

Year 19 • No. 27

Thursday, August 22, 2019

The Saratoga

Special

paper since 2001

SLOP BUSTER

Highland Sky splashes to John's Call

ENTRIES & HANDICAPPING
WINSTON C EYES TURF WRITERS
HOTSY TOTSY TACKLES RISKVERSE

ALGORITHMS

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***RANKS AMONG THE BEST OF HIS CROP
BY % OF LIFETIME STAKES HORSES!**

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THE FACTOR	11.9%
ALGORITHMS	10.7%
GEMOLOGIST	10.4%
CREATIVE CAUSE	9.9%
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UNION RAGS	8.5%
BODEMEISTER	8.4%

2019 **STAKES HORSES** incl.
RECRUITING READY (G3W, G2P),
MATH WIZARD (G3P), & TAYLOR'S SPIRIT (SW/G3P)

STATS AS OF 8/18/2019



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Recruiting Ready wins Gulfstream Park Sprint S. (G3)



Traffic Jam. Be sure to schedule your trips down Nelson Avenue for the right time of day. Rush hour can be brutal.

Connie Bush

here&there...at Saratoga

LICENSE PLATE OF THE DAY

(We've given up trying to weed out repeats so if you've seen these, sorry)

TOGA TAV, New York.

711SPUR, New Jersey.

TOGA GIRL, West Virginia.

S TOGA, Virginia

NAMES OF THE DAY

Nonsensical, third race. Godolphin's homebred is by Street Sense.

Peaceful, ninth race. Twin Creeks Racing Stable's Riskaverse runner is by Declaration Of War.

Crypto Gold, 10th race. Linda Rice and Preferred Pals Stable own the maiden out of multiple graded stakes-winning mare New Economy.

EVENT OF THE DAY

Celebrate the racing season at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame on the eve of the 150th Travers Stakes. Enjoy refreshments in the museum's Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Courtyard with fellow museum members and racing enthusiasts. Featuring book signings for "Sermon on the Mount: The Wisdom and Life Exercises of Hall of Fame Trainer D. Wayne Lukas" with Lukas and author Christina Bossinakis and "The Travers: 150 Years of Saratoga's Greatest Race" with authors Brien Bouyea and Michael Veitch. Event is 6-7:30 p.m. Friday, free for members, \$10 for non-members. Books available for purchase.

Six at the Spa

Animal Kingdom's progeny have won six races at Saratoga so far this year – the same as **Curlin** and **Uncle Mo**. They include **Regal Glory**, in the G2 Lake Placid Stakes, and **Oleksandra** in the Smart N Fancy Stakes.



Don't miss his latest yearlings at Keeneland September.

Darley



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Ed Kasperavich, CFA
Deborah Stackpole
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 Sports & Entertainment Group
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here&there...at Saratoga

BY THE NUMBERS

1: Quarter pole carved from a tree in a yard on Nelson Avenue.

GRAB A PAPER

We're in the final two weeks of publishing for the 2019 season – remember we go digital-only the last week – so four more print editions this week followed by four online PDFs next week. See **thisishorseracing.com**. Grab copies of the paper in the grandstand and clubhouse, stable area, scores of places around town and a few extra spots such as Moby Rick's on Lake Avenue, Trackside Grill on Wright Street near the main clubhouse entrance and in our green boxes in front of The Special's office at 259 East Avenue, outside Kings Tavern on the corner of East and Union avenues and in front of Ben & Jerry's downtown.

WORTH REPEATING

"Riding the good ones, you can put your head down and go."

Jockey Jose Ortiz

"Most of the 3-year-olds don't want to go this long. You have one that wants to do it, it's a big edge, a huge edge."

Ortiz, after Dunbar Road relished the 10 furlongs of the Alabama

"In normal circumstances, you are supposed to move on, but I can't."

Clocker Bryan Walls after a tough trip

"I have figured this game and golf out about eight times in my life."

Trainer Dale Romans, about racing

"I will not put this in the back of a '76 Pinto."

Readers Club member Peter Millen, leaving with his Special hat

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We've got very sharp riders who are always in the right spot, they know how to make you eat one without fouling you. You have to be really, really aware of them. Hall of Famers. Future Hall of Famers."

Jockey Jose Ortiz



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Special

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3 G1 WINNERS 3 CONSECUTIVE CROPS



2013 | **PAOLA QUEEN**
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2014 | **WEST COAST
CHAMPION**
TRAVERS S. [G1]
PENNSYLVANIA
DERBY [G1]



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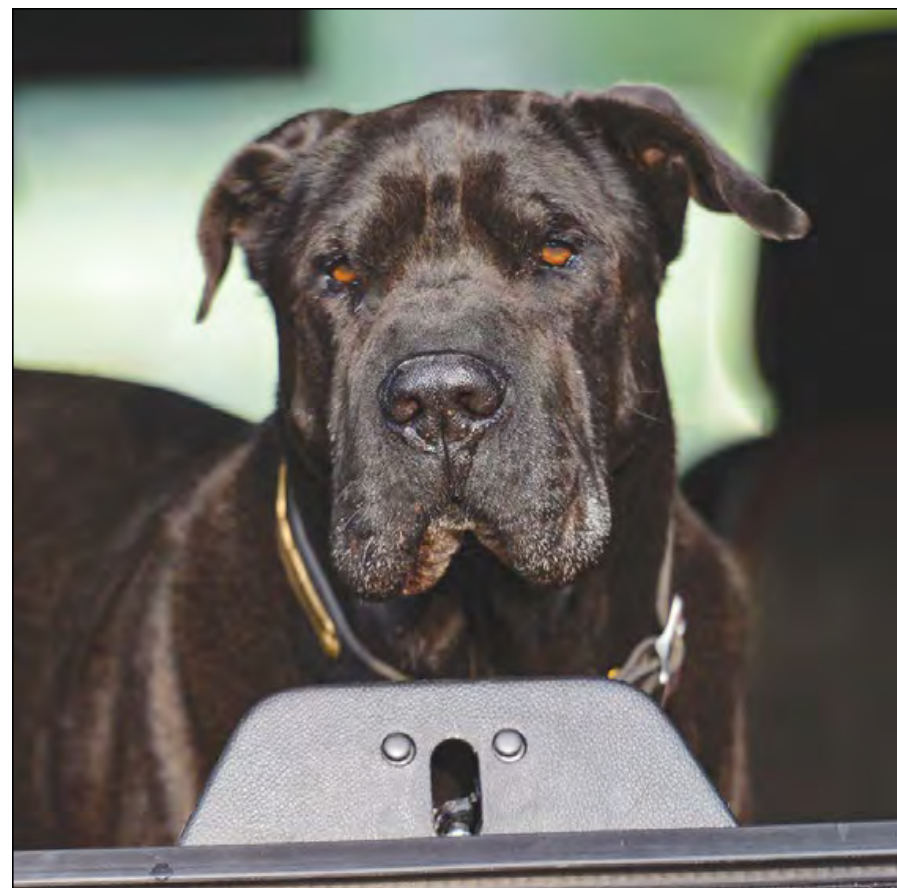
Saratoga Moments . . .

"Probably when Clear Mandate won the race here at a mile-and-a-quarter, Grade 1. She won a won a Grade 1 here (John A. Morris Handicap), then a second in a Grade 1 at Belmont (Ruffian Handicap) and then she went back and won a Grade 1 at Keeneland (Spinster Stakes). She was special. She was a fourth or fifth generation we raised."

- G. Watts Humphrey Jr. on Clear Mandate's successful 5-year-old year starting at Saratoga in 1997

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Connie Bush

Smile. This backside dog wants you to have a nice day – or else.

here&there...at Saratoga

WORTH REPEATING

"Real team effort. I certainly don't want to take credit for the small part I play."

Nick Esler, who gallops Oleksandra when the mare is in New York for trainer Neil Drysdale

"I remember when I won the Alabama with Spit Curl. It was one of the most exciting races I had ever won. A classic on the dirt. These are the races and they will always be the races."

Owner Peter Brant after winning his second Alabama

"The mile-and-a-quarter is the classic distance. It's very important when you're breeding to keep that in mind, not just breed for speed."

Brant, about the distance of the Alabama

"Who writes the headlines?"

OTB Channel's Seth Mellow, to The Special's Joe Clancy and singling out last week's Oi, Oi, Oi gem (credit Brandon Valvo) for Australian-bred Oleksandra

"I see more than 50-percent chance of rain and I say, 'It's going to rain.' I see less than 50-percent chance of rain and I say, 'It's not going to rain.'"

Owner Ed Swyer, amateur weatherman

"I tell people Gulch had a full-brother, Big Mukora. Nobody's ever heard of him."

Breeder Keith Crupper, on the mystery of pedigrees

"Interesting roundabout there . . . oh, sorry, my son is driving me and he has his permit. He did a nice job with that."

Bloodstock agent Davant Latham, doing a phone interview while a passenger/driving instructor

The **TOP 10**
performances of the meet
sponsored by

OSCAR PERFORMANCE

**At 2: Breeders' Cup
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1. **Got Stormy:** Even Fourstardave didn't do what she did.
— Bred by Mt. Joy Stables, Pope McLean, Marc McLean & Pope McLean Jr.
2. **Covfefe:** Because that Test slugfest was as good as it gets.
3. **Imperial Hint:** Move over Speightstown and Spanish Riddle.
4. **McKinzie:** He can do it all, giving Baffert his first Whitney win.
5. **Shancelot:** After the Amsterdam, make that Sir Shancelot.
6. **Guarana:** Unbeaten filly was perfect again in CCA Oaks.
7. **Sistercharlie:** Make that TWO Dianas for the champ.
8. **Dunbar Road:** Loved the mud in Alabama romp.
9. **Concrete Rose:** The first Saratoga Oaks was a laughter.
10. **Tax:** The Travers gets another player after Jim Dandy score.

**And the
Oscar goes to...**

The breeder of the horse with the **Top Performance of 2019** receives a FREE 2020 breeding season to Oscar Performance. Good luck to all, and thanks for a great first season at stud.

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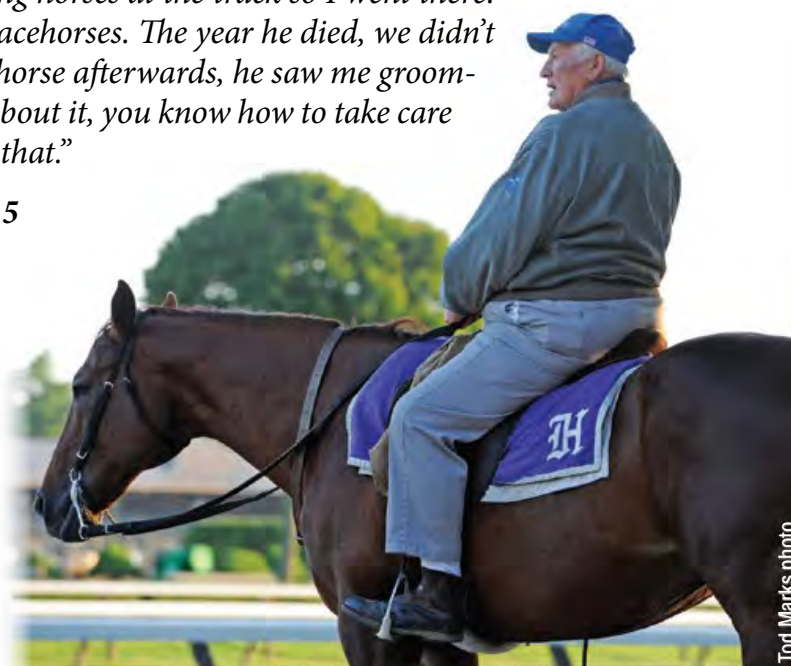
The Chief... Day 26

"I got attached to the racehorses, naturally, because they looked so much better than the hack horses, you know Thoroughbreds. When I was 16, they promised me a job galloping horses at the track so I went there. My father always wanted to have racehorses. The year he died, we didn't have anything, I wound up with a horse afterwards, he saw me grooming my horse and said, 'One thing about it, you know how to take care of the horses.' He was happy about that."

— **Trainer Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015**



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Tod Marks photo

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with *Jim Bond*

Jim Bond likes to stick to the advice given by his father many years ago.

“Don’t get in their way,” Harold Bond, a trainer at Finger Lakes, told his son. “Let them do it. They’ll carry you there, you just have to let them.”

Bond, also a Harold by name, made a career out of letting his horses take him places and along the way he’s won two Whitneys, a Travers, Met Mile, Wood Memorial, Donn Handicap and six other Grade 1 stakes. He’s won 1,136 races since taking over for his ailing father in the 1970s, including six at the current Saratoga meet.

Assisted by sons Ryan and Kevin, Bond counts his wife Tina and the family’s Bond Racing Stable, longtime supporter Bill Clifton, new patron Avanti Stable and several others on the barn’s list of clients. Nine sets of jockey silks hang from a fence outside Bond’s private barn on Gridley Street.

“We’re very fortunate,” Bond said. “Great clients send you good horses and hopefully we just don’t screw it up. That’s the bottom line.”

“All of our clients are really nice people, they love their horses. When owners love their horses they give you that extra boost of confidence to do the right thing. They’re just like children. Some learn fast, some learn slow, and you have to be a good teacher.”

After he finished up training a set on the Oklahoma Training Track – where runners sporting the trademark “007” saddlepads train spring through the fall – Tuesday morning, Bond went through some of his string with The Special’s Tom Law.

Rinaldi: Purchased by Bond Racing Stable for \$5,000 as a weanling at the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga fall mixed sale, 3-year-old son of Posse ran record to 2-for-3 with victory in Cab Calloway division of New York Stallion Series Stakes July 24. “He’s been our key horse so far. He’s been a lot of fun. We’re pointing him for the Saranac. He’s got to step it up again but he’s answered the call a couple times now. I had his sister, Hot And Spicy, she was a nice filly and she beat the Horse of the Year in Canada, Lexie Lou, (when second in the Fury Stakes in 2014). Hopefully he can carry it on a little more. I hate to do this the fourth start of his life, but he seems to have a lot of talent. You’ve got to find out how far they can go so we’ll carry on.”



Trainer Jim Bond’s horses head back home from a training session.

Tod Marks

Way Smart: Homebred 5-year-old Tizway mare for Mandacclair Stable and Bond Racing Stable won allowance here Aug. 4. She’s 2-for-9 with two seconds and a third for \$128,132. “Nice filly. Tizzelle’s full-sister. Just all heart. She’s probably a better miler. Of course the circumference here is 5 1/2 or a mile. There were no miles in the book, I had her ready for six, seven weeks to run and that family has been so good to us. They all run. Lead them over. We’ll go to Belmont, find something one turn around a mile and keep our fingers crossed.”

Giacosa: Two-year-old full sister to Way Smart. She worked a half in :52.73 on the Oklahoma Aug. 5. “She’s as exciting as can be. She’s had a couple halves.”

Our Way: Bill Clifton’s 6-year-old Tizway gelding won the 2016 Better Talk Now, 2017 Sunshine Millions Turf and a waiver claiming race here Aug. 3. He’s won five of 17 and \$317,934. “Special horse. He has issues but he has a heart as big as this state. I told Jose (Ortiz) the day before, ‘This one, he’s going to win.’ He tells you when he’s ready to be led over. I made a mistake, ran him over at Tampa and a little too far. I thought being a Florida-bred that maybe we could still beat them but we ran into a buzzsaw (March To The Arch) and it was too far, bad trainer job period. We have to pick our spots with him.”

Zealous: Clifton’s 5-year-old Tiznow gelding improved to 2-for-11 with starter allowance win here July 18. “Really handy Tiznow. Big, big horse. He’s one of those I have to be a little gentle with sometimes, back off. He had a winter for us, ran really hard all winter and just needed a break. We freshened him up for the meet here. There’s no spot for him back. He worked (Monday) and we’ll look for a race in New York for him.”

Andretta: Bond Racing’s 5-year-old Freud mare broke her maiden going 5 1/2 furlongs on the grass against state-breds

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

July 19 then finished fifth in allowance Aug. 15. “Her nickname in the barn is Mighty Mouse. She’s not the biggest horse in the barn but she has a special want. She’s just like her mother. She made \$200,000 the hard way and she was guts all the time. More of a dirt horse. She’s a Freud of course. Her whole body is heart. She ran back at the meet and had a course that was very hard and she did not like it. Good thing is she’s OK, bad thing is we’re not going 5 1/2 back at Belmont. She loves that 5 1/2.”

Mister Bobby: Avanti Stable’s 3-year-old New York-bred Shanghai Bobby gelding broke his maiden via DQ of Champagne Chills dropping from maiden special to \$40,000 maiden claiming July 26. “Relatively new account for us. Nice people, local people from Saratoga. They sold two very nice horses at the sale, an

Into Mischief and a Tiznow and did very well. They have a beautiful little farm in Greenfield. Short story is we foal their mares at our farm. They were kind enough to give us some horses to train, the first one was Mister Bobby. He was a little hard-headed the first start of his life so he got the ultimate equipment change, which always helps. He still wasn’t as good as I’d like him to be in the paddock but he got put up through a DQ. He was going by. He thinks he won, he did win, check is cashed. He might come back at the end of the meet in an off-the-turf possibly. Don’t want to be too ambitious because we’re coming out of a 40.”

Competitive Cloud: Mister Bobby’s younger 2-year-old half brother by Competitive Edge. He breezed a half from the gate in company in :52.67 on the Oklahoma Monday. “He’s showing us a lot. He’s a nice horse. He may come out with a ‘G’ by his name though, he’s starting to act a little bit boyish. Like brother like brother.”

Lucky Girl: Avanti’s homebred 2-year-old by Lookin At Lucky breezed in company with Competitive Cloud. “Lookin At Lucky, not a bad sire to have in the barn and she’s out of a nice Holy Bull mare. She shows me a lot of poise and a lot of class.”

Letterman: Clifton’s 5-year-old Hard Spun gelding finished second for \$30,000 tag going 1 mile on the inner turf July 27. He’s 1-for-5 with earnings of \$33,438. “Our unlucky horse at the meet. He’s one of those horses that just finds trouble. He’s just a tough character and gets too rank. We’ve tried everything, rider-wise on him. Junior (Alvarado) does a great job on him but he’s a tough horse to ride. He gets in the game and it’s like ‘look out, I’m going through you, over the top of you.’ He causes his own trouble. He ran second here and probably

Continued On Page 9

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

should have won by 5. That's Letterman."

Corretalto: Bond homebred 5-year-old Tizway gelding is 4-for-12 with \$177,225 in earnings. He finished third in 6-furlong optional on the main track, running for \$40,000 tag, Aug. 8. "House horse. He ran a good third here the other day. The outside post really bothered him. I have to give him a lot of breaks, but when I do he seems to come back and we get a lot out of him. Then we have to send him back home, take a break. That's OK, as long as they're safe and sound we're happy."

Wild William: Phoenix Stable and Maureen Edwards campaign 4-year-old New York-bred Freud colt in partnership. A \$39,000 RNA at 2016 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred sale, he's finished second three times in nine starts and earned \$49,320. "Second early in the meet (July 14) then eighth (Aug. 7), should run back. Broke in the air and spotted the field last time. We had beaten the winner the start before. He'll run back if we stay on the turf toward the end of the meet. Probably should be tough."

Queenofeverything: Owned by partnership of Sportsmen Stable, Bond Racing and Monarch Farm, 4-year-old Pomeroy filly finished second in state-bred maiden at 6 furlongs on the main track in her fourth start July 28. "We're hoping to get her back in. They had a race the other day, it came up a little short and they might bring it back."

Grand Banks: Thomas Thienel's two-time winner and \$140,846-earner finished fifth in allowance here July 14 and seventh for \$35,000 tag on the grass Aug. 16. "She blew a shoe the first jump out of the gate the other day. Lost all chance. She's got a nice sister that we like."

Canyon Ready: Bred by Thienel and offered by the Bond family's Song Hill Thoroughbreds but not sold on a \$220,000 bid at last year's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale, 2-year-old More Than Ready filly shows two 3-furlong breezes on the Oklahoma dirt on her tab. "She's a half to Grand Banks. We're very excited about her."

Argonne: Clifton's 4-year-old son of Tizway won three in a row before 10th in Grade 2 Bowling Green here July 27. "He's a nice horse. Got thrown to the wolves in what basically was a Grade 1. Very, very tough race, everyone was ducking Bricks And Mortar so everybody went in the Bowling Green. If Junior (Alvarado) had to do it over again we would have been really close to Luis Saez, who just stole the race on the front end (with Channel Cat). We made a middle move that cost us probably everything. I don't think you've seen the end of this horse. He's a really gorgeous mover, just wants to

please you, a true racehorse. His name comes from Mr. Clifton's grandfather, who was in the battle of Argonne and he won the Purple Heart for saving so many men in the battle, went back less than five years ago to see it one more time and died of a heart attack there. So Mr. Clifton named him Argonne. That's heavy stuff. The last time he did that was Behrens. That was his family's company for like 100 years. Mr. Clifton names horses well. He takes a lot of pride and time in it. I'm looking at the Knickerbocker on Oct. 12. It's a mile-and-an-eighth. A mile-and-a-quarter is where his true number is."

Prioritize: Clifton's 4-year-old by Tizway won on the turf here last summer and looks to get back after being off the board in three starts in 2019. He finished eighth here July 27. "He's just been unlucky. No pace. He needs a pace to come into. This poor horse just can't get the pace. The other day he ran here and they had just taken the rails down and Dylan Davis, who rode him very well last year, I put him back on the horse. The poor kid did nothing wrong but when he swung him out he wound up in the patch that they had just basically been dug up for however long and he had nowhere to go. That's what he had to do and you could just see the horse running through a plowed field. Everybody else was running on the good golf course. You say, 'boy, the poor horse' and that's all you say. We're kind of regrouping. That's the game of horse racing."

Brunate: Bond homebred 2-year-old colt by Normandy Invasion is out of the Raffie's Majesty mare Gattinara, who won four races and \$197,760 from 2006-10. "He's from the first crop of Normandy Invasion, a very good horse and a good looking horse. He was a New York stallion and they took him back to Spendthrift. He's a half to Cathy Naz and half to Andretta. He's got some poise and class. His works have been really, really outstanding. Well in hand. He gives you a feeling that he might be OK. He's an early foal, which I kind of like to have for running as 2-year-olds. We'll see."

Pleasant Breeze: Yes, Pleasant Breeze. Now 24, son of Pleasant Tap holds down duties as the pony and big horse honors in the barn. "The most important horse in the barn. As most people would remember he won the Saratoga Cup, Meadowlands Cup, finished second to Golden Missile in the Pimlico Special, second in the Gulfstream Park Handicap and second by a nose in the Clark. Should have won that one. He's still doing very well. He goes back and forth to Florida with us as the stable pony. He still is by far the most important horse in the barn. He gets whatever he wants. We stop the truck on the way down to South Carolina and he gets to stay overnight. I don't want to ship him 24 hours straight to Florida. We have him on a certain load, that truck rests for the night. If we all had his life. He's as beautiful as he was the day we led him over for all those races. Makes you proud to have horses like him."

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Tod Marks

Winston C looks for his second Grade 1 jump win of the meet.

Going Up

Smithwick winner Winston C aims for second Grade 1 of meet

BY JOE CLANCY

NY TURF WRITERS PREVIEW

Light, leggy, bouncy, on the muscle, the horse in the paddock could pass for somebody's 3-year-old or maybe a turf miler. He walks like a seven-figure yearling. The unraced filly beside him stands a hand taller.

"Watch out, he'll kick," warn his people.

Winston C is the highweight and favorite for today's Grade 1 New York Turf Writers Cup steeplechase stakes, though he tells a different story on looks.

He's small, quick, coiled, ready. He's not – as the old-timers say – a "big, strapping horse who stands over a lot of ground." He's friendly in a say hello kind of way, but he'd rather just

keep moving thank you very much.

Add it all up, and he really misses the mark when it comes to a typical steeplechase type – until he starts moving anyway.

"He's got some walk on him," said exercise rider and assistant trainer Keri Brion, aboard for light training and a paddock school Wednesday morning. "His walk is unreal. He covers so much ground. It's amazing, your whole body moves with him when he goes."

At faster speeds, it's more of the same.

Continued On Page 12

THE GOLDEN BOY

HAILING FROM THE INDUSTRY'S LEADING SIRE LINE FOR 2YOS.

2019 LEADING SIRES OF 2YO WINNERS

1. INTO MISCHIEF	15
2. GOLDENCENTS	12
MUNNINGS	12

2018 LEADING SIRES OF 2YO WINNERS

1. SCAT DADDY	35
2. INTO MISCHIEF	32
3. GOLDENCENTS	29
VIOLENCE	29

GOLDENCENTS

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Turf Writers —

■ Continued from page 10

“This horse could be one to go back to England for the Cheltenham Festival,” said Tom Garner, after winning the A.P. Smithwick Memorial on Winston C at Saratoga July 25. “He could be a Champion Hurdle horse. He’s that kind of horse.”

The 5-year-old gelding made easy work of Smithwick, sprinting home with a wide rally to win by 3 1/2 lengths at nearly 7-2. You won’t get anywhere near that price today as he’s 4-5 on the morning line in a field of nine drawn for the first race. Post time is 12:50 p.m., weather permitting. Wednesday’s jump race was canceled due to the wet conditions, and today’s could be in jeopardy as well.

Bred in Ireland by Patrick Kelly, Winston C began his racing life as anything but a hurdle horse. He sold twice at Tattersalls, fetching \$132,000 as a weanling and \$88,000 as a yearling. He confirmed those opinions by winning his debut for trainer Michael Bell and jockey Jamie Spencer as a 2-year-old in 2016. Frankie Dettori got legged up for the next run, third



Winston C leads everybody home in the Smithwick, and meets several rivals again today.

Tod Marks

of three at Newmarket, a few weeks later. The son of Rip Van Winkle won once in 2017 before selling as a jumps prospect in February 2018 for \$44,000. Trained by Harry Fry, Winston C won three in a row this winter – a January maiden at Wincanton, a February novice at Sandown and a March handicap at Kelso. Fifth of seven in a Grade 1 novice hurdle at Aintree in April, he joined trainer Jonathan Sheppard’s barn in America shortly thereafter. In two starts for Ed Swyer’s Hudson River Farm, Winston

C has a third and the Smithwick win.

Garner was aboard for both, and offered a comparison.

“When I rode him at Nashville he kept leaving his back legs like he was hurdling English hurdles,” the jockey said. “These are a lot bigger than he’s used to and he’s a very small horse. We schooled the hell out of him and I couldn’t have sat on a better jumper at home, but he just wasn’t having any of it. He was a bit like that again (in the Smithwick). I just wasn’t confident early on and thought the only thing I could do was get him back and start over.”

Winston C was eighth and behind a wall of horses over the second-last, and about the same over the last before fighting for a position and charging around the final turn. Four wide, he gained ground with each stride.

Today’s race poses new questions. Winston C picks up 10 pounds from the Smithwick to 154, between eight and 12 more than his foes, and the 2 3/8-mile race will be the longest of his career. He won carrying 159, 160 and 166 this winter and was beaten less than a length on the demanding Nash-

Continued On Page 14



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Tod Marks

Portrade seeks his first win since the 2016 Turf Writers.

Turf Writers —

■ Continued from page 12

ville course in May. If he's worried, he didn't show it while jogging through puddles behind the Oklahoma Annex and touring the paddock with stable-mate Juluca.

The field is full of capable veterans.

Third in the Smithwick, Hinterland returns for Sonny Via and Jack Fisher. The 11-year-old seeks his first win since December 2013, but an effort similar to his placings in four Grade 1 stakes puts him in the fray. He finished 4 1/2 lengths behind the winner when third in the Smithwick and gets an eight-pound shift. Willie McCarthy rides at 6-1.

Riverdee Stable's Gibralfaro was fourth in the Smithwick after getting shuffled back leaving the last fence. He stayed on late and should appreciate the added distance. Michael Mitchell rides for Fisher at 9-2. After being level in the Smithwick, the 7-year-old gets 10 pounds from the favorite.

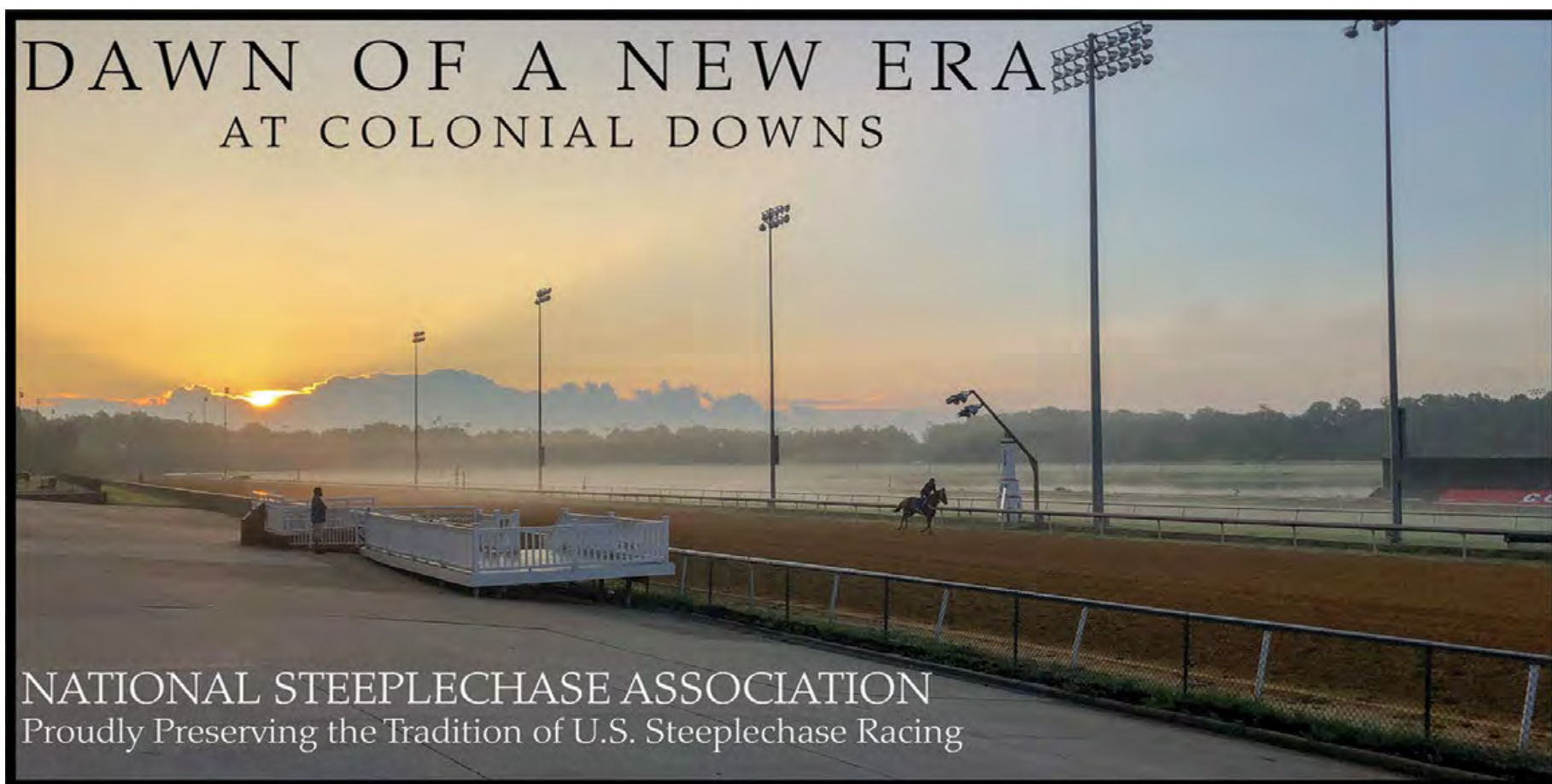
The only American-bred in the field, All The Way Jose, makes his

fourth start in the race. Third in 2017, Buttonwood Farm's 9-year-old seeks to end a 10-race losing streak. Gerard Galligan rides for trainer/breeder Sheppard at 12-1, off a fifth in the Smithwick.

The Fields Stable's Portrade upset the 2016 Turf Writers, but hasn't won since for trainer Elizabeth Voss. In his first start since May, the 10-year-old Irish-bred gets Ross Geraghty at 12-1.

Voss and owner Bob Kinsley team up for two runners. Irish-bred Modem finished second in his first five American starts — all Grade 1 stakes — including the 2017 Smithwick and Turf Writers. The 9-year-old was well-beaten when 11th in the Smithwick, but it was his first jump start in a year. Jack Doyle, who won two at Colonial Downs Saturday, gets back on at 15-1. English-bred No Wunder comes off a seventh in the Smithwick, but was making up loads of ground in the stretch. Kieran Norris returns at 15-1.

Irish-bred Peppay Le Pugh was ninth in the Smithwick and will appreciate the longer trip and the expected soft turf for Gill Johnson, trainer Jack Fisher and jockey Darren Nagle.



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World Cup

Hotsy Totsy makes first start since Royal Ascot in turf mile

BY BEN GOWANS

When Dean Reeves purchased the once-started Hotsy Totsy this year in England, the Atlanta native's first thought wasn't to bring her directly to the United States.

Reeves instead wanted to pursue a start at Royal Ascot with 3-year-old filly. Reeves' wish was granted, and he made the trip to the Royal meeting with his wife Patti and Hotsy Totsy's co-owners Randy and Marina Hill.

Hotsy Totsy last raced June 21 on the fourth day of Royal Ascot in the Sandringham Stakes, a 1-mile handicap for 3-year-old fillies on the straight course. She makes her first start in the U.S. in today's \$100,000 Riskaverse Stakes, a 1-mile event over the inner turf restricted to 3-year-old

RISKAVERSE STAKES PREVIEW

fillies who have never won a sweepstakes at that distance or further.

Hotsy Totsy finished third of 27 in the Sandringham, and that was just a cherry on the cake of the experience for Reeves.

"It was fabulous, best trip we've ever had," Reeves said. "The whole deal, we stayed outside of London in a place called The Vineyard. Great food, great service, great accommodations. We went to Highclere Stud. We saw where they film Downton Abbey, my wife loved that.

"We went to the track twice; I had a glass of champagne in my hand the

Continued On Page 17



Connie Bush

Hotsy Totsy hopes for more sunshine than rain today.

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Runaway winner of an allowance at Monmouth in first start of the season.

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Riskaverse —

■ Continued from page 16

entire time. It's a spectacular venue. The way they do it, they've got some things they do differently there. Being really close to The Queen when she came in, it was pretty special."

Hotsy Totsy's effort helped contribute to the experience. Jamie Spencer dropped the filly out the back in the race down Ascot's 1-mile straight course and steadily guided her closer to the near side, eventually making a run closest to the stands. She finished 1 1/2 lengths back of Thanks Be.

"When she came out of the gate, she just reared up a little bit and got way back," Reeves said. "She couldn't get through the middle of the pack, there was 20-something horses. She ran really well to go around everybody and still get up for third."

Before her start at Ascot, Hotsy Totsy immediately showed talent in England for trainer Ed Walker. The daughter of Casamento finished third in the first start of her career, a 7-furlong maiden at Newbury April 12. She won against winners in her second start May 2 and won again 20 days later.

"We bought her in April before her second race," Reeves said. "She needed another race to get a handicap over there. She won that race, got the handicap and then we ran in the Sandringham.

“We were going to bring her here immediately but I said to Ed Walker and Christophe Clement, ‘why can’t we run at Ascot?’ They said, ‘that’s a great idea.’ We left her over there, ran at Ascot and then brought her over here.”

Now the Irish-bred, British-raced filly is in the U.S. and will start for a trainer from France and owners from Georgia and New Jersey. Officially, Hotsy Totsy runs for Reeves Thoroughbred Racing and R. A. Hill Stable.

Originally purchased for \$5,971 as a weanling, Hotsy Totsy has breezed three times since coming to the U.S. Her most recent work Aug. 16 was her first in 19 days.

"She's training well. It took her a while to adapt to the dirt training but her works have been good," Clement said. "I thought she came back a touch sore from that second work on

the grass. So, we passed on one and gave her a bit of time. She worked very well (Aug. 16) and looks well.”

Hotsy Totsy made her debut on European soft ground, so Wednesday's rain shouldn't have an adverse effect on the filly. Joel Rosario will ride the 3-1 morning-line second choice from the outside post.

"I like her, she's a nice filly," Clement said. "On softer ground, you'd like to cover her up but she always showed good speed in England. I will leave it up to Rosario, see how she breaks."

Clement identified Hotsy Totsy as a potential purchase for Reeves after her first race through British bloodstock agent Stephen Hillen. Clement has picked up horses for Reeves recently, including City Man, 3-1 morning-line favorite in Friday's Funny Cide Stakes.

"I met them when I went over to the Arc de Triomphe a couple of years ago," Reeves said of the Clements. "I was actually shown around by Nicolas Clement, Christophe's brother. I had bought Spainburg, who Christophe had for a little while then I sent her back over there and Nicolas trained her. We got to know one another over the last couple of years."

Chad Brown sends out two for Klaravich Stables that figure to be Hotsy Totsy's toughest competition.

Catch A Bid is the 7-5 morning-line favorite after she was only defeated a neck by dead-heat Lake Placid victor Varenka in her last start. Irad Ortiz Jr. will be aboard the daughter of Real Solution who broke her maiden in her debut June 6 at Belmont Park.

Brown's other entrant New And Improved won when racing for the first time July 28. Javier Castellano rode both Brown entrants last time and ends up on the once-raced daughter of Cairo Prince today.

Peaceful, All Quality, Dalika and Xanthique complete the field. Ionic is expected to scratch and Varenka, ineligible after the Lake Placid, already scratched.

Queen of Beas is the lone entrant for the main track and is likely to be a heavy favorite if Wednesday's rain forces the Riskaverse off the grass.

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Thursday, August 22.

1ST (12:50PM). \$150,000, STK - THE NEW YORK TURF WRITERS CUP, 4 & UP, 2 3/8M (HURDLE)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	Modem (GB)	J. Doyle	E. Voss	15-1
2	2	Winston C (IRE)	T. Garner	J. Sheppard	4-5
3	3	No Wunder (GB)	K. Norris	E. Voss	15-1
4	4	Portrade (IRE)	R. Geraghty	E. Voss	12-1
5	5	Gibralfaro (IRE)	M. Mitchell	J. Fisher	9-2
6	6	Belisarius (IRE)	B. Dalton	K. Dalton	30-1
7	7	Peppay Le Pugh (IRE)	D. Nagle	J. Fisher	10-1
8	8	Hinterland (FR)	W. McCarthy	J. Fisher	6-1
9	9	All the Way Jose	G. Galligan	J. Sheppard	12-1

2ND (1:22PM). \$35,000, CLM \$16,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

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

1	1	Eddy Dirt	M. Franco	R. Rodriguez	6-1
2	2	Internet of Things	I. Ortiz, Jr.	C. Brown	1-1
3	3	Run for Boston	T. Gaffalione	J. Ryerson	12-1
4	4	Purchasing Power	J. Rosario	A. Avila	5-1
5	5	Curlin's Knight	J. Ortiz	J. Englehart	4-1
6	6	Simma Cum Laude	H. Harkie	R. Metivier	30-1
7	7	Lucky Bet	J. Lezcano	B. Levine	5-1

3RD (1:54PM). \$92,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 1 3/16M (TURF)

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

1	1	Nonsensical	J. Bravo	T. Albertrani	8-1
1a	5	Fancy That	J. Ortiz	K. McLaughlin	8-1
2	2	Quiet Dignity	I. Ortiz, Jr.	C. Brown	9-5
3	3	Silver Shaker	J. Lezcano	J. Abreu	10-1
4	4	Cap de Creus	M. Franco	T. Pletcher	4-1
5	6	English Soul	J. Rosario	R. Handal	2-1
6	7	Beau Belle	L. Saez	T. Albertrani	8-1
7	8	Cottonwood Falls	J. Alvarado	T. Morley	12-1

4TH (2:26PM). \$60,000, STR \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

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

1	1	Sargeant Drive	J. Ortiz	R. Atras	5-2
2	2	Bumperdoo	L. Saez	N. Zito	12-1
3	3	Claytnthelionheart	E. Cancel	P. Bauer	6-1
4	4	Derby Memories	K. Carmouche	D. Gargan	6-5
5	5	Grit and Glory	T. Gaffalione	S. Hough	7-2
6	6	Soul Fight	J. Rosario	J. Terranova II	10-1

5TH (2:58PM). \$75,000, MSW, 2 YO, F, 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	Sweet Leaf	L. Reyes	G. Contessa	12-1
2	2	Blessingsofliberty	T. Gaffalione	M. Trombetta	4-1
3	3	La Negrita	M. Franco	R. Rodriguez	6-1
4	4	Wicked Title	K. Carmouche	C. Summers	12-1
5	5	Positive Power	D. Davis	E. Davis	10-1
6	6	Let It Slide	M. Luzzi	B. Brown	10-1
7	7	Las Ramblas	J. Velazquez	W. Ward	2-1
8	8	Raggedy Annie	R. Maragh	D. Lukas	9-2
9	MTO	Project Whiskey	K. Carmouche	R. Reid, Jr.	8-5
10	10	Central Capital	J. Alvarado	L. Gyarmati	10-1

6TH (3:30PM). \$90,000, MSW, 2 YO, 1 1/8M

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

1	2	Lucky Curlin	T. Gaffalione	M. Casse	9-5
1a	3	Enforceable	J. Ortiz	M. Casse	9-5
2	1	Imperare	J. Lezcano	A. Stall, Jr.	6-1
3	4	Mo and Go	L. Saez	J. Englehart	15-1
4	5	Bracketologist	R. Maragh	D. Lukas	20-1
5	6	Cowtown	I. Ortiz, Jr.	T. Pletcher	4-1
6	7	Portos	J. Velazquez	T. Pletcher	6-1
7	8	Zuzudini	D. Davis	E. Barker	12-1
8	9	Crossing the Moon	J. Rosario	K. McPeek	5-1
9	10	Ghost of the Mambo	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	10-1

7TH (4:02PM). \$78,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 1M (INNER TURF)

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

1	1	Tax Me Naught	N. Alvarado	L. Dixon	15-1
2	2	Go Zappem	B. Ortiz	J. Abreu	5-1
3	3	Renninas Rose	B. Hernandez	F. Multari, Jr.	30-1
4	MTO	J J Jen	J. Lezcano	M. Hennig	10-1
5	5	Freddymo Factor	R. Maragh	M. Hennig	7-2
6	MTO	Irish Banker	L. Saez	E. Davis	8-1
7	7	The Great Johanna	R. Santana, Jr.	J. Ferraro	4-1
8	MTO	Deep Space	J. Rosario	W. Mott	7-2
9	9	Blame It On Mom	J. Rosario	B. Levine	3-1
10	10	Tatterazzi	L. Saez	J. Terranova II	5-2
11	11	Magical Romance	J. Rojas	K. LeBlanc	30-1
12	12	Finlee	H. Harkie	M. Coffey	30-1
13	MTO	Nasty Affair	I. Ortiz, Jr.	L. Rice	5-2
14	MTO	Lady Macho	Rider TBA	B. Levine	4-1

8TH (4:34PM). \$83,000, AOC \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	Calculated Risker	M. Franco	R. Handal	4-1
2	2	Fiery Opal	I. Ortiz, Jr.	A. Arriaga	3-1
3	3	Blugrascat's Smile	R. Maragh	C. Baker	5-2
4	4	Shamrock Kid	L. Saez	R. Schosberg	8-1
5	5	Storm Prophet	R. Santana, Jr.	R. Atras	9-5
6	6	Playthatfunnymusic	B. Hernandez	M. Kantarmaci	12-1

9TH (5:06PM). \$100,000, STK - THE RISKVERSE, 3 YO, F, 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	SGR	Varenka	J. Vargas, Jr.	H. Motion	
2	1	Peaceful	M. Franco	J. Thomas	8-1
3	2	Ionic	R. Santana, Jr.	A. Delacour	5-1
4	MTO	Queen of Beas	J. Ortiz	J. Abreu	4-5
5	4	All Quality	J. Velazquez	M. Casse	12-1
6	5	Catch a Bid	I. Ortiz, Jr.	C. Brown	7-5
7	6	Dalika (GER)	J. Ortiz	A. Stall, Jr.	15-1
8	7	New and Improved	J. Castellano	C. Brown	6-1
9	8	Xanthique	J. Alvarado	T. Morley	15-1
10	9	Hotsy Totsy (IRE)	J. Rosario	C. Clement	3-1

10TH (5:38PM). \$56,000, MCL \$65,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	1	Deft	J. Rosario	R. Rodriguez	8-1
2	2	Azzedine (FR)	J. Martinez	N. Chatterpaul	50-1
3	MTO	Qaabil	L. Saez	K. McLaughlin	6-1
4	4	Perceived	I. Ortiz, Jr.	C. Brown	2-1
5	5	Sandy Lane Kitten	J. Castellano	M. Trombetta	10-1
6	6	Timepiece	J. Alvarado	H. Bond	12-1
7	7	Tony Small	J. Ortiz	T. Morley	6-1
8	8	Crypto Gold	D. Davis	L. Rice	10-1
9	9	Foti	M. Franco	P. Serpe	12-1
10	10	Noble Spirit	C. Landeros	G. Weaver	7-2
11	11	Knockout Punch	L. Saez	R. Diodoro	15-1
12	12	Third Army	T. Gaffalione	R. Hess, Jr.	20-1
13	MTO	Final Say	Rider TBA	D. Cannizzo	4-1
14	MTO	Dark Storm	E. Cancel	G. Weaver	3-1

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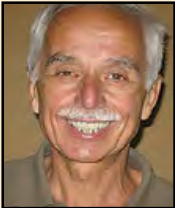











WINNER'S CIRCLE BEER

the
Power
grid

Race #	 John Shapazian	 Charles Bedard	 Tom Law	 Rob Whitlock	 Richard Hutchinson
1	Winston C Gibralfaro Peppay Le Pugh	Hinterland Winston C Portrade	Winston C Gibralfaro Hinterland	Modem Winston C Gibralfaro	Winston C Gibralfaro Modem
2	Internet Of Things Curlin's Knight Lucky Bet	Eddy Dirt Internet Of Things Curlin's Knight	Internet Of Things Curlin's Knight Eddy Dirt	Internet Of Things Purchasing Power Curlin's Knight	Internet Of Things Curlin's Knight Purchasing Power
3	Quiet Dignity English Soul Cap de Creus	Fancy That Quiet Dignity English Soul	Quiet Dignity English Soul Cap de Creus	Godolphin entry Cap de Creus Quiet Dignity	English Soul Quiet Dignity Cap de Creus
4	Derby Memories Sargeant Drive Bumperdoo	Sargeant Drive Claynthelionheart Derby Memories	Derby Memories Sargeant Drive Grit And Glory	Derby Memories Grit And Glory Sargeant Drive	Derby Memories Sargeant Drive Soul Flight
5	Project Whiskey Las Ramblas Blessingsofliberty	Project Whiskey La Negrita Las Ramblas	Project Whiskey Las Ramblas La Negrita	Blessingsofliberty La Negrita Las Ramblas	Las Ramblas Project Whiskey Raggedy Annie
6	Casse entry Mo And Go Imperare	Lucky Curlin Portos Mo And Go	Cowtown Imperare Casse entry	Imperare Casse entry Cowtown	Casse entry Crossing The Moon Ghost Of The Mambo
7	Nasty Affair Tatterazzi Go Zappem	Deep Space Freddymo Factor Blame It On Mom	Deep Space Freddymo Factor Tatterazzi	The Great Johanna Tatterazzi Freddymo Factor	Blame It On Mom Tatterazzi Go Zappem
8	Fiery Opal Blugrascat's Smile Calculated Risker	Blugrascat's Smile Storm Prophet Fiery Opal	Storm Prophet Fiery Opal Blugrascat's Smile	Shamrock Kid Storm Prophet Fiery Opal	Fiery Opal Calculated Risker Shamrock Kid
9	Queen Of Beas Catch A Bid Hotsy Totsy	Catch A Bid Queen Of Beas Hotsy Totsy	Queen Of Beas Catch A Bid Hotsy Totsy	Dalika Hotsy Totsy Queen Of Beas	Hotsy Totsy New And Improved Catch A Bid
10	Qaabil Perceived Tony Small	Final Say Sandy Lane Kitten Perceived	Dark Storm Final Say Perceived	Deft Perceived Tony Small	Perceived Sandy Lane Kitten Timepiece
2019 Records	91/294	66/294	78/294	60/294	55/245*

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GUEST HANDICAPPER

Today's guest handicapper is Richard Hutchinson, worldwide handicapper of races particularly in Britain, Australia and the U.S. An owner of steeplechase horses in England and a former member of the National Steeplechase Association in the U.S., Hutchinson has attended races at more than 350 tracks around the globe. Sunday, Kate Welshofer picked one winner.

- Guest win total does not include Wednesdays, when only The Special's regular handicappers picks appear at thisishorseracing.com.

Top Guest Handicapper for 2019: Joe Burke with five wins.

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Clear Sky

Tagg runner handles mud, dominates off-the-turf stakes

BY BRANDON VALVO

When rain forces races off the turf, Barclay Tagg isn't usually the type to keep his horses in the race, often electing to scratch and wait for another spot. The trainer considered such a move with Highland Sky Wednesday after morning downpours left the turf in a bog and forced the \$100,000 John's Call Stakes to the sloppy main track.

However, when three of the original seven entrants scratched, Tagg reconsidered.

"When it came off the turf, Mike (Lakow) called me up and said a lot of people are scratching and there's only going to be three or four horses. I thought, we'll stay in and have a good

JOHN'S CALL STAKES RECAP

shot," Tagg said of a conversation with NYRA's racing secretary. "But you have to talk to the owners and get everybody's OK on it, so there's a lot that goes into it. There's other races on the horizon that he could be saved for, but then you save for them and it comes up sloppy too sometimes. It's a guessing game to a great extent."

Tagg's best guess was to stay in the field and owners Bonner Young, Gerald McManis and Jerrie Stewart McManis agreed. Highland Sky would start in the featured race, moved from 1 5/8 miles to 1 1/4 miles, alongside Redicean, Red Knight and main-track-only entrant Turco Bravo.



Dave Harmon

Highland Sky hits the line with a stakes win (a muddy one) in the John's Call.

Highland Sky broke at the back of the foursome and got two smacks on his right shoulder from Manny Franco, aboard for his 11th consecutive start. Turco Bravo broke on top and led through the stretch the first time with 3-5 favorite Red Knight pressing

the pace to his outside while Redicean dropped back to race alongside Highland Sky.

"I wasn't too happy he was stuck down on the inside because that looked a little slower I thought watch-

Continued On Page 21

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John's Call —

■ Continued from page 20

ing the other races,” Tagg said.

Racing into the first turn, Highland Sky advanced to race just behind Turco Bravo and to the inside of Red Knight as Turco Bravo posted an opening quarter-mile of :23.81. Positions remained unchanged through a :48.46 half. Redicean put in a brief bid along the rail while his three rivals kept several paths to the outside, but dropped out of it entering the far turn.

Past 6 furlongs in 1:13.29, Turco Bravo began to tire. Red Knight edged closer under Jose Ortiz and put a head in front midway on the bend. Franco had a strong hold of Highland Sky on the favorite's heels and angled to the far outside. Franco pulled the stick into his left hand and gave Highland Sky two whacks, knocking the whip out of Ortiz's right hand in the process.

Straightening away in the 10 path, Highland Sky struck the lead. Franco checked over his right shoulder, then his left nearing the furlong marker, but found himself alone in the sea of slop. Highland Sky kicked away to win by 8 1/4 lengths in 2:04.32.

The win was Highland Sky's first since taking an optional claimer at Belmont Park June 24, 2018. Since then, he raced exclusively in turf graded stakes with a third in the Grade 2 Belmont Gold Cup Invitational his best finish. Despite the losing



Tod Marks

Trainer Barclay Tagg and Manny Franco celebrate the win.

streak, Tagg has been happy with Highland Sky and expected good results on the drop into a listed stakes.

“I thought everything was there that needed to be there if he could put it together,” Tagg said. “Manny has the idea on him now. He's got to be controlled a little bit early. Sometimes he gets away and he fights the jock and it takes it all out of him. If he can be contained early without fighting with him, that's the whole key to him. Then he's got plenty left at the end.

“There wasn't anything else that long around,” Tagg continued. “He's capable of going any dis-

tance, I think. I don't think 2 miles is too much for him or anything. It looked like a good spot, it wasn't a very big purse, but that keeps the real tough ones out of it, too. It looked like it would be a good chance to win a race.”

The John's Call victory improved Highland Sky's record to 5-for-25 with \$724,494 earned. Tagg won the race for the third time (in 16 runnings), following Auguri's off-the-turf score in 2006 and Summer Patriot's win in 2008.

Highland Sky is part of a big group of stakes horses from Young's breeding program tracing to Highland Mills, the third dam of the John's Call winner. A foal of 1982, Highland Mills lost all five starts on the track, but produced stakes winners Miss Josh, Royal Mountain Inn, Highland Springs and Highland Crystal.



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Deluge Day

Spa endures another day of rain as card moved to sloppy track

The seventh week of the 2019 Saratoga Race Course meeting got underway Wednesday with much of the same for the season with another blast of rain, thunder, lightning and extreme wind.

The track also dealt with another cancelation – the opening Michael G. Walsh novice hurdle – due to wet conditions of the turf course. Add another weather delay during the card as well.

A strong thunderstorm moved into the area early Wednesday morning and that was only the first storm of the chaotic weather day. All races scheduled for turf were moved to a sloppy main track.

Bellera won the second scheduled race, the first actually run, by 5

WEDNESDAY RACING RECAP

lengths. The daughter of Bernardini improved again for Todd Pletcher in the 1 1/8-mile allowance after breaking her maiden July 6. Jose Ortiz rode the 3-year-old who led from the start.

After sporting his iconic yellow full-length poncho while on his pony throughout the rainy morning, D. Wayne Lukas sent out his second winner of the meet in the third. Second-time starter Shackleford's Joy lost a photo for the win but was elevated to first via disqualification due to a solid bump by initial winner Indiana Cross just before the wire.

As horses entered the paddock for the sixth race, the skies around Sara-



Tod Marks

Ricardo Santana Jr. came prepared for Wednesday's sixth race.

toga darkened and clouds were visible to the west. First came word that post-time was going to be sped up to avoid the worst of the storm. A second announcement 90 seconds later informed patrons that horses were

going to be held in the paddock until the storm passed.

Less than five minutes later, it was quite a scene. Wind, rain, thunder, lightning. Times 10. The time between

Continued On Page 23

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Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 22

the fifth and sixth races ended up being 68 minutes.

So Conflated won the seventh by 14 lengths for Jeremiah Englehart and Jose Ortiz, the jockey's third win of the day. China Rider came from last to win the eighth for Dave Cannizzo. Kendrick Carmouche orchestrated the filly's rally down the center of the track down the stretch.

John Velazquez won the ninth aboard Leaky Cup, who shipped in from South Florida for Antonio Sano. Running against New York-breds for the first time, the son of Central Banker set fast fractions and kept going strong down the stretch, winning by 5 1/2 lengths.

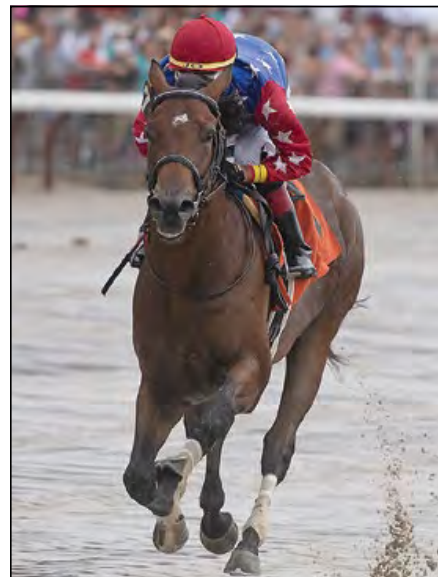
"They're doing a good job with all the rain, the track is very tight," Velazquez said. "It feels pretty good, just depends on if the horse likes it or not."

The Hall of Fame jockey noticed how the track had been playing due to the way tractors had pushed water off the surface.

"I've been watching the races all day and it seems like off the rail is a little bit better so that's why I made the decision," he said. "It's been hard to win on the rail so you have to make a decision playing the track."

— Ben Gowans

• Tim Hills is no stranger to the Saratoga winner's circle, but will nev-



Tod Marks

Flute Maker wins the sixth race.

er turn down the opportunity for a chance at win at the elite meet.

"Any win at Saratoga is a great win," said Hills. "San's The Shadow was my first winner at Saratoga. Kharafa, a New York-bred who won 13 races, won the West Point Stakes last year. He was a grass horse and he was 9 years old when he won the \$150,000 race with Dylan Davis."

The trainer found another Saratoga win – his first of the meet – when first-time starter Naked Avenger won the fifth.

Hills is based primarily out of Monmouth Park, with a small string at Saratoga. Naked Avenger, a 2-year-old New York-bred daughter of Congrats, races for the New York-based Headless Horseman Racing Stables and Tee N Jay Stable.

"I trained for (Headless Horseman Racing Stables) back in the day, maybe 10 years ago, but one of my long-time owners, Tee N Jay Stables – Tom Swales – has always been friendly with them," said Hills. "The only reason I came here was because she's a New York-bred. Since the breeder owns a piece of her and really wanted to have her eligible for breeders' awards. I have several New York-breds I've brought up here to run even though I'm based in Monmouth. She came up here a few days ago, schooled really

Continued On Page 24

Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS	1ST
Chad Brown	25
Todd Pletcher	13
Christophe Clement	10
Jeremiah Englehart	10
Steve Asmussen	9
Danny Gargan	9
Bill Mott	9
Jason Servis	9
Graham Motion	8

JOCKEYS	1ST
Jose Ortiz	47
Irad Ortiz Jr.	36
Javier Castellano	29
Luis Saez	27
Joel Rosario	23
Junior Alvarado	18
Jose Lezcano	18
Manny Franco	13
Ricardo Santana Jr.	13

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Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 23

well. I'm not shocked. Her breezes were really good."

Naked Avenger raced fourth early in the 5 1/2-furlong maiden before crossing the wire 1 3/4 lengths ahead under Luis Saez.

"I was nervous because the speed had been holding, but she was ready," said Hills, who will add more distance for the filly's next start. "She's got a real long stride. Congrats horses can do anything but the way she was pulling in at the end, I don't think that will be a problem."

— Catherine Galbraith

• During the 43-minute weather delay before the sixth, the jockeys came to the paddock, went back to the jocks room, re-entered the paddock — one carrying an umbrella — mounted, dismounted and mounted again before the eight horses headed out to post. Spectators made use of the giveaway, waiting out the thunderstorms huddled under towels and in dry corners of the grandstand.

Ken McPeek was less worried about the wait in the paddock and more about the condition of the track, labeled sloppy and sealed, for Flute Maker.

"We had schooled him a several times, he had been over there repeatedly," said McPeek. "He's a real, calm, collected colt, good-mind on him. I was a little bit worried. The track sealed up good. I was pretty confident he would handle it well."

McPeek wanted to stretch out Flute Maker, fifth



Naked Avenger skips home in the fifth.

in his debut going 5 furlongs on the dirt at Ellis Park June 30, for his second start and chose the 1 1/16-mile turf race restricted to horses that sold or RNA'd for \$45,000 or less in their most recent sale. The race was moved to the main track and shortened to 7 furlongs and Flute Maker won by 11 1/2 lengths.

"I knew he needed more ground," McPeek said. "There wasn't any doubt that he needed more ground. If it was 1 1/16 miles in the same group, no telling how much he would win by."

Flute Maker is out of the Pleasantly Perfect mare Perfect Flute, a daughter of 2001 Kentucky Oaks and Alabama winner Flute. McPeek bought the colt for \$35,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July yearling sale.

"He's a big long-strided colt with good pedigree," said McPeek. "The second dam won the Kentucky Oaks, so the page is there. The next step is to take him to a stakes race somewhere and see how good he is. Probably the Iroquois at Churchill going two turns."

— Catherine Galbraith

• Queen Kahen won the nightcap to provide Mertkan Kantarmaci with his first win of the meet from 16 starters. Kantarmaci, dealt a tough loss Opening Day when Zap Daddy lost by a nose, added to his first Saratoga win in 2018.

"My first ever win at Saratoga was with Archumybaby in August, also," Kantarmaci said. "Then we lost by a nose Opening Day. We missed the win. We are putting the good work in and winning races right now, finally."

Tod Marks

Kantarmaci hoped for rain with his main track-only entrant he claimed for \$25,000 July 19, and got it. She drew in to the \$40,000 claimer originally carded for turf and won by a nose over Saloon Girl.

Kantarmaci shortened the Paynter filly for her first start off the claim after she ran 7 furlongs last time.

"She knows what to do on the track in the mornings," Kantarmaci said. "We work on her for whatever she needs. I'm happy to have her. She's something good, hopefully."

Kantarmaci hopes for more success in today's eighth with Playthatfunnymusic under Benjamin Hernandez.

— Catherine Galbraith

From your pals at



HENRY

BACK ON THE TABLE

THE PODCAST

THE PODCAST

Program Note

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THOROUGHBRED HORSE TRAINER
TODD PLETCHER!



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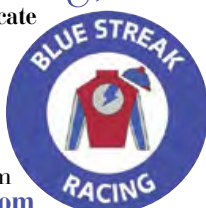
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SARATOGA RESULTS

Wednesday August 21.

FIRST RACE CANCELED.

SECOND \$92,000, AOC \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

2	Bellera	J. Ortiz	\$17.00	\$6.90	\$4.80
1	South of the Shore	J. Lezcano		\$3.70	\$3.40
3	Mo Moxie	D. Davis			\$4.50

B Filly 2016, by Bernardini - Habiboo by Unbridled's Song

Owner: Mathis Stable LLC. Trainer: Todd Pletcher.

Breeder: Hardacre Farm LLC (FL).

Time: 1:50.54

Exacta (2-1), \$24.90; Quinella (1-2), \$10.60; Superfecta (2-1-3-5), \$15.35; Trifecta (2-1-3), \$48.37

THIRD \$60,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$75,000, 2 YO, 5 1/2F

7	Shackleford's Joy	R. Maragh	\$6.80	\$3.80	\$2.70
1	(dq)Indian Cross	R. Santana, Jr.		\$6.50	\$3.60
3	Alex Love Candy	H. Harkie			\$5.20

Ch Colt 2017, by Shackleford - Kittenkittenkitten by Kitten's Joy

Owner: Wagner, Les. Trainer: D. Lukas.

Breeder: William B. Harrigan, Mike Pietrangelo & Mark McEntee (KY).

Late Scratches: Florida Flash

Time: 1:06.26

Daily Double (2-7), \$35.75; Exacta (7-1), \$15.30; Superfecta (7-1-3-4), \$40.55; Trifecta (7-1-3), \$77.75; Consolation Double (2-2), \$8.10

FOURTH \$100,000, STAKES - JOHN'S CALL S., 3 & UP, 1 1/4M

1	Highland Sky	M. Franco	\$6.90	\$2.90	
5	Red Knight	J. Ortiz		\$2.20	
2	Turco Bravo (CHI)	J. Lezcano			

Dk B/ Br Gelding 2013, by Sky Mesa - Kristi With a K by Petionville

Owner: Young, Joyce B., McManis, Gerald & McManis, Jerrie Stewart.

Trainer: Barclay Tagg. Breeder: Bonner Young (KY).

Late Scratches: Proquestor, Pillar Mountain (IRE), Nakamura

Time: 2:04.32

Daily Double (7-1), \$12.10; Exacta (1-5), \$4.85; Quinella (1-5), \$1.70; Pic 3 (2-7-1), \$17,250.00; (2-2-1), \$33.25

FIFTH \$78,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 5 1/2F

5	Naked Avenger	L. Saez	\$21.00	\$6.60	\$5.00
7	Jewel of Arabia	J. Rosario		\$2.60	\$2.20
8	Never Heard of Her	T. Gaffalione			\$4.60

B Filly 2017, by Congrats - Karmageddon by Wildcat Hair

Owner: Tee N Jay Stable and Headless Horseman Racing.

Trainer: Timothy Hills. Breeder: Headless Horsemen Racing (NY).

Late Scratches: Quantitativbreezin, Courageous Girl, Sweet Nazeema

Time: 1:05.13

Daily Double (1-5), \$48.25; Exacta (5-7), \$25.50; Superfecta (5-7-8-9), \$148.75; Trifecta (5-7-8), \$91.25; Pic 3 (7-1-5), \$198.25

SIXTH \$75,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 7F

7	Flute Maker	J. Ortiz	\$7.30	\$4.40	\$3.10
6	Like You	L. Reyes		\$10.60	\$6.50
4	Legend of Bam	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$4.00

B Colt 2017, by Sky Mesa - Perfect Flute by Pleasantly Perfect

Owner: Fern Circle Stables. Trainer: Kenneth McPeck.

Breeder: Ann Fostock (KY).

Late Scratches: Saint Marco, Montana Man

Time: 1:24.48

Daily Double (5-7), \$40.00; Exacta (7-6), \$35.75; Superfecta (7-6-4-10), \$78.60; Trifecta (7-6-4), \$81.87; Consolation Double (5-8), \$10.00; Pic 3 (1-5-7), \$154.25; (1-5-8), \$43.50; Pic 4 (7-1-5-7), \$487.50; Pic 5 (2-7-1-5-7), \$6,778.50

SEVENTH \$42,000, CLAIMING \$20,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

7	So Conflated	J. Ortiz	\$3.70	\$2.50	
1	Liam Lets Go	L. Saez		\$2.80	
5	Flat Out Jayvien	J. Martinez			

Gr/ro Gelding 2014, by Eskendereya - Donnie's Secret by Tiger Ridge

Owner: River Card Stable. Trainer: Jeremiah Englehart.

Breeder: Hartley/DeRenzo Thoroughbreds (FL).

Late Scratches: Foolish Ghost, Air On Fire, Keeping the Peace

Claimed: Liam Lets Go claimed by Nicholas, Michael for \$20,000, Autostrade claimed by The Players Group for \$20,000

Time: 1:23.02

Daily Double (7-7), \$6.80; Exacta (7-1), \$3.55; Pic 3 (5-7-7), \$69.75; (5-8-7), \$18.00

EIGHTH \$57,000, CLAIMING \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

7	China Rider	K. Carmouche	\$18.20	\$6.40	\$4.60
8	Morissette	J. Rosario		\$4.70	\$3.80
10	Clearwater	J. Martinez			\$6.10

B Mare 2014, by Majestic Warrior - Smart Angel by Smart Strike

Owner: Ivery Sisters Racing. Trainer: David Cannizzo.

Breeder: William D. Graham (ON).

Late Scratches: Golconda (FR), Alvernia, Merlins Muse, Factoring

Claimed: Noblame claimed by SF Racing LLC for \$50,000

Time: 1:05.22

Daily Double (7-7), \$16.30; Exacta (7-8), \$38.75; Superfecta (7-8-10-11), \$192.60; Trifecta (7-8-10), \$175.00; Pic 3 (7-7-7), \$46.50

NINTH \$80,000, NY-BRED ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

6	Leaky Cup	J. Velazquez	\$21.20	\$11.60	\$7.10
8	Six Percent	J. Castellano		\$7.50	\$4.20
7	Amundson	J. Ortiz			\$3.60

B Ridgling 2016, by Central Banker - Spielzeit by Medaglia d'Oro

Owner: Sano, Antonio. Trainer: Antonio Sano.

Breeder: Kingsport Farm LLC (NY).

Late Scratches: Bears Mafia, True Gold, New York Hero

Time: 1:09.85

Daily Double (7-6), \$101.75; Exacta (6-8), \$67.50; Superfecta (6-8-7-1), \$238.60; Trifecta (6-8-7), \$100.87; Pic 3 (7-7-6), \$183.00; Grand slam (4/6/7-1/3/4/6/7-7/8/10-6), \$95.00

TENTH \$52,000, CLAIMING \$40,000-\$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

16	Queen Kahren	I. Ortiz, Jr.	\$20.80	\$4.90	\$3.00
15	Saloon Girl	J. Velazquez		\$2.40	\$2.10
5	Shanghai Bonnie	J. Rosario			\$3.20

B Filly 2016, by Paynter - Toast to Ashley by First Defence

Owner: Amendola, Robert, J.. Trainer: Mertkan Kantarmaci.

Breeder: Zayat Stables (KY).

Late Scratches: Sarahrini, Appreciate, Avocado Toast, Tradeable, Sister Emily, Matzo Bella, Itsakeyper, Shrink, Bid You Adieu, Something Joyful

Claimed: Saloon Girl claimed by Windylea Farm, LLC for \$40,000

Time: 1:05.07

Daily Double (6-16), \$102.75; Exacta (16-15), \$15.90; Superfecta (16-15-5-7), \$17.55; Trifecta (16-15-5), \$24.87; Pic 3 (7-6-16), \$1,075.50; Pic 4 (3/4/6/7-7-6-16), \$1,042.50; Pic 5 (7-3/4/6/7-7-6-16), \$4,515.75; (5-7-3/4/6/7-7-6-16), \$37,064.00

Attendance: 26,517.

On Track Handle: 1,622,552.

All Sources Handle: \$8,170,435.

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SARATOGA RESULTS PHOTOS

BY TOD MARKS AND DAVE HARMON



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Argentine Tango

Grade 1 winner Blue Prize wins Sunday stakes duel for Correas

BY BEN GOWANS

It's not hard to tell the level at which a trainer is admired by his peers at the racetrack. Especially when those peers are the people the trainer just beat.

Ignacio Correas was that trainer after Blue Prize won Sunday's Summer Colony Stakes.

A hug from Sarah Arnold, a handshake from Tristan Barry among others and even sincere congratulations from Jack Sistrone and Mark O'Dwyer, the team responsible for Vexatious, who was run down by Blue Prize in the \$100,000 stakes.

Correas breathed a sigh of relief after Blue Prize got the better of Vexatious by a neck. The native of Argentina wasn't feeling as relaxed as Blue Prize traveled around the first turn in the 1 1/8-mile race.

"I guess he had a bump here on the first turn," Correas said of jockey Jose Ortiz on the way to the winner's circle. "He had to do it that way. She made up a lot of ground."

It wasn't a bump, but it might as well have been. Blue Prize's rival Breaking Bread carried the eventual winner out two paths going into the turn. The loss of forward momentum caused Ortiz to relegate the 3-5 favorite to last and made the generally difficult to agree with Argentinian-bred

SUMMER COLONY STAKES RECAP

mare to get even more rank.

Having ridden her before, Ortiz knew what buttons to push – or not push – and Blue Prize relaxed as she started her run down the backstretch. While the lost position around the turn wasn't in Ortiz's original plans, he stayed patient, instead of worrying aboard the heavy favorite who usually races much closer to the pace.

"Jose knows her, he won with her a couple of times," Correas said Friday before the race. "He knows what to do and will take care of that. It's up to him."

While Blue Prize raced at the rear of the field, Alberobello set strong fractions of :22.96 and :47.28. Vexatious traveled kindly in third, handling the dirt just fine in her first start over the surface in more than a year. Blue Prize moved up one spot from last, bounding along on the outside in sixth.

As the three-eighths pole and bend for home loomed, Joel Rosario asked Vexatious to attack Alberobello. At the five-sixteenths pole, Vexatious took the lead while still traveling well, but Ortiz wasn't asleep at the wheel.

Blue Prize went from sixth to third in less than a half-furlong and Ortiz knew he just had one horse to beat.



Tod Marks

Blue Prize (left) outduels Vexatious in Sunday's Summer Colony.

Well out into the middle of the track, Blue Prize ranged up outside of Vexatious.

Ortiz went to his stick just as his mount switched over to the correct lead. Rosario started to ask Vexatious, who had a 1-length advantage at the top of the stretch. Blue Prize started to claw away at that margin and it was a good, old-fashioned duel from there on as the two fillies extended themselves to the finish.

Blue Prize stuck her blinkered head in front just a few strides before the wire. It was 14 1/2 lengths back to Alberobello in third.

"The trip wasn't like the way I expected, but she had the class," Correas said. "I'm happy she's back in the winner's circle. We'll keep working to see what we can do to go to the next level but she needed to come here for this win."

Although Blue Prize's early trouble was not self-inflicted, the 6-year-old mare has been a puzzle for Correas to figure out when it comes to what makes her tick.

"She's very tricky what you do with her. I thought I might take the blinkers off but she had run so good with them," Correas said. "We adjusted the blinkers a little for this race, it's tough to make big changes with her. We put blinkers on her with a hole in behind."

"Usually when she doesn't have nothing to chase, she loses focus. That's what we were looking to try to fix. These are the blinkers that we put on after the Spinster. Last time, I opened them a little bit more, now we went back to what they were. They made her run so well in the Breeders'

Continued On Page 29



RACING RETURNS

AUGUST 8 - SEPTEMBER 7 | THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS AT 5PM

\$500,000 in Daily Purses \$1.8 MILLION in Stakes Purses

\$250,000 G-3 Virginia Derby on Saturday, August 31

Owner/Trainer Participation Incentives



Summer Colony —

■ Continued from page 28

Cup. That's it, you can't overthink it. She has the talent."

Talent has never been a question with the mare brought to the U.S. by owner Merriebelle Stable after a win in Argentina's Group 1 Seleccion in October 2016. The daughter of Pure Prize went winless in her first five starts in America but won Churchill Downs' Grade 2 Falls City by 8 1/4 lengths to close out her first year in the U.S.

Blue Prize won four times in 2018, capped by a win in the Grade 1 Spinster at Keeneland before a fourth in the Breeders' Cup Distaff. After a second and two thids to start 2019, Correas targeted the Summer Colony to get Blue Prize back in the winner's circle rather than running her in this weekend's Grade 1 Personal Ensign.

"That was a very easy choice. I had no intention of going to Personal Ensign," Correas said. "If I wasn't coming here for this race, I wasn't going anywhere. The owners, managers, everybody trusts me and do what I think is good for her."

Just like on the racetrack, Correas and his team better understand how to handle Blue Prize at the barn after a few years getting to know each other.

"Now, she's getting better but she was pretty mean," Correas said. "Not mean, complicated, very complicated. But now with age, she has gotten better. We have worked a lot with her."

Blue Prize shipped backed to Keeneland following the win and Correas plans on another run at the Spinster.

"That's home for her. I look forward to that."



Tod Marks

Blue Prize returns.

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ARLINGTON MILLION	GRAND NATIONAL HURDLE	PRIORESS
AWESOME AGAIN	HASKELL INVITATIONAL	QUEEN ELIZABETH II
BELMONT DERBY	HOLLYWOOD TURF CUP	SHADWELL TURF MILE
BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC	IROQUOIS HURDLE (2)	SPINAWAY (2)
BREEDERS' CUP TURF (2)	JOE HIRSCH TURF CLASSIC (2)	SPINSTER
BREEDERS' CUP FILLY & MARE TURF	KENTUCKY DERBY (2)	SWORD DANCER (4)
DELAWARE HANDICAP	KING'S BISHOP	TEST
DONN HANDICAP (2)	LONESOME GLORY HURDLE	UNITED NATIONS (2)
DUBAI WORLD CUP	MAKER'S 46 MILE (3)	VANITY HANDICAP
FLORIDA DERBY	MANHATTAN (2)	WHITNEY HANDICAP (2)
FRANK KILROE MILE	MAN O' WAR (4)	WOOD MEMORIAL
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Paddock Rain

Bill Mott stood in the road outside his barn on the Oklahoma bend Wednesday morning and directed traffic. Making sure there were no cars, golf carts or horses, Mott asked for his paddock schoolers to make the walk, hoping to slip through a break in a relentless rain.

The stop-traffic Tacitus, Channel Maker, Golden Award and Elate strolled diagonally across the yard, through two green cones and stepped gingerly over a newly formed puddle on the edge of the grass.

"Look at those four," the Hall of Famer said.

Mott walked past Round, the pony, looking over the ledge of his outside stall and headed for his compact Range Rover.

"When you get old enough to get social security, they let you drive over," Mott said, turning onto Fifth Avenue.

Mott parked behind the saddling stalls and said hello to the security guard sitting under a dripping tree.

"How you doing?" Mott asked. "Need a raincoat?"

"I'm good," the guard said. "I'm good."

Mott walked to his trunk, pulled on a Brook Ledge jacket, just in case, walked into the paddock and waited for his brigade to make the long, meandering walk from his barn.

Small talk drifted all the way back to Mott's early days with Hall of Fame trainer Jack Van Berg.

"Every day you checked the horses, snap them up, muck four stalls, you can muck a stall in five minutes if you're rolling. Rake it, lay it down. Leave it in the muck sacks in the shedrow. Get some hot-walker to empty the muck sacks and fill the water buckets. An extra guy might bust open the straw and shake it out," Mott said. "And then start cleaning them up. Get their polos on, whatever they would need. When they were ready, you would gallop them, 10 a day. There were times when you would cool out two at a time around the shedrow."

Funny how things change. Mott used to cool out two on his own at bygone tracks, now he's got eight men and four horses walking to the paddock for their last schools before Travers Day stakes. Mott bedded down his first Saratoga string for Bertram and Diana Firestone in 1987. Mott wasn't mucking anymore but he was still galloping. Long leg, full cross, neck bowed, head pulled to their chest – a style learned from Van Berg.

"We had old horses with some class but they had issues, you didn't let them roll around there every day," Mott said. "It wasn't until New York when we started letting them do a little more, a little better horses."

Way better. Four stars with 12 stakes wins, including four Grade 1, and \$5.7 million, walked into the paddock, under a light rain. Tacitus came first, rider on his back and groom at his side.

Jimmy Jerkens, there for a schooler of his own, liked it.

"Whittingham style, huh?" Jerkens said, referring to Hall of Famer Charlie Whittingham.

"I'm afraid he'd blow up on the way home," Mott said.

"We used to do that all the time," Jerkens said.

"Your old man would do that?" Mott asked.

"Yeah," Jerkens said.

"I just think you got a better shot at keeping them straight going home," Mott said. "You bring them over and tease them and they want to blow up."

As Mott talked, rain pounded.

"I didn't know I was going to get caught up in this," Mott said. "I was thinking of this afternoon, but it looks like it's raining, I don't want to school tomorrow. My guys would rather just get it done."

Mott walked to where he saddles his afternoon runners, near the Paddock Bar and began an orchestration of nerves and power.

"Juan, go ahead and bring him in, line him up, you can bring him in the 12," Mott said. "Big turn.

Let him sniff the back of it if he wants to. If he'll stand there, just let him stand there."

Tacitus turned and stood, head up like a periscope, on trigger but composed.

"Bring her in and let her stand there if she will," Mott said.

Elate strutted under the tent, made a big turn and stood, two stalls from Tacitus.

"Come on in," Mott said.

Golden Award, the most subdued and quiet of the quartet, walked languidly and stood in stall 6 like a student hiding from the teacher's question.

Channel Maker did the same, two stalls from Golden Award.

Mott took Elate's shank and his assistants tightened the foam pad and girth around her.

Whinnies all around. A whistle. Pats on the neck. A couple of photographers hovered.

"If he's anxious, come next door," Mott said, over and over like a nervous twitch.

A car splashed down the road behind the stalls and Channel Maker sprung off his front legs, rearing and clattering his hocks into the back wall, chain shank taut and restrictive but effective.

"Whoa, whoa, whoa," Mott said. "Bring him down here, bring him down here."

Channel Maker, a veteran of 26 starts, settled, walked out, almost sheepish.

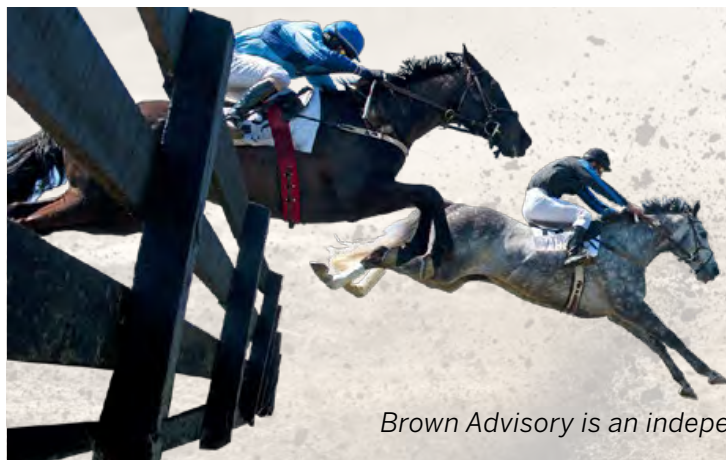
"The old gelding..." Mott said.

Mott handed Elate back to her groom and checked the radar on his phone, waiting for a window of clearance. He checked with assistant Neil Poznansky. And waited.

"Why don't you guys go ahead. Just do a half circle," Mott said. "Keep him straight. OK. Good job, guys. Sorry it's sprinkling."

Four horses, eight men walked back to the barn and Mott headed to his car.

"They were good," Mott said. "I'm glad to have it out of the way."



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