

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY - FREDDIE FRISSON

# FIRST SAMURAI

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Sweater Weather. Irad Ortiz Jr. pulls a few pounds (ounces?) before Thursday's first race.

### here&there...at Saratoga

### BY THE NUMBERS

- 1: Large tree limb on Norm Casse's barn after Wednesday's storm.
- 1: Utility pole being held up by a tractor in Horse Haven.
- 1: Rapping hand-stamper at the track's Union Avenue gate before the first race last Wednesday.
- **25:** Seconds it took for two middle-aged male fans to take a selfie with John Velazquez after Wednesday's ninth race. After about 20, the Hall of Famer took the phone and finally captured an image.
- **20 1/2:** Combined margins of victory (in lengths) for Barclay Tagg's three John's Call winners; Auguri by 4 1/2 in 2006, Summer Patriot by 7 3/4 in 2008, and Highland Sky by 8 1/4 Wednesday.

### NAMES OF THE DAY

**Crazy Life, second race.** Owner Bill Lawrence's 3-year-old is by Freud out of Life's A Dance.

**Newly Minted, third race.** Beach Haven Thoroughbreds' 3-year-old filly is by Central Banker out of Newbie.

**My Italian Rabbi, seventh race.** Gold Square didn't get creative with this 2-year-old filly's pedigree or anything, but it makes us laugh. Out loud. Oy, paison.

**Therapist, ninth race.** When Freud is your sire, the possibilities are endless. Bravo Oak Bluff Stable.

# We call it d'EL MAR

A golden west coast G1 double for Medaglia d'Oro.



**Cambier Parc**, a \$1.25m September yearling, wins the G1 Del Mar Oaks.



**Higher Power** becomes his sire's 24th G1 winner in the \$1m Pacific Classic.

**Golden opportunities:** yearlings just like them selling soon at Keeneland.





### WORTH REPEATING

"September 2 came early."

Trainer Jim Bond to The Special's Tom Law, after joking last week that he'd be free Closing Day for a Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour

"Three days in Arkansas, worst thing my mother ever did."

here&there...at Saratoga

Ken McPeek, continuing an almost two-decade running joke with The Special's Tom Law (if you see them ask about it)

"I got a scar where he bit me."

Trainer Barclay Tagg on the mark his last John's Call winner Summer Patriot left on his right arm

"It's a full-time job."

Todd Pletcher, when asked how he keeps the grass outside his Horse Haven barn so lush

"I think he just missed me."

Jump jockey Bernie Dalton, who missed more than two months with a broken jaw, on the turnaround of Belisarius (10th without Dalton July 25 but third with him Thursday)

"Carol wants residuals."

Racing fan Craig Peretz about Carol Maggio, whose dog Sam is featured in several promotions for The Special (the Milk Bones are on us)

"Not hurricane proof."

Trainer Jena Antonucci while fixing her barn tent Thursday morning

"It's the old one."

Owner Jimmy Riccio while sitting on The Special Thursday morning

### **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"You're right. I've been winning a lot of things with this.
I'm not shaving. I'm growing a beard."

Owner Ed Swyer, after Jonathan Sheppard credited the "Brad Pitt Shave" with bringing good luck to Turf Writers winner Winston C Thursday



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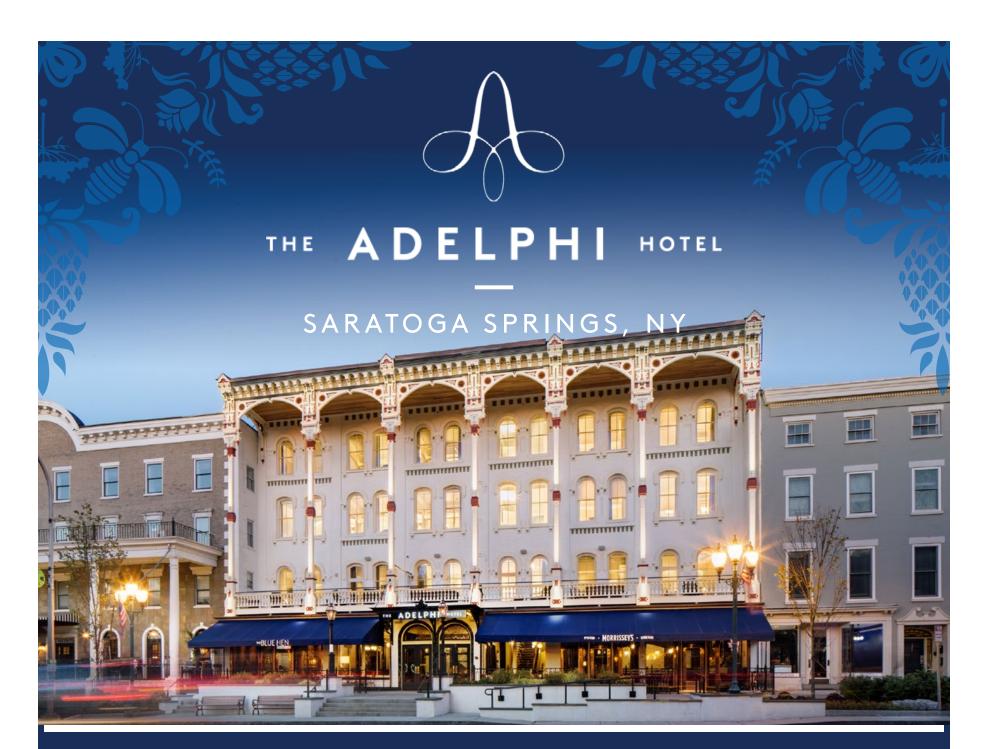
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"The first time I came to Saratoga, working, I was very excited to get up here. I pulled into town and couldn't get into my apartment yet. It was probably 11 in the morning. I pulled up to the Parting Glass and I was the only person there beside the bartender and the bartender just looked at me and went to the other end of the bar and started drawing a beer. I thought, 'Maybe they're not open yet.' He comes down, and as you know it takes about seven or eight minutes to pour a good Guinness, he pours the Guinness, brings it down, puts it in front of me and says, 'Tom, we've been waiting for you.' "





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Tod Marks

TWO Winners. Winston C and Carl Cook smile for the camera Thursday morning.

### here&there...at Saratoga

### **WORTH REPEATING**

"Oh, hey, is that a baby praying mantis?"

NYRA's Andy Serling, on live television, as a bug navigated the paddock set Thursday (may have been a grasshopper)

"They've seen a lot of horses."

Racing fan Frank Durkee, while looking at the tall old trees outside Pat Kelly's barn

### 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 Friday. 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. Wavne 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., free for members, \$10 for non-members. Books available for purchase.

### **GRAB A PAPER**

We're in the final two weeks of publishing for the 2019 season – remember we go digital-only the last week of the meet - so three more print editions this week followed by four online PDFs next week. 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.

# The TOP 10 performances of the meet

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### OSCAR PERFORMANCE

### At 2: Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1)

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The Special keeps up with the meet's best performances.

- **1. Got Stormy:** Even Fourstardave didn't do what she did.
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- 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.
- **Shancelot:** After the Amsterdam, make that Sir Shancelot.
- **Guarana:** Unbeaten filly was perfect again in CCA Oaks.
- 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 laugher.
- 10. Winston C: Swept Grade 1 jump races for Sheppard barn.

### 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 27

"So many things happen in a lifetime of horses. One filly ran off in the morning, all around the Hialeah racetrack. I ran in to scratch her, the stewards said you can't scratch, scratches just came out and you prevented somebody from getting in. I said the filly just ran off, I didn't mean for her to run off, you can ask anybody you want. They said if a vet deems it that

she shouldn't run, you can get her scratched this afternoon. She ran, she won easily. Roger Velez was on her, the bug, a maiden against non-winners-of-two. You used to do that, it was so tough to get in the maidens, Hialeah never had any maiden claimers at their middle meet. When I had one I thought was a claimer,

I ran them against winners."

- Trainer Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015



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### NOMINATE NOW!

### with Ken McPeek

Ken McPeek did his best Babe Ruth, or better yet Joe Namath, behind the desk of his office when asked what he thought of the new restricted auction races in the condition book at this year's Saratoga Race Course meeting.

"I love the auction races," McPeek said. "They're right up my alley. I'm going to win my third one today. I haven't always been given a huge budget but I know what to buy."

Flute Maker, a \$35,000 purchase at last year's 2018 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July yearling sale, delivered on McPeek's predication with a victory in Wednesday's sixth race by 11 1/2 lengths. Flute Maker gave McPeek his fourth win at the meet from 18 starters through Wednesday, three shy of last year's total bolstered by Eskimo Kisses victory in the Grade 1 Alabama.

McPeek's string is bedded down again in the Oklahoma Annex, the Saratoga string complimenting a larger contingent back home in Kentucky at Keeneland and Churchill Downs. The Saratoga group is led by Grade 1 winner Restless Rider, on the comeback trail, along with several 2-year-olds, 3-year-olds and older horses.

"It's called the big board," McPeek said, referencing the dry erase board with the names of the nearly 80 horses in his care. "I've got stacks of young horses right now and a bunch that are not quite ready yet."

McPeek, fresh from a short work trip to France where he bought some yearling fillies, sat down to talk about some of the group with The Special's Tom Law.

Restless Rider: Fern Circle Stable's and Three Chimneys Farm's Grade 1-winning filly returned to serious training this summer with the Saratoga string after 90 days off following a 12th in the Kentucky Oaks. Second in last year's Grade 1 Spinaway and winner of the Grade 1 Darley Alcibiades, 3-year-old daughter of Distorted Humor is 3-for-8 with \$892,660 in earnings. "We're going to point her toward Keeneland and probably the Raven Run. She's just getting back in a work routine now. I'd say she's 60 days away from a run. The Raven Run is a good spot for her, seven-eighths. We were hoping to make the Breeders' Cup with her but she's fine. There are definitely some other good choices. She's a great filly. After the Oaks we let her



year's total bolstered by Eskimo Kisses Ken McPeek's barn is a timeless scene (like this one from 2013).

down, gave her time to fill out a little bit. She was a little unlucky Oaks day, broke awkward, had a rough trip and not much went right. She was second in the Ashland off a long layoff, which I thought was a great race."

**Fighting Seabee:** Walking L Thoroughbreds purchased 2-year-old Summer Front colt for \$105,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July sale. He broke his maiden by 2 lengths going 1 mile on the grass at Ellis Park July 6. "He's going to run in the With Anticipation (Aug. 28). Top 2-year-old colt. He was really impressive in his first race and we're excited to try it. We think it's going to be a good fall with him."

**Morning Gold:** A \$205,000 purchase at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July yearling sale, daughter of Morning Line broke her maiden in second start here going 1 1/16 miles on the turf by 5 1/4 lengths. Owned by Albert LaRose and Greg Back, she's headed to the main track and stakes next. "She won here impressively. She's going to go to the Pocahontas at Churchill and probably follow that up with the Alcibiades at Keeneland. Those are two good spots for her."

**Cairo Cat:** Walking L's 3-year-old son of Cairo Prince broke his maiden here last year and won the Grade 3 Iroquois at Churchill in his next start before going to the sidelines. He finished third in comeback race behind Spinoff and Lone Sailor going 9 furlongs Aug. 9. "I thought his first race off the layoff was fair enough. He's probably going to run in the Smarty Jones on Labor Day or the Dueling Grounds Derby (Sept. 8). One of those two. He should handle turf, we'll see, but we're probably leaning toward Parx right now."

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

**Liberty's Pursuit:** Fern Circle's 3-year-old Curlin colt returned from freshening to finish third in 9-furlong maiden here Aug. 11. "He's a big strong colt that's taking a little time to develop, but he's on for a good fall."

Made Sense: McPeek extended quite a bit outside his usual budget, going to \$500,000, to buy 2-year-old Street Sense colt at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale. He's breezed six times on the Oklahoma, including 5-furlongs in 1:03.29 last Saturday. "He's going to run at the end of the month."

January Won: Harold Lerner's 2-year-old colt by New Year's Day, a \$45,000 buy at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July sale, won July 18 maiden special weight restricted to auction purchases of \$45,000 or less in his debut. "He's going to be pointed toward something in September, maybe the Gainesway (Farm Juvenile) at Kentucky Downs. That's at a mile. Or he could

go in the Iroquois at Churchill."

**Beyond Gone:** Another auction maiden winner at the meet, 2-year-old Can The Man colt won going 6 furlongs Aug. 14 in his second start. McPeek bought colt out of the Gone West mare And Beyond for \$40,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October sale. "He's going to go to Kentucky Downs but he'll be nominated to the Hopeful. I'm not sure if he's good enough for the Hopeful right now but we'll see."

**Crossing The Moon:** Lerner bought 2-year-old Cross Traffic ridgling for \$90,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July sale. He finished seventh in Thursday's sixth race, the rare 9-furlong juvenile maiden special weight. "He's another nice colt. He was begging for more ground so we get it at a mile and an eighth. That's the first distance 2-year-old dirt race of the season. I'm glad they got it to go, it usually doesn't. He's exciting. He's run a couple times, he needs more ground, dirt, he'd run fair races up until now."

**Impeccable Style:** A private purchase after she RNA'd for \$140,000 last fall as a yearling, 2-year-old Uncle Mo filly shows five breezes on the Oklahoma that include a half in bullet :48.64 two back. "We're real excited about her. Top filly. Really good horse."

**Snaffle:** Two-year-old Distorted Humor filly RNA'd twice after being sold to Machmer Hall as a yearling for \$105,000 at 2018 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky February mixed sale. "She's going to

**Continued On Page 9** 

### **Stable Tour —**

### **■** Continued from page 8

run at the end of the month. She's owned by Machmer Hall's Carrie Brogden and her sister Kristy Willwerth. She's going to run here."

Cardiac Kid: Fern Circle's 2-year-old American Pharoah colt out of the stakes-placed Tale Of The Cat mare New Wave cost \$230,000 in April. He's finished sixth and fifth in maiden races here July 13 and Aug. 10. "He ran well on the grass here then I tried him back sprinting and probably made a mistake doing that. He'll probably go long again and I've got him pointed to the end of the month. Expect him to improve off those first couple races."

**Princesa Carolina:** Three Chimneys Farm's homebred 3-year-old Tapit filly finished second in the Grade 3 Pucker Up at Arlington Aug. 10. She placed in two other graded stakes this season and is 2-for-10 with three seconds and \$195,299 in earnings. "She's down in Kentucky. Just second on Arlington Million Day. She's going to the Dueling Grounds Oaks (Sept. 8).

Flight Time: Five-year-old Brazilian-bred son of Put It Back, unbeaten in his native country, finished eighth in American debut in the Kentucky Downs Preview Tourist Mile at Ellis Park Aug. 4. He's owned by Peter Callahan, Gainesway Stable and Harold Lerner. "He's headed to a race Sept. 5 at Kentucky Downs. Ran once, needed the race and should improve off that effort."

Harvey Wallbanger: Winner of the Grade 2 Fasig-Tipton Holy Bull in his 3-year-old debut, he returned from a short break to finish fourth in the Ellis Park Derby Aug. 11. Owned by Lerner, AWC Stables, Scott Akman and Nehoc Stables, 3-year-old son of Congrats cost \$50,000 as a yearling at the 2017 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July sale. "We're debating where to go. He won the Holy Bull but has been off the board since. He was fourth in the Ellis Park Derby last time out. He's invited to go to Korea for a race over there (Korea Cup Sept. 8). The race is \$1 million and it will be shippers mostly. I was the first American to ever run a horse in Korea, The Truth Or Else (in the 2017 Korea Sprint). It's a pretty easy ship. The horses handle it fine. We're going to discuss that and the other option is running at Parx also in the Smarty Jones. Looks like I'm already going there with Cairo Cat. Or he could go to Kentucky Downs and try to go on the grass."

Lil Miss Hot Mess: A \$67,000 buy at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October sale, 2-year-old daughter of Race Day broke her maiden in her third start going 7 furlongs on the dirt at Ellis Park July 28. "She's headed to either the Arlington-Washington Lassie or the Kentucky Downs (Juvenile Fillies) at a mile."

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# Tod Marks

Winston C and Tom Garner head for home in the Turf Writers.

# Driving Force

### Winston C sweeps 2nd Grade 1

### **BY JOE CLANCY**

Ursula and Chris Nupp drove all the way from Malverne on Long Island to Saratoga Race Course Thursday morning to see the Grade 1 New York Turf Writers Cup steeplechase. To see history.

And did.

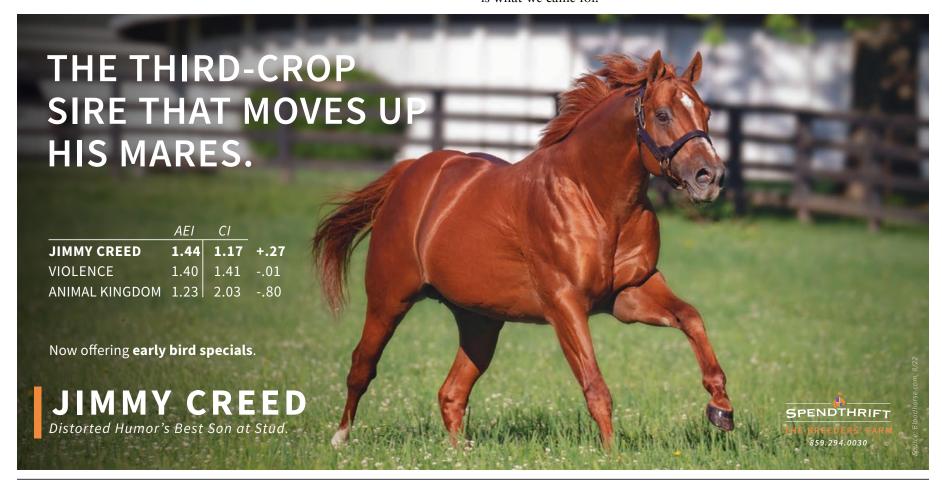
"I'm a kid, going back 40 years, my grandpa's taking me to Essex in Jersey before it was called Far Hills and Jonathan Sheppard's giving a leg up to Jerry Fishback who won everything back then, and we still love it," said Chris while standing with his wife on the first floor of the clubhouse a few minutes after Winston C gave Sheppard his 15th Turf Writers victory as a trainer. "This is tradition, this is what we came for."

### **NY TURF WRITERS CUP RECAP**

Ursula picked up the narration from there, "We boarded the cat early this morning to make the jumps race, can you believe it?" she said. "We brought the cat to the place and then started driving, Thursday morning . . . traffic . . . we made it."

Winston C and jockey Tom Garner might have had an easier time than the Nupps, charging into contention leaving the last jump on the backside and drawing off to score by 8 3/4 lengths after 2 3/8 miles in 4:38.16. Gibralfaro hung on to second by a nose over Belisarius. The winner, owned by area resident Ed Swyer who races as Hudson River Farm, collect-

**Continued On Page 12** 





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| West Point       | 3&UP    | \$150,000 | 1 1/16 (Turf)  |
| Yaddo            | F&M3&UP | \$150,000 | 1 1/16 (Turf)  |
| Funny Cide       | 2YO     | \$200,000 | 6 1/2 Furlongs |
| Seeking the Ante | F2YO    | \$200,000 | 6 1/2 Furlongs |

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NY-BREDS START WITH AN ADVANTAGE

### Turf Writers —

### **■** Continued from page 10

ed \$90,000 and ran his steeplechase record to 5-for-8 with two thirds and \$239,866. He also leaped into the picture for the steeplechase Eclipse Award as the first horse to win two Grade 1 stakes this year.

Sheppard's last champion was Divine Fortune in 2013, and the Hall of Famer won't heap the expectations on his newest star just yet.

"If we can keep the trainer from messing up we might be on to something," he said in the winner's circle Thursday. "He did that nicely and each race it just endorses what we kind of hoped for when he came in."

The Irish-bred son of Rip Van Winkle started out as a flat horse in England, winning twice, before converting to hurdles in 2018. Trained by Harry Fry, the bay gelding won three in a row this winter – a January maiden at Wincanton, a February novice at Sandown and a March handicap at Kelso.

The rapid rise earned him a try at the Aintree Festival in April and he finished fifth in a Grade 1 novice hurdle over soft ground before going on the market and selling to Swyer and Sheppard.

Five weeks after that Aintree run, Winston C made his American debut in Nashville and finished third (beaten three-quarters of a length) against novices. Since then, Winston C has learned his lessons – taking to the different American fences, adapting to Sheppard's way of doing things on the farm and simply settling in. Since 1966, the Sheppard stable has prepped steeplechasers – homebreds, American-breds, foreign-breds and flat converts. All these years later, Winston C is a bit different.

"It's a little bit of a learning experience I guess, you kind of have to study them a little bit more," Sheppard said of a new horse. "Most of our other horses are homebreds and things and we've known them every step of the way."

Winston C's development accelerated after the Nashville run, and leapt forward again between the Smithwick and the Turf Writers.

"As each race has gone by he's

**Continued On Page 14** 



Tod Marks

Ed Swyer leads Winston C and Tom Garner into the winner's circle.



# TWO John of SPEIGHTSTOWN for 2020





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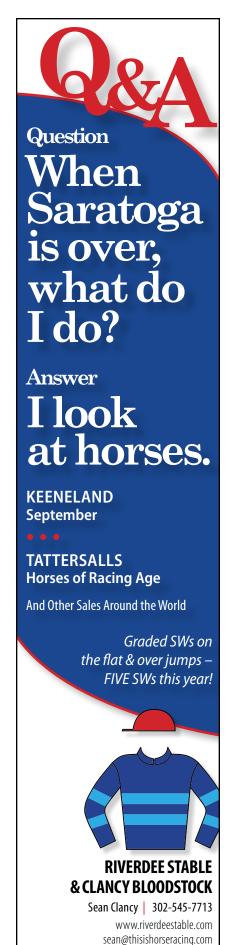
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### **Turf Writers** —

### **■** Continued from page 12

gotten more smooth over them and confident," Sheppard said of the horse's jumping. "It's very much different jumping in a race than it is at home. You can school them a lot, but they have to do it in a race to really learn what it's like."

Thursday, Winston dropped back to seventh early in a field of nine as All The Way Jose set a comfortable pace along with Gibralfaro, Peppay Le Pugh and Hinterland among the first four. With a lap to go, All The Way Jose led and Winston C drafted into fifth alongside veteran Modem at the seventh fence (in front of the stands). Modem went forward. a little, from there but Winston C drifted outside for room at the eighth and matched Hinterland's move toward the front.

Into the turn, All The Way Jose backed up and left it to Hinterland and Gibralfaro. With ease, Winston C advanced to second behind Hinterland and quickened midway on the turn to take over bending into the straight. Winston C poured it on from here and won by himself with a couple of right-handed fist pumps by Garner.

Right-handed. The left was not available, thanks to a collarbone injury in a fall at Colonial Downs Saturday.

"It's a little bit sore. I think it's the 10th time I've done my left," Garner said. "If it was the first break, I don't think I would have come back, I broke it in a different spot this time. I'm going to take the week off and hopefully come back for the novice next week. I've done Magna Wave,



Tod Marks Hall of Famer Jonathan Sheppard, after his 15th Turf Writers win.



Tod Marks

Winston C (2) jumps while in mid-pack early in Thursday's Turf Writers.

cryotherapy, the ice chamber, I've strapped it and taken loads of painkillers, had it in a sling. The doctor here had me do five press-ups Monday morning, I thought it was going to rebreak."

The effort was worth it.

"He's the nicest horse I've ever sat on, on the race-course," the jockey said of Winston C. "I spoke to (retired English jockey) Noel Fehily after the Smithwick and he said he would be competitive at Cheltenham next year."

Swyer, whose varied interests in the area include board seats with the University of Albany Foundation, the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, the National Museum of Dance, Double H Ranch and more, won a championship of a different sort this month when the Albany Empire football team captured the ArenaBowl 32 over the Philadelphia Soul Aug. 11. Swyer, a partner with George Hearst III and Dan Nolan in the football team, put Winston C's success ahead of the Empire's (by a nose).

"I was thinking about that, comparing the football and some of the other things I'm involved with," Swyer said. "They're all special, but there's nothing like winning a race especially in Saratoga. It's the history, and being here with friends, and it's so damn difficult, you know?"

Swyer called Saratoga a treasure, not just for racing but for the area.

"I believe in this community, I believe it can be more than it is," he said. "The Saratoga Performing Arts Center is incredible. It's right up there with any other one in terms of world class. There just aren't enough people here. In Albany we have the Aurora Games going – world class, the best women athletes in the world are competing in Albany right now. We're doing a lot of good things. And it's got Saratoga, the gem of North American racing."

Just like Ursula and Chris said.

Additional reporting by Sean Clancy.

### It pays to buy New York Sired New York Breds **TWO NEW STAKES OPPORTUNITIES IN 2019**

Nomination Blank For

The 35th Running of

### THE NEW YORK STALLION **SERIES**

**GREAT WHITE WAY DIVISION** \$500,000

TO BE RUN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019

FOR TWO YEARS OLD ELIGIBLE FOR THE NEW YORK STALLION STAKES.

STAKES.

Only foals by Nominated Stallions will be automatically eligible for all of the New York Stallion Stakes Series races. By subscription of \$500 each which should accompany the nomination; \$1,500 to pass the entry box and an additional \$1,500 to start. For horses not originally nominated, a supplemental payment of \$5,000 along with the entry and starting fees may be made at any time prior to the closing of entries. The purse to be divided accordingly \$250,000 to the owner of the winner, \$90,000 to the second place finisher, \$60,000 to the third place finisher, \$30,000 to the fourth place finisher, \$22,000 to the fifth place finisher, \$18,000 to the sixth place finisher, \$12,000 to the seventh place finisher, \$8,000 to the eighth place finisher, \$6,000 to the ninth place finisher and \$4,000 to the tenth place finisher, \$6,000 to the ninth place finisher and \$4,000 to the tenth place finisher, \$6,000 to the ninth place finisher and \$4,000 to the tenth place finisher. \$6,000 to the ninth place finisher are second to the stallion nominator. 123 lbs. Non-winners of a race other than maiden or claiming allowed 3 lbs.; maidens, 5 lbs. Preference to start will be determined by condition eligibility beginning with Stake winners. Ties broken by gross lifetime earnings. Starters to be named through the entry box at the closing time of entries. A trophy will be presented to the winning owner.

SEVEN FURLONGS

Nominations Close Saturday, November 30, 2019

Nomination Blank For

The 35th Running of

### THE NEW YORK STALLION **SERIES**

THE FIFTH AVENUE DIVISION

\$500,000

TO BE RUN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019

FOR FILLIES TWO YEARS OLD ELIGIBLE FOR THE NEW YORK STALLION STAKES.

STALLION STAKES.

Only foals by Nominated Stallions will be automatically eligible for all of the New York Stallion Stakes Series races. By subscription of \$500 each which should accompany the nomination; \$1,500 to pass the entry box and an additional \$1,500 to start. For horses not originally nominated, a supplemental payment of \$5,000 along with the entry and starting fees may be made at any time prior to the closing of entries. The purse to be divided accordingly \$250,000 to the owner of the winner, \$90,000 to the second place finisher, \$6,000 to the firth place finisher, \$30,000 to the fourth place finisher, \$22,000 to the fifth place finisher, \$18,000 to the sixth place finisher, \$12,000 to the seventh place finisher, \$8,000 to the eighth place finisher, \$6,000 to the ninth place finisher and \$4,000 to the tenth place finisher. 5% of purses won to be awarded to the stallion nominator. 123 lbs. Non-winners of a race other than maiden or claiming allowed 3 lbs.; maidens, 5 lbs. Preference to start will be determined by condition eligibility beginning with Stake winners. Ties broken by gross lifetime earnings. Starters to be named through the entry box at the closing time of entries. A trophy will be presented to the winning owner.

**SEVEN FURLONGS** 

Nominations Close Saturday, November 30, 2019

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- RNAs are eligible as long as the final bid was 45k or less in most recent sale
- The horse must have been sold or RNA not met through a Society of International Thoroughbred Auctions (SITA) recognized sale. (Example: Keeneland, Fasig-Tipton, OBS etc.)
- All prices will be verified through the Bloodhorse or sales company records



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: Racing Office (718) 659-XXXX

The New York Racing Association, Inc. Saratoga Race Course - Saratoga Springs, NY • Belmont Park - Elmont, NY

David O'Rourke, CEO and President • Martin Panza, SVP of Racing Operations



# Proper Offer

Catch A Bid improves to 2-for-3 with narrow score in turf stakes

### BY BRANDON VALVO

When Catch A Bid entered Chad Brown's care a few months after the 2017 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky fall yearling sale, she made a good first impression. By Real Solution, Brown saw a striking resemblance to the sire.

"She looked just like him," Brown said.

Campaigned by Brown for Ken and Sarah Ramsey, Real Solution won the Grade 1 Arlington Million in 2013 and the Grade 1 Manhattan in 2014. The son of Kitten's Joy retired with five wins in 15 starts and earnings of \$1,374,175. Naturally, Brown sought out his progeny.

"We were looking for a Real Solution," Brown said. "He's a horse I have a lot of respect for. He was a really top-quality horse for us. I was

### **RISKAVERSE STAKES RECAP**

looking for some offspring by him and indicated that to Mike (Ryan). Mike found this filly and bought her and it's been a great decision."

Ryan paid \$30,000 for the filly out of the Elusive Quality mare Elusive Champagne. Although Catch A Bid took her time getting to the races, after winning Thursday's \$100,000 Riskaverse Stakes, the buy looked like a bargain.

Brown had Catch A Bid primed to run at 2, but a setback forced her to the sidelines. She returned this year at 3 to win a 1-mile maiden special by 4 1/2 lengths at Belmont Park June 6. Last out, Catch A Bid finished second in a 1 1/16-mile Saratoga allowance

**Continued On Page 18** 



Catch A Bid (center) and Dalika (right) extend themselves toward the finish.



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### Riskaverse —

### **■** Continued from page 16

July 14, losing by a neck to the Graham Motion-trained Varenka, who came back to dead heat with Brown's Regal Glory in the Grade 2 Lake Placid Aug. 17.

"She was about ready to run in the fall of her 2-year-old year and had a minor injury. We had to stop on her. We gave her plenty of time and she came back nice and sound," Brown said. "She trained like she was going to run well (before her debut), and she delivered.

"She ran into a really good filly. In hindsight, that's a really good filly, Varenka. Maybe a mile-and-a-sixteenth might be stretching it for her."

Varenka entered but scratched from the Riskaverse, ineligible for the restricted event open to 3-year-old fillies which have not won a sweep-stakes at a mile or more. Peaceful, Ionic and main track-only entrant Queen Of Beas joined as non-runners after Thursday's feature was to be contested over yielding ground. Catch A Bid looked best on paper and bettors hammered her to odds-on.

Catch A Bid tracked from fourth along the fence throughout the 1-mile Riskaverse as longshot Dalika set a reasonable tempo. Kept inside by All Quality and Xanthique rounding the far turn, Irad Ortiz stood statuesque on Catch A Bid until the top of the stretch.

Turning for home, All Quality began to backpedal and Ortiz saw an opening. He smacked Catch A Bid on her right shoulder and yanked on the right rein, edging out in front of All Quality to take aim at the pace-setter. Dalika persisted along the rail, but Catch A Bid put her head down and inched closer. Catch A Bid stuck a nose in front four strides from the finish and won by a head.

Now 2-for-3 with \$122,900 earned, Catch A Bid is the second highest earning offspring of Real Solution to date following Sister Peacock. Ken and Sarah Ramsey bred and consigned Catch A Bid and she is owned by Seth Klarman's Klaravich Stable. Ortiz was aboard Catch A Bid for the first time in the Riskaverse after Javier Castellano rode in her first two races.

Following the Riskaverse, Brown felt he had a better grasp on Catch A Bid's preferred distance and will target the \$200,000 Pebbles Stakes at Belmont Sept. 14.

"She got a great trip, Irad rode her beautifully and she had a good closing kick," Brown said. "She's a very consistent horse. All three of her starts so far have been terrific. Probably the Pebbles, keep her at a mile. I like that move."



Catch A Bid keeps an eye on everyone in the winner's circle.

Tod Marks

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# Derby Dreams

### Oxley pair 1-3 in 9-furlong maiden

Thursday's sixth race at Saratoga Race Course was a 1 1/8-mile maiden special weight for 2-year-olds on dirt. Yes, a scheduled two-turn dirt maiden for juveniles. August 28, 2013 marked the last time the condition was written and filled when eventual Belmont Stakes runner-up Commissioner broke his maiden.

No stranger to Triple Crown Success, owner John Oxley was in Saratoga to watch two of his well-bred colts race Thursday and was just a neck short of having the exacta. Oxley won the 2001 Kentucky Derby with Monarchos and is always searching for prospects potentially suited to the classics.

"That's definitely a primary objective," Oxley said. "That's also pretty hard to deliver on. You've got to have exposure. I try to give as much exposure as possible, that means you've got to buy good prospects. I'm

### THURSDAY RACING RECAP

a player, I've been around a while and I know you've got to be in them to win them."

Racing for the fourth time, Oxley's Enforceable defeated Mo And Go and stablemate Lucky Curlin to break his maiden by three-quarters of a length. The son of Tapit features one of the more fashionable pedigrees of any American 2-year-old. Out of Grade 2 winner Justwhistledixie, the gray colt is a full-brother to one-time Kentucky Derby future-book favorite and four-time Grade 2 winner Mohaymen and also a half-brother to Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner New Year's Day.

Mark Casse trains both colts for Oxley and was part of the team that purchased Enforceable when he did not meet his reserve after going through the ring for \$775,000 at last



Tod Marks

Enforceable defeats Mo And Go (right) and Lucky Curlin to break his maiden in the sixth.

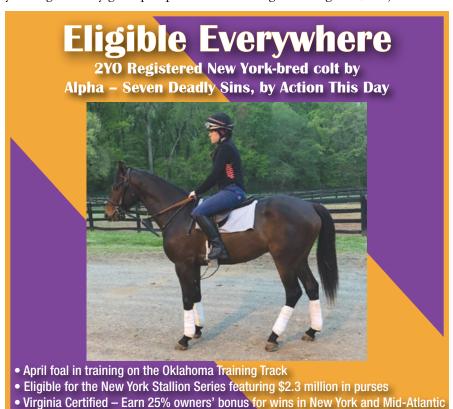
year's Keeneland September yearling sale.

"I couldn't rate one higher than the other before the race, we liked them both and Mark couldn't pick one either," Oxley said. "Tyler (Gaffalione), he had his pick, and he picked (Lucky) Curlin. He was gaining at the end. My winner is more experienced,

so that helped."

Enforceable got blinkers and the services of jockey Jose Ortiz for the first time Thursday. He always traveled well during the race and edged clear from runner-up Mo And Go late in the stretch.

Third in a 6-furlong maiden here Continued On Page 22



• Virginia Restricted Races • Breeders' Cup nominated

Contact Louis P. Ferrari, breeder and owner

Maiden Allowance Auction Races and Open Company Owner Awards



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### Thursday Recap —

### **■** Continued from page 20

July 21, Oxley's second-generation homebred Lucky Curlin finished third behind his stablemate Thursday.

"You're going to see more of our homebreds," Oxley said. "That's one of our objectives now, get to graded stakes with some homebreds."

- Ben Gowans

• Dark Storm provided Bona Venture Stables with its first win of the meet in the nightcap. The 3-year-old was entered main track only by trainer George Weaver in the \$65,000 maiden claimer and drew in when the race was moved off the turf.

"We got hurt early in the meet. We had three horses scratched out of turf races when they went off," said Dan Collins, founder of Bona Venture. "As the old line goes, yesterday I was doing the rain dance, hoping it would keep going so that we would get a chance to run."

Dark Storm did get a chance to run and broke his maiden by 1 3/4 lengths in the 1 1/8-mile race. Collins credit Ocala-based horseman Steve Venosa and Weaver for identifying Dark Storm at the OBS April 2-year-olds in training sale.

"He and George spotted this horse and thought he would be a real value buy. We took that shot and bought him," Collins said. "He didn't run quite so well the first couple of times but I think he has learned the game now."

Eric Cancel rode the 3-year-old to a third July 19 and was aboard again Thursday.

Being from the Saratoga area, Collins thoroughly enjoys the experience of owning a Saratoga winner.

"What makes it special to win here for me is I grew up here," Collins said. "My first job was at The Saratogian as a newspaper reporter 45 years ago so coming back here and knowing that I used to come out here and just watch the races and now I'm an owner, it's pretty satisfying."

Ben Gowans

• Larry Collmus called Nasty Affair's break from the gate 'awkward' at the start of the seventh, but trainer Linda Rice didn't give up on the Liaison filly. She hadn't given up when the filly showed similar poor starts in the morning or in her debut July 28 at Saratoga.

"She's been very tough with educating her," said Rice.

The work paid off when Nasty Affair recovered from her hesitant start to win the off-the-turf 7-furlong maiden for New York-bred fillies and mares. She ran down The Great Johanna to win by a nose, rallying on the outside under Irad Ortiz Jr.

Jack Liebau Sr. bought the filly for \$95,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern fall yearling sale in 2017 and couldn't resist the temptation to name her Nasty Affair.



Tod Marks

Wicked Title (right) prevails over Raggedy Annie (center) and Project Whiskey.



Tod Marks

### Nasty Affair comes back under Irad Ortiz Jr.

"The owner named her, I love it," said Rice. "She's by Liaison. I've trained for them for a quite a few years, about 15 years."

### - Catherine Galbraith

• Chad Summers knew that when pressed, Wicked Title would meet the challenge. She did just that to break her maiden in the fifth, winning a three-way photo by a nose over Raggedy Annie with Project Whiskey another nose back in third.

"She's a fighter," said Summers.
"The one thing I told Joel (Rosario) is when she gets into a dog-fight, she's going to keep going. That's her thing. She's a really nice filly and we've always been high on her."

Owned by the trainer, M. Scott Summers and Jay Oringer, the daughter of Wicked Strong caught Summers' eye and he bought her for \$25,000 at the OBS April sale. That price made her eligible for the conditions of the restricted maiden race for horses purchased or RNA'd at their most recent auction for \$45,000 or less.

"We had heard they were going to have these auction races," Summers said. "We were at the April sale and I loved her right away. She was the one that I felt like I needed to have. I looked at every horse in the sale and she was the one I walked away with. I loved her."

Finishing eighth in a turf race moved to the dirt as a first-time starter July 31, Summers decided not to scratch when the fifth went to the main track. Wicked Title worked 3 furlongs in :37.33 on the dirt July 19, giving Summers confidence.

"I was happy everything came to fruition," said the trainer. "The first start we really liked her on the grass. We just had some bad luck. We didn't get in the first time, it got rained off the second time and we almost scratched this morning. I had her entered for Saturday in a maiden 75 and the race didn't go. We decided to take a shot, last time to run at Saratoga."

### - Catherine Galbraith

• Trainer Tom Albertrani met Beau Belle outside the winner's circle after her 2-length win under Luis Saez in the third and liked what he saw.

"You don't want to see them too knocked out," said Albertrani. "It's nice to see them have that energy on the way home."

Continued On Page 23

### Thursday Recap

### ■ Continued from page 22

Mark Anderson's 4-year-old daughter of Giant's Causeway won Thursday off her maiden-breaking win on yielding turf here July 26 in her 15th start. Heavy rain Wednesday left the Mellon turf course yielding ideal for Beau Belle – and she boosted her earnings to \$222,165 with the

"Sometimes that's all they need," Albertrani said. "This filly is actually a half sister to the mother of Sadler's Joy, Dynaire. They're somewhat related. Sadler's Joy was the same way. It took him six times before he broke his maiden. Maybe it's the same thing with her, finally it's all it takes and then that gets going forward. She gets over the ground good on that soft turf."

Albertrani planned to run Beau Belle back at Monmouth after her first Saratoga win, entering her in Saturday's Unbridled Essence Stakes, but chose to stay in New York. Beau Belle finished fourth in the Zagora Stakes last October at Belmont and ninth in the La Prevoyante in December at Gulfstream, both times as a maiden, and may find herself in stakes company again.

"She tried in a couple, but now she's doing well," Albertrani said. "She's got two races back-to-back now. She's going forward. Now's the time to try her back in a little stake."

- Catherine Galbraith



Tod Marks Mark Casse smiles after the sixth.

### **Saratoga Leaders**

| TRAINERS  | 1ST                                    |
|---|--|
| Chad Brown  | 27                                     |
| Todd Pletcher   |  |
| Christophe Clement  | 10                                     |
| Jeremiah Englehart  | 10                                     |
| Steve Asmussen  | 9                                      |
| Danny Gargan  | 9                                      |
| Bill Mott   | 9                                      |
| Jason Servis  | 9                                      |
| Mark Casse  |  |
| Graham Motion   | 8                                      |
| Linda Rice  | 8                                      |
|   |  |
|   |  |
| JOCKEYS   | 1ST                                    |
| JOCKEYS   |  |
| Jockeys   | 48                                     |
| Jose Ortiz  | 48<br>39                               |
| Jose Ortiz  | 48<br>39<br>29<br>28                   |
| Jose OrtizIrad Ortiz Jr   | 48<br>39<br>29<br>28                   |
| Jose Ortiz  | 48<br>39<br>29<br>28                   |
| Jose Ortiz  | 48<br>39<br>29<br>28<br>24             |
| Jose Ortiz Irad Ortiz Jr. Javier Castellano Luis Saez Joel Rosario Junior Alvarado Jose Lezcano Manny Franco                      | 48<br>39<br>29<br>24<br>18<br>14       |
| Jose Ortiz Irad Ortiz Jr. Javier Castellano Luis Saez. Joel Rosario Junior Alvarado Jose Lezcano Manny Franco Ricardo Santana Jr. | 48<br>39<br>29<br>24<br>18<br>18<br>14 |
| Jose Ortiz Irad Ortiz Jr. Javier Castellano Luis Saez Joel Rosario Junior Alvarado Jose Lezcano Manny Franco                      | 48<br>39<br>29<br>24<br>18<br>18<br>14 |
| Jose Ortiz Irad Ortiz Jr. Javier Castellano Luis Saez. Joel Rosario Junior Alvarado Jose Lezcano Manny Franco Ricardo Santana Jr. | 48<br>39<br>29<br>24<br>18<br>18<br>14 |

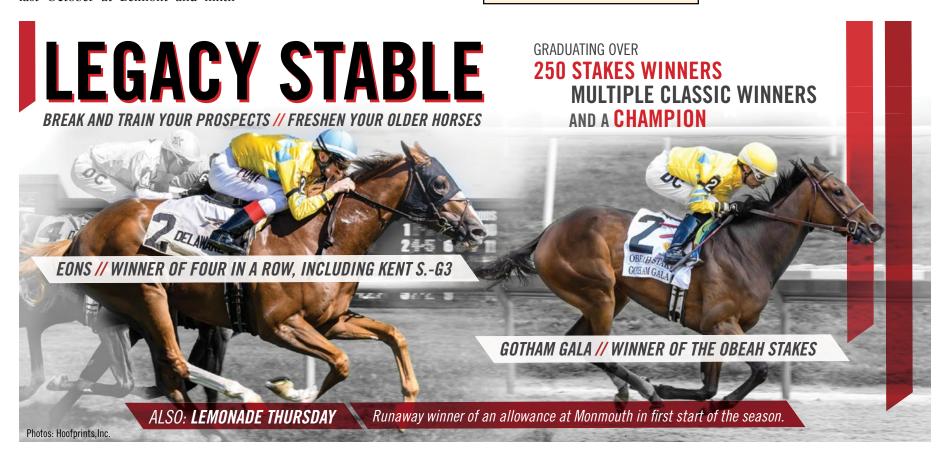
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### SARATOGA RESULTS

Thursday August 22.

### FIRST \$150,000, NY TURF WRITERS CUP HCP. HURDLE, 4&UP, 23/8M

2 Winston C (IRE) T. Garner \$3.10 \$2.60 \$2.20 5 Gibralfaro (ÌRE) M. Mitchell \$4.00 \$3.10 6 Belisarius (IRE) B. Dalton \$4.60 B G 2014, by Rip Van Winkle (IRE) - Pitrizza (IRE) by Machiavellian

Owner: Hudson River Farms. Trainer: Jonathan Sheppard. Breeder: Patrick F. Kelly (IRE). Late Scratches: Portrade (IRE) Time: 4:38.16

Exacta (2-5), \$6.60; Superfecta (2-5-6-8), \$14.10; Trifecta (2-5-6), \$24.50

### SECOND \$35,000, CLAIMING \$16,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

Internet of Things I. Ortiz. Jr. \$3.90 \$2.60 \$2.10 \$2.90 Purchasing Power J. Rosario \$5.00 \$2.50 5 Curlin's Knight J. Ortiz

Dk B/ Br Colt 2016, by Mineshaft - Thisgirlissmiling by Petionville Owner: Klaravich Stables, Inc.. Trainer: Chad Brown.

Breeder: Christopher Shelli & Bill Wilks (NY).

Claimed: Internet of Things claimed by Winfield Racing LLC for \$16,000, Lucky Bet claimed by Noda Brothers, LLC for \$16,000 Time: 1:49.42

Daily Double (2-2), \$2.95; Exacta (2-4), \$8.80; Quinella (2-4), \$5.10; Superfecta (2-4-5-1), \$5.72; Trifecta (2-4-5), \$10.70

### THIRD \$92,000, ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 3/16M TURF

\$4.30 \$3.10 6 Beau Belle L. Saez \$7.10 1A Fancy That J. Ortiz \$8.60 \$4.40 4 Cap de Creus \$3.00 M. Franco Ch Filly 2015, by Giant's Causeway - Binya (GER) by Royal Solo (IRE) Owner: Anderson, Mark, T. Trainer: Thomas Albertrani. Breeder: Mr. Joseph Allen LLC (KY).

Late Scratches: Nonsensical, English Soul. Time: 1:56.61 Daily Double (2-6), \$11.60; Exacta (6-1), \$27.75; Superfecta (6-1-4-3), \$23.17; Trifecta (6-1-4), \$37.50; Pic 3 (2-2-6), \$16.10

### FOURTH \$60,000, STARTERS ALLOWANCE \$50,000, 3 & UP, 1 1/8M

3 Clavtnthelionheart E. Cancel \$10.40 \$4.30 \$3.20 **Derby Memories** K. Carmouche \$3.10 \$2.70 (dq)Grit and Glory T. Gaffalione \$3.10 Ch G 2016, by Declaration of War - Heartbeat Again by Mr. Greeley Owner: Rigney Racing, LLC. Trainer: Philip Bauer.

Breeder: China Horse Club International Limited (KY). Time: 1:48.43 Daily Double (6-3), \$24.30; Exacta (3-4), \$12.40; Quinella (3-4), \$5.70; Superfecta (3-4-5-1), \$5.45; Trifecta (3-4-5), \$17.50; Pic 3 (2-6-3), \$52.50

### FIFTH \$75.000. MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT. 2 YO. 7F

Wicked Title J. Rosario \$20.20 \$8.70 \$4.00 Raggedy Annie R. Maragh 8 \$3.90 \$2.60 9 Project Whiskey K. Carmouche \$2.20 Ch Filly 2017, by Wicked Strong - Shesacurlinmytoes by Curlin Owner: Summers. Chad. Summers. M. Scott and Oringer, Jav. Trainer: Chad Summers. Breeder: Millennium Farms (KY). Late Scratches: Positive Power, Las Ramblas, Blessingsofliberty Time: 1:24.97

Daily Double (3-4), \$87.75; Exacta (4-8), \$39.75; Superfecta (4-8-9-3), \$33.80; Trifecta (4-8-9), \$46.37; Pic 3 (6-3-4), \$185.75

### SIXTH \$90,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 1 1/8M

1A Enforceable J. Ortiz \$4.20 \$2.70 \$2.90 3 Mo and Go \$6.60 L. Saez \$7.50 Lucky Curlin T. Gaffalione \$4.20 \$2.70 \$2.90 Gr/ro Colt 2017, by Tapit - Justwhistledixie by Dixie Union Owner: Oxley, John, C.. Trainer: Mark Casse. Breeder: Clearsky Farms (KY). Late Scratches: Bracketologist

Time: 1:50.70

Daily Double (4-1), \$42.75; Exacta (1-3), \$22.40; Superfecta (1-3-6-5), \$36.95; Trifecta (1-3-6), \$35.25; Pic 3 (3-4-1), \$225.25; Pic 4 (6-3-4-1/4), \$316.25; Pic 5 (2-6-3-4-1/4), \$958.25

### SEVENTH \$78,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 & UP, 7F

13 Nasty Affair I. Ortiz, Jr. \$9.00 \$4.60 \$3.30 7 The Great Johanna R. Santana, Jr. \$4.60 \$3.60 9 Blame It On Mom J. Rosario \$4.50

Dk B/ Br Filly 2016, by Liaison - Just a Bella by Cryptoclearance Owner: Liebau, Sr., F., Jack. Trainer: Linda Rice.

Breeder: Tracy Egan (NY). Time: 1:23.93

Late Scratches: Renninas Rose, Freddymo Factor, Go Zappem, Magical Romance

Daily Double (1-13), \$14.40; Exacta (13-7), \$25.50; Superfecta (13-7-9-14), \$62.15; Trifecta (13-7-9), \$62.62; Pic 3 (4-1-13), \$296.50

### EIGHTH \$83,000, NY-BRED AOC \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

1 Calculated Risker M. Franco \$6.30 \$4.50 \$12.20 \$3.60 Shamrock Kid L. Saez \$4.80 Playthatfunnymusic B. Hernandez \$5.80

B Horse 2014, by Into Mischief - Piccola Isola by Western Expression Owner: Blue Duck Racing and Green, Leonard C..

Trainer: Raymond Handal. Breeder: Topsmeade, LLC (NY). Claimed: Storm Prophet claimed by Repole Stable for \$40,000

Daily Double (13-1), \$42.75; Exacta (1-4), \$36.25; Superfecta (1-4-6-5), \$113.95; Trifecta (1-4-6), \$122.75; Pic 3 (1-13-1), \$132.50

### NINTH \$100.000. STAKES - RISKAVERSE S., 3 YO, 1M TURF

6 Catch a Bid I. Ortiz, Jr. \$3.80 \$2.90 \$2.40 Dalika (GER) J. Ortiz \$9.10 \$4.60 9 Xanthique J. Alvarado \$4.80 B Filly 2016, by Real Solution - Elusive Champagne by Elusive Quality Owner: Klaravich Stables, Inc.. Trainer: Chad Brown.

Breeder: Kenneth L. Ramsey & Sarah K. Ramsey (KY). Late Scratches: Varenka, Peaceful, Ionic, Queen of Beas

Time: 1:36.31

Daily Double (1-6), \$16.20; Exacta (6-7), \$18.90; Superfecta (6-7-9-8), \$26.85; Trifecta (6-7-9), \$48.50; Pic 3 (13-1-6), \$110.00; Grand slam (1/3-7/9/13-1/4/6-6), \$45.00

### TENTH \$56,000. MAIDEN CLAIMING \$65,000. 3 YO'S & UP. 1 1/8M

14 Dark Storm E. Cancel \$8.10 \$3.90 \$3.00 1 Deft J. Rosario \$3.90 \$3.30 13 Final Say K. Carmouche \$3.90

B Gelding 2016, by Flatter - Banded by Bandini

Owner: Bona Venture Stables. Trainer: George Weaver.

Breeder: Cobra Farm (KY).

Late Scratches: Azzedine (FR), Crypto Gold, Perceived, Third Army, Noble Spirit, Sandy Lane Kitten, Timepiece

Claimed: Knockout Punch claimed by Jupiter Stable for \$65,000, Tony Small claimed by Team Hanley for \$65,000

Time: 1:49.41

Daily Double (6-14), \$7.80; Exacta (14-1), \$16.10; Superfecta (14-1-13-11), \$37.30; Trifecta (14-1-13), \$30.50; Pic 3 (1-6-14), \$76.50; Pic 4 (2/3/5/11/13-1-1/2/3/4/6-14), \$248.50; Pic 5 (1-2/3/5/11/13-1-1/2/3/4/6-14), \$430.50; (4-1-2/3/5/11/13-1-1/2/3/4/6-14), \$3,825.50

Paid Attendance: 25.461. On Track Handle: \$2.810.732. All Sources Handle: \$10,908,352.85

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# On Time

# Wait A Minute ships in, steps up for Finger Lakes-based Stauffer

### BY CATHERINE GALBRAITH

Wait A Minute shipped from Finger Lakes to Saratoga Race Course Tuesday and spent the week schooling in the paddock (twice), galloping over the main track and getting a feel for the scene.

One of the first on the track after the break Thursday, the Discreetly Mine filly pranced next to her outrider through her trip and then back home to her stall in a barn on the backstretch of the main track.

Wait A Minute and her trainer, Jackie Stauffer, make their Saratoga debuts in today's \$200,000 Fleet Indian, the first of six stakes for New York-breds on the Saratoga Showcase program. Stauffer, a former assistant to Mike Ferraro Sr. who has spent much of her life based at Finger Lakes in western New York, said her first start at Saratoga coincides with the direction she's wanted her training operation to go since 2013.

"I got my trainer's license when I was 19," she said. "I had a couple horses here and there. I started training for Mr. Amore Stables five years ago. Jason Servis started sending me some of his horses for Finger Lakes then I started buying some of my own.

"I got Richie Rich Racing this year and Ron Kiser. I had 18 but I downsized this year. I've been downsizing. I want to get some better horses, try to upgrade. Of course, I'd like to get bigger, but not too big."

Stauffer brought some essential members of Wait A Minute's team to Saratoga for the Fleet Indian. Keith Harris, who now trains his own string, but galloped the filly as a 2-year-old; and Jose Baez, jockey of the filly for five of her six starts including her New York Oaks win at Finger Lakes July 24, are along for the ride. Baez will ride Wait A Minute in the 9-furlong Fleet Indian.

"I have a pretty good crew back home," Stauffer said. "Keith knows

### FLEET INDIAN/ALBANY PREVIEW

this filly because he galloped her last year, so I asked him to come with. Back home the jockey gets on her every day. If I have two or three for him to work, he'll say 'I'm still getting on Minnie.'

"Normally, I would try to get one of the top riders here, but you know he put all the work into her. He's won her last two (and) she won by 23 lengths two starts ago."

Owned by the trainer and Rick Marco of Richie Rich Racing Stables, Wait A Minute sold for \$10,000 at last year's OBS June sale. Marco reached out to Stauffer on social media proposing the idea of ownership and training, adding three more to the string at the start of this year.

"I met the owner on Facebook a year or so ago," Stauffer said. "He had his horses with another trainer and he was looking to buy a 2-year-old and asked if I would buy a piece. I hadn't even met him. He said 'I found a horse, I can get her at a decent price and I'll sell 35 percent.' The guy gave me her to train and then this year he gave me the rest of his horses, three more. One of them got claimed."

Wait A Minute, 6-1 on the morning line, has bankrolled \$83,329 with three wins in six starts.

"She's 2-for-2 going long," Stauffer said. "I just figured after winning the New York Oaks that this would be the right spot, stay with the 3-year-old New York-breds.

"She likes to be near the lead, but I think there's going to be a lot of speed because there are a lot of horses coming off short races. We'll see how it plays out. A lot of people questioned me whether she was ready to run long after that one short race but the way she galloped out after that short race, I was like, 'she's ready.' She's got her confidence built up now with two wins in a row."



Michael Trombetta Jr.

Keith Harris prepares Wait A Minute for her Thursday morning training

Linda Rice sends out 6-5 favorite Newly Minted for Beach Haven Thoroughbreds. The daughter of Central Banker comes off a third in the Cupecoy's Joy division of New York Stallion Series on the turf at Belmont Park June 23. She won three in a row sprinting on the main track prior to that effort.

Maiden Beauty, Elegant Zip, Behind The Couch and Kid Is Frosty, winner of the Cupecoy's Joy, complete the field.

• Not That Brady spent the latter part of Thursday morning soaking in attention from Rudy Rodriguez's team, enjoying head scratches and downing peppermints. He'll face a more difficult task in the \$250,000 Albany, but he's used to tough company.

The 5-2 favorite against nine others in the Albany, exits races this year against the likes of Tax, Haikal, Tacitus, Mind Control and Looking At Bikinis. He also comes off a second to Bankit in the New York Derby at Finger Lakes and he faces that foe again in the 9-furlong Albany.

"He runs good long for us," Rodriguez said. "He ran second to Looking At Bikinis. He didn't embarrass himself. He ran a great race. The other day at Finger Lakes he ran a good race, he was pressed the whole way around and he still held on to second.

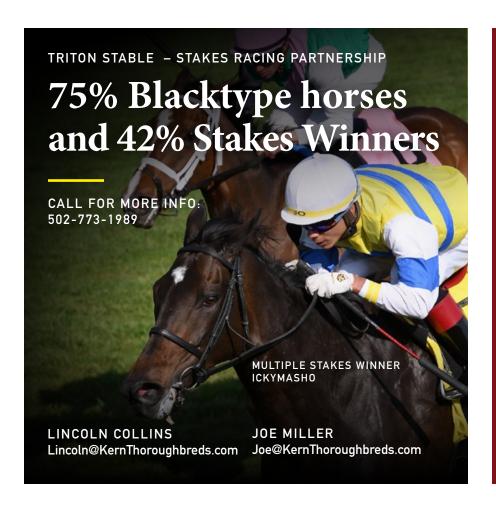
"We just have to keep our fingers crossed because with the horses, every day is a challenge. Nice-looking horse, solid."

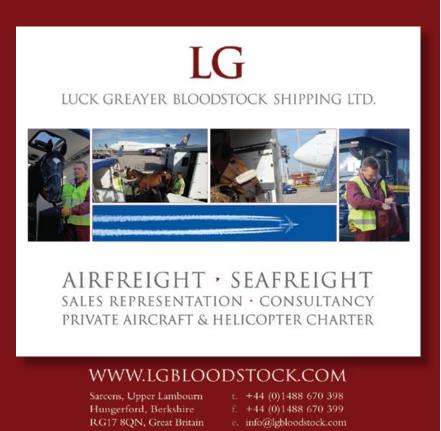
Rodriguez claimed Not That Brady for \$50,000 out of his Saratoga debut. He finished fourth that day but has won or placed in six of nine starts since

"He tries. He's competitive," Rodriguez said. "We just have to get him to a winning rhythm again. Hopefully, everything works out the way we want it. The race is tough. He's been training very good, doing everything we ask him.

"Hopefully we will be able to get the lead, nice and comfortable. It's a mile and an eighth so he's going to have to step up big time. We just have to hope he breaks good, hopefully he puts himself in a good position. We're going to come out of there running, that's his weapon and then get in the lead. Hopefully he just keeps improving."

The first four finishers from the New York Derby – Bankit, Not That Brady, Just Right and Blindwillie McTell – are in the Albany field. Daddy Knows, Dancers For Token, Make Motime, Funny Guy, Doups Point and Kazmania complete the field.







# Grass Games

# Clement runners look strong in 2 turf stakes BY BEN GOWANS

Wednesday morning's off-and-on heavy rain during training hours did not deter Christophe Clement from staying in top form and directing traffic outside of his barn near the Oklahoma Training Track's Fifth Avenue gap.

Clement wasn't thrilled to be training on the sloppy and soupy surface – he'll have no problem telling you that much – but his mood stayed jovial. Standing in tall mucks boots – his customary footwear for wet conditions – Clement joked and laughed with his riders as he gave instructions, conducted small talk with neighbor Bill Mott and spoke French to anybody who might have the slightest clue of understanding his native tongue.

The Frenchman is set for a New York-bred extravaganza today and hopes to have his nine runners on the Saratoga Showcase card feeling as good as he did Wednesday morning.

"What about that? Ten years ago I didn't have one New York-bred in my barn," he said.

Clement starts three first-time starting 2-yearolds before his first stakes runners of the day in the \$150,000 Yaddo. The Yaddo goes as the fifth and Clement will saddle Munchkin Money and Wegetsdamunnys in the 1 1/16-mile turf stakes for fillies and mares.

Munchkin Money landed in Clement's barn after being acquired privately following a second May 27 in the Mount Vernon Stakes, the first of four New York-bred filly and mare turf stakes run during the year. Her new large ownership group consists of Sweet Home Stables, Mark Parkinson, Brian Martin, Steven Bouchey and Tony Weintraub. The 6-year-old mare came with special instructions from former trainer Brian Lynch.

"Munchkin Money is difficult. She is a filly that was very difficult when she was trained by Brian Lynch," Clement said. "She flipped in the paddock at Gulfstream over the winter and she was a bit difficult when we saddled her in the last race. Mr. Lynch warned me about it. She's just a different



NYRA Photo

Munchkin Money represents trainer Christophe Clement's barn in the Yaddo Stakes.

kind of horse. She's very easy to train but whenever you run her you have to be careful."

Despite her antics in the preliminaries, Munchkin Money was all business during her first start for Clement June 23 at Belmont Park in an open-company optional claimer.

"That was a pleasant surprise when she ran very well at Belmont," Clement said. "She's training very well, she looks good. Junior Alvarado has been breezing her every week on the grass for us."

Alvarado again rides the filly listed at 3-1 on the morning line.

Clement's other entrant is also a relatively fresh face to her trainer's yard. Wegetsdamunnys sold for \$130,000 at last year's Keeneland November breeding stock sale. Owners Scott Krase and Peter Stokes sent the daughter of D'Funnybone to Clement and she has made three starts this year.

Wegetsdamunnys won her first race since being transferred to Clement when the meet opened July 11. She handled yielding ground and made a run from off the pace to win an optional by three-quarters of a length.

"She's a very honest filly and is very straightforward and easy to be around," Clement said. "I always have the feeling I should run her further than what we have done. At some stage, we'll have to try her further."

Joel Rosario rode Wegetsdamunnys in her last start and is back aboard the 5-1 shot today.

Knowing each of his entrants has had success over a turf course with some moisture, Clement feels both should handle what could be a turf course still drying out.

"You never know, because we don't train on softer turf. Until you actually try it in the afternoon, you just don't know," he said. "The ground should be good. It won't be firm, firm, but it won't be soft. It's been cut up which I don't like but there's not much I can do about it."

Fifty Five, initially pegged as the even-money favorite for the Yaddo, is expected to scratch in favor of the Grade 2 Ballston Spa on Saturday's Travers Stakes undercard. Trainer Ray Handal scratched last year's Fleet Indian Stakes winner English Soul from an allowance Thursday in favor of the Yaddo.

Belle Of The Spa, Held Accountable and Kreesie complete the field entered for turf. Take Charge Aubrey and Out Of Orbit are entered main track only.

Clement also sends out a contender in the \$150,000 West Point, the accompanying 1 1/16 miles turf stakes that goes as the ninth. He sends out 5-2 second choice Therapist, the 4-year-old who Clement co-bred with owner Oak Bluff Stables.

Therapist was gelded after he finished third in the Tropical Park Derby Dec. 29.

"It doesn't make him a faster horse, but it makes him an easier, more manageable horse," Clement said. "He's always been difficult. He has an enormous amount of energy and as he's getting older, he's a little easier to handle."

In his first start at 4 and as a gelding, Therapist won Belmont's Elusive Quality Stakes April 27.

**Continued On Page 29** 

### **Turf Stakes** —

### **■** Continued from page 28

The victory upped his stakes wins to six, four against open company. He suffered his first defeat against New York-breds when fourth in the Kingston May 27 and was third in an optional July 3.

"He's very consistent," Clement said. "He tries his best all the time."

Irad Ortiz Jr., aboard for four of those stakes wins, returns to ride Therapist today for the first time since a local win last August in the Cab Calloway division of the New York Stallion Series.

Brad Cox sends out Dot Matrix, the third choice on the West Point's morning line at 9-2. The son of Freud's first 17 starts came at NYRA tracks and he was based in New York until being transferred to Cox in late 2017. He's won five of eight starts since Cox took over but has only run at a NYRA track once. That effort was a fourth in May 2018 at Belmont Park in the Kingston Stakes. He was defeated by today's rivals Offering Plan and Rapt in that start.

"The New York-bred stakes races in the past, it just seems that he's been a touch overmatched, just a step below the top horses," Cox said. "Obviously he fits well in the Midwest. I thought he had a troubled trip last time. He's doing better now than he was the last time he ran against New York-breds. He's probably more of a two-turn as opposed to that one-turn mile he ran at Belmont last spring."

Dot Matrix followed up last year's Kingston with his first stakes win in the listed Warrior Veterans Stakes at Indiana Grand. He disappointed as the even-money favorite six weeks later in the Remington Green Stakes at Remington Park and was then sidelined for nearly nine months until a comeback victory in an allowance optional at Churchill Downs May 19. The gelding owned by Ten Strike Racing managed a third in this year's Warrior Veterans in his last start.

Dot Matrix flew from his trainer's Churchill-base to Saratoga Tuesday.

"He's trained as well we could ask, he's really doing well," Cox said of the gelding who will be ridden by Joel Rosario. "He's learned to relax and chill out a little bit. He's had a couple of really good gallops here the



NYRA/Chelsea Durand

Therapist is a player in the West Point.

last few mornings. He's ready to run a big race.

Chad Brown's Offering Plan is the 8-5 favorite. The 7-year-old has been defeated a half-length, a halflength and a neck in the last three runnings of the West Point. The fourtime stakes-winning son of Spring At Last races for Mike Dubb, Nantucket Thoroughbred Partners, Bethlehem Stables and Gary Aisquith.

The rest of the West Point field is comprised of horses accustomed to an early lead – Mo Maverick, Everyonelovesjames and Voodoo Song, who races with blinkers for the first time. Hoboe and Rapt figure to come from off the pace.

### Yaddo Stakes honors retreat next to track

### **BY TERRY HILL**

Today's 39th edition of the Yaddo Stakes attracted nine New York-breds fillies and mares. The \$150,000 race will be run at 1 1/16 miles on the inner turf, the fifth race with a post time of 3:10 p.m. Those are the particulars. The obvious question might be what's a Yaddo?

Yaddo is a 400-acre arts community just a 12-minute walk from the track out Union Avenue. Yaddo is as much of a sacred place to writers, artists and musicians as Saratoga is to racing fans.

The colony was conceived in the early 1900s by philanthropists Spencer and Katrina Trask. Spencer was a prominent Wall Street financier and Katrina a playwright and poet. They decided to turn their Saratoga Springs country estate into an artists' retreat.

Today men and women in every field of the arts apply for much sought-after residencies at Yaddo. They are given time, studio space and nurturing support for their creative work.

Over the years Yaddo has played host to a pantheon of artists in all fields. Collectively Yaddo fellows have won 66 Pulitzers, 61 National Book Awards, 27 MacArthur "Genius" Awards and one Nobel Prize (Vladimir Nabokov).

Among the novelists to live and work there are Truman Capote, Philip Roth, James Baldwin, Saul Bellow and Mario Puzo, the author of The Godfather. Poets include William Carlos Williams, Elizabeth Bishop, Robert Lowell and Langston Hughes.

Composers Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland and artists Milton Avery and Philip Guston all did time at Yaddo as did Sopranos writer and Mad Men creator Matthew Weiner along with the legendary Dorothy Parker.

The famous Yaddo cocktail parties may have been the inspiration for one of Parker's most famous poems:

"I like to have a martini,

Two at the very most.

After three I'm under the table, After four I'm under the host."

In virtually every field of the arts, Yaddo residents could make up an all-star team; and there it stands, this hallowed place, just 5 furlongs down the road, and pretty much unknown to those of us who prefer to study the Daily Racing Form over literature.

For Saratogians, perhaps one of the best-known writers to have been a Yaddo resident would be Stephen Dobyns. Dobyns is a highly regarded poet, novelist and English writing professor, but



for those of us who love Saratoga Springs, he is probably more on our radar as the author of the Charlie Bradshaw detective novels.

There are, so far, 11 books in the series, all feature private investigator Charlie Bradshaw and his semi-loutish, but hilarious sidekick Victor Plotz. They all not only take place in town, they also have the name Saratoga in their titles – Saratoga Longshot, Saratoga Fleshpot, Saratoga Strongbox and others. Perhaps Yaddo deserves thanks for these highly entertaining local books.

# To The Point

# Gold, Englehart team ready to contest 2-year-old stakes

### **BY TOM LAW**

Al Gold goes to the sales, or sends his people to the sales, for days like today.

Just ask the owner who runs his horses in the black and gold colors of his Gold Square LLC. He won't mince words.

"Yes," Gold said, riding shotgun in trainer Jeremiah Englehart's golf cart after watching a set breeze on the Oklahoma Thursday morning.

"Just one word?" Englehart said, laughing at his owner's response to the poorly phrased inquiry. "Just put yes. Ask him another question."

Gold didn't wait for another fumble, either about My Italian Rabbi in the \$200,000 Seeking The Ante or Cleon Jones in the \$200,000 Funny Cide, and instead provided a glimpse into his overall outlook.

"I'm very excited about Candygramformongo, he's going to be breezing in about an hour and is a horse I have with Clark Brewster that we bred together," Gold said. "We're going to try to take things in order in life and that comes first. Then we have a claimer running today that we hope runs well."

Candygramformongo turned in his first Saratoga breeze Thursday, going 5 furlongs from the gate in 1:01.12 in company with My Father's Eyes over the muddy main track. Curlin's Knight finished third in his non-win-



Tod Marks

Owner, and Mets fan, Al Gold.

### **FUNNY CIDE/SEEKING THE ANTE**

ners of two lifetime \$16,000 claimer, beaten 4 lengths without being taken. That plate clear, Gold can now look ahead to the Saratoga Showcase card.

My Italian Rabbi goes first in the Seeking The Ante, where she'll rematch with fellow Competitive Edge filly Fierce Lady in the 6 1/2-furlong stakes. They finished a nose apart in the Stillwater Stakes the second week of the meet, My Italian Rabbi earning the victory after a stretch duel.

Fierce Lady went off at 4-5 that day, with bettors drawn to her sharp maiden victory June 22 and undaunted – or perhaps not knowing – that she'd been shipped from Belmont Park to Lexington for a run through the ring at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July horses of racing age sale between starts.

Englehart conceded after the Stillwater that they were fortunate to catch Fierce Lady at less than 100 percent. Fierce Lady, who did not sell on a bid of \$725,000, breezed three times between the Stillwater and the Seeking The Ante for trainer Dermot Magner.

Englehart did the same with My Italian Rabbi, including a half-mile breeze with Cleon Jones in :48.98 on Saratoga's main track Aug. 16.

"She's doing very well," Englehart said. "I'm kind of excited to watch her run. I imagine we'll see the 100 percent Fierce Lady so we'll see if she can hold her own there. She's coming into the race really well. Knock on wood this is the best I've seen her. She was really strong this morning. Hopefully she runs her 'A' race."

Fierce Lady, at even-money with Javier Castellano, and My Italian Rabbi, at 2-1 with Luis Saez, figure to be tough against their four rivals led by last-out maiden winner Violent Point. Trained by Mark Casse, Violent Point won an off-the-turf maiden going 5 1/2 furlongs July 17 after finishing third in Fierce Lady's fast maiden victory going



Tod Marks

My Italian Rabbi looks for her second win of the meet in today's Seeking The Ante Stakes.

5 furlongs June 22.

Big Q, Time Limit and Wharf Cat complete the field.

Cleon Jones comes into his stakes debut off a maiden victory, taking a 6-furlong event on the main track July 28 by 3 1/4 lengths under Jorge Vargas Jr. He finished fifth in his debut, beaten 5 3/4 lengths by Funny Cide second choice Listentoyourheart.

"Cleon is doing well, too," Englehart said. "The way he looks and the way he worked coming into this race has been strong. In his race there are probably a handful of horses in there that can win it. It seems like it's a more difficult race across the board.

"The first time we ran him I thought he was a horse that would win first time out. He's still a little green. He's going to want to go a little further, at least that's what he reminds me of that type of horse that wants to go further. I don't think six and a half furlongs will be his distance but that's what we have to work with right now."

City Man, a son of Mucho Macho Man who won an off-the-turf maiden race here July 18 for Christophe Clement, is the 3-1 favorite on the morning line just ahead of stablemate Listentoyourheart at 7-2 and Rick Violette Stakes winner Sky Of Hook at 4-1.

Clement, represented by runners in sdix of the 10 races on today's Showcase card, likes the balance of his un-

coupled entry.

"One goes close to the lead and the other one comes from out of it," he said. "They are both training forwardly. City Man excites me because his style of racing which I like."

Dean Reeves, who campaigned 2013 Breeders' Cup Classic winner Mucho Macho Man, bought City Man for \$185,000 at the OBS April 2-year-olds in training sale and owns him in partnership with Peter and Patty Searles.

"This is a step up obviously and if he's good enough, he'll show it," Reeves said. "We think he's pretty good but it's time for him to tell us. The distance will help. He's not typical of a Mucho Macho Man. That's a little bit of what attracted me to him. He was a little bit more compact when we bought him. I didn't know how it was going to turn out because I have a lot of Mucho Macho Mans and most of them are taller, longer, like Mucho Macho Man. He wasn't small but just a little bit more compact. What's happened is that he's grown into himself and really muscled up."

The third and fourth horses home in the Violette also return for the Funny Cide in Theitalianamerican and Mission Wrapitup. Bull Of Bayern, No Lime and Opportunist complete the field.

Additional reporting by Ben Gowans.

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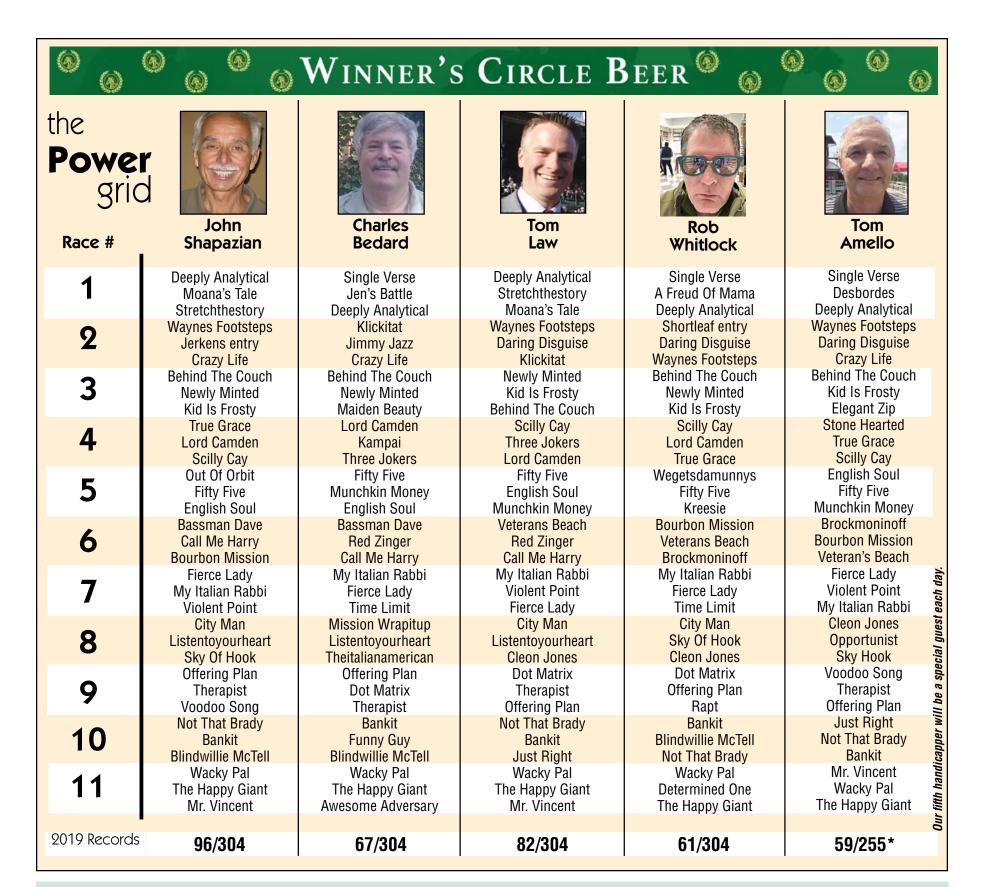
### SARATOGA ENTRIES

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4 ..... 4 ...... Red Zinger ....... J. Alvarado ...... G. Contessa ...... 3-1

Friday, August 23.

| rnday, Augu       | JSI 23.                                |                            |                     |             | 4 4          | Professed Outcome             |                        | G. Contessa<br>M. Ferraro  |             |
|-------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 19T (1:00PI       | M). \$78,000, MSW, 2 YO,               | E 5 1/2E (TURE)            |                     |             | 6 6          |                               | C. Landeros            |                            | 12-1        |
| Evacta Trifo      | ecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic           | 5 Daily Double             |                     |             | 7 7          |                               | U. Landerus            | M. Black                   |             |
| 1 1               | Dooply Applytical                      | J. Castellano              | C Prown             | 5.0         |              | Bassman Dave                  | D Davie                | C Soisoos                  | 10-1        |
| 1 1               | Deepiy Alialytical                     | J. Gastellallo             | U. DIUWII           | 3-2         | 0 IVI I U    | I Dassillali Dave             | D. Davis               | G. Sciacca                 | 3-2         |
| 2 2               | Moana's Tale                           | K. Carmouche               |                     |             | 9 9          |                               | D. Davis               | T. Hills                   | 15-1        |
| 3 3               | A Freud of Mama                        | L. Saez                    | M. Maker            | 10-1        | 10 10        | Bourbon Mission               | I. Urtiz, Jr           | J. Sharp                   | 5- J        |
|                   | Stretchthestory                        |                            |                     |             | 11 11        | Veterans Beach                | <u>J</u> . Ortiz       | D. Donk                    | 5-1         |
| 5 5               | Ava K's Girl                           | J. Rosario                 | M. Nevin            | 10-1        | 12 12        | Call Me Harry                 | I. Gaffalione          | K. Danner                  | 7-2         |
| 6 6               | Unicorn Sally                          | C. Landeros                | J. Kimmel           | 12-1        |              |                               |                        |                            |             |
| 7 7               | Jen's Battle                           | M. Franco                  | G. Contessa         | 8-1         | 7TH (4:14F   | PM). \$200,000, STK - THE     | SEEKING THE ANTE, 2    | 2 YO, F , 6 1/2F           |             |
| 8 8               | American Song                          | J. Vargas. Jr              | J. Englehart        | 12-1        | Exacta, Trif | fecta. Superfecta. Pic 3. Pic | 5. Daily Double        |                            |             |
| 9 9               | Single Verse                           | T. Gaffalione              | B. Brown            | 4-1         | 11           | Violent Point                 | J. Velazquez           | M. Casse                   | 5-1         |
| 10 10             | Lil Morning Star                       | .l Martinez                | K Laudati           | 30-1        | 2 2          | Big Q                         | .l Lezcano             | G Gullo                    | 6-1         |
| 11 AE             | Deshordes                              | M. Franco                  | G Weaver            | 8-1         | 3 3          | Time I imit                   | I Ortiz Ir             | M. Maker                   | 10-1        |
| 12 AE             | Eli Rocks                              | D Cantana Ir               | T Morloy            | 15_1        | 1 1          | Wharf Cat                     | I Dovoe                | O Barrara III              | 20-1        |
| 12 AL             | Talaa I Winit                          | N. Saillalla, Jl           | C Clament           | 0 1         | 5 5          | Fierce Lady                   | L Cootallana           | O. Dallela, III            | 20-1        |
| 13 AE             | Dellemy Dige                           | I. Ortiz, Jr               | G. Gleitlettt       |             | 5 5          | My Halian Dahhi               | J. Gastellallo         | D. Mayllel                 | 1-1         |
| 14 AE             | Beliailly Bigs                         | M. Luzzi                   | E. Davis            | 30-1        | 0 0          | My Italian Rabbi              | L. Saez                | J. Englenari               | Z-1         |
|                   | Keypit                                 | J. Lezcano                 | I. Albertrani       | [2-]        |              |                               |                        |                            |             |
| 16 MTO .          | Rewarded                               | Rider TBA                  | M. Lauer            | 15-1        | 81H (4:46)   | PM). \$200,000, STK - THE     | FUNNY CIDE, 2 YO, 6    | 1/2F                       |             |
|                   |  |                            |                     |             | Exacta, Trif | fecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic | 4, Daily Double        |                            |             |
| 2ND (1:34P        | M). \$78,000, MSW, 3 YO                | 'S & UP, 1 1/16M (INNE     | R TURF)             |             | 1 1          | Bull of Bayern                | R. Santana, Jr         | R. Rodriguez               | 12-1        |
| Exacta, Quin      | nella, Trifecta, Superfecta, I         | Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double | e                   |             | 2 2          | No Lime                       | J. Alvarado            | W. Mott                    | 15-1        |
| 1 8               | Klickitat                              | J. Álvarado                | J. Jerkens          | 3-1         | 3 3          | City Man                      | J. Rosario             | C. Clement                 | 3-1         |
| 1a MTO            | Overland                               | Rider TBA                  | J. Jerkens          | 3-1         | 4 4          | Mission Wrapitup              | D. Davis               | B. Brown                   | 5-1         |
|                   | Catorat                                |                            |                     |             | 5 5          | Opportunist                   | T Gaffalione           | M Casse                    | 10-1        |
| 3 2               | Crazy Life                             |                            |                     |             | 6 6          | Theitalianamerican            | I. Cartallono          | G Contaces                 | 10-1        |
| 4 2               | Waynes Footsteps                       | o. oastonano<br>I Saaz     | R Cον               | 7_0         | 7 7          | Cleon Jones                   | Varnae                 | u. uulitasa<br>  Fnalahart | 1-01<br>1-1 |
| 7 J               | immy lazz                              | L. Oatz                    | D. OUX<br>T Duck    |             | ν /<br>Q Ο   | Sky of Hook                   | J. vaiyas, Jl          | u. LIIYITIIAIL             | 0-1         |
| 5 4               | Jimmy Jazz                             | J. UI IIZ                  | I. BUSII            | 4-1         | 0 0          | SKY UI TUUK                   | L. Saez                | n. nouriguez               | 4-1         |
| <u>6</u> <u>5</u> | My Primo                               | D. Davis                   | B. Feviue           | 15-1        | 9 9          | Listentoyourheart             | IVI. Franco            | G. Glement                 | 1-2         |
| / 6               | Daring Disguise                        | <u>I.</u> Ortiz, Jr        | L. Kice             | 4-1         |              |                               |                        |                            |             |
| 8 7               | Masterprize                            | I. Howell                  | M. Simmonds         | 50-1        | 9TH (5:18I   | PM). \$150,000, WEST POII     | NT PRESENTED BY TR     | RUSTCO BANK, 3&UP, 1       | 1/16M       |
| 9 9               | Constructor                            | L. Reyes                   | T. Albertrani       | 30-1        | (INNÉR TU    | IRF)                          |                        |                            |             |
|                   |  |                            |                     |             | Exacta, Trif | fecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Dai | ly Double              |                            |             |
| 3RD (2:06P)       | M). \$200,000, STK - THE               | FLEET INDIAN, 3 YO, F      | , 1 1/8M            |             | 1 i          | Therapist                     | I. Ortiz, Jr           | C. Clement                 | 5-2         |
| Exactà. Trife     | cta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Dai            | lv Double                  | ,                   |             | 2 2          | Hoboė                         | J. Velazguez           | D. Donk                    | 10-1        |
| 11                | Maiden Beauty                          | I Saez                     | G. Contessa         | 8-1         | 3 3          | Offering Plan                 | J. Castellano          | C. Brown                   | 8-5         |
| 2 2               | Newly Minted                           | .l Lezcano                 | I Rice              | 6-5         | 4 4          | Rapt                          | M Franco               | R Ribaudo                  | 12-1        |
| 3 3               | Elegant Zip                            | M Franco                   | D Donk              | 15-1        | 5 5          | Mo Maverick                   | I Saez                 | D Cannizzo                 | 12-1        |
| 1 1               | Wait a Minute                          | I R227                     | I Stauffer          | 6-1         | 6 6          | Everyonelovesjames            | F Cancel               | I Shannard                 | 20-1        |
| 5 5               | Pohind the Couch                       | J. Ortiz                   | I Englobert         | 5 2         | 7 7          | Voodoo Song                   | I Ortiz                | I Dieg                     | 6 1         |
| 6 6               |  | J. UI IIZ                  | J. Eliyieliait      | 3-2         | 1 1          | Dot Matrix                    | J. UI IIZ              | L. NIUU                    | 0-1         |
| 0                 | Kiu is riusty                          | I. Ortiz, Jr               | D. GUX              | 1-2         | 0 0          | DUL IVIALI IX                 | J. NUSATIU             | D. GUX                     | 9-2         |
| 4TH (0.00DI       | M) 470 000 BAOW 0 VO                   | E 4 /0E                    |                     |             | 40TU /F-F    | DB#\ #050 000 0TH THE         | - ALDANY OVO 44/0      | . n.a                      |             |
| 41H (2:38PI       | M). \$78,000, MSW, 2 YO,               | O I/2F                     |                     |             |              | DPM). \$250,000, STK - THE    |                        | SIVI                       |             |
| Exacta, Quin      | nella <u>,</u> Trifecta, Superfecta, I | Pic 3, Daily Double        |                     |             | Exacta, Irii | fecta, Superfecta, Daily Dou  | DIE                    | . 5:                       | 40.4        |
|                   | True Grace                             |                            |                     | 5-1         | _ 11         | Daddy Knows                   | <u>I</u> . Ortiz, Jr   | L. Rice                    | 12-1        |
| 2 2               | Solar Fire                             | R. Santana, Jr             | J. Toscano, Jr      | 12-1        | 2 2          | Bankit                        |                        |                            |             |
| 3 3               | Kampai                                 | B. Hernandez               | C. Englehart        | 12-1        | 3 3          | Dancers for Token             | D. Davis               | R. Davis                   | 30-1        |
| 4 4               | Lord Camden                            | T. Gaffalione              | M. Casse            | 4-1         | 4 4          | Make Motime                   | M. Luzzi               | G. Goodwin                 | 50-1        |
|                   | Austrian                               |                            |                     |             | 5 5          | Blindwillie McTell            | J. Ortiz               | L. Rice                    | 9-2         |
| 6 6               | Tapizearance                           | M. Franco                  | G. Contessa         | 15-1        | 6 6          | Funny Guy                     | R. Maragh              | J. Terranova II            | 6-1         |
| 7 7               | Stone Hearted                          | C. Landeros                |                     |             | 7 7          | Not That Brady                | J. Lezcano             |                            | 5-2         |
| 2 2               |  | J. Ortiz                   |                     |             | 8 8          |                               |                        | T. Pletcher                |             |
| 0 0               | Three lakere                           | L. Saez                    | J. Terranova II     |             | 0            |                               |                        | C. Clement                 |             |
| J J               | Hold My Call                           |                            |                     | 10 1        | 9 9<br>10 10 |                               |                        | 6. Gement                  |             |
|                   |  |                            |                     |             | 10 10        | Naziiiaiiia                   | K. Garrilouche         | E. JUIIES                  | 13-1        |
| 11 AE             | SII LUUIUW                             | J. Martinez                | ı. ⊓äIIIII          | 20-1        | 4470 (0:00   | DDB#) ##0 000 B#0! ##0 0      | 000 2 VO:0 0 11D 4 2   | ACM (TUDE)                 |             |
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|                   | M). \$150,000, STK - THE               |                            | & M , 1 1/16M (INNE | K IURF)     | Exacta, frif | fecta, Superfecta             | - 0 .                  |                            | <b>-</b> -  |
| Exacta, Trife     | cta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Dai            | ly Double                  |                     |             | 1 1          | Herecomesthejudge             | E. Cancel              |                            |             |
| 11                | Fifty Five                             | J. Castellano              |                     | 1-1         | 2 2          | Wacky Pal                     |                        |                            |             |
| 2 2               | English Soul                           | M. Franco                  | R. Handal           | 4-1         | 3 3          | Moo Lah                       |                        | M. Nevin                   | 15-1        |
| 3 3               | Wegetsdamunnys                         |                            |                     |             | 4 4          | Sobersick N Sorry             | C. Landeros            | M. Miceli                  | 15-1        |
| 4 4               |  | D. Davis                   |                     |             | 5 5          | Determined One                | R Santana Jr           | T. Morley                  | 12-1        |
| 5 MTO             | Take Charge Aubrey                     | Rider TRA                  | B Levine            | 9-5         | 6 6          |                               |                        | N. Chatterpaul             |             |
| 6 6               | Munchkin Money                         | Alvarado                   | C. Clement          | 3 J<br>3₋1  |              | Ridolfo                       |                        | G. Sciacca                 |             |
| 7 7               | Hald Accountable                       | E. Cancel                  | D Sarna             | ວ⁻≀<br>າ∩₋1 | 8 8          | Indono                        | T Caffaliana           | D. Schettino               | 20-1        |
| / /               |  |                            |                     |             | 0 0          | The Hanny Clant               |                        |                            |             |
|                   | Out of Orbit                           |                            |                     |             | 9 9          | The Happy Giant               | IVI. Franco            | K. Handal                  | 4-1         |
| 9 9               | Kreesie                                | J. Ortiz                   | D. Donk             | 12-1        | 10 10        |                               | I. UTTIZ, Jr           | 5. Kiesaris                | 8-1         |
| ATIL /A           |  | A 11B = 4/6= /==-          |                     |             | 11 11        |                               |                        | P. Kelly                   |             |
|                   | M). \$80,000, ALW, 3 YO'S              |                            |                     |             | 12 12        | Millies Party Boy             | J. Lezcano             | J. F <u>r</u> angella, Jr  | <u>8</u> -1 |
| Exacta, Trife     | ecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Dai           | ly Double                  |                     |             | 13 MTO       | )Awesome Adversary            | T. Gaffalione          | M. Friedman                | 5-2         |
|                   | Brockmoninoff                          |                            | G. Weaver           | 12-1        |              | -                             |                        |                            |             |
|                   | Bears Mafia                            |                            |                     | 9-2         | Copyriaht :  | 2019 EQUIBASE Company I       | LLC. All Rights Reserv | ed.                        |             |
|                   | Rockin Jo                              |                            |                     |             | 1.7 .9       |                               | J ,                    |                            |             |
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| 22                |  |                            | F                   | Trre CARAT  | COL CDECKA   |                               |                        | Entray Attorion            | . 22 2010   |



### **Guest Handicapper**

Today's guest handicapper is Tom Amello, who along with former Troy Record handicapper Nick Kling produced and hosted original programming for Capital District OTB. He covered the previous three meets for Saratoga Today and with daughter Katie and wife Renee operates the Brunswick at Saratoga Bed and Breakfast at 143

Union Avenue. Thursday, Richard Hutchinson picked four winners.

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

Top guest handicapper of 2019: Joe Burke with five wins.

# SARATOGA MEMORIES

### PRESENTED BY KEENELAND

Saratoga Memories, presented by Keeneland, is an ongoing series that looks back at some of the top moments from Keeneland Sales graduates among Saratoga's best racing.

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

### Midnight Lute

Forego Stakes 2007

### **BY JOE CLANCY**

Tom Evans ran into an old friend from school who said he and another buddy wanted to buy a broodmare. Evans, who owns Trackside Farm in Versailles Ky., went in for a third and they bought a mare for \$60,000.

That was the highlight. She underwent colic surgery, colicked again after foaling and died. Her foal brought \$1,700. Evans figured his friends Ted Forrest and Rich Burke would never think about breeding racehorses again.

"Everything that can go wrong went wrong," Evans said. "I told myself, 'They'll never do that again,' and I wouldn't have blamed them."

Forrest and Burke told Evans to look for another mare and the three men spent \$55,000 on Candytuft, a daughter of Dehere in foal to Alydeed, at Keeneland November in 1999. And, in a lesson in perseverance, the partners have sold her yearlings for \$2,262,000 through 2018.

"She's doing great, she's 23 now," said Evans this week. "She's got a Tonalist colt by her side and we retired her. She looks great, but that's enough. She's done everything you'd ever want for us. She'll get a nice retirement here at the farm."

Candytuft's best foal was Midnight Lute, who sold for \$70,000 as a yearling and went on to win the Breeders' Cup Sprint twice, become champion sprinter of 2007 and earn \$2,690,600 for Mike Pegram, Karl Watson and Paul Weitman. Among a career full of highlights with trainer Bob Baffert, the massive dark bay won Saratoga's Grade 1 Forego Stakes in 2007.

While every breeder hopes, Evans couldn't have predicted Midnight Lute's future. The son of Real Quiet was a May foal, and would grow into a 17-hand beast before too long.

"He was 15.2, which is a good-sized yearling but you don't expect him to be 17 hands down



the road," said Evans. "The mare is 15.3. It's the randomness of mitosis."

Agent Tom McGreevy (whose purchases have since included Songbird, Havre de Grace, Round Pond, Joyful Victory and others) made the final bid at Keeneland September in 2004 and said he would have paid more. Midnight Lute proved him right, by selling privately to Baffert and his clients as a 2-year-old.

Midnight Lute won his debut at Del Mar in July, but missed a year. As a 3-year-old, he won twice including Keeneland's Grade 3 Perryville Stakes. His 4-year-old year started with three consecutive losses and another break between April and early September.

He emerged for Saratoga's Forego, then run on closing weekend, and thumped nine rivals in a powerful display. The only potential problem came when jockey Edgar Prado went down with an injury two races earlier. Baffert turned to Shaun Bridgmohan and offered simple instructions.

"He's doing great; just ride him," the trainer told the jockey in the paddock.

Bridgmohan and Midnight Lute did the rest, opening up on the turn and roaring home in 1:21.06 for 7 furlongs.

"He just dragged me up there to the turn and

Continued On Page 35

### Midnight Lute —

### **■** Continued from page 34

once he got there he just accelerated. He did everything professional out there," Bridgmohan said then. "...Approaching the quarter pole he had his ears forward and was just waiting for a command and once we straightened up and I asked him to go about his business he just went on and did it."

Two months later in the slop at Monmouth Park, Midnight Lute and Garrett Gomez captured the Breeders' Cup Sprint in 1:09.18 for 6 furlongs, running down Idiot Proof and Talent Search to win going away and claim the Eclipse Award as champion sprinter. Evans remembers being there and watching that race with his partners, or trying to.

Midnight Lute broke badly and someone said, "Well, not today fellas." Ninth and taking the worst of the sloppy track early, he was still fifth and well back at the top of the stretch.

Evans kept watching and thought

he saw progress.

"Normally the Pegram silks are yellow and red with yellow cap, and for some reason, or maybe it was all the rain, he had a lime green cap on and on the turn through the haze and the slop I saw this lime green hat making this move," Evans said. "The other guys didn't pick it up."

Before he could finish his, "He's moving fellas" declaration, Midnight Lute was in the clear and outside horses in the stretch – chewing up the margin. He struck the front just past the eighth pole and won by 4 3/4 lengths after being more than 10 lengths down early.

"It was a tremendous run given track conditions and everything else," said Evans. "The Forego was amazingly fast, but we didn't know what to expect the next time."

Midnight Lute capped 2007 with a second in the Cigar Mile at Aqueduct, and didn't run again until the following August when he was well beaten in the Pat O'Brien at Del Mar.

Despite the sub-par prep, he won a second Breeders' Cup Sprint at Santa Anita – in 1:07.08 for 6 furlongs.

Until Roy H won in 2017 and 2018, Midnight Lute was the only horse to win back-to-back runnings of the race.

Throat surgeries kept Midnight Lute's career sporadic, and probably made him a sprinter, but they did nothing to diminish his impact on the racetrack or on the sales of his siblings. A Maria's Mon colt out of Candytuft brought \$900,000 in 2007. Three other yearlings fetched \$300,000 or more. As a stallion, he has produced (among others) millionaire filly Midnight Bisou.

"He was a really nice-looking horse and that's what the mare has done pretty consistently, but the thing we always found interesting about him was he was a hard gate horse because he was so big he didn't fit in there so well," said Evans. "He tended to break slow and he became this come-from-behind sprinter, which just didn't fit the mold.

"He's a really interesting case and one of those deals where you just never know. He had the ability, and the will to win. We had a lot of fun watching him, that's for sure."







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### **Marley's Freedom**

Ballerina 2018

### **BY JOE CLANCY**

Barbara Ranck Perry and her husband Ron wanted a turf horse, on a budget, so they accompanied Davant Latham to the Keeneland September yearling sale in 2015 to look for a turf horse on a budget.

"There was this lovely Blame filly who was a May foal with all the right angles and a beautiful walk but she was not filled out, just an immature May foal," said Latham this week. "As it turns out, she's by Blame out of a grass family and she becomes a Grade 1 winner sprinting on the dirt. Everything went exactly according to plan."

Marley's Freedom may actually be a good turf horse, but Latham, the Perrys and the world will probably never find out.

Purchased for \$35,000, the speedy bay owns six graded stakes wins and has earned \$1,233,935 including two wins and two seconds in four starts this year.

Despite being related to turf stakes winners Noble Damsel, Apple Charlotte and others, Marley's Freedom may never do more than eat grass. Trained by Bob Baffert, the 5-year-old is on anybody's short list in the filly/mare sprint division.

But it wasn't always that way. Bred by Jack Swain III, Marley's Freedom was part of the Brookdale Farm consignment and fairly deep in a big sale as Hip 2241.

As Latham said, the filly was behind some of the older and more developed yearlings in the catalog.

"When you're working with a limited budget you have to accept a compromise somewhere and one of the easiest compromises to make is immaturity," said Latham. "I've watched a lot of horses go from foaling to racehorse and her immaturity did not worry me at all. I was confident she would catch up."

Her co-owner agreed.



"I liked her presence," said Barbara Perry last year. "When she came out of the stall, she had a big presence about herself. She's a very fluid mover. She just swings her legs and is very energy efficient. She was a little bit on the small side, but she was a late foal. I didn't think she'd be a good 2-year-old, I thought she'd be better at 3 and 4. There were two Blame fillies that we looked at, the other one sold for (\$310,000) so we got a deal."

Named for the Bob Marley collection "Songs of Freedom," and racing for the Perrys' Cicero Farm, the filly started twice as a 2-year-old in California with trainer Richard Baltas but finished

fifth and sixth. After nearly a year away from the races, she returned to win her 3-year-old debut – and pay \$61.80 – for Bob Hess at Del Mar in September 2017. She won again two starts later and was fourth in the Grade 1 La Brea in December. As a 4-year-old, she opened with two losses before reeling off four consecutive wins – the first for Hess and three after being moved to trainer Bob Baffert's barn. The streak included an allowance win, the Grade 3 Desert Stormer Stakes, the Grade 2 Great Lady M and Saratoga's Grade 1 Ballerina.

In the latter, she and jockey Mike Smith rated **Continued On Page 37** 

### Marley's Freedom —

### ■ Continued from page 36

just off the pace of Finley'sluckycharm before rallying off the turn to win by 1 1/2 lengths. It was the first Grade 1 win for the filly, and her owners.

"It's absolutely amazing," Barbara told The Special afterward. "I can't put it into words. As soon as it sinks in, I'm pretty sure I'll be crying like a baby."

The Ballerina score came with an automatic entry in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint at Churchill Downs, where Marley's Freedom finished fourth in a four-horse photo. Marley's Freedom capped the 2018 season with a win in Aqueduct's Grade 3 Go For Wand going a mile. For the year, she ended with five wins and a second in eight starts and \$718,500 while finishing second to Breeders' Cup winner Shamrock Rose in the Eclipse Award voting for champion female sprinter.

Marley's Freedom (listen for Redemption Song coming over the speakers next time she wins a race) returned for more this year, winning

the Grade 2 Santa Monica in February, finishing second in the Grade 1 Beholder Mile in March and Grade 1 Humana Distaff in May before winning the Grade 2 Great Lady M at Los Alamitos last month.

As good as all the wins are, Latham might be just as proud of two defeats.

"She's so honest," he said. "A real testament to her were the two races at Churchill Downs where she was second and fourth. She doesn't have the same punch there as she does at other places for whatever reason. But she never quits. She was fourth beaten a half-length in Breeders' Cup and second and making up ground in the Humana Distaff."

A defense of the Ballerina title was originally on the schedule, but Marley's Freedom (who has won half her 18 starts) will stay in California with an eye on the Breeders' Cup.

"Bob decided he didn't want to bring her across the country that close to the Breeders' Cup, not when it's at Santa Anita," said Latham. "Last year was no big deal because she was going to Churchill for the Breeders' Cup. This year it's at Santa Anita, so why ship to New York and back again?" All proceeds benefit rescued and retired Thoroughbred racehorses



RUN for the Horses

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2019

Orenda Pavilion • Saratoga Spa State Park

Meet former racehorses • Canine division Kids Fun Run • Walkers welcome USATF certified 5K course

REGISTRATION Pre-race \$25 Race day \$30 PRE-REGISTER ONLINE: www.trfinc.org

Check-in 7:00 am

Kids Fun Run Start time 8:00 am

5K Race Start time 8:30 am





# cupotcoffee 🛎

### **BY SEAN CLANCY**

How did you get here?

I asked Victor Berrios that question last week. The assistant trainer told a harrowing, heroic story of escaping civil war in El Salvador and finding salvation at the racetrack. As soon as he finished, he asked me the same question I had asked him.

It's anything but harrowing. Far from heroic.

For my brother Joe and me, like most of us, it was easy. Dad owned and trained horses. We lived in the private training center with the indoor track next to Delaware Park and then a farm in Pennsylvania, you couldn't see another house from our house. Our classmates lived in neighborhoods, playing pick-up basketball at the apex of the cul-de-sac, skateboarding to the playground, racing Matchbox cars with their friends on the back patio.

Joey and me? Our friends were Patches and Red Raven. Yahtzee and Student Dancer. We got four channels on the TV. Atari's Kaboom! and Pac-Man were as good as it got. It was easy to fall for horses. Want to watch Mery Griffin or Bill Passmore? Mike Douglas or Mario Pino? Dinah Shore or Hector Pilar? Want to read a book or bet the double? Ocean Dad. City or Saratoga?

We went with Dad to the barn, to the track. Dad would wake you up once, maybe twice, but never three times. Some nights I slept in my clothes to save time in the morning. All we had to do was stagger to the car, sleep all the way to the barn, Dad driving with the window down, no matter the season, stopping at Dunkin Donuts for black coffee, inventing the first flip lid to a coffee cup.

Sometimes, depending on how the horses were running, Dad would let us sleep in the car at the barn before rising with the sun and getting to work. Well, he did this with me, probably, not Joey, 5 years older. He was working long before I picked up a rake or a shank. I washed feed tubs, made kitch-

# Here To There



ever knew, begrudgingly from Joey and always from

Summers at Timonium, Delaware Park, Pimlico and Saratoga. Night racing at Atlantic City, Garden State, Charles Town and Penn National. Weekends at every steeplechase meet from Rolling Rock in Ligonier, Pennsylvania to Hard Scuffle in Louisville,

On long road trips, I'd opt for the back of the van. Stretch out on bales of straw, chains clacking on metal partition poles in the six-stall, swaving Imperatore horse van, watching Tattiebogle, Money By Orleans and Heart Of The Desert. Hoping a war to get here but perhaps we avoided one. they would drop their heads, nibble at their hay nets. Sometimes, I'd pull hay from the nets and try to hand-feed them. They usually refused. By the homemade baked goods and a charity worth suptime you got to Union Avenue or Whiskey Bottom en runs, hosed down the dust and walked the quiet Road or Knight's Hill Road, you were covered in ones. I took orders from Lonnie, the kindest man I hay, snot, dust. A couple of Coke bottles in the mix from 4 p.m. onward today. You'll be glad you did.

of hay and straw, the Racing Form blown around like losing tickets after the last. It was mesmerizing.

Always the junior kid on the team, I carried the buckets, a rub rag or dad's binoculars to the paddock, that was about it. When I turned 16, Dad said I could run Tattiebogle for a stakes at Penn National, I had never been so proud. She won. I beamed.

We learned all our life lessons on a horse or next

Joe nearly got out, studying journalism at the University of Delaware and getting jobs writing about high-school sports and local politics at The Whale in Rehoboth, Delaware and The Cecil Whig in Elkton, Maryland. He was going to climb that ladder.

I followed Joe (and our sister, Sheila) to Delaware, managed to eke out a history degree in four years but was never getting out. I arranged my classes around galloping horses in the morning and when the overnight would come out for the weekend's steeplechase meets. I never took a class before 10 in the morning or after 3 on Mondays. Delaware was the only college I considered, not because of majors it offered or the beauty of the campus, but because it was down the street from Fair Hill Training Center. The place was fledgling at best but eight bucks a ride bought my books and paid for gas in my Chevy Cavalier.

In 1994, I dragged Joe back into racing. We started Steeplechase Times that spring, The Saratoga Special in 2001 and, well, here we are in our 19th season, hunched over desks, pounding keys long into the night. Pizza boxes and un-proofed pages replacing hav nets and straw bales. We didn't escape

• If you're looking for fresh-squeezed lemonade, porting, come by Carolina Lemonade Stand at The Special office, 259 East Avenue, next to Fasig-Tipton,







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Kentucky Oaks
La Troienne S.
Manhattan S.
Man o' War S.
Metropolitan H.
Ogden Phipps S.
Old Forester Turf Classic S.

Pegasus World Cup Invitational S.
Pegasus World Cup Turf Invitational S.
Preakness S.
Santa Anita Derby
Santa Anita Oaks
Secretariat S.
Takamatsunomiya Kinen
Test S.
United Nations S.
Whitney S.
Woody Stephens S.

AND MORE

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YEARLING SALE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

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