romantic Vision, runner-up in the Grade 1 La Troienne two starts back for Rusty Arnold; Blue Prize, a Group 1 winner in her native Argentina and second in two U.S. starts for Correias; and Annie Rocks, claimed by Carlos Martin out of a 7-furlong race at Saratoga Aug. 7, complete the field.

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Sunday, August 20.

1ST (1:00PM). \$32,000, CLM \$16,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

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

1	.....1	Caniform	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....S. Asmussen	.....4-1
2	.....2	Undercutter	.....L. Saez	.....R. Barbara	.....15-1
3	.....3	Secret Scholar	.....E. Cancel	.....R. Ubillo	.....15-1
4	.....4	Martino	.....J. Castellano	.....C. Martin	.....15-1
5	.....5	Independent Worker	.....L. Reyes	.....N. Chatterpaul	.....20-1
6	.....6	Straightaway May	.....J. Velazquez	.....W. Ward	.....7-2
7	.....7	Rock Nation	.....J. Davis	.....C. Summers	.....20-1
8	.....8	Here and There	.....P. Lopez	.....R. Falcone, Jr.	.....8-1
9	.....9	Lightning Buzz	.....A. Arroyo	.....G. Gullo	.....3-1
10	.....10	Silver Assault	.....M. Franco	.....W. Mott	.....4-1

2ND (1:33PM). \$85,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....1	Exulting	.....J. Alvarado	.....K. McLaughlin	.....5-1
2	.....2	Jet Black	.....A. Arroyo	.....G. Sciacca	.....10-1
3	.....3	Mambo At the Gym	.....K. Carmouche	.....M. Maker	.....6-1
4	.....MTO	Kranji (BRZ)	.....J. Velazquez	.....T. Pletcher	.....3-1
5	.....5	Omened By	.....P. Lopez	.....J. Mejia	.....20-1
6	.....MTO	Battle Midway	.....Rider TBA	.....D. Cannizzo	.....4-1
7	.....7	Air Vice Marshal	.....R. Maragh	.....J. Jerkens	.....2-1
8	.....8	Rapt	.....M. Franco	.....R. Ribaud	.....6-1
9	.....9	Kantune	.....J. Rosario	.....M. Casse	.....7-2
10	.....10	Hollow Point	.....J. Ortiz	.....M. Casse	.....8-1

3RD (2:07PM). \$83,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 3/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	Magical Sky	.....L. Saez	.....M. Casse	.....6-1
2	.....2	Miss Maker	.....J. Alvarado	.....M. Hennig	.....20-1
3	.....3	Ormolu Lu	.....J. Leparoux	.....C. Clement	.....15-1
4	.....4	Swizzle	.....J. Rosario	.....H. Motion	.....12-1
5	.....5	Empress of the Nile	.....J. Ortiz	.....H. Bond	.....8-1
6	.....6	Complicit	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....C. Brown	.....5-2
7	.....7	Conspiring	.....E. Cancel	.....C. McGaughey III	.....12-1
8	.....8	Silver Shaker	.....J. Castellano	.....C. Brown	.....7-2
9	.....9	Equality for all	.....J. Lezcano	.....L. Rice	.....4-1
10	.....10	Bodie's Valentine	.....K. Clawson	.....M. Maker	.....15-1
11	.....MTO	Bogulator	.....J. Alvarado	.....M. Hennig	.....6-1
12	.....MTO	Tapella	.....J. Velazquez	.....T. Pletcher	.....2-1
13	.....MTO	Tiz Super	.....Rider TBA	.....A. Dutrow	.....4-1

4TH (2:41PM). \$28,000, CLM \$14,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

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

1	.....1	Noneedtoflatterme	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....R. Handal	.....3-1
2	.....2	Pirellone	.....M. Franco	.....G. Contessa	.....8-1
3	.....3	Chubby Master	.....L. Saez	.....C. Englehart	.....9-2
4	.....4	Man of Wiregrass	.....J. Ortiz	.....M. Maker	.....4-1
5	.....5	Fortuitous Path	.....L. Reyes	.....R. Rodriguez	.....9-2
6	.....6	Sir Maurice	.....J. Robles	.....R. Persaud	.....30-1
7	.....7	Heliodoro	.....F. Geroux	.....N. Zito	.....20-1
8	.....8	Bold Again	.....A. Arroyo	.....K. Nations	.....20-1
9	.....9	Swift One	.....R. Maragh	.....C. Englehart	.....10-1
10	.....10	Monte Man	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....S. Asmussen	.....6-1

5TH (3:15PM). \$83,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....1	Fools Gold	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....C. Brown	.....7-2
2	.....2	Sweet Offer	.....L. Saez	.....M. Hennig	.....12-1
3	.....3	Layla Noor	.....J. Leparoux	.....A. Delacour	.....5-1
4	.....4	Mad Dog Matters	.....A. Arroyo	.....C. Martin	.....12-1
5	.....5	Lemoona	.....J. Alvarado	.....W. Mott	.....6-1
6	.....6	Sureis	.....R. Maragh	.....J. Kimmel	.....8-1
7	.....7	Iggy's Dream	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....J. Abreu	.....20-1
8	.....8	My New Daughter	.....P. Lopez	.....J. Mejia	.....20-1

9	.....9	Pass It On	.....M. Franco	.....C. McGaughey III	.....6-1
10	.....10	Wealth Effect	.....J. Castellano	.....C. Brown	.....3-1
11	.....AE	Delta House	.....L. Saez	.....G. Contessa	.....15-1
12	.....AE	Lynah Rink	.....J. Lezcano	.....W. Mott	.....12-1
13	.....AE	Kingdom's Queen	.....J. Ortiz	.....D. Donk	.....12-1
14	.....MTO	Moolah Schmoolah	.....Rider TBA	.....R. Rodriguez	.....4-1
15	.....MTO	Silver Fern	.....Rider TBA	.....W. Mott	.....6-1
16	.....MTO	Indy Union	.....J. Ortiz	.....J. Englehart	.....7-2

6TH (3:49PM). \$83,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 6F

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

1	.....1	Party Club	.....F. Geroux	.....D. Lukas	.....12-1
2	.....2	Closing Statement	.....E. Cancel	.....C. McGaughey III	.....8-1
3	.....3	In Jail	.....L. Saez	.....M. Trombetta	.....15-1
4	.....4	Lezendary	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....R. Rodriguez	.....8-1
5	.....5	Coach Rocks	.....J. Velazquez	.....D. Romans	.....5-1
6	.....6	Gemini	.....J. Ortiz	.....B. Lynch	.....4-1
7	.....7	Gibbet	.....J. Rosario	.....C. Clement	.....9-2
8	.....8	Mominou	.....J. Castellano	.....J. Toner	.....15-1
9	.....9	Mia d'Oro	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....S. Asmussen	.....12-1
10	.....10	Purrfect Miss	.....M. Franco	.....J. Englehart	.....7-2
11	.....AE	Tapete Claire	.....P. Lopez	.....J. Mejia	.....30-1

7TH (4:25PM). \$75,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	.....1	Wicked Macho	.....J. Castellano	.....M. Casse	.....2-1
2	.....MTO	Jewel Can Disco	.....Rider TBA	.....G. Gullo	.....8-5
3	.....3	Freedom Seven	.....L. Reyes	.....T. Albertrani	.....20-1
4	.....4	Italian Syndicate	.....K. Carmouche	.....D. Gargan	.....10-1
5	.....5	The Pooch	.....L. Saez	.....M. Friedman	.....15-1
6	.....6	We Were Kings	.....M. Luzzi	.....J. Acquilano	.....20-1
7	.....7	Psychic Energy	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....L. Rice	.....8-1
8	.....8	Macho Miah	.....M. Franco	.....J. Englehart	.....6-1
9	.....9	Gehrig	.....J. Ortiz	.....B. Levine	.....4-1
10	.....10	New York's Finest	.....J. Lezcano	.....L. Rice	.....3-1
11	.....MTO	Heavy Meddle	.....Rider TBA	.....W. Mott	.....7-2

8TH (5:02PM). \$45,000, CLM \$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	Romantic Music	.....J. Castellano	.....D. Ryan	.....8-1
2	.....2	Winner's Dream	.....J. Lezcano	.....H. DePaz	.....3-1
3	.....3	Ready for Summer	.....M. Franco	.....S. Klesaris	.....12-1
4	.....4	Bluegrass Hip Hop	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....R. Rodriguez	.....20-1
5	.....5	Milaya	.....J. Rosario	.....D. Cannizzo	.....8-1
6	.....6	It's Two Hot Benny	.....A. Arroyo	.....A. Adsit	.....20-1
7	.....7	Cincy Belle	.....K. Carmouche	.....S. Lake	.....10-1
8	.....8	Lillie's Answer	.....J. Ortiz	.....M. Maker	.....2-1
9	.....9	Magician's Vanity	.....P. Lopez	.....M. Trombetta	.....6-1
10	.....10	Wonderful Savvy	.....R. Maragh	.....B. Brown	.....12-1
11	.....AE	Baronet	.....L. Saez	.....G. Sciacca	.....12-1
12	.....AE	Cinder	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....G. Arnold, II	.....10-1
13	.....AE	Ice Palace	.....L. Reyes	.....N. Chatterpaul	.....20-1
14	.....AE	Queen of the Channel	.....J. Alvarado	.....R. Metivier	.....12-1
15	.....AE	Grogger	.....T. Hole	.....K. Parker	.....20-1

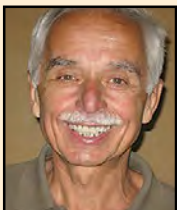
9TH (5:40PM). \$100,000, STK - THE SUMMER COLONY, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 1/8M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	.....1	Verve's Tale	.....J. Ortiz	.....B. Tagg	.....3-1
2	.....2	Going for Broke	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....C. Brown	.....8-5
3	.....3	Fuhriously Kissed	.....J. Leparoux	.....I. Wilkes	.....12-1
4	.....4	Romantic Vision	.....J. Castellano	.....G. Arnold, II	.....4-1
5	.....5	Blue Prize (ARG)	.....J. Graham	.....I. Correias, IV	.....6-1
66	Rachel's TemperJ. RosarioD. Cannizzo12-1
77	Annie RocksA. ArroyoC. Martin6-1

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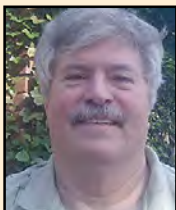
**John
Shapazian**



**Gaile
Fitzgerald**



**Tom
Law**



**Charles
Bedard**



**Pete
Fornatale**

Race #					
1	Silver Assault Straightaway May Lightning Buzz	Lightning Buzz Silver Assault Straightaway May	Lightning Buzz Straightaway May Silver Assault	Lightning Buzz Caniform Straightaway May	Undercutter Caniform Lightning Buzz
2	Air Vice Marshal Mambo At The Gym Rapt	Kranji Air Vice Marshall Mambo At The Gym	Air Vice Marshal Kantune Rapt	Kranji Rapt Kantune	Exulting Kantune Air Vice Marshal
3	Magical Sky Silver Shaker Complicit	Magical Sky Complicit Empressof The Nile	Complicit Magical Sky Silver Shaker	Bogulator Complicit Empressof The Nile	Complicit Silver Shaker Magical Sky
4	Noneedtoflatterme Man Of Wiregrass Monte Man	Chubby Master Noneedtoflatterme Bold Again	Noneedtoflatterme Fortuitous Path Chubby Master	Noneedtoflatterme Fortuitous Path Pirellone	Swift One Noneedtoflatterme Chubby Master
5	Fools Gold Layla Noor Wealth Effect	Fools Gold Pass it On Layla Noor	Layla Noor Fools Gold Lemoona	Indy Union Pass It On Wealth Effect	Wealth Effect Layla Noor Fools Gold
6	Purrfect Miss Gemini Coach Rocks	Purrfect Miss In Jail Closing Statement	Gemini Gibbet Purrfect Miss	Purrfect Miss Gibbet Lezendary	Purrfect Miss Closing Statement Gemini
7	Wicked Macho New York's Finest Gehrig	Wicked Macho New York's Finest Gehrig	Wicked Macho Gehrig New York's Finest	Heavy Meddle Jewel Can Disco Macho Miah	Wicked Macho Italian Syndicate Gehrig
8	Lillie's Answer Romantic Music Winner's Dream	Lillie's Answer Magician's Vanity Winners Dream	Magician's Vanity Lillie's Answer Winner's Dream	Lillie's Answer Magician's Vanity Romantic Music	Magician's Vanity Winner's Dream Lillie's Answer
9	Going For Broke Verve's Tale Annie Rocks	Going For Broke Romantic Vision Blue Prize	Going For Broke Fuhriously Kissed Verve's Tale	Verve's Tale Going For Broke Blue Prize	Verve's Tale Romantic Vision Annie Rocks
10	Consumerconfidence Stormin Maclean Ventry Bay	Helluva Choice Storming Maclean Consumerconfidence	Stormin Maclean Ventry Bay Helluva Choice	Consumerconfidence Outrageous Bet Stormin Maclean	Ventry Boy Enasoit Stormin Maclean
2017 Records:		80/259	69/259	61/259	80/259
					32/236*

Our fifth handicapper will be a special guest each day.

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

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	.....1.....	Bookew Bucks.....	R. Maragh.....	G. Weaver.....	8-1
2	.....2.....	Enasoit.....	L. Reyes.....	T. Morley.....	15-1
3	.....3.....	Helluva Choice.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	S. Asmussen.....	9-2
4	.....4.....	Stormin Maclean.....	J. Ortiz.....	L. Rice.....	3-1
5	.....5.....	Gasconade.....	L. Saez.....	J. Englehart.....	12-1
6	.....6.....	Outrageous Bet.....	K. Carmouche.....	G. Contessa.....	6-1
7	.....7.....	Ventry Bay.....	J. Velazquez.....	W. Ward.....	5-2
8	.....8.....	Dearie.....	R. Montanez.....	L. O'Brien.....	30-1
9	.....9.....	Lucky Town.....	A. Arroyo.....	R. Ubillo.....	10-1
10	.....10.....	Cuckoo's Saloon.....	J. Alvarado.....	A. Quartarolo.....	30-1
11	.....AE.....	Tu Exageres.....	E. Cancel.....	C. Clement.....	6-1
12	.....AE.....	Real Creel.....	M. Franco.....	R. Handal.....	8-1
13	.....AE.....	Warm Springs.....	D. Davis.....	R. Reid, Jr.....	20-1
14	.....AE.....	Consumerconfidence.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	C. Brown.....	2-1
15	.....AE.....	Love My Cotton.....	P. Lopez.....	A. Iwinski.....	30-1

GUEST HANDICAPPER UPDATE

Today's guest handicapper is Peter Thomas Fornatale, Daily Racing Form Tournament Editor and host of the DRF Players' Podcast. Fornatale's latest book, Betting With an Edge, co-written with Mike Maloney, will be published this fall. Back in 2001, Fornatale helped get The Special off the ground as a member of our first staff along with entymate Frank Scatoni. Saturday, retired jockey Richard Migliore picked one winner.

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

Strong Man

Diversify eyes second stakes win for Violette in Monday feature

BY BEN GOWANS

Just after 9 Saturday morning, Diversify and Rodney Paine made the short walk from Rick Violette's barn just past the Morning Line Kitchen to the three-quarter pole gap, entering the main track accompanied by "Tex" the pony with assistant trainer Melissa Cohen aboard. The favorite for Monday's Evan Shipman Stakes and his exercise rider turned left and jogged once around the course going the wrong way with Cohen and the pony.

After completing that portion of their routine, Cohen and Paine stopped and stood at the end of the 7-furlong chute and waited for the right time during a busy morning of

EVAN SHIPMAN STAKES PREVIEW

training to turn Diversify loose from the strap tethering him to the pony.

Still as a statue, looking out over the track with his head high and ears up, the tall bay gelding could've stood there all day.

"He looks at *everything*," Violette said while standing near the gap his horse used to enter the track. "He's always been very inquisitive. He's kind of maintained that, maybe not quite as much as his 3-year-old year, but still, he notices everything."

Unlike Union Avenue Saturday, traffic eventually cleared up on the main track. Let go by Cohen, Diver-



Nolan Clancy

Diversify tries to stretch Rodney Paine's arms Saturday morning.

sify and Paine were on their way, galloping off down the Saratoga backstretch.

"It was tough finding a spot, he didn't need a lot of company this morning," Violette said with a smile

as his horse galloped by enthusiastically.

Diversify didn't have much company in his first two starts either, win-

Continued On Page 27



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Evan Shipman —

■ Continued from page 26

ning twice at Belmont Park, first a maiden by 4 1/2 lengths and then an allowance by 5 1/2.

"We liked him from day one. He showed a lot of talent, very level headed. They sent him to me midsummer last year," Violette said of WinStar Farm, which bought Diversify for \$150,000 at the 2014 Fasig-Tipton New York-bred yearling sale. "They owned a big chunk of Upstart, that's how we got in the door there."

The racing partnership which owned the son of Bellamy Road relied on a sales agreement that required geldings and horses that were not going to be stallion prospects to be sold. Diversify's stallion prospects were gone after he was gelded and he was scheduled to be sold at the end of his 3-year-old season. Rather than lose a promising member of the stable, Violette put together a plan to find a new owner for the horse — at the time 2-for-2. Longtime client Ralph Evans and his daughter Lauren were interested and the accompanied Violette to the Keeneland November Sale last year.

"We weren't sure if they'd sell him privately beforehand and all that stuff, but when he was indeed in the sale, we were pretty serious about him," said Violette.

Diversify went through the ring as Hip 2927 on the eighth day of the sale and changed owners (but not trainers) on a \$210,000 final bid.

"(Lauren Evans) owns a piece of a 2-year-old filly with him as well and she enjoys the business," Violette said. "She has a very important job, she works for the federal government, she's the chief engineer of Grand Canyon National Park."

In his first start for Ralph and Lauren Evans a month after being purchased, Diversify somehow was even more impressive than his first two starts. He made a mockery of five rivals in a second-level allowance at Aqueduct, winning by 12 3/4 lengths. He followed that up with a win against open allowance company in mid-January, but disappointed with a seventh in the Stymie Handicap in March.

Returned to open allowance company by Violette six weeks later, Di-

versify showed up, and finished second to recent Alydar Stakes winner Rally Cry. Facing New York-breds again a month later, the son of Bellamy Road was second again — this time in the Commentator Stakes by a nose to Weekend Hideaway.

"I thought we might have gotten it. It was that big," Violette said as he mimicked the margin with his fingers. "It's weird because the mirror is right after the post, so it's a little bit of a guess there, and it was close enough to guess wrong."

Diversify became a stakes winner in his last start July 2 at Belmont when he won the state-bred Saginaw Stakes by 2 3/4 lengths with returning rider Irad Ortiz Jr. aboard. The 4-year-old had to be scratched from an allowance here Aug. 4 when entered to try turf for the first time.

"He just was off his feed a little bit so we didn't need to go out there experimenting and if it wasn't successful not know what to blame," Violette said.

The veteran horseman went to plan B, and Diversify is 7-5 on the morning line for Monday's \$100,000 Evan Shipman Handicap for older New York-breds at a 1 1/8 miles.

"We'll see, his one bad race was a mile-and-an-eighth and that was a little bit of a complicated race too, it was a big first quarter from the outside post and he had nothing left turning for home," Violette said of the Stymie, Diversify's only worse-than-second finish. "We don't have to be on the lead, the sprinters on the outside of us, if they go, we can follow."

"I really had intended to run Samraat and when good judgment came in that we were supposed to pass, I was going to run Diversify in the West Point, so we had to make a bit of an audible and adjust things."

Second choice on the morning line at 5-2 is Papa Shot. Barry Schwartz's gelding was second to Diversify in the Saginaw and most recently was third in the John Morrissey Stakes at 6 1/2 furlongs locally. Last year's Grade 2 Jim Dandy runner-up and Commentator third-place finisher Governor Malibu (7-2) will try to get back on track Monday. Last year's Shipman winner Royal Posse is back for Rudy Rodriguez and Michael Dubb while David Jacobson sends out the pair of Good Luck Gus and Morrissey runner-up Ostrolenka.



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Bill Mott doesn't remember saying it.

It was March 1998, I was just getting started as a writer, I mean just getting started, when I asked Mott if he thought Favorite Trick could get a mile and a quarter in the Kentucky Derby in two months time. Bred to be a sprinter, built like a sprinter, Favorite Trick had an impossible task on his plate. Mott knew it. He paused at my question, stared blankly, to the point where I wasn't sure he heard me, then he spoke.

"Horses give you the information and you're expected to use it."

It's the best quote I've ever heard about training horses.

I told Mott that a few years ago, he didn't remember saying it, which is fine because I've repeated it so many times, I've made it my own.

The Blood-Horse asked me if I could go to Payson Park and interview Mott for a feature on Favorite Trick and the Triple Crown. I was excited, strangely, not intimidated.

That didn't last long.

The meeting was set for the afternoon. I got there early, late morning, after training hours, but I learned right then and there, that Mott doesn't keep training hours. I barged into his tack room office, introducing myself like it was the first night of rush week. Mott looked up from his training chart, didn't say a word, just stared at me. I bumbled out a few words, he kept staring. I guess he would have stared at me for however long I stood there, which wasn't long, as I walked the plank out of his office. And, yes, the door did hit me in the ass.

I sat under a tree and waited like a scolded child. A while later, Mott walked out and asked what I wanted.

"Just to see some horses," I said.

That broke the ice.

Mott and I meandered up and down the shed rows of his two barns, he showed me horses who I



Tod Marks

had only read about – Escena, Ajina, Yagli, Elusive Quality, Favorite Trick...Mott walked up to every stall, tepidly, to see what each horse was doing naturally, he didn't startle any of them, he was like a kid sneaking into the house after curfew. Glok, who had just won an allowance on the Gulfstream turf, had ripped his bandage off, Mott ducked under the webbing, picked up the strewn bandage and then took off the other one, just like Dad had always told me, 'bandage both legs or no legs.' Mott ducked back under the webbing, "Guess, he doesn't like them." Mott told me about every horse, just observations, like he was going through an old stamp collection or studying rings on a tree.

On a roll, I asked the question, "Do you really think Favorite Trick can get a mile and a quarter?"

That's when Mott paused, looked down, and offered the most insightful words I'd ever heard about horses.

"Horses give you the information and you're expected to use it."

Mott has used the information all the way, from his \$320 mare My Assets at the bush tracks in South Dakota, to a three-year stint with Hall of Fame

trainer Jack Van Berg to a Hall of Fame career that has included the greats from Cigar to Royal Delta.

Saturday, Mott won his third Alabama. Elate rounded into form just at the right time to take the Grade 1 stakes.

Talk about a horse giving you information.

The daughter of Medaglia d'Oro broke her maiden by 12 1/2 lengths at Aqueduct in November. Jockey Jose Ortiz said, "I've hit the jackpot." Mott's son/assistant Riley said, "We were all getting Oaks fever."

Bill Mott doesn't catch fevers.

After a brief freshening at Payson in the winter, Elate finished second in the Suncoast at Tampa Bay Downs, third in the Honeybee at Oaklawn. Mott was thinking about Aug. 19.

"She just wasn't there, and I knew it," Mott said. "There was nothing I was going to do to make her come around any quicker."

And that's the key, Mott didn't do anything more, he allowed Elate to give him the information. She pulled up in the Ashland when Ortiz thought she took a bad step, but was fine afterward. She finished second in an allowance race at Churchill Downs May 5 (Oaks Day, but a long way from the Oaks), then snapped a four-race losing streak in the Light Hearted at Delaware Park in June and just missed winning the Coaching Club American Oaks opening weekend.

"You don't want to get them beat up if they're not ready for it, some people believe that they run as fast as they can no matter who they're with (in races), I think confidence helps them, I believe confidence helps them," Mott said. "They know when they're winning and they build off of that, since the Delaware race, she's improved. She just started moving forward, nothing we did different. There's no magic to it, it's just a matter of allowing them to get there on their own."

And using the information.



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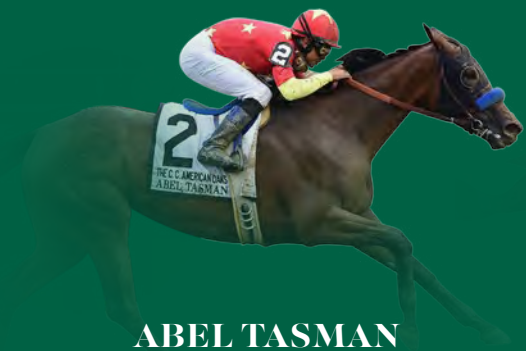
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