

Year 17 • No. 22

Thursday, August 24, 2017

The *Saratoga*

# Special

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Dave Harmon

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# here&there... at Saratoga

## BY THE NUMBERS

**2:** Number of enthusiastic fist-pumps to the sky by Mark Casse after hearing “Go number 10” and “purple people eaters baby” shouted by a rowdy fan while he walked alongside Hollow Point before the second race Sunday. Hollow Point was a tough luck third, but Casse’s Kantune won the race.

**284:** Floors climbed, according to an iPhone anyway, by The Special’s Joe and Nolan Clancy during a hike up Big Slide Mountain in the Adirondacks Sunday. It’s 4,240 feet above sea level, will trash your legs and is worth every step.

**4:00:** Time Brendan Walsh flew out of Albany Sunday morning back to Kentucky after winning the Lake Placid Saturday afternoon with Proctor’s Ledge.

**1:** Set of Arcadia Stable blinkers in Wednesday’s first race. Longtime Arcadia partner, Andre Brewster, would have been proud as Moscato won easily in the gray and white.

**73:** People (including Saratoga winning owner Mike Hankin) who watched Monday’s eclipse from Sleeping Indian Mountain in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

## NAMES OF THE DAY

**All The Way Jose, first race.** Breeder Jonathan Sheppard hit the jackpot here – the 7-year-old is by Senor Swinger out of Maternity Leave.

**Tied Up, second race.** Millennium Farm’s homebred 2-year-old filly is by Even The Score.

**Can’tweallgetalong, 10th race.** Owned by Hot Scot Racing Stable and DCK Racing, the 2-year-old colt is by Violence.



Eye Spy. I Still Miss You keeps an eye on things – literally – at the Englehart barn.

Tod Marks



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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's the true championship distance."  
**Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott,**  
**on the 10 furlongs of the Alabama**  
**(won by Elate Saturday)**





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## here&there... at Saratoga

### WORTH REPEATING

"Hi Tod."

**Champion jump jockey Paddy Young, injured in May,**  
**to The Special's photographer Tod Marks, Wednesday afternoon**

"Not my problem."

**Young, when questioned about jockeys' tactics after Wednesday's opener**

"He didn't know how to jump when he got here, he couldn't jump a log on the ground, I don't know why, he was totally re-schooled."

**Jack Fisher, after Moscato won Wednesday's opener**

"He was either going to have to fly on a plane by himself with a load of asparagus for \$18,000 or we were going to wait for a full plane. So we opted out of the asparagus and waited."

**Trainer Elizabeth Voss, on today's New York Turf Writers Cup**  
**runner Modem's arrival in the U.S. from Ireland (asparagus?)**

"Absolutely."

**Steeplechase jockey Darren Nagle,**  
**when asked for an autograph last week**

"You can't count out any horse here. I've seen horses who you don't think have a chance and they run lights out."

**Nagle, who rides All The Way Jose today**

"That's not good for my ego."

**Trainer Dale Romans after a paddock security guard**  
**asked to see his credential Sunday afternoon**



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# here&there...at Saratoga

## WORTH REPEATING

"It's just that we were coming over anyways."

**Trainer Barclay Tagg** when asked about schooling a maiden in the paddock before Sunday's Summer Colony Stakes

"Special kid."

**Agent Jimmy Riccio**, after Jose Ortiz won five races Monday

"It's a long-term thing, Tom."

**Trainer Brendan Walsh** after The Special's Tom Law asked Patricia Moseley if Proctor's Ledge was a third-generation homebred (she's actually a fourth-generation homebred)

"Proctor is an old New England name and a lot of people come up and say, 'oh my God you named a horse for Proctor.' It's been a popular name. Now they're calling her The Ledge."

**Patricia Moseley** on Lake George-Lake Placid winner Proctor's Ledge

"Wow Ben, I'm glad I got to experience this with you."

**The Special's Shayna Tiller** to Ben Gowans after seeing the eclipse from the winner's circle Monday

"Wow, eclipse was lit."

**Shayna Tiller** moments later

"Having two just run in a day, I mean I'm not Michael Dubb."

**Steve Duncker** of Jump Sucker Stable after winning Monday's fifth with California Swing; their other entrant, Governor Malibu, was second in the Evan Shipman later in the day

"It's Malibu Moon, so that's California. We're terrible at naming horses, we're terrible at naming our stable. It's almost embarrassing to be Jump Sucker Stable."

**Duncker** attempting to explain the meaning behind California Swing's name

"I've heard the rumor."

**Photographer Susie Raisher** who still had the "eclipse sunglasses" on top of her head when told the eclipse was over at 5 Monday evening

"That race next week, isn't it called the run for the roses?"

**Fan** in the paddock before the Alabama; we think referring to the Travers

"Wait, is this the track?"

**Young fan** as he entered the paddock Sunday

"I've noticed the sprinters are coming back to us."

**Dr. James Hunt**, a true stayer at Saratoga, on the social activities at Saratoga

"This is getting too deep for me."

**Todd Pletcher**, as the Love Man explained, "expansion and knowledge is available to us if we're open to it," or something like that



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Face Time

Connie Bush

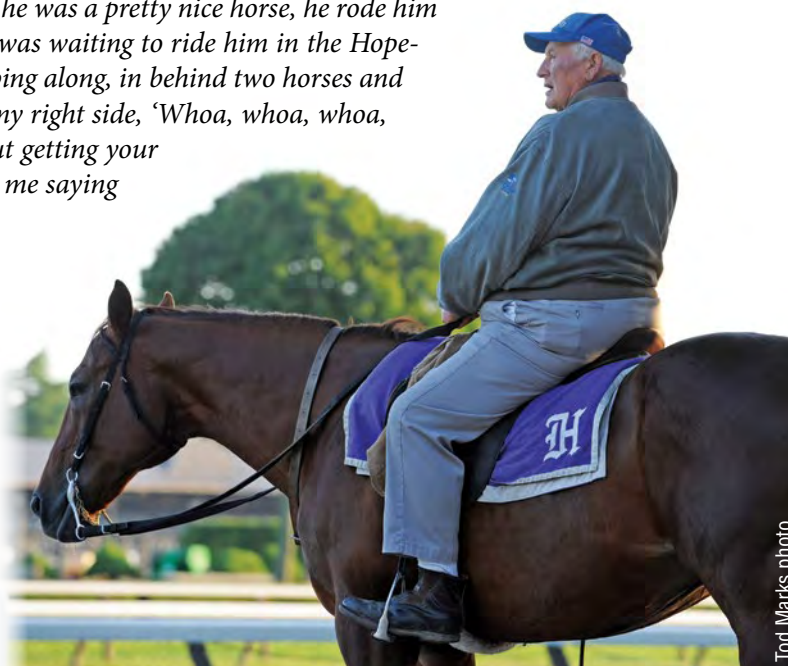
## The Chief... Day 22

*"Pete Anderson was the best. He was really good friends with Jackie Gleason, he's out playing golf at a club in Florida. All of a sudden, there's a couple of kids around, so Pete says, 'I want you to come over with a pen and paper...' So, Jackie Gleason says, 'Oh, here they come...' They go blowing past Jackie Gleason and say, 'Mr. Anderson, can we have your autograph?' He was riding a good 2-year-old for Syl Vietch, when Syl Vietch was training for Widener, he was a pretty nice horse, he rode him and won a couple of races on him and he was waiting to ride him in the Hopeful. He says 'I'm riding him, I'm just galloping along, in behind two horses and feeling so good, and I hear something on my right side, 'Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa.' It's Baeza on Buckpasser. Talk about getting your wind taken out of you, Baeza coming past me saying whoa."*

– **Trainer Allen Jerkens**  
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Tod Marks photo

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## with **Ken McPeck**

Ken McPeek stood in front of a dry erase board in his Saratoga office. Color-coded to denote horses stabled at Churchill Downs, Keeneland, Magdalena Farm and Saratoga, the ceiling-to-floor board lists a far-reaching battalion of horses, McPeek's best string for a while. The Kentucky-based trainer won 103 races in 2009, but slipped to 50 each of the past two seasons. This year, he's sent out 34 winners for \$2.7 million, already ahead of last year's earnings total.

"I went through a valley. I enjoy climbing the mountain rather than standing at the top, we're real close," McPeek said. "I've got a whole bunch of bullets towards the end of the month, it wouldn't surprise me if we won four or five more before we leave, by my math, we've got about 17, 18 runners here."

McPeek takes a red magic marker to highlight stakes assignments on the board – the targets range from Kentucky Downs to Korea. Yeah, Korea.

"I judge myself on how many stakes I win every year," McPeek said. "We've won 10 this year, the most I've ever won in a season is 19 and that was 2002."

The Special's Sean Clancy chatted with McPeek about his stable's targets.

**Daddy's Lil Darling:** Normandy Farm's homebred looked like the stuntman's version of True Grit when Oliver Peslier bailed out before the Investec Oaks in June. She returned from that aborted trip to finish fourth in the Belmont Oaks and fifth in the Coaching Club American Oaks here Opening Weekend. "She's going to run in the Dueling Ground Oaks on September 10 and then probably come back in the QEII. She didn't run well in the Coaching Club, I might have run her back quick."

**Ten City:** A \$12,000 purchase from the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale,



the son of Run Away And Hide won his debut in April, won the Grade 3 Bashford Manor in June and finished third in the Ellis Park Juvenile Sunday. "He might be one of the best horses I've ever had my hands on, freaky good colt. Does everything right, trains like a 5-year-old, the sky's the limit with him."

**Sunny Skies:** Daughter of Animal Kingdom won her debut in April, captured the Debutante Stakes in her next start and finished third in the Ellis Park Debutante Sunday. "She'll probably come back in the Pocahontas and then the Alcibiades."

**Senior Investment:** Winner of the Lexington Stakes in April, Fern Circle Stable's colt finished third in the Preakness, fifth in the Belmont Stakes and 10th in the Belmont Derby. "He's doing well, he's getting a little bit of a break. He's pointing for the Oklahoma Derby."

**Pat On The Back:** A \$70,000 purchase at 2015 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale, the son of Congrats broke his maiden here last summer, won the Sleepy Hollow Stakes in October and picked up the Ontario County Stakes at Finger Lakes in June. "He was third in the New York Derby at Finger Lakes, he should be tough in the Albany."

**Oskar Blues:** A \$350,000 purchase from last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July yearling sale, the son of Speightstown shocked a strong field of 2-year-old maidens here Aug. 12. Battling on the rail under Dylan Davis, the

chestnut colt won by a nose and paid \$69. "Surprised? Yes and no, the last work he had, he actually got outworked by Honorable Treasure, he's another who should make your list, just a horse who keeps improving, he'll jump forward even more. He trains like a machine, just a nice good-looking horse."

**Honorable Treasure:** Son of To Honor And Serve won a Saratoga maiden a week after his workmate Oskar Blues won. The Kentucky-bred paid \$9.20. "This horse trains like a beast."

**Wonderment:** New York-bred daughter of Cosmonaut fetched \$185,000 at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky mixed sale in November, she won the Dancin Renee Stakes in June before finishing fourth in the Union Avenue Stakes last week. "She ran hard, that's about her, she could have been a little luckier. Dylan did a good job, it was another solid race."

**Sky Promise:** Steve Baker purchased the son of Sky Mesa for \$55,000 from the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July sale last summer. "He's going to the Kentucky Downs Juvenile going seven-eighths on Sept. 2. He just broke his maiden down there (at Ellis Park July 22)."

**Kathballu:** Five D Thoroughbreds' homebred has won seven races, including three stakes, from 27 starts. She finished fifth in the Chicago Handicap in June. "She's going to come back in the Open Mind at Churchill, she's a good solid filly."

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**John Tippmann:** Kentucky-bred son of Tiz Wonderful has picked up a win and a second at Ellis Park this summer. "He'll run as an entry with Sky Promise. Same thing, 2-year-old colt, coming off breaking his maiden."

**Classy Music:** Another runner for Fern Circle Stable, the daughter of Maclean's music won at Ellis Park July 7. "She broke her maiden by (4 3/4), she'll run in the Kentucky Downs Juvenile Fillies, seven-eighths, 350."

**Purely A Dream:** Bred by James Bredin and owned by Livin the Dream Racing 2015, the daughter of Pure Prize owns two wins, but hasn't started since finishing ninth in the Edge-wood in May. "She won the Bourbonette, she'll come back at Keeneland, mile on the grass."

**Perfect Wife:** A \$90,000 graduate of the 2015 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October sale, the Fern Circle filly won two of her first three but hasn't run since finishing 10th in the Grade 3 Honeybee in March. "She's a stakes winner, she'll probably run in the two-other-than at Kentucky Downs off the shelf."

**Blueridge Traveler:** The son of To Honor And Serve attracted a \$100,000 bid from McPeek at the 2015 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July yearling sale. "He was second in the Spiral, he had a little issue, got a little bit of time, he'll come back for the fall."

**It's Your Nickel:** A \$100,000 purchase from Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July yearling sale in 2015, the son of Dialed In competed in some tough 3-year-old stakes this year. "He won the Battaglia and was third in the Illinois Derby, he's coming back, he'll run this fall."

**Vettori Kin:** Owned by Fern Circle Stable, Stud TNT and Old Friends, the 4-year-old hasn't run since March. "He's the Brazilian Derby winner, he ran in Dubai in his last race (in the UAE Derby), he's being pointed for Keeneland. He needed some more time to acclimate, he's been given that."

**Rated R Superstar:** Radar Racing's 4-year-old won the Carry Back last summer. "He's galloping on the farm. He's been freshened for the fall."



# Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

**The Truth Or Else:** Owned by Harold Lerner and Magdalena Racing, the son of Yes It's True graduated from the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July yearling sale in 2013. "Here's a good one. He's been invited to Korea, it looks like he's going. September 10. \$600,000 going three-quarters, they say it's like a listed, Grade 3 stakes. I'll probably send Dylan, as long as he wants to go, we have to work out the logistics."

**Brockton George:** McPeck purchased the Florida-bred for \$280,000 at the 2015 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale of selected yearlings. "He broke his maiden at Churchill impressively, he ran poorly in the Indiana Derby, he's going to run in an a-other-than on Sept. 2."

**Eclipsed Moon:** Two-year-old son of Malibu Moon cost \$400,000 as a yearling and is aiming for a turf maiden Sept. 2. "He was second first time out at Ellis, then sixth here, rough trip. He's a mile and an eighth dirt horse, but you don't have that option for 2-year-olds. He'll probably run on the grass again. He's any kind of horse."

**Some In Tieme:** Five-year-old son of Shirocco won the Louisville Handicap in May. "He was a top Brazilian horse. He's getting ready, he'll probably be pointed for the Laurel Turf Cup, then come back in the Sycamore."



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# Irish Racing Road Trip

## Dunne, Colla Pier tackle Grade 1

BY JOE CLANCY

N.Y. TURF WRITERS PREVIEW

It's 9:38 Wednesday morning at Saratoga. The tractors finish their final sweeps of the Oklahoma Training Track, some grooms put the finishing touches on horses on wash pads while others get the last sets ready. Owners kibitz on the rail. Agents (jockey and bloodstock) roll past in golf carts. Trainers hunker down to desks.

And owner/trainer/exercise rider/stall mucker David Dunne takes Colla Pier out to train.

"I like to wait until it quiets down a bit for her," the Irishman said while the 8-year-old walked in a circle on the horsepath between the Oklahoma

gaps. "Plus you get a better surface."

Once the tractors were gone, Colla Pier circled some more – with big, confident steps – as other horses hustled to the track. Then she and Dunne went for a gallop, fitting in with the Saratoga stars for a moment, in a final piece of work for today's Grade 1 New York Turf Writers Cup steeplechase. The 11-horse field (with the expected scratch of last year's winner Portrade) includes former Kentucky Derby starter Mr. Hot Stuff, All The Way Jose from Hall of Fame trainer

Continued On Page 11



Tod Marks

Colla Pier and David Dunne are over from Ireland for the Turf Writers.

BY THE NUMBERS



## AMERICAN STEEPLECHASING

The National Steeplechase Association achieved record purses in 2016, *and the growth continues this year.*

2016 spring purses	\$2,595,250
2017 spring purses	\$2,780,400

Up more than 7% in one year

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# Turf Writers —

■ Continued from page 10

Jonathan Sheppard, stakes-placed Modem, meet winners Swansea Mile, Show Court and Choral Society, stakes winner Diplomat, English raider Casino Markets, recent Irish import Three Kingdoms and the son of a Breeders' Cup winner, Alcazar de Maram.

None can match Colla Pier in Dunne's eyes. For good reason.

Dunne and his brother Robbie, who rides the mare today, rode ponies as kids at the local equestrian center in Ireland, went racing at their local track Bellewstown and ultimately made careers in the game. David worked for trainers Stephen Mahon, Charlie Swan, Jim Dreaper and James Barrett, ultimately even riding a few point-to-point winners. In 2011, David came to the U.S. and took a job with trainer Janet Elliot in Camden, S.C. He finished third in his only jump ride and won a training flat race before heading back to Ireland with the plan of getting a visa to return for a longer stretch.

Injured while schooling a horse, he abandoned a jockey career and the American idea and took a job with trainer Damien English. There he met Colla Pier, who lost her first 16 starts for English and two other trainers.

Dunne bought her (cheap) in 2013, rode her himself, sent her to trainer Patrick Mooney and it's been a rising tide ever since with a win on the flat, three scores over hurdles and a chase win. She even helped Dunne and some friends cash €60,000 in bets when she won at Fairyhouse in 2014 according to an article in The Irish Field.

Most recently, Colla Pier won a steeplechase at Down Royal in June and was pulled up at Bellewstown last month.

"I suppose I've always had this race in my mind for her," said Dunne. "I didn't take it on last year. I ran her in a Grade 1 at Aintree (the Doom Bar Maghull novice chase in April) and there were really good horses in there. She was improving and her form was improving. The only time she was running bad was when she was running in soft ground. We were stuck in the situation where nearly every track you ran on was soft and if it wasn't soft they were watering it to make it soft."

Colla Pier gets firm ground today. She also gets in with 137 pounds, 19 less than highweight Modem after a five-day trip from Ireland by way of England, France, Holland and Belgium. Dunne hopes for a fast pace.

"She'll be coming late, very late," the trainer said. "She kind of only has one run and she can sit off a strong

**Continued On Page 12**



Tod Marks

Mr. Hot Stuff gets some love from Quinn Scala at the barn.

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# Turf Writers —

■ Continued from page 11

pace and quicken. I knew she'd lose a lot of weight on the trip, which she did. It's a bit of a lot on her, but she's bounced back well."

Second in the A.P. Smithwick four weeks ago, Bob Kinsley's Modem takes the role of morning-line favorite at 7-2. Trained by Elizabeth Voss, the 7-year-old rallied from well back in the field to finish 2 lengths behind Swansea Mile. Voss' husband Gary Murray bought the son of Motivator after two runs this spring for trainer Jessica Harrington.

"He ran on the flat and two days later he ran over jumps and he won," said Voss, of starts May 28 at The Curragh and May 30 at Ballinrobe. "Gary went to see him the next day and it didn't look like he'd run at all, let alone two races. Gary had been watching him for a while, but he wasn't available. They're not always for sale."

Modem came to Voss' Maryland base two weeks before the Saratoga meet and she hopes for a step forward going 2 3/8 miles.

"He's a tough little horse," she said. "He seems to get better the farther he goes and the more we do with him. He's a cool horse, really a cool dude. He's kind of like that all the time – mellow, stands in that corner of his and looks out at the world. He's doing well, and schooled great the other day."

Swansea Mile upset the Smithwick at nearly 29-1 for Rosbrian Farm and trainer Ricky Hendriks, his first win in the U.S. after coming over from England last year. The Irish-bred son of Dylan Thomas picks up six pounds in the handicap and will be teamed up with jockey Mikey Mitchell again.

"He's actually freshened up quite a bit," said Mitchell. "He's a better horse running fresh so we've just tried to be light on his work. He's come through it very well. I'm very pleased with how he's been training. He knows he won, which is good."

With eight wins at the meet, trainer George Weaver is in the midst of a strong Saratoga but can make more news with the first steeplechase win of his career today. Owner Gregg Ryan, who used to gallop horses for Weaver, recently imported Three Kingdoms



Tod Marks

Modem exits a second in the A.P. Smithwick four weeks ago.

from Ireland. The 8-year-old Street Cry gelding won on the flat for Darley and trainer Dermot Weld in 2012, went jumping with John Ferguson and won three times over hurdles and twice over chase fences before going back to Weld in June 2016. Three Kingdoms won a 2-mile turf handicap at The Curragh July 1 and was pulled up in a handicap chase at Galway Aug. 2.

Wednesday, he was in stall 6 of Weaver's barn on the Oklahoma happily handling his new surroundings.

"He's doing what I want him to do – eating," Weaver said. "We've pretty much just galloped him. There's really not a whole lot of time to do anything. I'm just trying to keep him happy. He's a pleasure to be around, got a lot of class to him. I'm just trying to keep him happy and get him to the race."

Adding even more international flavor, English trainer Emma Lavelle brings Casino Markets over for the Turf Writers. The 9-year-old has won four times over jumps including back-to-back handicap chases last summer.

Show Court won the steeplechase

opener July 26, over Wednesday's novice stakes winner Moscato, and will be tough with a similar effort for Arch Kingsley and jockey Ross Geraghty. Leading trainer Jack Fisher counters with meet winner Choral Society and Grade 1 winner Mr. Hot Stuff. The latter makes his first start since May, after coming up lame and missing the A.P. Smithwick here July 27.

"The blacksmith re-did his shoes the day before and he was lame," said Fisher while watching the 11-year-old train like a 3-year-old on the Oklahoma Wednesday. "He was fine two days later and is moving good now."

Third in the Smithwick, Diplomat gets the firm turf he wants, takes the blinkers off and gets 18 pounds from Modem for Flying Elvis Stable and trainer Kate Dalton. Trainer Jonathan Sheppard seeks his 15th Turf Writers win (the first came in 1979) with All The Way Jose, a winner here in 2014, and the field's lightweight at 136 pounds Alcazar de Maram. A 5-year-old by Giant's Causeway, Alcazar de Maram is out of 2008 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf winner Maram.





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# Trip Taker

## Correas hopes for better luck with Fizzy Friday in turf stakes

BY TOM LAW

RISKAVERSE PREVIEW

Ignacio Correas was all about the trip Wednesday morning on the backstretch at Saratoga Race Course.

After watching training near the three-quarter-pole gap for a few minutes and walking back to the backside of Barn 14, Correas talked about his own recent trip and then those of his oft-troubled filly Fizzy Friday heading into today's \$100,000 Riskaverse Stakes.

Correas started his travels to Saratoga via a red-eye flight from San Diego – where he saddled Argentinian champion Le Ken to a fifth in Sunday's Grade 2 Del Mar Mile in his first start in eighth months – at 3 a.m. Tuesday and didn't arrive in Albany

until 8 p.m. Looking no worse for the wear as he watched Fizzy Friday gallop on the main track Wednesday before the break, Correas was hopeful for a smoother trip for the English-bred Royal Applause filly in the 1-mile Riskaverse.

"She's small but she has a lot of talent," Correas said. "You see all these four, five, six wide; you see a big number and a 'W' on all the charts. That's not good, not doing that all the way around."

Fizzy Friday, purchased privately by Michael House after winning her

Continued On Page 16



Connie Bush

Fizzy Friday runs in Thursday's co-featured Riskaverse.

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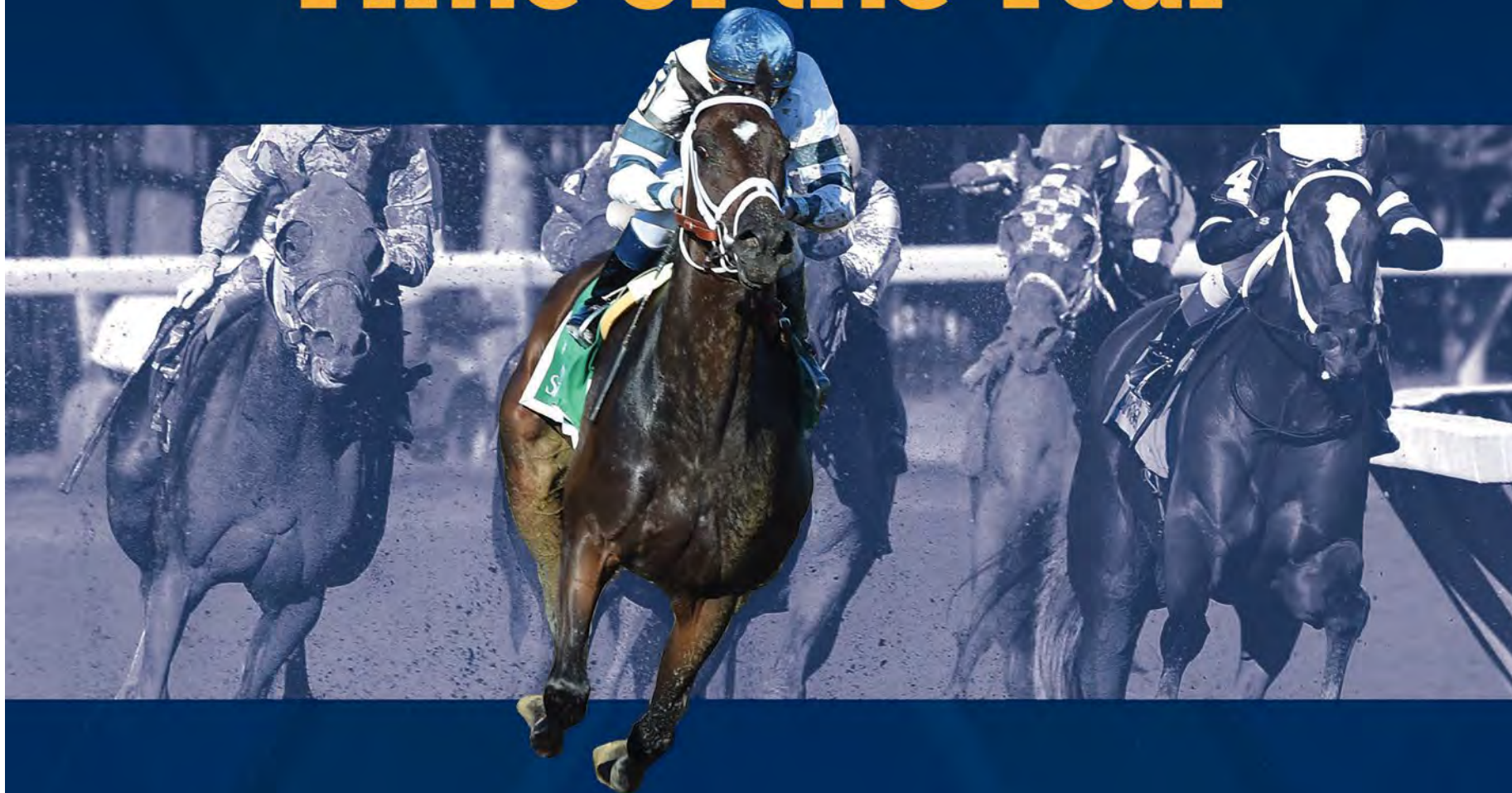
"He's a special horse and he makes it exciting."

- Stallwalkin' Dude co-owner/trainer David Jacobson

Tod Marks



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# Riskaverse —

■ Continued from page 14

first two starts in Ireland for trainer Andy Oliver, endured rough trips in her three U.S. starts. She broke poorly in her U.S. debut against males in a 1-mile allowance at Churchill Downs but managed to finish second after a six-wide trip.

Inspired enough by that performance, Correas took a shot in the Grade 3 Regret at Churchill June 17 and the filly again broke slowly and went six wide again to finish fifth. She broke in at the start and went nearly six wide when fifth last time out in the Grade 3 Lake George on Saratoga's Opening Day card.

"That first race she broke like a half-hour late," Correas said. "The second race was the same, broke better but she was always wide. I don't say we'd beat the winners, but like the other day with Jose Lezcano here she had a very unlucky trip.

"I don't think we'd beat the first two but she should have been third in that race for sure. It's not that I'm complaining that she should have won. One day she's going to get a better trip; it's not going to be forever, you know?"

Correas hopes that day is today in the Riskaverse, where Fizzy Friday is one of 12 3-year-old fillies entered in the 1-mile race on the inner turf for fillies who have not won a stakes at 1 mile or over. She's one of three from the Lake George entered,

along with fourth-place Chubby Star and sixth and beaten favorite Defiant Honor, along with last-out winners Cherry Lodge, Danceland and Lido.

Correas wasn't tempted to run Fizzy Friday back in the Grade 2 Lake Placid last weekend, won by Lake George winner Proctor's Ledge. He prefers the 1-mile trip for Fizzy Friday, who won her two races in Ireland going 7 furlongs on Dundalk's synthetic surface and turned in her best race in that debut going 1 mile at Churchill.

"I do like the mile for her," Correas said. "Of course when you see the field for a race like (the Lake Placid) you are tempted to try. Again, I don't know if I could have beaten the first two in there, but maybe she could have been third."

Fizzy Friday gets her fourth jockey for today's Riskaverse in Ricardo Santana Jr. She's 6-1 on the morning line, the co-third choice with Danceland and Defiant honor behind likely pacesetters Cherry Lodge at 7/2 and Chubby Star at 9/2.

"She doesn't depend that much on the pace, but with 12 horses they're going to move," Correas said. "And she doesn't need to be way back there. She was running on the lead in Ireland. She doesn't need the lead and hopefully she can be in the middle of the pack. She has a very good kick.

"It looks like the favorites are on the outside. They might need to be way better if they're out there, of course they have good riders so they may get the trips of their lives anyway."

Danceland, Joe Allen's homebred daughter of Tapit trained by Shug McGaughey, breaks one

spot outside Fizzy Friday from post 8. She won a 1 1/16-mile allowance Aug. 3 after finishing second to Defiant Honor in a 1-mile allowance at Belmont Park June 21. McGaughey also said the Riskaverse, which he won last year with On Leave, looked like the ideal spot for Danceland despite the distance.

"This was kind of the logical place," he said. "If I ran in a two-other-than, I would have to run her against older horses and I would rather run her against straight 3-year-olds for as long as I can. She fits in there, it's a big field, it's going to be whoever gets a good trip. We got a good post, hopefully we get a good trip and she's good enough.

"She's maturing slowly, but she is. She's getting better. Her future is in front of her. A mile probably isn't an optimal distance for her, but the race is a mile. (Eric) Cancel will have to ride her like it's a mile. She kicks hard at the end."

Cherry Lodge broke her maiden going 5 1/2 furlongs on the main track here last summer for the current meet's leading trainer Todd Pletcher. She placed in two graded stakes after that, including the Grade 1 Spinaway, before going to the sidelines. The daughter of Bernardini, who cost \$450,000 as a yearling, returned July 9 and won a 7-furlong allowance on the grass at Belmont.

Pretty City Dancer, dead-heat winner of the Grade 1 Spinaway last summer, is also entered along with Jordan's Henny, Let It Ride Mom, Talaaqy, Berned and Bernadiva. Rubilinda, Tanya's Gem and Scheme are entered on the also-eligible list.

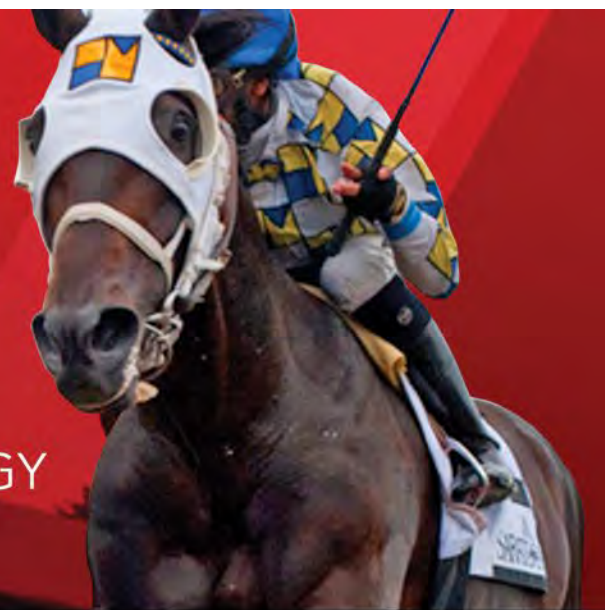
*Additional reporting by Ben Gowans.*

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CHURCHILL DOWNS

## 2017 Fall Meet Stakes Schedule

October 29 - November 26

### STARS OF TOMORROW I

#### SPENDTHRIFT JUVENILE FILLY STALLION STAKES

Runs Sun., Oct. 29  
\$200,000  
Fillies, Two Year Olds  
Closes Oct. 14  
(no nomination fee)  
7 Furlongs

#### SPENDTHRIFT JUVENILE STALLION STAKES

Runs Sun., Oct. 29  
\$200,000  
Two Year Olds  
Closes Oct. 14  
(no nomination fee)  
7 Furlongs

#### STREET SENSE OVERNIGHT STAKES

Runs Sun., Oct. 29  
\$80,000  
Two Year Olds  
Closes Oct. 21  
(no nomination fee)  
1 Mile

#### RAGS TO RICHES OVERNIGHT STAKES

Runs Sun., Oct. 29  
\$80,000  
Fillies, Two Years Old  
Closes Oct. 21  
(no nomination fee)  
1 Mile

#### CHILUKKI (GII)

Runs Sat., Nov. 4  
\$200,000  
Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up  
Closes Oct. 21  
(\$200 nomination fee)  
1 Mile

#### COMMONWEALTH TURF (GIII)

Runs Sat., Nov. 11  
\$100,000  
Three Year Olds  
Closes Oct. 28  
(\$100 nomination fee)  
1 1/16 Miles Turf

#### CARDINAL HANDICAP (GIII)

Runs Sat., Nov. 18  
\$100,000  
Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up  
Closes Nov. 4  
(\$100 nomination fee)  
1 1/8 Miles Turf

#### BET ON SUNSHINE OVERNIGHT STAKES

Runs Sat., Nov. 18  
\$80,000  
Three Years Old & Up  
Closes Nov. 11  
(no nomination fee)  
7 Furlongs

#### FALLS CITY HANDICAP (GII)

Runs Thurs., Nov. 23  
\$200,000  
Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up  
Closes Nov. 11  
(\$200 nomination fee)  
1 1/8 Mile

#### RIVER CITY HANDICAP (GIII)

Runs Thurs., Nov. 23  
\$100,000  
Three Year Olds & Up  
Closes Nov. 11  
(\$100 nomination fee)  
1 1/8 Miles Turf

#### CLARK HANDICAP (GI)

*presented by Norton Healthcare*

Runs Fri., Nov. 24  
\$500,000  
Three Year Olds & Up  
Closes Nov. 11  
(\$300 nomination fee)  
1 1/8 Mile

#### MRS. REVERE (GII)

Runs Fri., Nov. 24  
\$200,000  
Fillies, Three Years Old  
Closes Nov. 11  
(\$200 nomination fee)  
1 1/16 Miles Turf

#### DREAM SUPREME OVERNIGHT STAKES

Runs Fri., Nov. 24  
\$80,000  
Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up  
Closes Nov. 18  
(no nomination fee)  
6 Furlongs

### STARS OF TOMORROW II

#### GOLDEN ROD (GII)

*2018 Kentucky Oaks Points Race*

Runs Sat., Nov. 25  
\$200,000  
Fillies, Two Years Old  
Closes Nov. 11  
(\$200 nomination fee)  
1 1/16 Miles

#### KENTUCKY JOCKEY CLUB (GII)

*2018 Kentucky Derby Points Race*

Runs Sat., Nov. 25  
\$200,000  
Two Year Olds  
Closes Nov. 11  
(\$200 nomination fee)  
1 1/16 Miles

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Thursday, August 24.

## 1ST (1:00PM). \$150,000, STK - NY TURF WRITERS CUP, 4 YO'S & UP, 2 3/8M (HURDLE)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	All the Way Jose.....	D. Nagle.....	J. Sheppard.....	8-1
2	.....2	Modern (GB).....	J. Doyle.....	E. Voss.....	7-2
3	.....3	Portrade (IRE).....	G. Dahl.....	E. Voss.....	6-1
4	.....4	Show Court (IRE).....	R. Geraghty.....	A. Kingsley, Jr.....	12-1
5	.....5	Alcazar de Maram.....	G. Galligan.....	J. Sheppard.....	10-1
6	.....6	Diplomat.....	B. Dalton.....	K. Dalton.....	8-1
7	.....7	Colla Pier (IRE).....	R. Dunne.....	D. Dunne.....	12-1
8	.....8	Mr. Hot Stuff.....	S. McDermott.....	J. Fisher.....	8-1
9	.....9	Casino Markets (IRE).....	L. Aspell.....	E. Lavelle.....	20-1
10	.....10	Swansea Mile (IRE).....	M. Mitchell.....	R. Hendriks.....	9-2
11	.....11	Three Kingdoms (IRE).....	S. Flanagan.....	G. Weaver.....	15-1
12	.....12	Choral Society.....	D. Mullins.....	J. Fisher.....	15-1

## 2ND (1:33PM). \$50,000, MCL \$50,000, 2 YO, F, 6F

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

1	.....1	Yes I Dance.....	J. Lezcano.....	L. Rice.....	5-1
2	.....2	Little Lu.....	A. Arroyo.....	R. Reid, Jr.....	8-1
3	.....3	Tied Up.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	S. Asmussen.....	5-1
4	.....4	Card Club.....	L. Saez.....	D. Lukas.....	20-1
5	.....5	La Contessa.....	J. Ortiz.....	T. Pletcher.....	5-2
6	.....6	Super Duper Girl.....	D. Davis.....	J. Mejia.....	20-1
7	.....7	Strategic Dreams.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Rodriguez.....	4-1
8	.....8	Bonnie Scot.....	K. Carmouche.....	G. Contessa.....	8-1
9	.....9	Warrior's Silver.....	P. Lopez.....	I. Wilkes.....	6-1

## 3RD (2:06PM). \$45,000, CLM \$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M (TURF)

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

1	.....MTO	Combat Controller.....	J. Rosario.....	D. Cannizzo.....	3-1
2	.....2	Steamboat Bill.....	J. Castellano.....	G. Contessa.....	12-1
3	.....3	Baratti.....	J. Rosario.....	K. McLaughlin.....	6-1
4	.....4	Dot Matrix.....	E. Cancel.....	A. Adsit.....	15-1
5	.....5	Twenty Four Seven.....	K. Carmouche.....	D. Gargan.....	4-1
6	.....6	Djulpan.....	J. Ortiz.....	M. Maker.....	6-1
7	.....7	Gotham News.....	F. Geroux.....	S. Asmussen.....	15-1
8	.....8	Strike Midnight.....	R. Maragh.....	L. Gyarmati.....	7-2
9	.....9	Harbor King.....	J. Alvarado.....	R. Metivier.....	30-1
10	.....10	Caribbean.....	L. Saez.....	T. Pletcher.....	5-2
11	.....11	Astute Warrior.....	A. Worrie.....	C. Englehart.....	15-1

## 4TH (2:40PM). \$75,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

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

1	.....2	Heavy Meddle.....	J. Lezcano.....	W. Mott.....	9-2
1a	.....7	The Caretaker.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	K. McLaughlin.....	9-2
2	.....4	Remstin.....	K. Carmouche.....	G. Contessa.....	6-1
2b	.....9	Terry O Geri.....	J. Ortiz.....	G. Contessa.....	6-1
3	.....1	Altesino.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	H. Bond.....	15-1
4	.....3	Born for a Storm.....	J. Castellano.....	C. Brown.....	3-1
5	.....5	Bourbon Empire.....	J. Alvarado.....	M. Hennig.....	6-1
6	.....6	Fleet Irish.....	M. Franco.....	G. Weaver.....	5-1
7	.....8	Jewel Can Disco.....	J. Rosario.....	G. Gullo.....	2-1

## 5TH (3:14PM). \$50,000, CLM \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....1	Indygita.....	P. Lopez.....	P. Serpe.....	15-1
2	.....2	Baronet.....	L. Reyes.....	G. Sciacca.....	20-1
3	.....3	Ice Palace.....	H. Diaz, Jr.....	N. Chatterpaul.....	30-1
4	.....4	Queenofthechannel.....	J. Alvarado.....	R. Metivier.....	12-1
5	.....5	Industrial Policy.....	J. Velazquez.....	M. Casse.....	3-1
6	.....6	Chow Fun.....	J. Rosario.....	D. Cannizzo.....	12-1
7	.....7	Miss Aja Brown.....	J. Ortiz.....	C. Englehart.....	5-1
8	.....8	Zeven.....	D. Davis.....	B. Levine.....	10-1
9	.....MTO	Just Got Out.....	J. Ortiz.....	L. Rice.....	5-2
10	.....10	My Good Venezuela.....	J. Lezcano.....	D. Jacobson.....	4-1
11	.....11	Carmenere.....	F. Geroux.....	M. Scherer.....	20-1
12	.....12	Merilore.....	L. Saez.....	J. Sharp.....	7-2

## 6TH (3:48PM). \$39,000, MCL \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 7F

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

1	.....1	Anna Liffey.....	S. Camacho, Jr.....	L. O'Brien.....	30-1
2	.....2	B J's Valentine.....	A. Lezcano.....	R. Metivier.....	50-1
3	.....3	Frost Delay.....	J. Lezcano.....	R. Schosberg.....	15-1
4	.....4	Tough Old Bird.....	E. Cancel.....	D. Donk.....	8-1
5	.....5	Scarlett Jo Hansen.....	H. Diaz, Jr.....	M. Nevin.....	6-1
6	.....6	Iwishirish.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	S. Asmussen.....	5-2
7	.....7	Indian Gem.....	M. Franco.....	G. Weaver.....	3-1
8	.....8	Irish Sweetheart.....	L. Saez.....	D. Schettino.....	12-1
9	.....9	Hansen's Help.....	D. Davis.....	K. McPeck.....	15-1
10	.....10	Desert Affair.....	J. Ortiz.....	G. Contessa.....	6-1
11	.....11	Yonka.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	T. Morley.....	20-1
12	.....12	Verona Blue.....	J. Davis.....	M. Coffey.....	50-1

## 7TH (4:24PM). \$75,000, AOC \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 1 3/16M (TURF)

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

1	.....1	Kitty Maddnes.....	K. Carmouche.....	J. Morrison.....	20-1
2	.....2	Jennifer's Legacy.....	L. Saez.....	P. Serpe.....	12-1
3	.....3	Eighth Commandment.....	E. Cancel.....	D. Donk.....	15-1
4	.....4	Elostorm.....	M. Luzzi.....	G. Goodwin.....	20-1
5	.....5	Sugar Mags.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	R. Barbara.....	20-1
6	.....6	Pinchbeck.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	C. Clement.....	9-2
7	.....7	Ten Penny Princess.....	J. Ortiz.....	B. Brown.....	10-1
8	.....8	Table for Six.....	J. Velazquez.....	R. Nicks.....	5-2
9	.....9	Forever for Always.....	D. Davis.....	C. Domino.....	30-1
10	.....10	Bareeqa.....	J. Castellano.....	D. Gargan.....	7-2
11	.....11	Khaleesi Kat.....	J. Lezcano.....	W. Mott.....	6-1
12	.....12	Mo Promise.....	M. Franco.....	G. Contessa.....	20-1
13	.....MTO	Young Anna Lee.....	J. Ortiz.....	L. Rice.....	6-1

## 8TH (5:02PM). \$85,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....2	Ostrolenka.....	J. Bravo.....	D. Jacobson.....	4-1
1a	.....3	Brimstone.....	J. Castellano.....	D. Jacobson.....	4-1
2	.....1	Rectify.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	D. Cannizzo.....	6-1
3	.....4	Weekend Hideaway.....	L. Saez.....	P. Serpe.....	6-1
4	.....5	Riff Raff.....	R. Maragh.....	M. Divitto, Sr.....	15-1
5	.....6	T Loves a Fight.....	J. Velazquez.....	M. Nevin.....	12-1
6	.....7	Bustin It.....	M. Franco.....	R. Falcone, Jr.....	7-2
7	.....8	Gypsum Johnny.....	J. Ortiz.....	L. Rice.....	8-1
8	.....9	Celtic Chaos.....	E. Cancel.....	K. McLaughlin.....	3-1
9	.....10	Fish Trappe Road.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	W. Calhoun.....	15-1

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

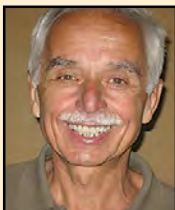
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	.....1	Jordan's Henny.....	K. Carmouche.....	M. Tomlinson.....	30-1
2	.....2	Let It Ride Mom.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	M. Casse.....	20-1
3	.....3	Pretty City Dancer.....	J. Leparoux.....	M. Casse.....	20-1
4	.....4	Talaqy.....	L. Saez.....	K. McLaughlin.....	10-1
5	.....5	Berned.....	R. Maragh.....	H. Motion.....	12-1
6	.....6	Bernadiva.....	M. Franco.....	W. Mott.....	20-1
7	.....7	Fizzy Friday (GB).....	R. Santana, Jr.....	I. Correias, IV.....	6-1
8	.....8	Danceland.....	E. Cancel.....	C. McGaughey III.....	6-1
9	.....9	Lido.....	J. Rosario.....	K. McLaughlin.....	8-1
10	.....10	Chubby Star.....	R. Albarado.....	H. DePaz.....	9-2
11	.....11	Defiant Honor.....	J. Lezcano.....	J. Toner.....	6-1
12	.....12	Cherry Lodge.....	J. Velazquez.....	T. Pletcher.....	7-2
13	.....AE	Rubilinda.....	J. Ortiz.....	C. Brown.....	5-2
14	.....AE	Tanya's Gem.....	J. Hernandez.....	P. Kazamias.....	30-1
15	.....AE	Scheme.....	J. Bravo.....	H. Bond.....	20-1

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the  
**Power  
grid**



**John  
Shapazian**



**Gaile  
Fitzgerald**



**Tom  
Law**



**Charles  
Bedard**



**Richard  
Hutchinson**

Race #

**1**

Modem  
Swansea Mile  
Colla Pier

Modem  
Show Court  
Colla Pier

Mr. Hot Stuff  
Modem  
Swansea Mile

Modem  
Alcazar de Maram  
Show Court

Three Kingdoms  
Modem  
Show Court

**2**

La Contessa  
Strategic Dreams  
Yes I Dance

Bonnie Scot  
Yes I Dance  
La Contessa

La Contessa  
Strategic Dreams  
Tied Up

La Contessa  
Warrior's Silver  
Bonnie Scot

La Contessa  
Tied Up  
Yes I Dance

**3**

Twenty Four Seven  
Djulpan  
Strike Midnight

Strike Midnight  
Caribbean  
Twenty Four Seven

Twenty Four Seven  
Caribbean  
Strike Midnight

Combat Controller  
Caribbean  
Strike Midnight

Twenty Four Seven  
Gotham News  
Astute Warrior

**4**

Jewel Can Disco  
Broman entry  
Contessa entry

Remstin  
Jewel Can Disco  
Broman entry

Broman entry  
Jewel Can Disco  
Terry O Geri

Broman entry  
Jewel Can Disco  
Contessa entry

Remstin  
Heavy Meddle  
Born For A Storm

**5**

Industrial Policy  
Miss Aja Brown  
My Good Venezuela

Just Got Out  
Merilore  
Indygita

Industrial Policy  
Miss Aja Brown  
Merilore

Just Got Out  
My Good Venezuela  
Industrial Policy

Miss Aja Brown  
Zeven  
Carmenere

**6**

Indian Gem  
Iwishirish  
Scarlett Jo Hansen

Indian Gem  
Iwishirish  
Irish Sweetheart

Iwishirish  
Desert Affair  
Indian Gem

Iwishirish  
Indian Gem  
Desert Affair

Iwishirish  
Desert Affair  
Indian Gem

**7**

Bareeqa  
Table For Six  
Khaleesi Kat

Table For Six  
Pinchbeck  
Sugar Mags

Pinchbeck  
Table For Six  
Bareeqa

Table For Six  
Bareeqa  
Pinchbeck

Pinchbeck  
Bareeqa  
Ten Penny Princess

**8**

Celtic Chaos  
Weekend Hideaway  
Jacobson entry

Celtic Chaos  
Jacobson entry  
Weekend Hideaway

Weekend Hideaway  
Celtic Chaos  
Rectify

Bustin It  
Jacobson entry  
Weekend Hideaway

Rectify  
T Loves A Fight  
Fish Trappe Road

**9**

Cherry Lodge  
Rubilinda  
Chubby Star

Rubilinda  
Cherry Lodge  
Chubby Star

Defiant Honor  
Danceland  
Fizzy Friday

Rubilinda  
Cherry Lodge  
Fizzy Friday

Cherry Lodge  
Talaay  
Let It Ride Mom

**10**

Phone Funky Munky  
Now A Factor  
Fun Prospect

Bourbonfuhrme  
News Anchor  
Phone Funky Munky

Fun Prospect  
News Anchor  
Phone Funky Munky

Honor Up  
Phone Funky Munky  
Fun Prospect

Phone Funky Munky  
Bourbonfuhrme  
Banker's Island

2017 Records:

**89/288**

**75/288**

**68/288**

**87/288**

**\*36/246**

Our fifth handicapper will be a special guest each day.

**10TH (6:17PM). \$73,000, MSW, 2 YO, 1 1/16M (TURF)**

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	..... 1 .....	Wicked Huntsman .....	D. Davis .....	M. Friedman .....	30-1
2	..... 2 .....	Can'tweallgetalong .....	L. Saez .....	G. Contessa .....	8-1
3	..... 3 .....	Bourbonfuhrme .....	J. Alvarado .....	A. Kingsley, Jr. ....	12-1
4	..... 4 .....	Now a Factor .....	J. Ortiz .....	M. Maker .....	6-1
5	..... 5 .....	Phone Funky Munky .....	I. Ortiz, Jr. ....	D. Donk .....	5-2
6	..... 6 .....	News Anchor .....	M. Franco .....	C. McGaughey III .....	9-2
7	..... 7 .....	English Channical .....	R. Montanez .....	G. Contessa .....	20-1
8	..... 8 .....	Fun Prospect .....	R. Maragh .....	H. Motion .....	7-2
9	..... 9 .....	Nate Can't Wait .....	L. Reyes .....	D. Schettino .....	8-1
10	..... 10 .....	Banker's Island .....	E. Cancel .....	M. Dilger .....	20-1
11	..... AE .....	Bit the Bullet .....	R. Rohena, Jr. ....	M. Eagan .....	20-1
12	..... MTO .....	New York Hero .....	J. Ortiz .....	L. Rice .....	3-1
13	..... MTO .....	Honor Up .....	J. Alvarado .....	W. Mott .....	8-5

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## GUEST HANDICAPPER UPDATE

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

\*The guest win total does not include Monday or Wednesday, when only The Special's regular handicappers picks appear at [thisishorseracing.com](http://thisishorseracing.com).



# Get Down

## Aussie trainers run 1-2 in turf marathon

BY TOM LAW

Don't stop if you've heard this one before. One Australian walks into a bar – er, winner's circle – and says to another Australian, “So, do you think we've got time to get these two to Melbourne on the first Tuesday?”

Maybe three-quarters joking and one-quarter serious, that's exactly what Aussie Brian Lynch said to fellow expat Ian Wilkes after they sent out the 1-2 finishers in Wednesday's \$100,000 John's Call Stakes at Saratoga Race Course. Lynch saddled the winner, Amerman Racing's Infinite Wisdom, who couldn't have looked happier on the lead throughout most of the 13 furlongs of the John's Call and found enough to hold off a late run of the Wilkes-trained Nessay.

As any Aussie will tell you, the first Tuesday is the first Tuesday in November and the date of the Melbourne Cup. Whether Infinite Wisdom, who won the John's Call by a length in 2:40.52 over the firm turf, or Nessay wind up in the 2-mile fixture that arguably means more to the people of Australia than any other race does to anyone from any other country remains to be seen.

But that didn't stop another Australian from offering his services, along with a quick quip.



Infinite Wisdom exits the winner's circle.

Tod Marks



Tod Marks

Infinite Wisdom (3) holds off Nessay in the marathon John's Call Stakes Wednesday.

“I told them Melbourne Cup with these two,” said Rodney Paine, an exercise rider for Rick Violette and Javier Castellano's valet. “I even offered to be the exercise rider if they need me.”

Wilkes, seeming almost as pleased with Nessay's performance as Lynch was with Infinite Wisdom's, might already be covered.

“Tracey already mentioned that, she said, ‘Melbourne Cup for this one,’” Wilkes said of his wife, who rides many of the stable's runners in the mornings. “And Rodney will have to fight Tracey for that job.”

All kidding aside, Irad Ortiz Jr.'s ability to not fight with and let Infinite Wisdom gallop along on the lead in the John's Call set up the aforementioned joke fest.

Infinite Wisdom and Ortiz went to the front from the break and led the field around the far turn of the Mellon Turf Course through a slow but not too pedestrian quarter of :25.79. They continued on the front through a half in :51.68 and did it easy in the stretch the first time, head up and ears pricked while St. Louie, Nessay, Red Rifle, Montclair and Renown gave chase past the finish post.

“There wasn't too much speed on the race today so I let him be comfortable. I let him be whatever he wanted to be,” Ortiz said. “He made the lead, I put my hands down and let him relax. He was doing it easy.”

“When we passed the wire I knew I was going too slow, really slow. I see the TV. I let him be comfortable and go very slow.”

Infinite Wisdom and Ortiz cruised past 6 furlongs in 1:17.90 and went into the backstretch a

half-length in front of St. Louie, just to his outside, with Nessay drafting right behind. They went past 1 mile in 1:42.72, Ortiz gently urging with his hands a little bit down the back straight and going into the turn the leader still looked comfortable while the other five riders started to ask their questions.

Infinite Wisdom led by a length past 10 furlongs in 2:05.84 and turned into the stretch the final time with that same lead, easily repelled a final bid from St. Louie and braced for one last challenge from Nessay up the inside on the hedge. Nessay never got closer than a length and Infinite Wisdom was inching clear at the finish. Nessay was 1 1/4 lengths in front of St. Louie in third with Red Rifle, Renown and Montclair rounding out the finish. Six lengths separated the field.

“When we hit the backside I let him start picking up because he's the kind of horse that doesn't have a big turn of foot, he just keeps going,” Ortiz said. “When you have the horse that relaxes, it's good because you don't have to fight too much with them. When you have the kind of horse that wants to go and you have to hold it the whole mile and five-eighths, that makes you a little tired. It worked out good for us, I got a beautiful trip.”

Sent off as the 2-1 favorite in the John's Call, Infinite Wisdom won for the fourth time in 16 starts to go with five seconds and three thirds. Purchased by John and Jerry Amerman for \$300,000 at the 2012 Keeneland September yearling sale, Infinite Wisdom boosted his bankroll to \$277,077 with his first stakes victory and first win in five starts this year.

Continued On Page 21



# John's Call —

■ Continued from page 20

The John's Call also marked Lynch's first victory at the meet, a few days after Unchained Melody pulled up and was vanned off after the Grade 1 Alabama. Lynch also sent out Loose On The Town to be second in the Tale Of The Cat Stakes and Psychoanalyze to a third in the Grade 3 Sanford at the meet.

"A head bob here or there probably cost us another few races, but it's just great to knock one out today especially in the John's Call," Lynch said. "I always thought this horse was going to like it the further they run and the better he'd be. I was happy to get him over a route of ground, he relaxed comfortably on the lead, they left him alone, let him dictate the terms and fortunately he had enough to finish when they came at him."

Lynch said he'd look at races going long for Infinite Wisdom down the road and didn't rule out the possibility of the 6-year-old gelding running marathon distances on the dirt.

"A race like the San Juan Capistrano," he said. "There's races out there for him, you just got to stick him on a plane and go to them. And he's a Smart Strike, so that option (to run on dirt) is certainly always there."

As for the Melbourne Cup, Lynch didn't rule it completely out.

"You always joke about those sort of things, but it's always been on the bucket list to take one of them home," he said. "As a kid I went a couple times. I watch it every year, but I've spent the better part of my adult life over here so I haven't been but I still don't miss it. I never miss it, it's always a great race to watch."

*Additional reporting  
by Shayna Tiller.*



Tod Marks

Irada Ortiz Jr. high-fives a new fan.

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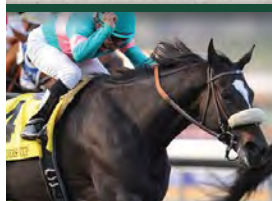
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# No Worries

## Moscato bounces back to win Walsh

Back on July 26, jump jockey Sean McDermott hopped off Moscato after a runner-up effort in the Jonathan Kiser Memorial novice stakes and spoke to owner Mike Hankin about how it went. Moscato pressed the pace, got passed on the turn but re-rallied in the stretch to finish second to Show Court.

"Don't worry," McDermott said. "He'll win the next one."

The next one came Wednesday at Saratoga Race Course, when Moscato took apart eight rivals in

**Continued On Page 23**



Tod Marks

Moscato (right) challenges Miguel Grau midway through Wednesday's win.



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# Wednesday —

## ■ Continued from page 22

the \$75,000 M.G. Walsh Memorial for McDermott, the Bruton Street-US partnership and trainer Jack Fisher. The English-bred let Miguel Grau set the early pace, took command with an inside move going to the seventh of nine fences and galloped home by 9 3/4 lengths while easing up. Long-shot Macnicholson finished second with New Member third. The winner scored for the third time (with two seconds) in five American starts over jumps and gave Fisher and McDermott their second wins of the meet.

McDermott loved Wednesday's pace scenario over 2 3/8 miles, and his horse's approach.

"He's honest, he's tough and he battles," said the jockey. "If they go slow, he'll get beaten for speed. If they're going silly quick I could drop him out last. But they don't do that here. Today we had a nice honest gallop and it just suited him. The race from a few weeks ago brought him on and that obviously made a difference in his fitness and in him. I don't think anyone would have beaten him today no matter what pace we went because he was super."

Moscato raced on the flat in England for trainer Mark Prescott, winning five times and taking part in

classy long-distance turf races at Ascot, Newcastle and Goodwood. Bruton Street's English version bought the gray last year and he placed in three hurdle starts for trainer Oliver Sherwood before coming to the United States.

Second in his American debut, the 6-year-old son of Hernando won his next two, chased Show Court home in the Kiser and romped in the Walsh.

"He's developed a lot, we haven't changed that much with him," said McDermott. "He's very happy in his routine and what Jack does with him in the yard. Training the mental side of him is tougher than the physical side sometimes. He has a strong mind, he's stubborn but it plays to his favor. If I got stuck in a dogfight, I can guarantee you he'll give his guts out."

The win was Fisher's 16th on the 2017 jump season (double that of his nearest rivals) while McDermott picked up his ninth jump win of the year to draw within two of leader Darren Nagle.

— Joe Clancy

- "I want to see that photo," Todd Pletcher said as he leaned on the rail in the winner's circle following the second, eyeing the big screen in the infield.

An image of two horses appeared, the gray on the outside a nose ahead

**Continued On Page 24**



Destin (5) nips Donegal Moon for a Todd Pletcher exacta (but not a dead heat) in Wednesday's second.

Dave Harmon

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— Linda Rice

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Tod Marks

A dirt-splattered Parade rolls to the finish in Wednesday's seventh race.

## Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 23

of his chestnut stablemate at the wire of the 1 1/8-mile allowance, securing Destin his first win in more than a year.

Purchased for \$400,000 by Twin Creeks Racing at the 2013 Keeneland September yearling sale, the multiple graded stakes winning son of Giant's Causeway won the Tampa Bay Derby last March. Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners joined the ownership shortly after.

"We bought in before the (Kentucky) Derby, so we cherry-picked all of the hard work they had done," said Eclipse's Aron Wellman. "They had done a masterful job managing him to that point."

Destin contested the first leg of the Triple Crown, finishing sixth.

"He ran a good race in the Derby, probably didn't get enough credit for the race he ran," said Wellman. "I can't take any credit for it, but we got to experience the thrill of his Derby run."

Destin followed that effort with an even more thrilling trip, finishing as runner-up by a nose to Creator in the Belmont Stakes.

"It's been a bit of a rollercoaster for sure," said Wellman. "He came back, ran gigantic in the Belmont and took one of the nastiest beats of all time. He doesn't like to win by much when he does and unfortunately that day he cut it too close and got the worst of it."

Destin closed his 3-year-old year with a third in the Jim Dandy and ninth in the Travers at Saratoga, before shipping to Bridlewood Farm in Ocala for the winter off.

"He was just a tired horse when the Travers came around and that day there was only one horse in that race and that horse was Arrogate," said Wellman. "We freshened him up and it's taken us a little longer to get him to where we wanted him this year but he did well and Todd's obviously got him back in top form."

Pletcher brought the colt back for his 4-year-old campaign in a 1 1/16-mile allowance at Belmont Park in May, finishing third.

"We got a prep race in him late May, but we haven't been able to get him into a race since," said Wellman.

"This should serve as a meaningful launching pad to get him back."

Skimming through the entries of Wednesday's second, one could consider it more of a listed or Grade 3 stakes than an allowance. The five-horse field was comprised entirely of graded stakes winners or graded stakes-placed horses, including Destin's stablemate Donegal Moon fresh off a second in the Grade 3 Monmouth Cup July 30.

With John Velazquez aboard, Destin chased behind Donegal Moon until the far turn, poking his head out to take the lead. Just when Destin seemed to be in the clear with a 1 1/2-length lead into the stretch, Donegal Moon pressed on, but Destin prevailed to win by a nose in 1:49.86.

"It was a nasty race but that's what you get up here at Saratoga. You don't take it for granted," said Wellman. "He's just such a naturally gifted athlete, things come really easy to him and of course stamina is of no concern, he runs all day."

"He's got a beautiful stallion's pedigree and he was a classic contender. We do think that he has another Grade 1 left in him and that will be the goal."

— Shayna Tiller

- The old-school two sprints to a route angle was in effect when Parade won the seventh for Shug McGaughey and Phipps Stable.

"I knew she wanted to run a distance of ground, I wanted to get a couple of dirt races in her," McGaughey said of the filly who broke her maiden in the 1 1/8-mile maiden special for older fillies. "I was still worried about how tiring this track is, but she obviously naturally wants to run this far."

The great-granddaughter of Personal Ensign and granddaughter of My Flag made her career debut on turf at Aqueduct in April. The 3-year-old was third in two 7-furlong maidens on the dirt following that effort, including a local effort three weeks ago.

"He was good and patient on her," McGaughey said of Dylan Davis, who has ridden Parade in all four of her starts. "I told him, 'There's some stopping speed in here, just don't worry about them. Just get her away from there and let her settle.' She's just got no speed. She finished up

Continued On Page 25



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# Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 24

good, I didn't want him to go wide."

Davis did exactly that, racing on the rail towards the rear of the field for the first 5 furlongs until he started to move forward with the daughter of Tapit leaving the backstretch, angling outside a pair of tiring foes. Although she had made up many lengths around the turn, Parade was still fifth turning for home. Davis pointed his mount inside of runner-up Presumptuous and outside of even-money favorite and third-place finisher Tapella at the eighth-pole, split the pair and drew away to win by 2 1/4 lengths.

"I've had some bad Tapit's but she's easy to be around," McGaughey said. "Now in the paddock today, she wasn't bad by any means but she was aggressive, which that's the way they're supposed to be."

— Ben Gowans

• Linda Rice pulled off a rare feat in 2000, winning three races with the same horse at the Saratoga meet.

"Three graded stakes and that was quite a task," Rice said of the late City Zip who won the Grade 2 Sanford, Grade 2 Saratoga Special and then dead-heated for the win in the Grade 1 Hopeful.

Rice did it again Wednesday when Voodoo Song won the ninth, a 1 1/16-mile New York-bred allowance on the turf, his third win in 33 days and in three starts in Rice's barn.



Tod Marks

Voodoo Song returns after his third win of the meet.

"This horse has really trained well in between the last race and this one," Rice said. "I was really thrilled with him, that's why I put him right back in. He was more relaxed and happy. Between the other two races, I walked him, it was four days. He was a little washy in the paddock and I was a little nervous about it and of course he ran off in the race."

"This time, hell, I trained him this morning just to make him settle. He was behaving so nice in the paddock today, I knew he was going to run a big race, not sure he would win, but I knew he'd run a big race."

Jose Lezcano stayed out of Voodoo Song's way coming out of the gate, letting him run freely into the first turn and crossing over to the hedge while going around the bend to make the lead.

"That was the plan, why change what works?" Rice said of the tactics employed in all three wins.

Voodoo Song rolled down the backstretch, completing a half-mile in :46.61 and stayed strong through the lane, crossing the wire a length clear of the rallying Nevisian Sky, who at 3-2 was favored by 5 cents over the winner.

"That's the way he wants to run. He does everything himself, and when you ask him he goes on with it," said Lezcano, who was aboard for each of the three scores.

— Ben Gowans

## Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS	1ST
Todd Pletcher	30
Chad Brown	26
Kiaran McLaughlin	11
Linda Rice	11
Bill Mott	9
Jason Servis	8
George Weaver	8
Rudy Rodriguez	7

JOCKEYS	1ST
Jose Ortiz	47
Irad Ortiz Jr.	38
John Velazquez	30
Javier Castellano	23
Manny Franco	19
Luis Saez	18
Jose Lezcano	14
Joel Rosario	14

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## SARATOGA RESULTS

Wednesday August 23.

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

8	Moscato (GB)	S. McDermott	\$8.50	\$5.20	\$3.20
4	Macnicholson (IRE)	R. Dunne		\$27.80	\$11.80
2	New Member (IRE)	D. Nagle			\$5.20

Gr/ro Gelding 2011, by Hernando (FR) - Alba Stella (GB) by Nashwan  
Owner: Bruton Street-US. Trainer: Jack Fisher.  
Breeder: Miss K. Rausing (GB).  
Late Scratches: Wigwam Baby  
Time: 4:31.36  
Exacta (8-4), \$314.00; Superfecta (8-4-2-6), \$6,007.00; Trifecta (8-4-2), \$1,584.00

### SECOND \$93,000, AOC \$80,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

5	Destin	J. Velazquez	\$3.60	\$2.50	\$2.10
1	Donegal Moon	J. Castellano		\$3.00	\$2.20
2	Seeking the Soul	J. Rosario			\$2.20

Gr/ro Colt 2013, by Giant's Causeway - Dream of Summer by Siberian Summer  
Owner: Twin Creeks Racing Stables, LLC and Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners. Trainer: Todd Pletcher.  
Breeder: James C. Weigel & Taylor Made Stallions Inc. (KY).  
Claimed: Flashy Jewel claimed by Hui, Michael M. for \$80,000  
Time: 1:49.86  
Daily Double (8-5), \$19.60; Exacta (5-1), \$9.00; Quinella (1-5), \$5.40; Superfecta (5-1-2-4), \$39.60; Trifecta (5-1-2), \$15.60

### THIRD \$83,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 5 1/2F TURF

4	Majestic Dunhill	M. Franco	\$17.00	\$7.10	\$4.70
6	Elusive Mischief	J. Leparoux		\$6.10	\$4.60
1	Spirit Fly	J. Rosario			\$4.90

Dk B/ Br Colt 2015, by Majesticperfection - Candy Fortune by Candy Ride (ARG)  
Owner: R. A. Hill Stable. Trainer: George Weaver.  
Breeder: Hargus Sexton, Sandra Sexton & Silver Fern Farm, LLC (KY).  
Late Scratches: Navy Commander  
Time: 1:01.59  
Daily Double (5-4), \$34.20; Exacta (4-6), \$100.50; Superfecta (4-6-1-10), \$5,106.00; Trifecta (4-6-1), \$1,377.00; Pic 3 (8-5-4), \$152.00

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

4	Frostie Anne	P. Lopez	\$8.90	\$5.00	\$3.80
5	Arewehavingfunyet	E. Cancel		\$5.50	\$3.80
1	Pretty Enuff	M. Franco			\$4.60

Dk B/ Br Filly 2013, by Frost Giant - Lake Toccet by Toccet  
Owner: Unqua Creek Stable. Trainer: Gary Gullo. Breeder: Mr. & Mrs. Grant L. Whitmer (NY).  
Claimed: Enduring Erin claimed by Shaw, Martin P. for \$16,000  
Time: 1:23.30  
Daily Double (4-4), \$79.50; Exacta (4-5), \$36.40; Quinella (4-5), \$21.80; Superfecta (4-5-1-3), \$365.50; Trifecta (4-5-1), \$138.50; Pic 3 (5-4-4), \$156.00

### FIFTH \$55,000, STARTERS ALLOWANCE \$50,000, 3 & UP, 5 1/2F

6	Spectrolite	A. Arroyo	\$4.30	\$3.00	\$2.40
9	Baby Bear's Soup	J. Castellano		\$3.90	\$3.40
4	Consumerconfidence	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$3.00

B Horse 2012, by Any Given Saturday - Unbridled Assay by Unbridled's Song  
Owner: Donk, David, G.. Trainer: David Donk.  
Breeder: Mr. & Mrs. John Toffan (KY).  
Late Scratches: Northern  
Time: 1:01.64  
Daily Double (4-6), \$23.40; Exacta (6-9), \$20.20; Superfecta (6-9-4-2), \$350.40; Trifecta (6-9-4), \$52.00; Pic 3 (4-4-6), \$217.00

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

10	Business Expense	J. Ortiz	\$13.80	\$8.70	\$6.10
11	Morocco	L. Saez		\$15.80	\$8.50
3	Jahaafel	J. Lezcano			\$8.30

Dk B/ Br Gelding 2013, by Uncle Mo - Wine and Dyne by Dynaformer  
Owner: Klaravich Stables, Inc. and Lawrence, William H..  
Trainer: Chad Brown. Breeder: Nancy S. Dillman (KY).  
Late Scratches: Zap Zap Zap, Gemologist, Fully Vested  
Time: 1:35.24  
Daily Double (6-10), \$41.60; Exacta (10-11), \$183.50; Superfecta (10-11-3-2), \$8,440.00; Trifecta (10-11-3), \$2,594.00; Pic 3 (4-6-10), \$250.50; Pic 4 (4-4-6/8-10), \$2,847.00; Pic 5 (5-4-4-6/8-10), \$5,508.00

### SEVENTH \$83,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 & UP, 1 1/8M

5	Parade	D. Davis	\$14.80	\$6.30	\$3.50
4	Presumptuous	R. Maragh		\$5.90	\$3.00
6	Tapella	J. Velazquez			\$2.30

Gr/ro Filly 2014, by Tapit - On Parade by Storm Cat  
Owner: Phipps Stable. Trainer: Claude McGaughy III.  
Breeder: Phipps Stable (KY). Time: 1:51.30  
Daily Double (10-5), \$153.50; Exacta (5-4), \$63.50; Superfecta (5-4-6-7), \$1,515.00; Trifecta (5-4-6), \$158.00; Pic 3 (6-10-5), \$619.00

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

3	Infinite Wisdom	I. Ortiz, Jr.	\$6.60	\$3.60	\$2.70
6	Nessy	J. Castellano		\$4.20	\$2.80
1	St. Louie	L. Saez			\$4.00

Ch Gelding 2011, by Smart Strike - Meridiana (GER) by Lomitas (GB)  
Owner: Amerman Racing LLC. Trainer: Brian Lynch.  
Breeder: Jon Kelly & Sarah Kelly (KY). Late Scratches: Mr Singh (GB)  
Time: 2:40.52  
Daily Double (5-3), \$62.00; Exacta (3-6), \$22.40; Superfecta (3-6-1-7), \$213.50; Trifecta (3-6-1), \$95.00; Pic 3 (10-5-3), \$518.00

### NINTH \$78,000, NY-BRED AOC \$40,000, 3 & UP, 1 1/16M TURF

6	Voodoo Song	J. Lezcano	\$5.20	\$3.00	\$2.90
8	Nevisian Sky	J. Ortiz		\$2.90	\$2.60
5	Yummy Bear	M. Franco			\$4.60

Ch Colt 2014, by English Channel - Mystic Chant by Unbridled's Song  
Owner: Schwartz, Barry, K.. Trainer: Linda Rice.  
Breeder: Stonewall Farm (NY).  
Claimed: Orino claimed by Jacobson, David for \$40,000  
Time: 1:39.99  
Daily Double (3-6), \$22.00; Exacta (6-8), \$12.20; Superfecta (6-8-5-3), \$376.50; Trifecta (6-8-5), \$98.00; Pic 3 (5-3-6), \$227.00; Grand Slam (2/10/11-4/5/6-1/3/6-6), \$133.50

### TENTH \$39,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN CLM \$25,000, 3 & UP, 6 1/2F

4	Money Laundering	K. Carmouche	\$10.60	\$5.50	\$4.10
2	I Miss My Father	J. Ortiz		\$3.90	\$3.20
7	Nut Nut	J. Bravo			\$4.50

B Ridgling 2014, by Soaring Empire - Greenbackhasvalue by Yankee Gentleman  
Owner: McRich Stables. Trainer: Bruce Levine.  
Breeder: Scott Pierce & Debbie Pierce (NY).  
Late Scratches: Mast Step  
Time: 1:17.38  
Daily Double (6-4), \$36.60; Exacta (4-2), \$41.00; Superfecta (4-2-7-8), \$888.00; Trifecta (4-2-7), \$235.00; Pic 3 (3-6-4), \$99.00; Pic 4 (5-2/3-6-4), \$1,236.00; Pic 5 (10-5-2/3-6-4), \$7,625.00; Pic 6 (6/8-10-5-2/3-6-4), \$303.00; Pic 6 (6/8-10-5-2/3-6-4), \$51,618.00

On Track Handle: 2,700,758. Inter-State Handle: 9,413,972

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# SARATOGA RESULTS PHOTOS

BY TOD MARKS AND DAVE HARMON



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

## Private Zone

Forego Stakes 2015

BY JOE CLANCY

In less than a minute and 10 seconds at Saratoga Race Course July 29, El Deal won the Alfred Vanderbilt Handicap by 8 lengths, and stamped himself a major player in the 2017 sprint division.

Afterward, trainer Jorge Navarro was asked about comparing the 5-year-old to another top sprinter he trained.

"No, no, that's different," the trainer said while watching the Vanderbilt replay in the Saratoga Room. "That's the best I ever trained in my life."

And that's how good Private Zone was.

He won 10 of 33 starts, earned \$2,964,620 and made witnesses gasp with wins like his score in the 2015 Forego Stakes on Travers Day. He outbroke 11 others, angled to the rail and set every fraction – :22.67, :45.10, 1:08.53 and finally 1:21.09 for 7 furlongs while wining by 3 3/4 lengths. The Forego was his fifth Grade 1 triumph, including one in Panama in 2012.

Bred in Canada by Adena Springs, Private Zone was purchased by Rogelio Douglas for \$15,000 at Keeneland September in 2010 and started his racing career in Panama. The colt won three of nine, including a Grade 1, but also pulled himself up in two races. In 2012, Douglas' brother Rene purchased the son of Macho Uno on behalf of Good Friends Stable. The group of friends (of course) wanted to help former jockey Rene Douglas get started in a second career in racing after he was paralyzed in a riding accident in 2009 and asked him to find a horse for them.

Oh what a horse. The ownership group included Hilton Gordon, Joe Casciato, Dave Flanzbaum, Larry Slavin, Dominick Auricchio and former NHL star Denis Savard (who met Douglas while with the Chicago Blackhawks). They struck gold in Private Zone, whose 2012 season



Tod Marks  
Private Zone rules  
the 2015 Forego.

included three graded-stakes placings while with trainer Doug O'Neill in California. The next year, the son of Macho Uno won twice including the Grade 1 Vosburgh at Belmont Park. He repeated that triumph in 2014, and also won the Cigar Mile and placed in the Breeders' Cup Sprint. In 2015, Private Zone won the Churchill Downs Stakes, placed in the Met Mile, added the Belmont Sprint Championship in July and then blitzed the Forego.

The win capped a wild week for the speedster and his connections. Seven days before the Forego, Private Zone worked a half-mile on Saratoga's main track in :45.80 – faster than a phalanx of stakes horses all prepping for major engagements including Liam's Map, Stopchargingmaria, Competitive Edge and Texas Red.

The work was so fast that it threw a scare into Douglas, who got on the phone to Navarro after

hearing about the move. Navarro didn't waste any time calming Douglas' nerves as he watched the gelding cool out outside Barn 64 on the turn of the Oklahoma Training Track.

"The workout scared me, too," the trainer said. "When I got back to the barn I took a call from Rene and he said, 'Jorge, that was bad.' I just told him he did it so easy and that he didn't drink much water and cooled out in 45 minutes."

The work turned out to be simply a sign of things to come a week hence. Private Zone finished second to Runhappy in the Breeders' Cup Sprint or may have taken down an Eclipse Award. Regardless, the sprint star finished 2015 with three wins, two seconds and a third in seven starts for more than \$1.3 million in earnings. He made one start in 2016 a fourth in the Belmont Sprint Championship before being retired to Old Friends Farm in Kentucky.



**Andrew J. Mollica, Esq.**

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# SARATOGA RESULTS PHOTOS – MONDAY

BY TOD MARKS AND DAVE HARMON



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# Near Totality

## Spa fans enjoy rare solar eclipse

As horses strolled the paddock before the fourth race Monday, a celestial event occurred overhead.

For the first time since 1979, North America experienced a solar eclipse, in which the moon obstructed the sun for up to three hours with varying visibility depending on viewing location. Saratoga Springs experienced its maximum eclipse of 66 percent at 2:41, just before post time in the fourth.

The sky assumed a muted, gray hue accompanied by a slight break from the sweltering summer day. Race go-



The Special's Dave Harmon checks out the Eclipse Monday.

ers emerged from the clubhouse like bats from a cave, putting on special eclipse glasses, layered sunglasses and even layered jockey goggles as they gazed at the spectacle in the sky.

The fourth race went off during the peak time and Jose Ortiz, who won five races on Monday's card, cruised atop Tres Charmant in the 5 1/2-furlong maiden claimer on the Mellon Turf Course.

Ortiz hopped off his mount and met trainer Linda Rice outside the winner's circle, where he was greeted by Ken Ramsey.

Ramsey stood outside the winner's circle gate holding a pair of the special eclipse glasses.

"Don't mind that son, look at the sky," said Ramsey as Ortiz departed towards the jocks' room, eagerly passing the glasses into his hands.

Ramsey handed the glasses to nearly everyone exiting the winner's circle, from the jockeys aboard a horse in the race, to Gary Contessa and Rice, down to the last photographer.

NYRA analyst Andy Serling was well prepared, adorned in eclipse glasses while hosting Saratoga Live. Eclipse Award-winning jockeys Ramon Dominguez, Angel Cordero and Richard Migliore viewed the spectacle from the roof of the clubhouse.

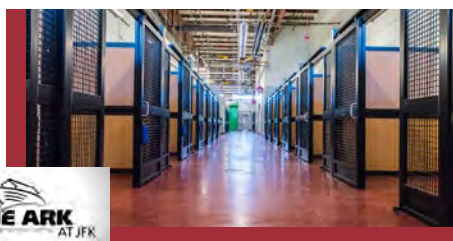
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Tod Marks

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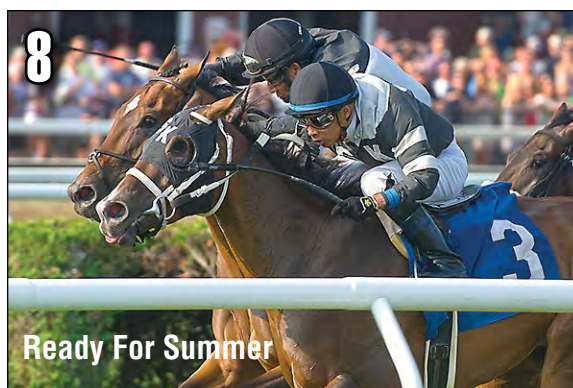
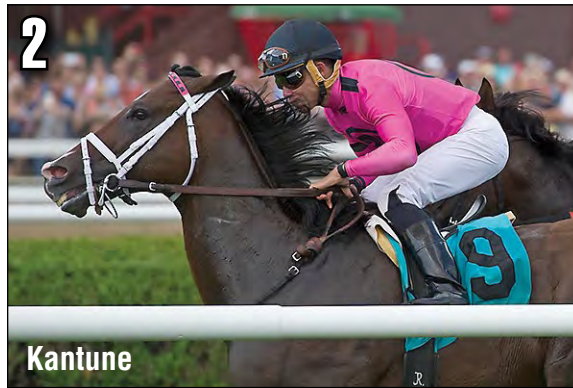
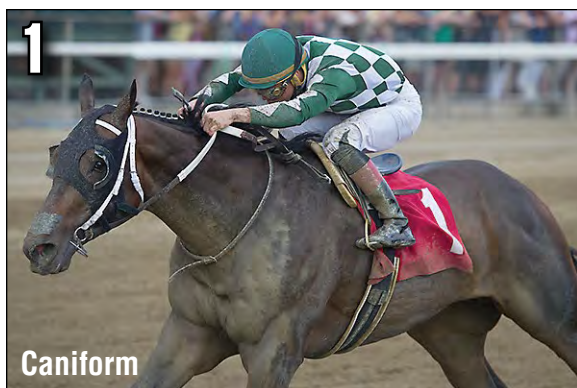
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Tod Marks

Belmont Stakes winner Tapwrit is favored for Saturday's Travers.

## The Travers

The field for the 148th Travers Stakes. Purse \$1.25 million  
Saturday, Aug. 26. 11th race. 5:44 p.m. Saratoga Race Course.

PP ..	Horse .....	Trainer .....	Jockey .....	ML
1.....	Cloud Computing .....	Chad Brown .....	Javier Castellano.....	8-1
2.....	Giuseppe The Great .....	Nick Zito .....	Tyler Gaffalione.....	20-1
3. ....	West Coast.....	Bob Baffert.....	Mike Smith .....	4-1
4. ....	Tapwrit.....	Todd Pletcher.....	Jose Ortiz .....	7-2
5. ....	Good Samaritan .....	Bill Mott .....	Joel Rosario .....	5-1
6. ....	Girvin .....	Joe Sharp .....	Robby Albarado.....	10-1
7. ....	Always Dreaming .....	Todd Pletcher.....	John Velazquez.....	6-1
8. ....	Lookin At Lee.....	Steve Asmussen .....	Ricardo Santana Jr. ...	30-1
9. ....	McCracken.....	Ian Wilkes .....	Brian Hernandez Jr. ...	12-1
10. ...	Irap .....	Doug O'Neill.....	Mario Gutierrez.....	8-1
11. ...	Gunnevera .....	Antonio Sano .....	Edgard Zayas .....	20-1
12. ...	Fayeq .....	Kieran McLaughlin.....	Luis Saez .....	30-1

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The jockeys have always intrigued me the most. Flat or jump, doesn't matter. I've been there, I guess that's part of it, trying to control adrenaline, normalize risk, temper hunger, stymie pressure, quell fear, stave off the simple march of time that gets all jockeys in the end.

I've written about their good days, their bad days, their good sides, their bad sides, all of their good rides, a few of their bad rides. I've written about some of their beginnings and most of their endings. I've written about their crescendos and their crashes, their stakes and their suicides, their favorite horses and their least favorite races.

For the most part, I think I've gotten it right.

I wrote a story about a jockey who was battling for his first title at Saratoga, and John Velazquez corrected me, "That's not a good guy." I snapped back, "I never said he was a good guy. I just said he was leading the standings." I was fairly confident I didn't portray him as a good guy. I scurried to the racing office and read the column again, nowhere did it say he was a good guy. I felt better.

I talked to veteran Cornelio Velasquez while he was sparring with Kent Desormeaux for a Saratoga riding title. I asked him why he rode so many races, Velasquez got his license from his wallet and pointed to the word, jockey. "I'm a jockey, that's what it says. That's what I do." I loved that.

I've written countless stories on champion steeplechase jockey Paddy Young, covering each of his five titles, his dalliances with retirement, his devastating injury this spring. That last one hurt, but it sure felt better when I saw him at the races yesterday. I'll write another one about him.

I wrote about Jonathan Kiser, Cort Marzullo, Brooks Durkee, Garrett Gomez and Chris Antley, all gone way too soon. I felt like I offered closure, for them, for me, for their families. I wish I could have changed those stories.

I haven't always gotten the stories right.



Tod Marks

I wrote about Shane Sellers and Mike Smith's unbreakable bond after the 1997 Breeders' Cup when Smith rode Sellers' big horse, Skip Away, to win the Classic, only to learn later that their friendship bent and maybe broke. I once wrote about a jump jockey who had his life together and was accused of writing fiction, I guess I got that one wrong. I wrote about Gomez beating his demons, sadly, they eventually beat him. I wrote about my friendship with Chip Miller that, painfully, has faded into dust. I'll need more than 800 words to explain that one.

There were others, I'm sure, when I got it wrong and nobody was as vocal as Velazquez. They might be right.

Last week, I talked to jump jockey Darren Nagle,

moments after he won an allowance race aboard Mutasaawy, to further pad his lead at the top of the 2017 standings. I've had my disagreements with Nagle, as I've watched him take missteps, or what I consider missteps, in his riding career. I still root for him, as I root for every jockey, for their safety, for their sanity, for their stability.

Over the years, Nagle has offered quotes about horses, races and that's about all. He went down that road last week, explaining the pace of the allowance race, the move he made leaving the backside, the feeling the promising novice gave him. And then I asked him a final question, just to see where it would go.

"You're winning a lot of races this year, are you doing anything different?"

Expecting an answer about horses, opportunities or tactics, I got a lot more.

"I'm a lot happier this year, a lot fitter, I don't kill myself with the weight any more, trying to keep myself at 138, 140 all the time, I walk around like a zombie, I'm pissed off, I don't get along with anybody. I just let my weight go up a bit, I feel stronger, I feel happier, I feel better. I manage my work week a bit better now, I freelance, if I need to do something else, I'll do it. Come back from racing in Tennessee on Saturday and go working on a Sunday, you can only do that for so long," Nagle said. "I'm getting a bit older, I've been doing it a long time, I haven't always done it correctly, I wish I had a bit more advice from other people. Things are going well, a lot of good riders are hurt, I'm probably getting opportunities that I normally wouldn't have gotten, thankfully I've taken advantage of them rather than letting them spurn."

Nagle rides All The Way Jose in the New York Turf Writers Cup today. Maybe he'll win it, maybe he won't, but it sounds like he'll respect the opportunity, the moment, at least more than he once did. I hope I'm right about that one.



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