

Year 18 • No. 22

Thursday, August 23, 2018

The Saratoga

Special

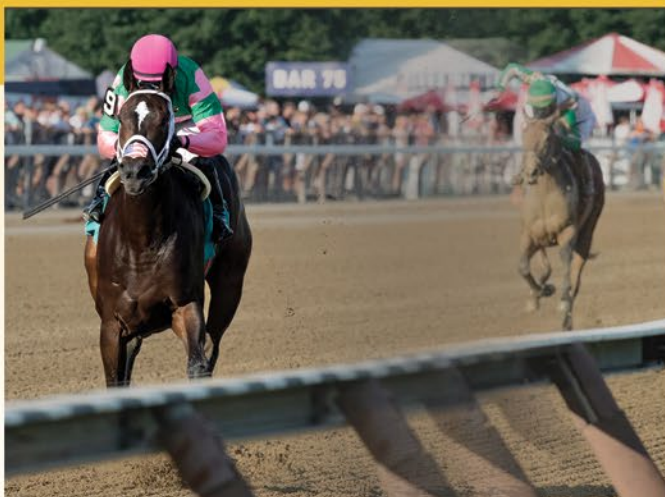
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LICENSE PLATES OF THE DAY

HIP 138, New Jersey. **HOOFIN**, New York.
VIVIEN, New York (breeder/owner Vivien Malloy's car).

BY THE NUMBERS

5: Consecutive starts won by trainer Jimmy Jerkens horses at Saratoga Aug. 16-20. Adulator, Securitiz, Timber Ghost, Can You Diggitt and Point To Remember all found the winner's circle.

11: Canada Geese flying through the Oklahoma infield during turf works Tuesday.

22: Seconds it took Alex Yarinsky to eat a pint of vanilla ice cream in the Stewart's ice cream eating contest Wednesday.

29: Men in line for the bathroom near the East Avenue and Union Avenue entrance with 20 minutes to post for Saturday's Lake Placid.

98: Dollars returned by Won't Be Missed in the finale Monday. The Special's Charles Bedard picked the Jimmy Ferraro trainee on top at thisishorseracing.com (where we put our picks Mondays and Wednesdays).

NAMES OF THE DAY

Overbook, fourth race. The 3-year-old filly is by Overanalyze out of Contractual. Her half-brother Good Wheels runs in the fifth.

Cash Out, ninth race. G. Watts Humphrey Jr.'s main-track-only entrant is out of Deal Of The Decade.

Fixed Point, 10th race. The 3-year-old colt is by Midshipman out of Shine A Spotlight.



Looking Good. Travers favorite Good Magic gallops on the main track Wednesday morning. The Haskell winner is 2-1 on the morning line in a field of 11 entered for Saturday's Grade 1.

Tod Marks

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WORTH REPEATING

"Let's drink, not think."

Trainer Kenny McPeck, when asked where he was going to run Eskimo Kisses next

"I did not, but I've always been overly confident in him and he bailed me out once again."

Trainer Ron Moquett when asked if he expected Sunday's allowance optional to come up that tough after Petrov won

"He's kind of plain and coarse looking when he's just standing there, but when he gets animated, he's a beautiful looking horse."

Trainer Jimmy Jerkens on impressive maiden winner Timber Ghost

"Son August is up there somewhere for two days if you want to punch a Pons."

Country Life Farm's Josh Pons, making another last-minute change to his advertising campaign; nobody got punched

Jockey Mike Smith: "Hey, Joe, what's going on?"

The Special's Joe Clancy: "Oh, you know, watching horses go around in circles."

Smith: "That is our life..."

"I finally figured out the point of the second wire (see Cup Of Coffee column from last week). I didn't know the track was a mile-and-an-eighth."

Owner Dick Knapp, whose math skills finally caught up with his racing knowledge

"I have to keep saying 'Chappy, pick up your *shoe*,' and 'Chappy, pick up your *sock*.'"

Anita Motion, whose son has a broken leg and therefore only needs one shoe and one sock

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We're all right with trying to make history."

Trainer Mark Casse when asked about running filly Wonder Gadot in the Travers at Tuesday night's post-position draw



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WORTH REPEATING

"Mr. Cooper special delivery. Better than FedEx overnight."

Leigh Delacour, referring to Sunday's Summer Colony Stakes entrant Nomorerichblondes arriving from Fair Hill a day before the race

"We all get up here and lie to you but I really honestly think that he's better right now than I've had him at any other time."

Trainer D. Wayne Lukas, when asked how Bravazo is doing at the Travers post draw

"Has anyone that you've asked that question ever said 'I hate my post?'"

Trainer Dale Romans, ribbing host Andy Serling's question about King Zachary's position in the starting gate

"King Zachary did not run particularly well in the Indiana Derby. Is there any reason for that? Besides his trainer."

Serling, snapping back

"To be 15-1 in the Travers? A lot of people would take that. I could go buy yearlings all day long if I promised people they'd be 15-1 in the Travers."

Romans

"Rain."

Trainer Phil Gleaves, when asked what was happening Wednesday morning

"Big Money Mike."

Assistant trainer Brooke Boyer, to steeplechase jockey Mikey Mitchell Wednesday morning

"I feed her like I feed myself."

Groom Leo Ayala, about Fiona the pony (who is built like a couch)

"He's coming to this meeting fresh. You've been here the whole time."

Jump jockey Sean McDermott to Keri Brion, who got run off her feet by Irish trainer Gordon Elliott and crew Tuesday night

"I was out galloping in it at 5 in the morning and someone said it was a wet rain . . . I didn't really have a comeback to that one."

McDermott, on Wednesday's rain (which, we can confirm, was wet)

"I could lose the 30 pounds, but not the 30 years."

Trainer (and former jump jockey) Ricky Hendriks, on making a comeback

"It's worse when Richard Valentine isn't here because he's always more nervous than I am."

Trainer Elizabeth Voss, who was pacing before Wednesday's first race

"That will give you at least a half page."

Trainer Tom Morley after going through his shedrow for today's Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour

Maryland, My Maryland Country Life Farm



Photo: Jim McCue

MY NAME IS MONTE CRISTA. I'm a MD-bred half-sister to 2017 MD-bred Horse of the Year Just Howard. I've won three grass races and placed in the Ta Wee Stakes. Today, I'm running in Saratoga's \$100,000 Riskaverse Stakes for a 10-share Country Life Racing Partnership. The Pons brothers bought me for \$30,000 at the Fasig-Tipton May 2-year-old sale in 2017. I hope I see all my partners in the winner's circle.



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The Top 10

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

- 1** Imperial Hint. Vanderbilt July 28. Special, small sprinter won Grade 1 with speed, style, simplicity. And we wrote about him 18 months ago.
- 2** Diversify. Whitney Aug. 4. Best older horse on grounds breaks on top and rips it up – winning in hand and stretching streak to three.
- 3** Voodoo Song. Fourstardave Aug. 11. Turf star finally earned a Special cover with a Grade 1 triumph and a 5-for-5 mark at the track.
- 4** Monomoy Girl. C.C.A. Oaks July 22. Queen of the meet back in Kentucky. Her lady in waiting Eskimo Kisses steamrolled Alabama field.
- 5** Weekend Hideaway. John Morrissey July 26. Who you callin' old? He won the N.Y.-bred stakes for the second time – four years after the first one.
- 6** Chad Brown. Ahead 29-15 through Saturday, meet's leading trainer is running away with it. The races for place and show could be fun.
- 7** Irad Ortiz Jr. Every time somebody gets close, the meet's leading jockey pulls away. Leads by nine. Can Javier Castellano make a run?
- 8** Sistercharlie. Diana July 21. Wait, wait, wait again, then pounce. Irish-bred arrived in final half-stride to win Grade 1. Did it again in Beverly D.
- 9** John Hertler. Saratoga's class-guy trainer (Slew O' Gold anyone?) gets a win with Tradeable Aug. 16, and makes everybody smile.
- 10** Rushing Fall. Lake Placid Aug. 18. Budding turf star gets off bench and wins Grade 2 for fun. Now 5-for-6 with a second.

On the bubble: Cape Angel (the first horse with two wins at the meet), Farrell, Mucho, Promises Fulfilled, Catherinethegreat, quick starts by Steve Asmussen and Joe Sharp, Arch Kingsley winning two over jumps, the 145 Beyer put up by the rain, trainer Barclay Tagg's double, Jeremiah Englehart, Dave Donk and Phil Serpe climbing the leaderboard, Bowling Green dead heat, New York-breds in open stakes, Sandy's Slew (Happy Retirement), Tricky Escape shipping up – twice – from Delaware to win the Waya, Lacey Gaudet with a winner, Endorsed and Code Of Honor.

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Photo: Connie Bush

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The Chief... Day 22

"Admiral Vee was my first real good horse, not my first stake winner, but my first good horse. Claimed him for \$7,500 at Tropical Park, won the shake, two people in on him. He was by War Admiral. They rolled some water bandages on him and brought him over, nobody was with him, just the groom. I came running in, 'Go ahead, go ahead, put it in, put it in.' He said, 'Are you sure? What about the water bandages?' I said, 'He just put them on.' He said, 'Are you sure?' I said, 'Yeah, put it in, put it in.' That was one time in my life that I was pretty sure. He won that day, galloped. He ended up being a good distance horse. Back in those days, nobody made any money working a horse a mile, he worked a mile a lot of times. Another thing that helped us, he was hitting his hocks and they weren't doing a whole lot for it, just letting him hit, we got to tubbing him behind, and I bought those boots, I never see anybody with them any more, you put the hind bandages on, then the boot and the top of the bandage goes through the loop and it fastens up above the hock with a little strap, we never worked without the boots, we ran him with pads, he got to running good."

– Trainer Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015



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with Tom Morley

Tom Morley missed the Secretariat Stakes at Arlington Park Aug. 11 – which became the Englishman's second Grade 1 victory – for good reason.

"The New York-bred sale, that is the reason I didn't go," Morley said last week, making the short walk from the Oklahoma Training Track to his barn. "We had 10 horses pass the vet that night to bid on and I didn't want to be sitting on an airplane while it was all going on."

Morley instead watched from an office above Barn 8 on the sales grounds, after Fasig-Tipton President Boyd Browning Jr. gave him the go-ahead with one condition.

"You can watch, but you need to tell us what's going to happen," Browning said.

Morley, who sent Donegal Racing's Carrick to the Secretariat off a third in the Grade 3 Kent at Delaware Park a month prior, didn't mince words.

"I think we'll win," Morley said.

Morley took a seat in front of a television and watched the Secretariat without saying a word. He watched the son of Giant's Causeway track the speed early, move into contention around the far turn, hook up with the odds-on favorite Analyze It at the eighth pole and eke out a determined win under John Velazquez at 38-1.

"The Fasig guys were all behind me watching," Morley said. "They were like, 'He told us. He walked in here and said he was going to win, sat down and didn't say anything else.'"

In just his fourth start, Carrick joined 2016 Ballerina winner Haveyougoneaway as Morley's Grade 1 winners. He won a \$40,000 maiden claimer in his debut May 12, a starter allowance June 21, both at Belmont Park, before the Kent July 14. The \$223,000 bumped his earnings to \$302,800 and added to Morley's total of \$1,090,607 for 2018 through Wednesday.

Carrick returned to Saratoga and Morley's 18-horse string on the Oklahoma shortly after his Secretariat win and is back in training for another start once the action returns downstate. The barn is 2-for-13 at the meet with two seconds and two thirds, and looking for more with less than two



Trainer Tom Morley (right) has won two at the meet, and a big one at Arlington.

Tod Marks

weeks remaining.

Morley took a few moments before the second break on the Oklahoma one morning last week, took a seat with The Special's Tom Law at his patio table in front of the barn and went through the Saratoga string.

Carrick: The big horse. Literally. Son of Giant's Causeway is out for a walk after returning to training a few days after his victory in the Grade 1 Secretariat Stakes at Arlington Park Aug. 11. The \$75,000 yearling went from maiden claiming to starter allowance to a third in Grade 3 Kent before his neck victory in the \$400,000 Secretariat. "As you can see there in front of you, he's a massive, massive horse for a 3-year-old. Fair play to Donegal and Frank Smith down at Elmore Training Center because he was a horse who was bought with a few minor issues with a view if he matured and handled them, then he would have every chance of being a good horse. Patience has always been the key. He came into me early this year and trained in a solid fashion, but like a big backward type of horse. A lot of people have asked why we started him off in a maiden 40 and how stupid we could have looked if he got claimed, et cetera, but honestly at the time the ability he was showing in the morning was that of a horse who could be competitive in that race . . . I was delighted to see him win, did it surprise me? I didn't feel we really trained him to win first time out but felt we'd done enough work with him that he'd be very competitive. Since then he has turned inside out and I'm not sure he hasn't done the same thing since Arlington. He was a very weak horse behind and with every race he goes through he appears to get bigger and bigger and bigger behind. I've said to Jerry all summer, 'whatever he does this year would be a bonus because he will be a really, really nice 4-year-old.' Now he's a Grade 1-winning 3-year-old. Hopefully my prediction turns out and he goes on to be better at 4."

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

See thisishorseracing.com for the full season.

Alreadycelebrating: Rob Masiello's Union Rags filly is also out at the same time as Carrick. A \$270,000 purchase at last year's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred sale, she's main track only for Friday's fourth race. "She was the top-priced filly at the New York-bred sale last year. She's a filly I think the world of. She will want to go further than that (7 furlongs if the race is rained off), but she's ready to run and we think she's pretty nice."

Royal Asset: Matt Schera's and Orangella Racing Stable's 6-year-old Langfuhr gelding finished second for \$25,000 sprinting on the turf Aug. 6. "He's a hard-knocking old New York-bred, turf and dirt, Joel Rosario tells me he's a better dirt horse but he just finished second here on the turf. He'd run some cracking races on the turf."

Corot: A one-time \$925,000 yearling, Masiello, West Point and Nexus Racing Club purchased him for \$155,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky horses of racing age sale in July. A full-brother to Grade 1 winner Midnight Storm, he broke his maiden for former trainer Mark Casse at Woodbine June 16. "He's the kind of horse we're looking to campaign on the turf at a mile. We're going to enter the Better Talk Now. His work on the turf was extremely good. There is the option of a straight a-other-than for 3-year-olds after that if the Better Talk Now is too tough for him at this stage. Definitely a horse with potential, definitely a horse who will improve."

Ian Glass: Donegal Racing's 2-year-old Hard Spun colt is splayed out in his stall. Entered multiple times at the meet, he's yet to run due to races being rained off. Entered in the fourth race Saturday. "He has a funny story behind him auction wise. At the Fasig-Tipton turf showcase sale last year I fell in love with this horse, didn't have anyone to buy him but was determined to get him. I started bidding and then realized I was bidding against Jerry Crawford. I stopped bidding, walked around to the back of the ring, thank God there was somebody else as well otherwise I would have been accused by Jerry of running the price up on him. When Jerry signed the ticket I was right on his shoulder, tapped him and said, 'Jerry, it was me against you for some of the way and I'm desperate to train this horse.' He is big and beautiful and I think the world of him. His work has been extremely good. Cannot wait to get him started. He's certainly shown an abundance of talent in the morning. You need them to show it in the afternoon, but as you can see from here I've positioned my chair outside his stall and he is normally asleep if he's not training or eating. That's normally the sign of a good horse."

Continued On Page 9

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

Freaky Styley: Named after the Red Hot Chili Peppers' second album released in 1985. 2-year-old Scat Daddy colt was bred in New York by Chris Larsen and West Point Thoroughbreds. "Very big, raw. We train the half brother Danny California, who broke his maiden and ran here fourth in an allowance the other day. Late-maturing family but he's a bigger, stronger, deeper individual than Danny is. I haven't pressed any buttons but his works have been very good since he came in. He came in from Danzel Brendemeuhl, she thought the world of him and I agree with her that he could be a talented colt."

La Moneda: Patricia Moseley's homebred 5-year-old Freud mare won the first Sunday of the meet and is entered in Friday's Yaddo Stakes. "What a superstar this filly has been for us this year. A huge thank you to Brendan Walsh and his team. The reason she's in my barn is because he doesn't have a New York division year-round. He very kindly lent her to us this year. Patricia has been a wonderful person to deal with. She won back-to-back races at Belmont, came up here and knocked out her open 2x in extremely impressive fashion. I do think this filly is capable of winning a graded stakes. Her numbers indicate that, the way she's progressed this year. At a one-turn mile back at Belmont in a race like the Athenia I think she would have a real good shot at that."

Moses Supposes: Tom Priola's 3-year-old Desert Party gelding cost \$17,000 last year and broke his maiden in his second start for a \$40,000 tag June 16. "Tom is a new owner of mine sent to me by Nick Esler. He's a fun little horse, can run on either surface and we're looking forward to getting him in a race toward the end of the meet."

Danny California: Larsen's and West Point Thoroughbreds' 3-year-old Afleet Alex gelding finished fourth in a state-bred allowance Aug. 8. He broke his maiden Feb. 11 at Aqueduct and is 1-for-8 with \$55,380 in earnings. "He's a horse that has a decent level of ability. I ran him a mile and an eighth here last time and it's very tough for these 3-year-olds against older horses. In graded stakes this time of year the 3-year-olds are still receiving five pounds from the older horses. Danny got two pounds from older horses in a New York-bred allowance. We'll give him one go on the turf and then give him a little bit of a break. He's been in training for two years straight, very sound horse but if we want to have a nice 4- and 5-year-old we better give him the opportunity to have a little holiday."

Excuse My Charisma: Masiello's and West Point Thoroughbreds' Pioneerof The Nile filly, a \$300,000 buy in March, finished

ninth in her debut going 1 1/16 miles on the grass Sunday. "She's very much a horse we hoped would be a Kentucky Oaks type filly but at the moment she's just too weak behind to try a long dirt race with so we're going to run her on the grass. She's trained well on the turf and there's enough pedigree to suggest she'll handle it. This is something I like to do with a lot of my babies. It's extremely hard to get a two-turn horse as a 2-year-old ready to go long on the dirt. I'm perfectly happy to let them have a start on the grass and then move to the main track if that's where they belong."

Queen Of Connaught: European import with Coolmore connections intended to run Whitney Day in the Fasig-Tipton Waya before it was canceled. Entered back, the 3-year-old Daughter of Declaration Of War was scratched when it was moved to the main track a week later. "She's had an awful trip over here, well, she hasn't but the gods have played against her having had a postponed Waya and then a rained-off-the-turf Waya. There's two ways to treat these European horses, you either have to run them straight off the plane or give them six weeks to acclimatize before you run them over here. I have nominated her to the Glens Falls but that's a question mark. She is two-other-than eligible, I would love for them to put up a 2x in the book here, hint-hint, going a mile and a quarter or further, hint-hint, but if they don't there are a number of races at Belmont or the Dueling Grounds Oaks at Kentucky Downs. That might be the spot for her. Then maybe the Zagora and Long Island, then a break, one start at the Fair Grounds before getting stuck into the New York races next year. She'll improve as a 4-year-old."

Causforcelebration: West Point Thoroughbreds' and Jimmy Kahig Racing's 3-year-old Noble Causeway gelding looks to end run of seconds – three in four starts – in maiden claiming race that goes as the 11th Friday. “The perpetual bridesmaid. He’s finished second three times in four starts this year. Whenever he gets things his way he’ll win and give his partners the most tremendous day and I’m really hoping it happens up here. It’s one of those things where the dynamic of the race has to go for him and he will get the job done.”

Regalian: Claimed by Morley and Rainbows End Racing Stable for \$20,000 out of a 6-length victory Aug. 3, 3-year-old son of Fast Bullet is 2-2-1 in seven starts with \$92,250 earned this year. "He's owned by a new syndicate, local people. They have three horses with me. One is a half to I'm A Chatterbox called Zinger, he's targeting a race here; they have Regalian and Lucky Long with me. Great people. They're from Jersey, Connecticut, they're a lot of fun and every time we win for them it means the world. They had a rough year between losing a 2-year-old and having a couple bad horses but we've got them on the score sheet a couple times this year and hopefully Regalian and Lucky Long and Zinger can do the job for them going forward."

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Joe Davies photo (upper left) DOUGLAS LEES PHOTO

Irish Breakfast

Major-league Elliott invaders headline Grade 1 hurdle stakes

BY JOE AND SEAN CLANCY

If the mood over breakfast at The Horseshoe Inn Wednesday was any indicator, Irish raiders Clarcam and The Game Changer will dominate today's New York Turf Writers Cup steeplechase stakes.

Trainer Gordon Elliott and the crew talked racing, met some friends, renewed an acquaintance or two and generally reveled in the craic (Irish for fun and pronounced crack) on the eve of the Grade 1 stakes worth \$175,000.

Saratoga's signature steeplechase attracted nine entrants, none as accomplished as Elliott's pair.

Highweight and 2-1 morning-line favorite Clarcam has won 10 races over jumps and earned more than

N.Y. TURF WRITERS PREVIEW

\$614,000. The French-bred son of Califet clobbered 21 rivals in the Galway Plate at Ireland's Galway Festival Aug. 1. Irish-bred The Game Changer leads the field with 12 wins over jumps, including two last year and one this year. He's 10-1 on the morning line thanks in part to not finishing his last two starts at Galway Aug. 2 and 5.

Elliott, who saddled Dirar to a second in the 2011 Turf Writers and was seventh with Salford City in 2008, knows Saratoga well and is also looking ahead (slightly) to the rich Far Hills race meet in New Jersey in October.

"It's good fun to come over for a



Tod Marks

Clarcam and Katie Young check out the Saratoga paddock Wednesday.

few days, but no one in Ireland knows we're here," he said with a laugh. "Both horses are in good form. If both of them run good races and come out in one piece, we'll be thrilled. Clarcam should run a good race. He should be in the first three if he runs his race.

Far Hills will be better for him going 2 miles and 5 (furlongs), but he's a good horse. He will run well."

Elliott's horses will have to tangle with Show Court and Iranistan, 1-2 in the A.P. Smithwick Memorial here

Continued On Page 10



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Admiral Alex	Goldmember	Pass You Bye Bye
Ameri Valay	Great Notion	Perfecting
Americo's Bullet	Greek Sun	Petionville
Baltimore Bob	Gyrfalcon (GB)	Plan
Bishop's Other Boy	Hawk in Flight	Polish Miner
Bowman's Band	Hunters Bay	Polish Payola
Buffum	Java Royal	Precious Marque
Bullsbay	Jazz Club	Pulverizing
Cal Nation	Ken Doll	Purple Passion
Cat Country	La Reine's Terms	Que Man
Cherokee's Boy	Ladinos Bambino	Redeemed
Citidancer	Lion Hearted	Regal American
Country Only	Lord Concorde	Rock Slide
Crowd Pleaser	Louis Quatorze	Rush Bay
Cruisin' Dixie	Love of Money	Same Day Delivery
Crypto Star	M Eighty	Scipion
Cuba	Makin Money	Seeking Daylight
Dance With Ravens	Marciano	Showing Up
Deputy Storm	McKendree	Smart Guy
Despite the Odds	Meadow Monster	St Averil
Diamond	Medallist	Standing Room
Disco Rico	Mogador	Only
Domestic Dispute	Mojave Moon	Sticks and Bricks
Dumyat	Money's Star	Street Magician
E Dubai	Mr. Shoplifter	Tomahawk Lake
Elusive Charlie	Nicanor	Touch 'n' Fly (IRE)
Etched	No Armistice	Trial Prep
Eternal Star	Not Abroad	Two Punch
Fantasticat	Not For Love	Unbridled Jet
Fleet Foot	One Golf Sierra	Unbridled Mate
Freedom Child	Oratory	Waquoit
Friesan Fire	Orienteate	Wayne County (IRE)
Gators N Bears	Outflanker	Who's Your Daddy
Giacomo	Parker's Storm Cat	Yarrow Brae
Go for Gin	Partner's Hero	

This list shows nominated stallions with horses of racing age. ONLY horses by the stallions listed, who were conceived in Maryland and fully nominated/certified to the Maryland Million program, are eligible to run in Maryland Million races with the following exception:
If the race does not have six (6) Maryland Million eligible horses entered, not including cross-entered horses, the race will be opened up to registered Maryland-breds that were pre-entered. All Maryland Million eligible and Maryland-Bred (not Md-Sired) horses must pre-enter by Wednesday, October 11th, and pay the pre-entry fee. If a Maryland-Bred (not Md-Sired) horse does not get the opportunity to enter in a race, the pre-entry fee will be refunded.



Jim McKay

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\$125K Maryland Million Turf Three-year-olds & up, 1 mi., turf

\$125K Maryland Million Ladies Fillies & mares, 3-year-olds & up, 1¼ mi., turf

\$100K Maryland Million Distaff A handicap for fillies & mares, 3-year-olds & up, 7 fur.

\$100K Maryland Million Sprint A handicap for 3-year-olds & up, 6 fur.

\$100K Maryland Million Lassie Fillies, 2-year-olds, 6 fur.

\$100K Maryland Million Nursery Two-year-olds, 6 fur.

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Turf Writers —

■ Continued from page 12

July 30. Show Court seeks his third Saratoga win while Iranistan has lost just once in four starts over hurdles for trainer Jonathan Sheppard.

Both Elliott horses raced in the colors of the powerful Gigginstown House Stud in their last starts, but were purchased by American owner George Mahoney's Rosbrian Farm. Mahoney teamed up with Ben and Wendy Griswold to buy Clarcam while The Game Changer races for Rosbrian, which also has Optimus Prime in the race. The latter has won five times over jumps and makes his American debut for trainer Ricky Hendriks, who won Wednesday's jump race.

Hendriks, tied for the National Steeplechase Association trainer lead with Sheppard, will ultimately add Clarcam and The Game Changer to his stable but looks for a big effort from Optimus Prime.

"I really like him, he is serious," said Hendriks. "We've been working him at Fair Hill on the race course.



Tod Marks

Optimus Prime and Eve Ledyard gallop Wednesday at Saratoga.

He's had two serious works there and I think he'll run well."

But, based on the Galway race, the Turf Writers goes through Clarcam.

Adding blinkers, Clarcam stepped on the gas from the beginning, put-

ting his only challenger, Drumcliff, on the floor six fences from the finish in the Galway Plate. Worth 147,500 euros, the win was an awesome display. Clarcam soared over his fences and put 21 horses on their back feet for

the entire trip. Standing in the way of Mahoney's raid are the first, second, third and fifth-place finishers from the Grade 1 A.P. Smithwick Memorial and the winner of the Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes.

Hall of Famer Jonathan Sheppard sent out the second and fifth horses in the Smithwick. Four-year-old star Iranistan finished second that day and veteran All The Way Jose finished fifth. Sheppard thinks both are better today.

"As soon as the race was over, this is what we figured we would do, that was the plan with both of them," Sheppard said. "We kept them up here and they both seem to have come out of it fine and trained well."

Iranistan and All The Way Jose breezed 5 furlongs on the training track Aug. 12 and came back with a sharper turf move Monday.

Novice Iranistan and veteran All The Way Jose represent the spectrum of Sheppard's far-flung string.

Once part of Linda Rice's barn, Iranistan flashed onto the steeplechase scene this spring, ripping off three consecutive wins including a romp against novices at the Iroquois

Continued On Page 12

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Photo courtesy of Anna Purdy



Turf Writers —

■ Continued from page 14

Steeplechase. Owned by Hudson River Farm, the son of Einstein tuned up for Saratoga with a win on the flat at Delaware Park. Making his debut against open stakes horses, Iranistan ran in snatches in the Smithwick but still managed to finish second to Show Court, who snuck through on the cones as Iranistan swung three wide on the final bend. Running all the way to the line, he was beaten a length.

“He’s a very nice young horse and you hate to think you over-faced him or asked him to do something that’s too much, amazingly enough he’s handled everything we’ve thrown at him,” Sheppard said. “He went from two pretty mediocre 4-year-old races to a pretty tough novice stake at Iroquois and we threw him in the deep end here against seasoned horses and he was a close second.”

For the first time in four hurdle starts, Iranistan settled in the Smithwick, easing off frontrunner Personal Start (an expected scratch in the Turf Writers) and veering from his tendency to run with the choke out for 2-plus miles.

In his previous three races, he put jockey Darren Nagle on the defense. Nagle simply tried to keep him between the wings in an audacious display of speed and stamina.

“He’s really matured as the season has gone on, he was a little wild his first couple of starts but he



Tod Marks

Show Court seeks the rare Smithwick-Turf Writers double.

seems to have settled down,” Sheppard said. “He rated nicely and moved up nicely. In retrospect, Darren thinks he should have made more use of his stamina when he jumped the last, it’s such a long run. I have a feeling if the same situation arose again, he would kick on a little sooner.”

Grade 1 winner All The Way Jose failed to impact the Smithwick, winding up fifth, beaten 21 lengths by Show Court but Sheppard is hoping Butntonwood Farm’s 8-year-old will improve.

“He’s trained very well. He needed that race a little bit, 2 1/16 is a little short for him and he prob-

ably wasn’t at his best that day,” Sheppard said. “He’s come around, he’s lost a couple of pounds in the weights and the 2 3/8 miles should suit him. Jack (Doyle) hasn’t ridden him but I think he’ll suit him.”

Show Court upset the Smithwick with a flawless performance, sitting in the middle of the seven-horse field before launching an inside move to repel Iranistan. Owned by Mark Buyck Jr., Show Court is undefeated in three hurdle starts when Mikey Mitchell rides. The British-born jockey doesn’t take a lot of credit for the skein.

“I don’t think I’m doing anything right, I’m just doing the job. The key to him is switching him off, he’s got a nice burst of speed and he enjoys Saratoga,” Mitchell said. “If you can work off the turn and have a nice turn of foot he’s got a good winning chance. Saratoga really suits him in that aspect, being a tight track and being such a short run in. I was lucky in the Smithwick, I got a nice trip, got a lot of cover and was able to make that ground up right when I needed to at the two furlong pole.”

New Member steps into open stakes for the first time. In his debut with blinkers, Armata Stable’s 7-year-old won the Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes here July 25. Willie McCarthy rides for Jack Fisher.

Overwhelming returns after finishing third in the Smithwick for Fisher and jockey Sean McDermott. Owned by Woodslane Stable, the 8-year-old son of Hard Spun won over hurdles at Saratoga and Belmont Park in 2015.

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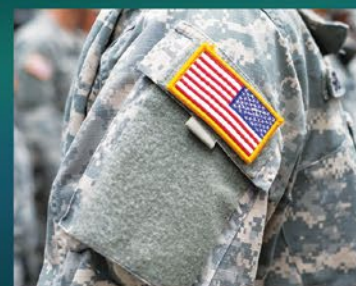
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Road Tripper

Monte Crista brings consistent record into restricted turf stakes

BY BEN GOWANS

Monte Crista didn't take the conventional route to Saratoga Race Course.

The cleverly named daughter of Cape Blanco and Aruban Sandwich made her debut on dirt at Laurel Park in March and finished seventh. Switched to the turf, she won three in a row by a combined 10 lengths.

Country Life Farm's Maryland-bred filly takes on seven Kentucky-breds, two Irish-breds, and a Virginia-bred in today's \$100,000 Riskaverse Stakes at 1 mile on the inner turf for 3-year-old fillies who have not won a stakes at 1 mile or more.

Monte Crista's most recent start – and first stakes attempt – came July 19 at Indiana Grand in the \$100,000 Ta Wee for trainer Mike Trombetta. Sent off as the 2-1 favorite in a field of 10, she gave herself a significant disadvantage after missing the break.

"It's a long way to go to not get away good and she lost a lot of ground on the turn," Trombetta said. "It certainly cost her, but she ran a good race nevertheless."

After losing so much ground early, Monte Crista made a wide rally from last around the turn and stayed on well in the stretch. She was nailed at the wire for second money and was only beaten 1 1/2 lengths. The chestnut filly shipped back to Trombetta's

RISKAVERSE STAKES PREVIEW

barn at the Fair Hill Training Center after that start and shipped to Saratoga Aug. 7.

"She's just done very well once she's gotten to grass," Trombetta said. "We brought her up here and have had time to breeze her and she worked well on the grass. Hopefully the weather cooperates and we get to run. With the 3-year-old fillies, you want to look as far ahead as you can. It being non-winners of a sweepstakes at a mile or over, it was a real good fit."

Monte Crista is stabled along with the rest of Trombetta's select Saratoga string in Barn 47 at Horse Haven on the Oklahoma Training Track. She calls the stall at the end of the shedrow – farthest from the Oklahoma track and closest to the main track – home during her stay in upstate New York.

Assistant Sarah Shaffer has been in charge of the Trombetta horses during her first summer in Saratoga and gets on every one of them in the morning. The former jockey has ridden Monte Crista since the filly came to Fair Hill over the winter.

"Her schedule has actually worked around the rain, so it hasn't slowed her down any," she said. "She's had a couple of nice breezes over on the



Sean Clancy

Monte Crista and Sarah Shaffer walk the ring at trainer Mike Trombetta's barn.

turf. She's really quiet and does everything she's supposed to do. She's very classy, not much fazes her. She just wants to do her job."

Monte Crista breezed over the Oklahoma turf course Aug. 16 and was the fastest of 47 at the half-mile distance. Jose Ortiz rode her that morning and he's scheduled to be back on the 9-2 morning-line third choice today.

Kitten's Covergirl has shown great improvement since trainer Pat Reynolds and owner Robert Amendola claimed her at Belmont's spring meeting. Before this year, Amendola hadn't seen a runner in his silks since 2008.

"The owner came up with \$40,000. She looked like she was worth the 40, so we went ahead and took her,"

Reynolds said. "Amendola is kind of a throwback, he's old fashioned. He's not a sheet guy or anything like that. He just reads the racing form really well and likes to put horses in the right spot to win. He's been around, he has experience. It's not his first rodeo."

Kitten's Covergirl won a starter allowance in her first start for Reynolds and Amendola and then successfully stretched out in distance and moved up in class by winning a second-level allowance July 4.

"Without getting any cover, she can be difficult to rate," Reynolds said. "(David Cohen) did a really good job rating her last time. He's back on her,

Continued On Page 18

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Riskaverse —

■ Continued from page 16

he knows her. She's doing everything right, so we just have to hope we can hit the target."

The Kitten's Joy filly will be Reynolds' sixth starter of the meet and she's done well since coming to Saratoga, her trainer said.

"She's settled good. Most horses, they have the window in the back, they can look at the track," the trainer said. "They get the country atmosphere. She's not a very excitable horse. She's very well mannered and has enjoyed her time up here."

The Riskaverse features three runners who last raced in the Grade 3 Lake George Opening Day. Jorge Abreu's Goodthingstaketimed finished third, the best of the three entered today.

The Irish-bred filly raced forwardly and took the lead at the top of the stretch before tiring in the last furlong. Florent Geroux gets back on the filly for the first time since she broke her maiden.

Going Out was sixth in the Lake

George. She races with blinkers and Julien Leparoux on her back for the first time today. Chad Brown's Punked finished last in the Lake George after setting the pace. She began to weaken around the turn and had to check at the quarter pole, which led to a 28 3/4-length loss.

Brown's other entrant is Tapit Today. The daughter of Tapit was made the 3-1 morning-line favorite. She broke her maiden July 1 at Monmouth Park and followed that up with an allowance score around the same oval four weeks later.

Barclay Tagg's Ferdinanda ran well to be second in a Saratoga allowance July 28. The daughter of Giant's Causeway made a wide rally from far off the pace over yielding ground. Luis Saez has the return call. Jimmy Jerkens hopes Sweet Sting can continue his hot streak at Saratoga. The Awesome Again filly out of 2000 Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf winner Perfect Sting enters today's feature off a second in a Belmont allowance against elders.

Quaff and Madame X., along with main track only entrant Cash Out, complete the field.

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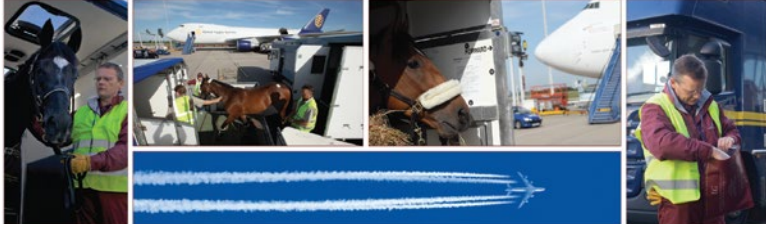
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Thursday, August 23.

1ST (1:00PM). \$175,000, STK - THE NEW YORK TURF WRITERS CUP, 4 YO'S & UP, 2 3/8M (HURDLE)
 Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....Overwhelming.....	S. McDermott.....	J. Fisher.....	15-1
2	.....2	.....Optimus Prime (FR).....	R. Geraghty.....	R. Hendriks.....	9-2
3	.....3	.....Iranistan.....	D. Nagle.....	J. Sheppard.....	3-1
4	.....4	.....Show Court (IRE).....	M. Mitchell.....	A. Kingsley, Jr.....	4-1
5	.....5	.....The Game Changer (IRE).....	M. Enright.....	G. Elliott.....	10-1
6	.....6	.....New Member (IRE).....	W. McCarthy.....	J. Fisher.....	15-1
7	.....7	.....All the Way Jose.....	J. Doyle.....	J. Sheppard.....	20-1
8	.....8	.....Personal Start.....	B. Foley.....	R. Valentine.....	15-1
9	.....9	.....Clarcam (FR).....	D. Russell.....	G. Elliott.....	2-1

2ND (1:33PM). \$90,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 1/8M

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

1	.....1	.....Miss Mimosa.....	J. Alvarado.....	W. Mott.....	7-5
2	.....2	.....Tigalalu.....	J. Lezcano.....	M. Hennig.....	9-2
3	.....3	.....War Value.....	M. Franco.....	T. Pletcher.....	5-2
4	.....4	.....Stormy's Song.....	J. Ortiz.....	B. Lynch.....	6-1
5	.....5	.....Untaken.....	D. Davis.....	C. Caiazzo.....	10-1

3RD (2:06PM). \$50,000, MCL \$50,000, 2 YO, 6F

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

1	.....1	.....Handsome Chewy.....	M. Franco.....	M. Vitali.....	8-1
2	.....2	.....The Sicarii.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	A. Quartarolo.....	4-1
3	.....3	.....Cadillac Frankie.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Rodriguez.....	8-5
4	.....4	.....Mac's Revolution.....	L. Reyes.....	E. Barker.....	12-1
5	.....5	.....Foremost.....	D. Cohen.....	D. Lukas.....	10-1
6	.....6	.....Not That Brady.....	K. Carmouche.....	G. Weaver.....	2-1
7	.....7	.....Family Biz.....	J. Alvarado.....	E. Barker.....	10-1

4TH (2:40PM). \$64,000, CLM \$40,000, 3 YO, F , 1M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....1	.....Sheputaspellonme.....	M. Franco.....	B. Lynch.....	4-1
2	.....2	.....Rosebud's Hope.....	J. Bravo.....	M. Stidham.....	2-1
3	.....3	.....Theodosia.....	J. Rosario.....	G. DiPrima.....	8-5
4	.....MTO	.....Solitary Gem.....	Rider TBA.....	L. Gyarmati.....	8-1
5	.....MTO	.....Salty Smile.....	J. Rosario.....	J. Toscano, Jr.....	3-1
6	.....6	.....Hogans Holiday.....	F. Geroux.....	T. Amoss.....	9-2
7	.....7	.....Overbook.....	L. Saez.....	J. Toscano, Jr.....	12-1
8	.....8	.....Pure Magic.....	K. Carmouche.....	D. Ryan.....	8-1

5TH (3:14PM). \$75,000, MSW, 2 YO, 1 1/16M (TURF)

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

1	.....1	.....Graded On a Curve.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	C. Brown.....	2-1
2	.....2	.....Durkin's Call.....	J. Lezcano.....	M. Trombetta.....	15-1
3	.....3	.....Good Wheels.....	J. Velazquez.....	T. Pletcher.....	4-1
4	.....4	.....Coach Villa.....	J. Bravo.....	N. Zito.....	20-1
5	.....5	.....Dashing Dan.....	K. Carmouche.....	M. Dilger.....	10-1
6	.....6	.....Tiger Man.....	E. Cancel.....	R. Cash.....	20-1
7	.....7	.....Quiet Out East.....	M. Franco.....	C. Clement.....	5-1
8	.....8	.....Scotty Brown.....	L. Saez.....	J. Terranova II.....	10-1
9	.....9	.....Early Retirement.....	J. Ortiz.....	D. Donk.....	6-1
10	.....10	.....Pipes.....	J. Rosario.....	G. Contessa.....	8-1
11	.....AE	.....Lost in Manhattan.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	S. Asmussen.....	8-1
12	.....MTO	.....Woodbury.....	Rider TBA.....	R. Rodriguez.....	5-2

6TH (3:48PM). \$41,000, MCL \$30,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

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

1	.....1	.....Construct.....	J. Velazquez.....	T. Pletcher.....	6-1
2	.....2	.....Mr. Macfadden.....	J. Ortiz.....	K. McPeck.....	12-1
3	.....3	.....Buster Brown Boy.....	P. Fragoso.....	L. Gyarmati.....	30-1
4	.....4	.....Royal Edition.....	L. Saez.....	D. Lukas.....	5-1
5	.....5	.....Expert.....	D. Cohen.....	P. Reynolds.....	4-1
6	.....6	.....Won't Burn.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	J. Englehart.....	12-1
7	.....7	.....Sacred Walk.....	J. Leparoux.....	D. Stewart.....	6-1
8	.....8	.....Our Honor.....	J. Castellano.....	C. Brown.....	6-5

7TH (4:24PM). \$57,000, STR \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	.....5	.....Samara.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	J. Servis.....	6-5
1a	.....10	.....Hoponthebusgus.....	M. Franco.....	R. Rodriguez.....	6-5
2	.....1	.....Diamond Jen Brady.....	J. Leparoux.....	M. Hennig.....	6-1
3	.....MTO	.....Leah's Dream.....	Rider TBA.....	C. Englehart.....	3-1
4	.....3	.....Souper Echo.....	J. Ortiz.....	M. Trombetta.....	8-1
5	.....MTO	.....Maho Bay.....	L. Saez.....	J. Sharp.....	9-5
6	.....6	.....Dream Passage.....	J. Rosario.....	B. Cox.....	3-1
7	.....7	.....Awesome Quick.....	K. Carmouche.....	M. Miceli.....	9-2
8	.....8	.....Alexandra Kay.....	J. Lezcano.....	K. Rice.....	20-1
9	.....9	.....Angel Food.....	D. Davis.....	L. Gyarmati.....	15-1
10	.....11	.....Blushing Justine.....	P. Fragoso.....	C. Martin.....	30-1

8TH (5:02PM). \$32,000, CLM \$16,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....Foolish Ghost.....	M. Luzzi.....	B. Brown.....	20-1
2	.....2	.....D'yer Mak'er.....	J. Lezcano.....	N. Zito.....	5-1
3	.....3	.....Carmine's Honor.....	J. Rosario.....	G. Contessa.....	12-1
4	.....4	.....Bronze Age.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	R. Moquett.....	7-2
5	.....5	.....Zenato.....	L. Saez.....	H. Bond.....	6-1
6	.....6	.....Go Big Or Go Home.....	D. Cohen.....	G. Gullo.....	6-1
7	.....7	.....Candybankando.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	G. Sacco.....	4-1
8	.....8	.....Shanghai Schwartz.....	J. Castellano.....	C. Brown.....	5-2

9TH (5:40PM). \$100,000, STK - THE RISKVERSE, 3 YO, F , 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....Quaff.....	J. Velazquez.....	R. Ribaldo.....	20-1
2	.....2	.....Madame X.....	V. Carrasco.....	S. Cooney.....	20-1
3	.....MTO	.....Cash Out.....	Rider TBA.....	G. Arnold, II.....	8-5
4	.....4	.....Tapit Today.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	C. Brown.....	3-1
5	.....5	.....Monte Crista.....	J. Ortiz.....	M. Trombetta.....	9-2
6	.....6	.....Ferdinanda.....	L. Saez.....	B. Tagg.....	8-1
7	.....7	.....Punked (IRE).....	J. Castellano.....	C. Brown.....	8-1
8	.....8	.....Sweet Sting.....	M. Franco.....	J. Jerkens.....	5-1
9	.....9	.....Goodthingstaketime (IRE).....	F. Geroux.....	J. Abreu.....	7-2
10	.....10	.....Kitten's Covergirl.....	D. Cohen.....	P. Reynolds.....	10-1
11	.....11	.....Going Out.....	J. Leparoux.....	M. Matz.....	15-1

10TH (6:17PM). \$85,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	.....1	.....Shiny Copper Penny.....	P. Fragoso.....	D. Seyler.....	30-1
2	.....2	.....Fixed Point.....	J. Lezcano.....	P. Serpe.....	15-1
3	.....3	.....Shadesofbrilliance.....	K. Carmouche.....	E. Long.....	30-1
4	.....4	.....Measure Twice.....	L. Saez.....	W. Ward.....	4-1
5	.....5	.....Identity Politics.....	J. Ortiz.....	C. Brown.....	2-1
6	.....6	.....Lonhtwist.....	L. Reyes.....	L. O'Brien.....	6-1
7	.....7	.....Siena Magic.....	J. Velazquez.....	T. Pletcher.....	5-1
8	.....8	.....Grandmas Favorite.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	W. Ward.....	6-1
99Showcase Mall.....	J. Alvarado.....	L. Rice.....	8-1
1010Point of Humor.....	M. Franco.....	B. Lynch.....	15-1

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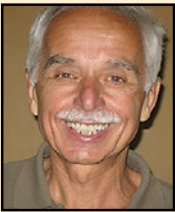











WINNER'S CIRCLE BEER

the
Power
grid

Race #	 John Shapazian	 Charles Bedard	 Tom Law	 Donald Phillips	 Richard Hutchinson
1	Iranistan Show Court Optimus Prime	Iranistan Show Court All The Way Jose	Iranistan Show Court Clarcam	Iranistan Show Court New Member	Iranistan All The Way Jose
2	War Value Miss Mimosa Tigalalu	Miss Mimosa Tigalalu War Value	Miss Mimosa War Value Stormy's Song	Miss Mimosa Stormy's Song Untaken	War Value Miss Mimosa Stormy's Song
3	Cadillac Frankie Not That Brady The Sicarii	The Sicarii Not That Brady Cadillac Frankie	Not That Brady Cadillac Frankie Foremost	The Sicarii Not That Brady Cadillac Frankie	Handsome Chewy Cadillac Frankie The Sicarii
4	Salty Smile Theodosia Rosebud's Hope	Salty Smile Rosebud's Hope Theodosia	Rosebud's Hope Pure Magic Sheputaspellonme	Theodosia Sheputaspellonme Hogans Holiday	Rosebud's Hope Sheputaspellonme Hogans Holiday
5	Woodbury Graded On A Curve Good Wheels	Woodbury Pipes Quiet Out East	Graded On A Curve Good Wheels Quiet Out East	Good Wheels Dashing Dan Graded On A Curve	Graded On A Curve Good Wheels Early Retirement
6	Our Honor Expert Royal Edition	Our Honor Expert Sacred Walk	Our Honor Won't Burn Mr. Macfadden	Our Honor Expert Sacred Walk	Our Honor Construct Royal Edition
7	Maho Bay Samara Dream Passage	Leah's Dream Dubb entry Diamond Jen Brady	Dream Passage Samara Souper Echo	Hoponthebusgus Dream Passage Awesome Quick	Samara Dream Passage Souper Echo
8	Shanghai Schwartz Bronze Age Candymankando	Shanghai Schwartz Bronze Age Foolish Ghost	Bronze Age Shanghai Schwartz Candymankando	Bronze Age Go Big Or Go Home Candymankand	Bronze Age Shanghai Schwartz Candymankando
9	Cash Out Tapit Today Monte Crista	Cash Out Tapit Today Goodthingstaketime	Goodthingstaketime Tapit Today Sweet Sting	Monte Crista Sweet Sting Goodthingstaketime	Monte Crista Goodthingstaketime Tapit Today
10	Identity Politics Measure Twice Siena Magic	Identity Politics Siena Magic Showcase Mall	Identity Politics Grandmas Favorite Siena Magic	Measure Twice Grandmas Favorite Identity Politics	Identity Politics Showcase Mall Grandmas Favorite
2018 Records	85/286	64/286	64/286	51/286	41/209*

Our fifth handicapper will be a special guest each day.

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 board member of the National Steeplechase Association in the U.S., Hutchinson has attended races at more than 350 tracks around the globe. Sunday, John Fahey picked three winners.

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

Top Guest Handicapper for 2018: Jesse Ullery with four wins.

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Dialed In

Focus Group gets up in time in turf marathon

BY BRANDON VALVO

Chad Brown stood on the edge of the track outside the winner's circle after the John's Call Stakes Wednesday at Saratoga Race Course. Focus Group circled to the left and Call Provision to the right. Closer to Brown, riders Jose Ortiz and Irad Ortiz, Jr. stood in matching Klaravich Stable silks, hands on their hips. They all stared at the infield board.

Brown watched as the inquiry replay looped on the screen. Focus Group won the \$100,000 turf stakes by a nose over his stablemate, but Call Provision drifted out and fouled fourth-place finisher Patterson Cross. Quickly, Brown settled the matter in his mind.

"We're going to be OK," he told the jockeys as they headed to weigh in and take a call from the stewards.

Brown went to Focus Group just outside the winner's circle entrance, paused and watched the replay again. Satisfied, he went over to Call Provision by the finish line and directed that the tack be removed. He knew Focus Group would retain his victory. He also knew Call Provision would be disqualified and placed behind Patterson Cross.

"Not after I saw the head on the first time," Brown said when asked if he was concerned about both horses being disqualified. "Jose kept his path. Unfortunately, Irad's horse shied from the whip late in the stretch and came out several paths. Just unfortunate."

Although denied the stakes exacta, Brown tightened his stranglehold on the trainer standings with



Tod Marks
Junior Alvarado takes up on Patterson Cross (left) as Focus Group (yellow saddle towel) and Call Provision battle.

32 wins from 107 starts with another 35 seconds and thirds. Brown teamed with Seth Klarman's Klaravich Stable for nine of those victories and with the partnership of Klaravich Stable and Bill Lawrence for another six, including Focus Group's John's Call success.

"What a sweat, what a sweat, what a sweat," Lawrence exclaimed as he embraced his family after the long inquiry. "It felt like a long time to me, but as long as it ends up well, it's fine. I'd rather have both horses stay up one and two, but happy that we have the win. Both horses ran really good today and both are nice horses."

"Saratoga is where all of us want to win," Lawrence said. "More importantly than that, it's just our horses are running good. We've had a lot of success the last few years at Saratoga. It's been good for us, good for (Chad) and it's been a good meet. He's definitely clear for the trainers and hopefully

we'll get a little gap and win the owners."

Focus Group's path to victory in the John's Call began at the back of the pack in the 1 5/8-mile route. He raced eighth 11 1/2 lengths behind pacesetter Harlan Strong in a :24.31 quarter and made up 6 lengths in a :50.61 half before dropping back to last of 10 past 6 furlongs in 1:16.84. Meanwhile, Call Provision ran along the hedge in midfield.

After a mile in 1:43.09, Jose Ortiz found his target. He drafted behind Patterson Cross around the final turn and swung wide into the stretch. At the same time, Call Provision slid off the hedge and mounted a rally.

"I was very relaxed back there the first part of the race. Felt really strong the first time under the wire," Ortiz said. "On the backside, I was able to see who was running and who was not, so I decided to follow Patterson Cross, who I rode before

Continued On Page 23

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John's Call —

■ Continued from page 22

and think is a nice horse, and it worked out. (Chad) said you can be wide just on one turn, so I tried to save ground the first couple turns as much as I could and swing to the middle of the track on the far turn.”

Call Provision struck the lead with a sixteenth to run, but Focus Group rocketed down the middle of the track to the outside of Patterson Cross. Call Provision shifted out under a left-handed drive and squeezed Patterson Cross between the Brown runners, causing Junior Alvarado to take up. Focus Group scored by a nose over Call Provision, with Renown third and Patterson Cross fourth.

Alvarado claimed foul against both horses, and the stewards called an inquiry. They placed Call Provision fourth and moved Renown and Patterson Cross each up a position. Focus Group completed 13 furlongs in 2:43.83.

“It’s nice to have both of them and at least be running against yourself,” Lawrence said. “It really didn’t matter to me how they finished. I saw the inquiry on both of them and I realized that was a little unusual. I was cautiously hopeful. If they had taken both down, you wouldn’t be talking to me. I have a five-minute cooling period when things are bad, this might be 20 minutes. I told my wife, if they do it, I’m going to the car and I’ll be out there because as much as I’d like to keep it cool, I don’t think I’d be in a calm mood if something happens.”

Focus Group won for the fourth time in 10 starts and won his first stakes. The victory boosted the 4-year-old son of Kitten’s Joy’s earnings to \$227,940. Lawrence and Brown were confident in Focus Group, who won an allowance optional going 1 3/8 miles July 30.

“He’s been coming along really well,” Brown said. “He’s really matured this year and I’ve been waiting for the right spot to give him his stakes debut and he showed up good here.”

“Chad’s been really high before the race. Call Provision has run in some big races so far. This was the first time for Focus Group, there’s probably a little more upside on him. He’s improving,” Lawrence said. “They’re both nice horses. You have to put them in the right spot.”

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Conquest Hardcandy and Luis Saez return to the winner's circle.

Tod Marks

Sweet Score

Conquest Hardcandy returns to form with return to turf course

WEDNESDAY RACING RECAP

I felt like if she didn't show up today I'd really be scratching my head."

— Ben Gowans

Things didn't go so well for Conquest Hardcandy in her first start at Saratoga Race Course July 27. The race was moved from turf to a sloppy main track that the 4-year-old filly wanted no part of. Fast forward 26 days and Conquest Hardcandy was back on turf and back in the winner's circle.

The daughter of Candy Ride led from start to finish in Wednesday's eighth race, an allowance-optional for New York-bred fillies and mares going 1 mile on the inner turf.

"I saw some improvement in her," said winning trainer Jim Ryerson, who won his first race of the meet with his 13th starter. "We've had some issues with her relaxing, we were trying to figure out what equipment to use."

With ears pricked, Conquest Hardcandy (Luis Saez) led through an opening quarter in :24.82.

"Luis got her to relax. Two-turn turf race, that's her game," Ryerson said. "I've had a few horses like that. Big one-turn, it's kind of constant pressure. They get a little breather down the backside in the two-turn races and they run through the turns. It's a different type of race, it's a mile, but it's different type of a race one-turn mile versus a two-turn mile."

Ryerson said he wasn't sure if Conquest Hardcandy would hang on for the win at the top of the stretch.

"Not necessarily," he said. "At the sixteenth pole when she started to edge away I felt better. Nobody was running. It wasn't that she was running away but nobody was running at her."

Conquest Hardcandy, who won by a length for owner Alfonso Cammarota, made seven starts for trainer Antonio Sano at Gulfstream Park over the winter and spring. She finished second in stakes in each of her last two starts in South Florida.

"She acts like a nice filly," Ryerson said. "I've been very disappointed how she's run for me coming north.

• Richard Nicholai strolled down the clubhouse stairs and into the winner's circle after the seventh to greet Makin' Out after the 3-year-old Flat Out filly broke her maiden and provided Fortune Farm its third winner of the meet.

Makin' Out won the state-bred maiden going 6 1/2 furlongs on the main track in her second start, after a third in her debut June 14.

"It feels great. It's always a pleasure to win up here in Saratoga, we love it," said Nicholai, who also won the Grade 2 Adirondack at the meet with Sue's Fortune. "I was very excited to win the Adirondack. I bred that filly and raised her. This filly I bought as a 2-year-old in training."

Trainer Bruce Levine purchased Makin' Out for \$30,000 at the 2017 OBS June 2-year-old sale on behalf of Nicholai. She is the first foal out of the Cape Town mare Mischief Maker, a stakes winner of \$267,617.

"The mother went long and she is a Flat Out. She is a big, rangy filly," said Levine. "I told the owner that I thought we were going to have to go to about 100 and I ended up getting her for 30. He's on the phone, and he says, '130?' I said, 'No, 30.' Nobody bid on her."

Makin' Out missed her 2-year-old campaign due to some minor issues.

"She had a couple of problems," said Levine. "We turned her out over the winter, she had some ankles biting her so we just kicked her out. I brought her back in the spring and she hasn't missed a beat since then."

Jose Ortiz rode Makin' Out in her debut and again Wednesday. They

Continued On Page 25

PAVEL alone at the wire in the 2018 Stephen Foster H.-G1



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Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 24

chased the pace early and rolled to an 8 1/2-length victory.

“She really ran good,” said Levine. “She trained well and I thought she’d run better in her first start. I was really down on her. I told the owner that I thought this was a really nice horse and she’d run kind of so-so the first time. Today, she ran like I thought she’d run.”

— **Shayna Tiller**

• Chester and Mary Broman’s Mr. Buff improved off his second-place finish July 25 with a victory as the 4-5 favorite in the fifth, a state-bred optional claimer going 9 furlongs. The 4-year-old Friend Or Foe gelding won by 9 lengths under Joel Rosario.

“I was expecting him to run well, as was everyone else as he went off at 4-5,” Kimmel said. “This is a very big horse. He’s exhibited a lot of talent at times and we’ve been kind of shortening him up.

“He was having some difficulty on his lead change at the faster pace. For such a big horse I got the feeling if we

slowed the pace down and he wasn’t pressured so much, that he would carry his speed a little further. He proved today that you give him an easy pace, he’ll give you a kick that’s decent enough to prevail against this level of competition.”

Kimmel trained Friend Or Foe and his sire, Florida Derby winner Friends Lake and sees some of the former’s traits Mr. Buff.

“They’re both good size horses,” he said. “They both have a tendency to be on the nervous side so we do a lot of work with them to keep them on an even keel.”

— **David Woods**

At Fasig-Tipton’s February mixed sale in 2016, Wendy Hendriks took one look at Surprising Soul and would have started to bid back at the barn.

“I’ve got to have that horse,” she told her son Ricky, of the then 4-year-old gelding from the Hunter Valley Farm consignment. Bred by Chuck Fipke, the son of Perfect Soul was winless in five starts – four at Fort Erie and one at Oaklawn Park (the latter for a \$15,000 claiming price). Hendriks only needed to go to \$9,000 to land the Ontario-bred, who turned into a massive bargain.

Wednesday, the 6-year-old won his sixth race for Hendriks and Hendriks, commanding the pace for a mile and holding on to take the \$75,000 M.G. Walsh novice hurdle stakes by a head over No Wunder with Boss Man third. Ross Geraghty rode the winner, now 2-for-2 over jumps this year.

“Just his look, you know?” said Wendy Hendriks on what she liked at the sale. “I just saw him and liked him, right away. Also, he had a turf pedigree but he’d never run on the turf.”

Surprising Soul does have a little turf pedigree via sire Perfect Soul (whose daughter Perfect Shirl was a Grade 1 winner on turf) and dam-side relatives Midnight Watch (who won Saratoga’s Riskaverse in 2013) and some Australian winners. Further back, third dam Weekend Surprise is better known as the dam of A.P. Indy and Summer Squall.

Regardless, the Walsh winner has found a home over jumps. First, he won a \$20,000 maiden claimer on the turf at Penn National in June 2016. Over jumps that fall, he lost his first three. Last year he won three in a row to start 2017, then closed with

four losses (two at Saratoga). His trainer has been more selective this year – staying in the barn until mid-May when he won an open stakes at the Radnor meet in Pennsylvania. Right-handed and hilly, the course might not necessarily translate to Saratoga but Hendriks paid credit to some new thinking.

“He got a little break after Radnor, but we’ve been training him with the idea of running in this race,” he said. “We wanted the longer trip. I messed up a couple times last year. I’m mad at myself for the way I managed him. I ran him too many times. He needs a lot of time in between races. He really tries hard and a race takes a lot out of him. I’m fine with that. You want a horse to try. I listened, I learned from messing it up last year.”

— **Joe Clancy**



Tod Marks

Surprising Soul leaps.

Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS	1ST
Chad Brown	32
Todd Pletcher	16
Steve Asmussen	12
Bill Mott	10
Jeremiah Englehart	8
Rudy Rodriguez	8
Jason Servis	8
Shug McGaughey	7
Kiaran McLaughlin	7
Dave Donk	6
Joe Sharp	6

JOCKEYS	1ST
Irad Ortiz Jr.	40
Javier Castellano	30
Jose Ortiz	28
Manny Franco	25
Luis Saez	24
Joel Rosario	18
Ricardo Santana Jr.	18
John Velazquez	18
Junior Alvarado	17

Through Wednesday



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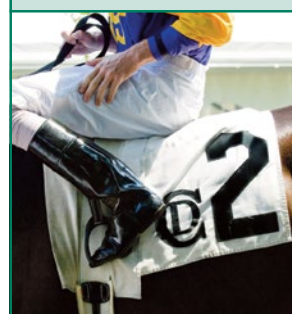
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SARATOGA RESULTS

Wednesday August 22.

FIRST \$75,000. M G. WALSH NOVICE HURDLE, 4 & UP, 2 3/8M

1	Surprising Soul	R. Geraghty	\$11.00	\$5.20	\$3.70
4	No Wunder (GB)	J. Doyle		\$5.10	\$3.10
6	Boss Man	S. McDermott			\$3.00

B G 2012, by Perfect Soul (IRE) - Elusive Surprise by Elusive Quality
Owner: Hendriks, Wendy, W.. Trainer: Richard Hendriks.

Breeder: Charles Fipke (ON).

Late Scratches: Indian Hawk (IRE)

Time: 4:40.95

Exacta (1-4), \$29.25; Superfecta (1-4-6-5), \$29.60; Trifecta (1-4-6), \$40.00

SECOND \$28,000, CLAIMING \$14,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

5	Promises Broken	J. Castellano	\$2.90	\$2.40	\$2.10
4	Caoimhe	R. Maragh		\$5.70	\$3.80
3	B Three	D. Davis			\$2.90

Ch Filly 2014, by Algorithms - Strong Vows by Broken Vow

Owner: Kenneally, Eddie and Mike Anderson Racing LLC.

Trainer: Eddie Kenneally. Breeder: Nelson McMakin (KY).

Time: 1:25.60

Daily Double (1-5), \$10.20; Exacta (5-4), \$11.10; Quinella (4-5), \$9.80; Superfecta (5-4-3-6), \$3.80; Trifecta (5-4-3), \$12.87

THIRD \$85,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 5 1/2F

9	Achilles Warrior	J. Castellano	\$7.70	\$4.70	\$3.40
2	Tapizars Secret	R. Santana, Jr.		\$7.20	\$4.60
5	Halladay	J. Velazquez			\$2.40

B Colt 2016, by Warrior's Reward - S S Pinafore by Street Sense

Owner: Merjan, David. Trainer: Mark Hennig.

Breeder: JSM Equine LLC (KY).

Late Scratches: Egoli, Party With Friends, Fake Solution, Real Money
Time: 1:04.98

Daily Double (5-9), \$9.20; Exacta (9-2), \$23.50; Superfecta (9-2-5-8), \$54.30; Trifecta (9-2-5), \$29.37; Pic 3 (1-5-9), \$75.50

FOURTH \$45,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN CLM \$40,000, 3 & UP, 1 1/8M

7	Danielle's Pride	M. Franco	\$5.40	\$2.30	\$2.10
9	Smiles From Sadie	J. Bravo		\$2.10	\$2.10
1A	Handle With Care	L. Saez			\$2.50

Gr/ro Filly 2014, by Mission Impazible - Riviera Chic by Medaglia d'Oro
Owner: Youngs Racing Stable. Trainer: David Donk.

Breeder: Twin Creeks Farm (NY).

Late Scratches: Molly's Nighthawk, Hit a Provisional, Frederica, Dancingwithdaffodils, I Like Your Style

Claimed: Smiles From Sadie claimed by Rodriguez, Rudy R. for \$40,000

Time: 1:55.04

Daily Double (9-7), \$20.50; Exacta (7-9), \$4.10; Quinella (7-9), \$1.95; Superfecta (7-9-1-8), \$2.70; Trifecta (7-9-1), \$4.30; Pic 3 (5-9-7), \$28.75

FIFTH \$80,000, NY-BRED AOC \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

4	Mr. Buff	J. Rosario	\$3.60	\$2.50	\$2.20
6	Blugrascats Smile	M. Luzzi		\$3.40	\$2.60
1A	Cause I'm Alex	D. Cohen			\$3.30

Ch Gelding 2014, by Friend Or Foe - Speightful Affair by Speightstown
Owner: Chester and Mary Broman, Sr.. Trainer: John Kimmel.

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

Late Scratches: Testosterstone, Broadway Bay

Time: 1:50.38

Daily Double (7-4), \$7.20; Exacta (4-6), \$6.70; Superfecta (4-6-1-7), \$8.82; Trifecta (4-6-1), \$9.25; Pic 3 (9-7-4), \$30.00

SIXTH \$53,000, CLAIMING \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

6	Trustworthy	R. Santana, Jr.	\$9.50	\$4.30	\$2.70
2	Business Expense	J. Ortiz		\$3.20	\$2.30
1	Admiral Blue	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$2.40

B Gelding 2014, by Smart Strike - Sweet Way by Giant's Causeway

Owner: Brewster, Clark, O.. Trainer: Steven Asmussen.

Breeder: Pam & Martin Wygod (KY). Late Scratches: Keep Quiet (FR), Super Dude, Zorzor. Time: 1:52.47

Daily Double (4-6), \$9.50; Exacta (6-2), \$15.60; Superfecta (6-2-1-5), \$8.90; Trifecta (6-2-1), \$14.25; Pic 3 (7-4-6), \$32.50; Pic 4 (9-7-3/4-6), \$103.50; Pic 5 (5-9-7-3/4-6), \$146.25

SEVENTH \$75,000, NY-BRED MDN SPECIAL WGT, 3 & UP, 6 1/2F

8	Makin' Out	J. Ortiz	\$4.50	\$2.60	\$2.30
1	Mrs. Orb	J. Bravo		\$3.20	\$2.60
9	In Denile	D. Cohen			\$3.90

B Filly 2015, by Flat Out - Mischief Maker by Cape Town

Owner: Fortune Farm (Richard Nicolai). Trainer: Bruce Levine.

Breeder: Windhorse Thoroughbreds, LLC (NY). Time: 1:17.45

Daily Double (6-8), \$10.30; Exacta (8-1), \$5.70; Superfecta (8-1-9-3), \$30.70; Trifecta (8-1-9), \$16.00; Pic 3 (4-6-8), \$28.00

EIGHTH \$80,000, NY-BRED AOC \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

4	Conquest Hardcandy	L. Saez	\$10.40	\$4.90	\$3.00
5	Vortex Road	J. Castellano		\$2.90	\$2.10
6	Driven by Speed	J. Velazquez			\$2.40

B Filly 2014, by Candy Ride (ARG) - Dade Babe by Cimarron Secret

Owner: Cammarota, Alfonso. Trainer: James Ryerson.

Breeder: The New Hill Farm LLC (NY). Late Scratches: Broken Border
Time: 1:36.76

Daily Double (8-4), \$17.10; Exacta (4-5), \$15.50; Superfecta (4-5-6-2), \$13.65; Trifecta (4-5-6), \$18.37; Consolation Double (8-1), \$2.25; Pic 3 (6-8-4), \$69.75; (6-8-1), \$10.50

NINTH \$100,000, STAKES - JOHN'S CALL S., 3 YO'S & UP, 1 5/8M

4	Focus Group	J. Ortiz	\$10.60	\$6.20	\$4.20
7	Renown (GB)	K. Carmouche		\$30.00	\$14.20
5	Patterson Cross	J. Alvarado			\$4.40

Dk B/ Br Colt 2014, by Kitten's Joy - Cocktail Hour by Dynaformer

Owner: Klaravich Stables, Inc. and Lawrence, William H..

Trainer: Chad Brown. Breeder: Dixiana Farms LLC (KY).

Late Scratches: Mr Maybe, Highland Sky, Not in Charge, Exulting, G Zap, You're to Blame, Securitized

Time: 2:43.83

Daily Double (4-4), \$40.25; Exacta (4-7), \$181.25; Superfecta (4-7-5-10), \$593.75; Trifecta (4-7-5), \$559.50; Pic 3 (8-4-4), \$115.50; (8-1-4), \$12.00; Grand Slam (1,2,3,4,6,8/1,8,9/1,4,5,6/4), \$7.40

TENTH \$50,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$50,000, 2 YO, 6F

7	Jazzy J	E. Cancel	\$27.60	\$11.40	\$6.00
3	Bel Cuore	M. Franco		\$11.20	\$7.00
4	Wild Type	J. Ortiz			\$2.90

B Filly 2016, by Shanghai Bobby - Suncadia by Tiznow

Owner: Kazdan, Alex. Trainer: Alejandro Maymo.

Breeder: Joe Mulholland Jr., John Mulholland & Karen Mulholland (KY).

Late Scratches: Brass Ring

Claimed: Wild Type claimed by Rodriguez, Rudy R. for \$50,000, Change of Control claimed by Harrison, Roddy for \$50,000

Time: 1:13.40

Daily Double (4-7), \$105.75; Exacta (7-3), \$117.00; Superfecta (7-3-4-9), \$1,017.50; Trifecta (7-3-4), \$298.00; Pic 3 (4-4-7), \$782.50; Pic 4 (8-4-4-7), \$1,694.00; Pic 5 (6-8-4-4-7), \$9,914.00; Pic 6 (3/4-6-8-4-4-7), \$390.00; Pic 6 (3/4-6-8-4-4-7), \$72,998.00

On Track Handle: 2,331,060. Inter-State Handle: 8,673,912

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Bright Lights

Trainer Davis gets 1st stakes win at Saratoga with Moonlit Garden

BY BEN GOWANS

While Moonlit Garden went through a strong warm-up under Jose Ortiz on the track before Sunday's Summer Colony Stakes at Saratoga Race Course, her trainer Chris Davis did his own version of a warm-up in the clubhouse. If he was a horse, he would have qualified as having every bad stall habit there is.

He walked around in a circle, unable to stand still. He scuffed his shoes, certainly not realizing he was doing so. He chewed on his sunglasses, not because they tasted good. He held a two-way (at least) conversation with himself.

Then the gates opened, and he started rooting.

After six calls of "come on Jose" and four "come on Momma," Moonlit Garden and Ortiz crossed the wire first to give Davis his first stakes win.

"I was just hoping she'd show up," Davis said after the race. "This track has humbled a lot of really good horses."

Moonlit Garden humbled her competition in the \$100,000 Summer Colony. Asked to be prominent out of the gate, she grabbed the lead going into the first turn of the 1 1/8-mile race. The daughter of Malibu Moon bounded along down the backstretch with her ears up, and kept going – winning by 1 1/2 lengths.

"I told Jose, 'you do what you do best. You ride Saratoga and you win races,'" Davis said. "At the three-eighths pole, start asking her because she doesn't pick up and sprint. She waits. Even when they come to her, she tries but doesn't accelerate. She just has a very high cruising speed."

Louise and Kiki Courtelis' Town and Country Farm, which gave Davis his first horses as a trainer back in 2016, owns and bred Moonlit Garden.

"You have to be confident in your ability or don't go out on your own," Davis said. "Winning my first stake ever for Town and Country means the absolute world to me."

• Jimmy Toner picked up his first win of the meet when Tap Tap Tap-

aroo, a 3-year-old filly by Tapit, won the third to break her maiden.

"Manny rode a perfect race, put her right where she was supposed to be, in the right spot, and it all worked out well," Toner said after the 5 1/2-furlong turf maiden special weight.

Like many other trainers with a stable that leans toward grass horses, Toner has been struggling with the wet weather this season.

"It's set me back a bit," he said. "I'm not saying that I would have won anymore, but training schedules get knocked out, cancellations, you know it just hasn't been a smooth run up here. Fortunately we were able to get this filly back in, because I was afraid they were going to cancel some of the turf races today and we really liked her. It is what it is and we all have to deal with it, not just me."

– David Woods

• Newspaperofrecord came up with a great lede at the top of the stretch and closed out her first start to win the fifth by 6 3/4 lengths. Chad Brown appreciated Sunday's sunny skies as his 2-year-old filly won the first open maiden special around two turns on turf since July 22.

Brown teamed up with bloodstock agent Mike Ryan to pick out yearlings at last year's Tattersalls October yearling sale in England. They bought six yearlings for Seth Klarman's Klaravich Stables and Newspaperofrecord is the first to make it to the races. The daughter of Lope De Vega brought \$278,019, highest among three fillies purchased for Klaravich.

– Ben Gowans

• Ron Moquett went looking for a confidence builder for Petrov after he finished sixth in the Grade 1 Alfred G. Vanderbilt Handicap July 28 and found it in the ninth, a 7-furlong optional claimer that still came up tougher than expected.

SUNDAY/MONDAY NOTEBOOK



Tod Marks

Moonlit Garden gallops home in Sunday's feature.

Petrov's six rivals included graded stakes winners Breaking Lucky and Favorable Outcome, graded stakes-placed runners Life In Shambles and Eight Town and strong overnight performers Behavioral Bias and Wonderful Light.

Petrov overcame the tough field, breaking on top and streaking away to earn his fifth win in 18 starts to push his bankroll to \$540,307 for owners Head Of Plains Partners, Ri-alto Racing Stable and Moquett.

"That last one, we wanted to try to see where we were and this was to re-gather ourselves and try to regain some confidence," Moquett said. "Very happy. Happy for the owners and more happy for the horse. He deserves to win and he likes to show out on this stage up here, so I was very happy for the horse."

– Brandon Valvo

Monday at Saratoga: Dig This

Jimmy Jerkens beamed as he walked into the winner's circle with his wife Shirley to meet Chester and Mary Broman and Can You Diggitt Monday at Saratoga Race Course.

The walk was something Jerkens wasn't sure he'd be able to do less than two months ago, after undergoing unexpected heart surgery that involved two stents being inserted to clear blocked arteries. It also came after the Broman's homebred Tiznow colt won the \$97,000 Evan Shipman Stakes for New York-breds.

"It got beating there for sure," Jerkens said after Can You Diggitt won by a neck over Pat On The Back.

"I'm doing good, we're on schedule with everything. I'm doing pretty much what I was doing before."

Junior Alvarado rode Can You Diggitt for the fourth consecutive start and the pair raced behind Control Group, Wine Not and Pat On The Back early through splits of :23.95, :48.44 and 1:12.48. Can You Diggitt swung wide at the top of the lane, passed Control Group outside the sixteenth pole and won under Alvarado's hand ride. They won in 1:49.93.

"He'll make a little run and then spit the bit, give himself a little breather and then he comes again," said Jerkens. "He kind of looked in a little bit and had a little bump there, maybe Junior was doing it on purpose to try to get him a little more competitive. I could tell by the momentum he had that he was going to wear them down."

Can You Diggitt finished fourth behind eventual Whitney winner Diversify and Pat On The Back in the Commentator Stakes at Belmont Park in May. Can You Diggitt's final prep for the Evan Shipman came at Saratoga Aug. 3, when he finished third in an open-company allowance going 1 1/8 miles.

"I thought this would be his best shot," said Jerkens. "He had that decent race in open company under his belt at the beginning of the meet and he's done very well since then. That's the key. If it knocks them out, that's one thing and they're not going to run as good. He seemed to really get his act together and act a little sharper after that race, which they do up here."

Continued On Page 29

Sunday/Monday —

■ Continued from page 28

In Saratoga, if horses like it, they can improve in leaps and bounds.”

Can You Diggit improved to 4-for-19 and \$373,555 in earnings for his owners and breeders. Can You Diggit's dam, the Mineshaft mare Mineralogist, was a multiple stakes winner for the Bromans who earned \$270,550. She won five of 15 starts, including the 2011 Saratoga Dew at Saratoga.

— Shayna Tiller

• The last race of the fifth week at Saratoga was full of firsts. Making his 12th start, Won't Be Missed broke his

maiden at 48-1 to give 18-year-old jockey Romero Maragh his first win at Saratoga and trainer Jimmy Ferraro his first win of the meet.

Riding his first race at Saratoga, Maragh found a spot on the rail going down the backstretch just a few lengths off the lead. Won't Be Missed and Maragh took the lead at the eighth pole and held off a late challenge from Run For Boston. They prevailed by a half-length.

Maragh is the cousin of jockey Rajiv Maragh. The young apprentice rode in his first race April 15 at Gulfstream Park and has been riding there for the summer. He won two races Sunday in South Florida.

“I rode yesterday, and I flew up last night,” Maragh said after having to deny a fan his goggles because they

actually belong to his cousin. “I came up last week on Monday and my horse got scratched the moment I landed in Albany. There's been a couple mornings where I was supposed to breeze a couple here but that didn't happen because of the inclement weather.”

Maragh had more success on his second trip to Saratoga.

“Both Rajiv and I were talking about it,” he said regarding a short trip to Saratoga. “Every night after the races, he calls and gives me feedback. I wanted to come up here and see how it felt to ride against the best jockey colony in the world.”

Ferraro complimented Maragh's ride after the race.

“He rode excellent, look at him,” he said as he pointed at the replay. “The kid was controlled and calm.”

Won't Be Missed was making his third start of the meet Monday. He was beaten 22 3/4 lengths in his prior two efforts and only had one top three finish to his credit before the win.

“He's had some bad luck and he's really never gotten his mind on his work,” Ferraro said. “He's like a big kid. He's been really feeling good, he likes it up here.”

— Ben Gowans and Shayna Tiller

Read the full Sunday and Monday recap at thisishorseracing.com

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Twenty Years

It's been 20 years since I won the New York Turf Writers Cup on Hokan for Nancy Gerry and future Hall of Famer Janet Elliot. We upset Lonesome Glory, and a three-prong attack from Jonathan Sheppard in the biggest hurdle stakes at Saratoga. Hokan paid \$28.80 in the field of seven.

I had ridden Hokan as a rogue 3-year-old flat horse for Leo O'Brien, back then, he bucked me off and kicked me on the ground, just to show me who was boss. The son of Trempolino went to Elliot's to begin a steeplechase career and the next time I sat on him was in the paddock for the 1998 New York Turf Writers Cup. He tried to buck me off in the post parade, I laughed, while clutching mane like I was on the railing of the Titanic. The race went in slow motion, everything clicked, one of the few times when I felt like I could really ride. I mean, really ride. Run as the feature on the Thursday card, the crowd clapped when we jogged back to the winner's circle. I felt like I had made it.

Twenty years.

I stop when I think about it, about that moment two decades ago. I shake my head, wistful. It's not a yearning or an oh-to-be-young-again feeling, I never yearned to ride another race after I retired. I was ready, my horses won after I was gone, I rooted for them, the door was closed. Sunday, Hall of Famer Julie Krone asked how long it took for me to get over retiring, knowing it took her a long time. I shook my head and said, "It was gone, I was ready. I never wanted to ride another race."

That's, perhaps, the difference between a flat jockey and a jump jockey. For us, when it's gone, it's gone, it's not a choice. So, no, I never wanted another opportunity to ride the Turf Writers. I never yearned for it, never wished for it. I miss it like college, a segment of my life that I enjoyed, a chapter, that's all. When I come here every summer, sure, I think about Hokan and that magical New York

It's New York Turf Writers Cup Day. Before you gloss over the 80-year-old race, before you turn the page, stop and think about the lives the race has changed, the stories it has told and the impact it's had on all of us.

Turf Writers Cup. That moment. Everybody has them and Saratoga, brings them out in all of us, just moments you remember, moments that define your career and sometimes your life. My future wife gave me her phone number here in 1989, that was a big one. Hokan, sure, that was a big one. The start of The Saratoga Special, yeah, a big one, too.

Like all of us who participate in this crazy game, horses and races mark the passage of time, the stanchions of a career, the pillars of a life. The losses, well, the losses are in there, like spikes into those stanchions. I try not to think about those, I lost a dozen Turf Writers, they registered but they're not registered.

On one hand, it seems like a short 20 years. On the other, it seems like a long 20 years. I don't recognize the jockey who rode Hokan that day. I can't relate to the kid who lost 10 pounds in a week to ride Hokan, the kid who sat patiently throughout the 2 3/8 miles before sliding out, gunning the last like it was nothing but a wave of smoke.

So, sure, it's like college, a time of my life that's gone, like, out of reach gone, like can't-fathom gone. I can't imagine taking those kinds of risks, I

can't imagine the adrenaline rush, the focus, the slowing-down-of-everything-while-everything-is-going-so-fast. I can't relate to it. I can recall it. I can remember every inch of the race, every second leading up to the race, every year I came to Saratoga leading up to when I won my biggest race here. I can remember it, but I can't relate to it.

So, yeah, it's been 20 years since I won the Turf Writers.

It's been 22 years since Keith O'Brien won the Turf Writers aboard Petroski, providing the defining moment to a stop-and-start career. That was the day O'Brien emulated his hero, his dad, winning the big one in Saratoga.

It's been 31 years since Chuck Lawrence partnered Chief Of The Clan to win the Turf Writers for everybody's mentor, Hall of Famer W. Burling Cocks. Lawrence, trainer of this year's Bowling Green winner, was just a kid from a country town trying to make it in the bright lights of Saratoga.

It's been 41 years since Joe Aitcheson Jr. won the Turf Writers for the third and final time. Aitcheson, whiplashed from a fall earlier in the meet, limped out of the jocks' room, doped up on pain pills, neck brace barely discarded, and clung on to Happy Intellectual. The 11-year-old, wearing the pink and yellow blinkers of Mrs. Ogden Phipps, couldn't see Naval Person charging and Aitcheson couldn't do anything about it, they conjured up something to win by a diminishing neck. The win centered a three-year Turf Writers streak for the dark bay son of Wolfram (and grandson of Citation). Kip Elser won the first in 1976 and Billy Martin was aboard in 1978 for Hall of Fame trainer Mikey Smithwick.

It's been 80 years since the first New York Turf Writers Cup, the one won by 9-year-old Prince Wick for Walter F. Wickes Jr. and trainer/jockey Henry Frost Jr. The purse was \$650, it took 4:00 4/5. And, surely, defined a career. And, maybe a life.

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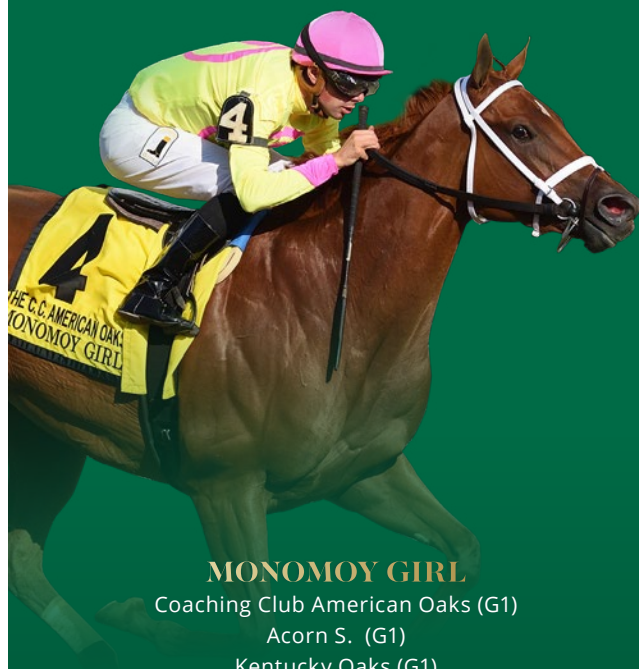
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