

Year 18 • No. 23

Friday, August 24, 2018

The *Saratoga*

# Special

Saratoga's Daily Racing Newspaper since 2001



## One Shall Stand

Optimus Prime jumps to Grade 1 win

**ENTRIES & HANDICAPPING  
NY-BRED SHOWCASE DAY  
MONTE CRISTA WINS STAKES**





## Consignors 2013-2015 with 100+ Yearlings Offered

*(per The Blood-Horse, 2018 Summer Sales Guide)*

Consignor	Offered	SW	% offered
Claiborne	105	8	7.6%
Gainesway	572	41	7.2%
Mill Ridge	178	12	6.7%
VanMeter-Gentry	143	9	6.3%
St George	197	11	5.6%

Consignor	Offered	\$100k+ Earners	% offered
Claiborne	105	24	23%
Mill Ridge	178	40	22%
Woods Edge	209	38	18%
Lane's End	849	144	17%
Bluewater	254	43	17%

Consignor	Sold	Avg Sale Price
Dromoland Farm	118	\$174,945
Gainesway	485	\$167,872
Claiborne	94	\$167,396
Lane's End	711	\$124,917
Taylor Made	1,039	\$114,320

Consignor	Offered	Avg Earnings
Dromoland Farm	150	\$134,478
Claiborne	105	\$103,369
Gainesway	572	\$97,499
Denali Stud	497	\$78,608
Hill 'n' Dale	474	\$65,111

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# here&there...at Saratoga

## T-SHIRT SLOGAN OF THE DAY

BEER, because no good story started over KALE.

## LICENSE PLATE OF THE DAY

**EBRACIN, New York.** On trainer Eddie Barker's truck (which also sports a Mr. Ed for President bumper sticker).

**RIDERSUP, New York.**

## BY THE NUMBERS

**40:** Jockeys with 100 American steeplechase wins after Ross Geraghty joined the club Thursday. Joe Aitcheson leads with 440.

**6:** Pairs of Sean Clancy's shoes in The Special office.

**1:** Greenwich Baseball sweatshirt on the backside Thursday morning.

**1:** Deer Park Varsity Swimming hoodie on the backside Thursday morning.

## NAMES OF THE DAY

**Mensa Member, fourth race.** The 2-year-old filly, bred by Joanne Nielsen and owned by Klaravich Stable, is out of Forever Smart.

**Cross Multiply, 11th race.** The 3-year-old colt is by The Factor out of Class Break.



**Clocking In.** Hall of Fame trainer Jonathan Sheppard reports for duty at the Oklahoma Annex Thursday morning. Tod Marks

# Golden boy

Medaglia d'Oro's lookalike son is rated his best ever:  
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## here&there...at Saratoga

### WORTH REPEATING

"Best newspaper in the world. I mean that."

**Ernie Munick, Wednesday morning (Thank you. We mean that.)**

"I have all these quotes, but nobody's ever around to hear them."

**Television producer Mitch Levites**

**Elizabeth Voss Murray:** "We're going to the races."

**Her son Thomas Murray:** "Are we going where the rocks are or where the Dippin' Dots are?"  
They went to Dippin' Dots (the frontside), not rocks (the backside).

"You don't have to eat it in 22 seconds."

**NYRA Security Rick Thompson, after bringing The Special's Shayna Tiller a cup of ice cream because she wasn't selected for the ice cream eating contest**

"I think it shows that you have to put them both in a race because they both have a shot in the race. When you have turf horses with Chad (Brown), you're used to it anyhow because if you're not the second or third horse, Chad has another horse with somebody else."

**Co-owner Bill Lawrence on running both Focus Group and Call Provision in the John's Call Stakes Wednesday**

"These are terrible things to juggle."

**The Special's Joe Clancy while attempting to juggle three bags of Lay's potato chips Wednesday evening**

"I don't get these people that have something bad to say about Saratoga. You could drive five minutes from here and be in the middle of a cornfield. Literally. It's the greatest place in the world."

**Trainer Phil Serpe**

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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I love these races."

Owner Everett Dobson, as the New York Turf Writers Cup horses left the paddock Thursday



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Photo: Jim McCue

### MY NAME IS LITTLE MISS RAE LYN.

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## here&there...at Saratoga

### WORTH REPEATING

**Joe Clancy:** "Someone tell me when Will's Way won the Travers."

**Tom Law:** "1996."

**Ben Gowans:** "I wasn't born yet."

**Tom Law:** "I covered it."

**Ken McPeck, asking about Time Warp in the Seeking The Ante:** "What are her odds? I don't even know what her odds are."

**Shayna Tiller:** "She's 5-1."

**Ken McPeck:** "Oh, that's good. I'd bet that."

"The good news is none of us can catch you if it all goes wrong."

**Racing fan Mike Balfe, to The Special's Joe Clancy who gave out a 'sure thing' steeplechaser for the Balfe Corner show parlay Thursday (editor's note: Clancy's pick got through, but the bet blew up in the second race)**

"The hardest one was when there was a wasp in the booth with me. Nothing like calling a four-minute race while trying not to get stung by a wasp."

**Announcer Larry Collmus, on the joys of calling a jump race**

"I get to keep this?"

**Jump jockey Ross Geraghty, on the 100 Victories sign he received after Thursday's New York Turf Writers Cup (yes you do)**

"I never thought I'd be saying that."

**Jump jockey Darren Nagle, after saying Geraghty had some winning to do to become the leading "active" jump jockey in the country (Nagle holds that title with 111)**

"Oats and hay, I even leave out the water."

**Owner George Mahoney, staying substance free with his drink in the Saratoga Room after winning Thursday's New York Turf Writers Cup**

"Did you get permission from Barbara to stand there?"

**Trainer Eric Guillot, to a crowd of photographers along the far turn of the main track; Ms. Livingston said it was OK**

"No thanks. I'm a strong independent woman who carries things."

**The Special's Shayna Tiller with arms full, denying The Special's Ben Gowans when he offered to help**

"I thought about texting you at 4 this morning."

**Trainer Mike Trombetta, after The Special didn't receive a return text at 10:27 the night before**

"I remember you raking her shedrow."

**Vinnie Varvaro, recalling the week that The Special's Sean Clancy raked Janet Elliot's shedrow to ride Hokan in the New York Turf Writers Cup in 1998**

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# The Top 10

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

- 1** Imperial Hint. Vanderbilt July 28. Special, small sprinter won Grade 1 with speed, style, simplicity. And we wrote about him 18 months ago.
- 2** Diversify. Whitney Aug. 4. Best older horse on grounds breaks on top and rips it up – winning in hand and stretching streak to three.
- 3** Voodoo Song. Fourstardave Aug. 11. Turf star finally earned a Special cover with a Grade 1 triumph and a 5-for-5 mark at the track.
- 4** Monomoy Girl. C.C.A. Oaks July 22. Queen of the meet back in Kentucky. Her lady in waiting Eskimo Kisses steamrolled Alabama field.
- 5** Weekend Hideaway. John Morrissey July 26. Who you callin' old? He won the N.Y.-bred stakes for the second time – four years after the first one.
- 6** Chad Brown. Ahead 33-16 through Thursday, meet's leading trainer is running away with it. The races for place and show could be fun.
- 7** Irad Ortiz Jr. Every time somebody gets close, the meet's leading jockey pulls away. Leads by nine. Can Javier Castellano make a run?
- 8** Sistercharlie. Diana July 21. Wait, wait, wait again, then pounce. Irish-bred arrived in final half-stride to win Grade 1. Did it again in Beverly D.
- 9** John Hertler. Saratoga's class-guy trainer (Slew O' Gold anyone?) gets a win with Tradeable Aug. 16, and makes everybody smile.
- 10** Rushing Fall. Lake Placid Aug. 18. Budding turf star gets off bench and wins Grade 2 for fun. Now 5-for-6 with a second.

**On the bubble:** Cape Angel, Farrell, Mucho, Promises Fulfilled, Gatherin-the-great, Arch Kingsley winning two over jumps, the 145 Beyer put up by the rain, Barclay Tagg's double, Jeremiah Englehart, Dave Donk and Phil Serpe climbing the leaderboard, Bowling Green dead heat, New York-breds in open stakes, Sandy's Slew (Happy Retirement), Tricky Escape shipping up – twice – from Delaware to win the Waya, Lacey Gaudet with a winner, Endorsed and Code Of Honor, **Ricky Hendriks and Ross Geraghty sweeping the jumps Aug. 22-23.**



## PHOTO OF THE DAY

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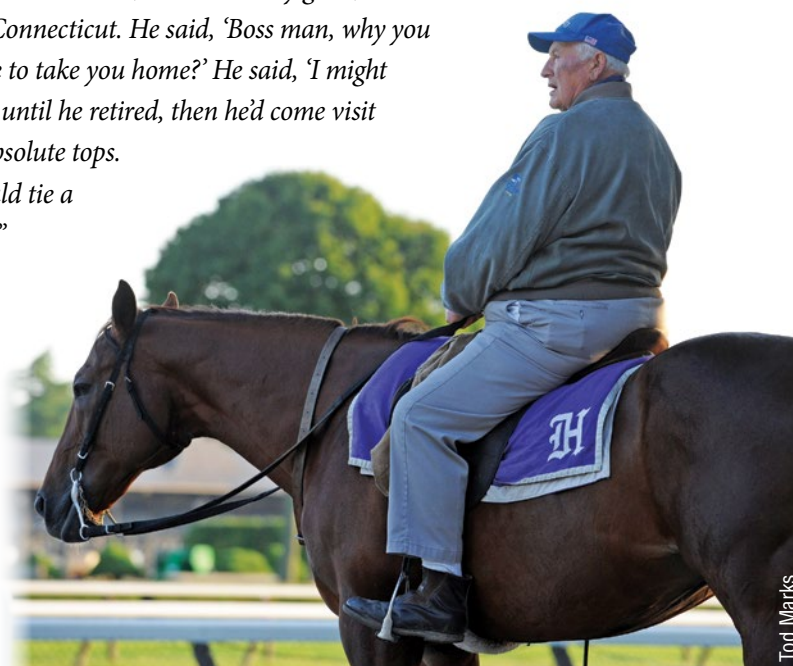
## The Chief... Day 23

*"Admiral Vee had a great groom. Top, top. Jimmy Harris. He would be tough to hold while he was washing him, and I'd be holding him while he washed him, he'd look at me and say, 'I wish there was a post here.' I'd say why? He said, 'To tie him to it, because he might as well be tied to a post with you holding him.' He rubbed Beau Purple too, he was the top. One day we run a horse, late in the fall, he was a bad maiden, didn't run any good, he knew I lived out in Huntingdon and he lived in Connecticut. He said, 'Boss man, why you waiting around here?' I said, 'Don't you want me to take you home?' He said, 'I might want to go up on the avenue.' He stayed with me until he retired, then he'd come visit us. I had some of those old guys, they were the absolute tops. Some of those horses would eat you up, they would tie a rag around their nose. I didn't want to rub them."*

– Trainer Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015



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Tod Marks



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## with Jorge Abreu

Jorge Abreu went 2-for-2 at Saratoga in 2016. Woodville, a filly by Ghostzapper and Abreu's first starter, accounted for both wins and remains special to her trainer.

"Those were some good memories. She was a good horse," Abreu said this week.

Two years later, Abreu has a lot more than one horse in his care. The former assistant to Chad Brown, John Terranova and Nick Zito has horses spread across four barns in town. His home base is in the Oklahoma Annex, on the backside of Ken McPeck's shedrow and across from Jeremiah Englehart. Abreu can be found traveling to and from his barns on his golf cart.

"It's hard, but that's something I'm used to," he said. "When I worked with Chad, it was the same way, going back and forth. So far, I can't complain, everything has been going very well. I have a good mix of horses: 2-year-olds, claiming horses, older horses, and everybody has been running well. I'm blessed with my owners, they let me run where they belong."

Abreu's meet has gone well, winning with five of 27 starters through Thursday. Another eight have hit the board. Still in the early stages of starting his own business, Abreu has an eclectic group of horses.

"Each individual, you have to treat them differently," he said. "You can't train them all the same."

Everybody around the racetrack calls Abreu the same nickname, "Titi."

"That was my nickname I got in 1984 when I first got here," said the native of the Dominican Republic. "They just started calling me that and that was it. Everyone knows me by that."

Abreu took a few minutes while watching horses train to go over some of his runners with The Special's Ben Gowans.

**Pas De Soucis:** Irish-bred 5-year-old mare won her first American start at Saratoga last year when trained by Chad Brown. She's made three starts for Abreu this year, placing in two stakes. She was third behind two Brown trainees in the Fasig-Tipton De La Rose Aug. 4. "I was very happy with her



Trainer Jorge Abreu (center) has five wins at the meet.

race. We got beat by the two best horses in the race. She's one that I have in mind to take to the Ladies Turf at Kentucky Downs. She's very easy to train, easy to be around. She's not the best mover. She's a weird horse because if you see her gallop, you want no part of her. But when she's breezing, she's like a totally different horse."

**Goodthingstaketime:** Irish-bred 3-year-old filly was third in yesterday's Riskaverse. Forced to settle far off the slow early pace, she raced wide on both turns before rallying. She's run five times this year, all stakes, and hasn't won but also hasn't been worse than third. Madaket Stables, Tim and Anna Cambron and Bradley Thoroughbreds own the daughter of Holy Roman Emperor. "I think having no pace killed us, going :25, :50, 1:14. She finished up well. She always shows up, that's the good thing about her. Also, she's the type of horse that is going to be a better 4-year-old."

**Frisky Magician:** Purchased at Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale in 2013, Abreu claimed the turf sprinter for Mike Dubb in December. He finished second in his first start for Abreu and then was fifth in the Grade 3 Twin Spires on Kentucky Oaks Day. He's the 5-2 morning line favorite in today's sixth, a 5 1/2-furlong turf optional claimer. "He was a little unlucky with the trip he had here. He just breezed really well. I liked him since Day 1. We claimed him in Florida and gave him a little break. The first time I breezed the horse, I called Mike and told him, 'This is one horse we're not running back for a tag.' He breezed like a horse that could be really good."

**She Doesn't Mind:** French bred 5-year-old mare made her first start for Abreu Aug. 10. She finished second, beaten by Abreu's former boss, who trained the mare when she first came to the country. She's owned by Sheep Pond Partners, Tim and Anna Cambron and Bradley Thoroughbreds. "She ran well in a claiming race and I'm just waiting for the same race to come back to put her right back in there. She's competitive in

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

See [thisishorseracing.com](http://thisishorseracing.com) for the full season.

that group. I have a couple horses for the group and she was moved to me at the end of June."

**Revved Up:** Former Shug McGaughey trainee was purchased at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July horses of racing age sale two days after finishing second in Arlington Park's Grade 3 Arlington Handicap. Kingsport Farm sent him straight to Abreu and the 5-year-old son of Storm Flag Flying is entered to make his first start for new connections in Saturday's Grade 1 Sword Dancer. "He's doing very well. I've liked him since he came to my barn. Aiming to go in the Sword Dancer. He's run well here. The owner is new to me. I have a couple nice horses for him."

Tod Marks

**Appealing Briefs:** Abreu claimed the New York-bred Tizway gelding when he was dropped in for a claiming tag for the first time June 23. That was the 4-year-old's 14th start and first win. He finished third in an allowance Aug. 1 and is entered back in a similar race Saturday. "He ran well. That race suits him better, going a-mile-and-a-sixteenth. But you know in Saratoga, you think you're going to have an easy spot and it's never that way."

**Sister Sophia:** One of Abreu's five winners at the meet, Farone Stables' New York-bred mare won a turf sprint open allowance Aug. 11. Now 6, she's only made 14 starts with four wins. "I knew the filly was going to run well, but not that well. The turf being soft, I was a little concerned about that. Not so much her ability, but the turf condition. She ran a huge race that day. She's a really laid back horse, easy to be around."

**Dorothy's Dream:** Six-year-old daughter of Yes It's True is also owned by Farone Stables. She's only made four starts and finished fourth in a maiden special Aug. 9. "I ran her back on dirt after a two-year-layoff because it came off the turf. The plan would be to get her on the turf at Belmont."

**Manoffire:** Dorothy's Dream's older half-brother is an 8-year-old gelding by Pure Prize. He's run twice this year, fourth at Belmont in June and then third here Aug. 17 in a 1-mile optional claimer. His trainer liked his chances and the New York-bred outran his odds to finish third. "He ran good off the layoff. I just rested him over the winter because it makes no sense to run him at Gulfstream because he's a New York-bred. I don't think he wants to do the 5 1/2 here anymore, so I think the 1 mile is going to be perfect if we get a good pace."

**Bernardino:** Dorothy's Dream and Manoffire's unraced 3-year-old half brother is by Paddy O'Prado. He shows a string

Continued On Page 9



# Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

of local works and is nearing his first start. "He just breezed with Frisky Magician. I like him a lot."

**Espresso Shot:** NY Final Furlong Racing Stable's and Maspeth Stable's 2-year-old daughter of Mission Impazible cost \$69,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale. She finished third in her first start Aug. 16, a 5 1/2-furlong turf maiden. "I was happy with her race. Her inexperience got her beat. The 1-2 already had a race under their belt and she looked a little lost. I want to go a little longer with her, but that was the only race they have. I just wanted to go and give her a race. Belmont probably going seven-eighths next time."

**Jody's Song:** Parkland Thoroughbreds bought this daughter of Scat Daddy for \$250,000 at the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale of selected yearlings. She's made one start, late last September at Belmont in a 1-mile turf maiden. She won by 3 lengths and is entered in Sunday's seventh race, a 1 1/16-mile turf allowance. "She just breezed really well on the main track with Florent (Geroux). I'm happy with the way she's doing. She's a really nice horse."

**Elios Milos:** Son of Dublin was purchased at the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale before being resold as a 2-year-old. He won his debut at Belmont in May and finished second in his next start. He was entered to run at the meet but was scratched. "I scratched him because the day of the race, he spiked a temp of 104. He's been walking since. He's getting better. He won first time out and then second time out he was second."

**Perfect Pitch:** Bill Lawrence's and Bradley Thoroughbreds' 3-year-old Congrats filly showed speed in her first start Aug. 15 before fading to seventh. "I knew she was going to run well but she ran better than I expected. One thing I wasn't too crazy about was that

she made the lead because she doesn't train like a horse that has that type of speed. But like I say, some of them train one way in the morning and run another way in the afternoon. I think the mile-and-a-sixteenth might be a little long for her, so I'm going to cut her back in distance at Belmont."

**Hit A Provisional:** Off The Hook bought this daughter of Northern Afleet for \$30,000 at the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale. Off The Hook is partners with Doheny Racing Stable and Thomas Coleman on the filly, who finished second in her debut June 13. Abreu has entered her three times at the meet and he's been forced to scratch her every time due to the races being taken off the turf. "She's been very unlucky having to scratch a few times. I just to have to wait. She ran well first time. I didn't really expect it. She gave me the impression she was going to need a race."

**Muchacha Uno:** Abreu claimed 3-year-old Macho Uno filly for Dubb in April. In her first start for new connections, she defeated stablemate Special Trip and eight others Aug. 2. "We claimed her for 50 and gave her a little time off. She really surprised me. I thought Special Trip was going to run better than her. I thought she was a work away, but I guess not. She came out of the race really well."

**Heroic Activist:** Parkland Thoroughbreds' 2-year-old Declaration Of War filly made her first start Aug. 19. She finished sixth behind runaway winner Newspaperofrecord. Abreu liked the \$175,000 2-year-old buy but knew what she was up against. "I really like her. Unfortunately, she has to run against one of Chad's best. She's turf. I think she can do both, but I like her better on the turf than the dirt. She breezes well on the turf. I picked her in the sale as a 2-year-old."

**Stellar Agent:** Two-year-old daughter of More Than Ready cost \$150,000 this year and has been working steadily. "She breezed out of the gate with Manny Franco (Aug. 19). I like her. There's a race on the 1st, that's where I'm going with her. She trains well on both dirt and turf."



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Tod Marks

Optimus Prime and Ross Geraghty glide home with a Grade 1 jump win.

# On Schedule

## Optimus Prime, Hendriks deliver in Grade 1 steeplechase triumph

BY JOE CLANCY

NEW YORK TURF WRITERS RECAP

Fifty-four days, or maybe sixty-four but it doesn't really matter.

That's the timetable trainer Ricky Hendriks set out for himself with Optimus Prime to get to Thursday's Grade 1 New York Turf Writers Cup hurdle stakes at Saratoga Race Course. The French-bred, English-raced 6-year-old came to Hendriks' barn in June – he's not quite sure of the day without checking – off races at Punchestown in April and Haydock in May. He'd won three in a row before that, and gave Hendriks and owner George Mahoney enough confidence to think about Saratoga.

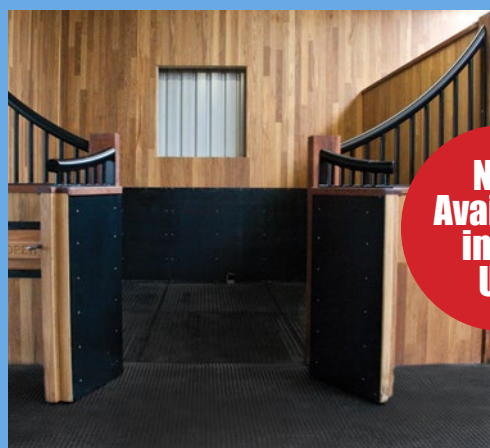
"I've got it written on my calendar in the tack room," Hendriks said of

the arrival date. "We had X amount of days to get him here to this race. This was the race we wanted. The Smithwick (a month earlier) was too close. We worked seven days a week, you can't miss a day with that kind of schedule."

All that planning paid off as Optimus Prime won his American debut – making off with the \$175,000 Turf Writers over seven others for Mahoney's Rosbrian Farm.

The victory completed a steeplechase double for Hendriks and jockey Ross Geraghty, who teamed up to win

**Continued On Page 12**



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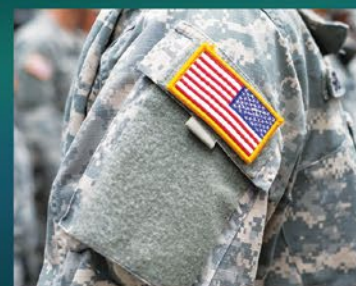




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# Turf Writers —

■ Continued from page 10

Wednesday's novice hurdle stakes with Surprising Soul.

For Hendriks, the first win touted the second.

"We worked this horse with Surprising Soul two works ago and he ran away and hid from Surprising Soul," said the trainer, who splits his stable between his Pennsylvania farm and stalls at Fair Hill Training Center in Maryland. "After yesterday, I kind of knew where my horses were."

In the right spots.

Surprising Soul won the M. G. Walsh by a head. The next day, Optimus Prime left no doubt in the Turf Writers — scoring by a geared-down 1 1/4 lengths over New Member with Iranistan third after 2 3/8 miles in 4:31.83.

Irish raider Clarcam bounced out to a quick lead but gave it up to favorite Iranistan to the inside after three fences. All The Way Jose found a spot in third with Optimus Prime covered up and inside fourth. Iranistan led by a length with a lap to go and found more daylight when Clarcam clobbered the seventh fence and nearly lost Lisa O'Neill. All The Way Jose moved to second, Optimus Prime stayed inside but moved up a spot and stayed on hold despite knocking over a beacon to his inside. Outside, Smithwick winner Show Court advanced to fourth. Behind them, meet winner New Mem-



Tod Marks  
Optimus Prime (second from right) tracks Iranistan (right) and Clarcam (9) early.

ber and Willie McCarthy drafted in behind the first group.

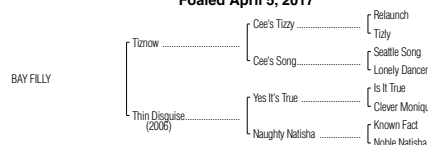
Iranistan led over the second-last, but had questions to answer. Long at the last, the 4-year-old dove over it and went back to work as All The Way Jose gave way to New Member on the outside and

Optimus Prime along the cones. Iranistan cut the corner off the turn, and went up a length on New Member. Finally off the inside, Geraghty produced Optimus Prime who swept past to seize control.

"I just sat and waited, I could let him pop it,"

Continued On Page 14

Property of Old Chapel Farm LLC (Andrew Motion)  
Barn 24 BAY FILLY Hip No. 506  
Foaled April 5, 2017



By **TIZNOW** (1997). Horse of the year, black-type winner of \$6,427,830, Breeders' Cup Classic [G1] twice, etc. Among the leading sires, sire of 14 crops of racing age, 1419 foals, 1027 starters, 71 black-type winners, 665 winners of 2002 races and earning \$82,261,589, 3 champions, including Folklore (\$945,500, Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies [G1] (BEL, \$551,200), etc.), and of Well Armed (hwt., \$5,179,803, Goodwood S. [G1] (OSA, \$300,000), etc.), Tourist [G1] (6 wins, \$2,170,340), Colonel John [G1] (\$1,779,012).

1st dam  
**THIN DISGUISE**, by Yes It's True. Winner at 3, \$45,058. Dam of 6 other registered foals, 6 of racing age, including a 2-year-old of 2018, 4 to race, 4 winners—

**HOLIDAY DISGUISE** (f. by Harlan's Holiday). 6 wins in 10 starts at 3 and 4, 2018, \$481,850, Distaff H. [G3] (AQU, \$90,000), Critical Eye S.-R (BEL, \$120,000), Bouwerie S.-R (BEL, \$75,000), Biagio's Rose S.-R (AQU, \$60,000), 2nd Heavenly Prize Invitational S. [L] (AQU, \$30,000), 3rd Vagrancy H. [G3] (BEL, \$20,000), Dancin Renee S.-R (BEL, \$12,500).

**MIDNIGHT DISGUISE** (f. by Midnight Lute). 5 wins in 7 starts to 3, 2018, \$347,600, Busher S. [L] (AQU, \$120,000), Bouwerie S.-R (BEL, \$75,000), Busanda S. (AQU, \$60,000), 2nd East View S.-R (AQU, \$20,000).

American Creed (c. by Quiet American). 8 wins, 3 to 5, \$298,909. Watergate (g. by Any Given Saturday). 6 wins to 5, placed at 6, 2018, \$170,704.

2nd dam  
**NAUGHTY NATISHA**, by Known Fact. Placed at 3 and 4, \$4,886. Half-sister to **VICTORICA** [L] **NOBLE MINSTREL**. Dam of 10 winners, including—

**NAUGHTY NEW YORKER** (c. by Quiet American). 12 wins, 2 to 6, \$1,089,884, Red Smith H. [G3] (AQU, \$90,000), Albany S.-R (SAR, \$90,000), Gen. Douglas MacArthur H.-R (BEL, \$65,280), Mike Lee S.-R (BEL, \$64,800), Gen. Douglas MacArthur H.-R (BEL, \$64,260), Damon Runyon S.-R (AQU, \$51,435), Alex M. Robb H.-R (AQU, \$50,025), Saratoga Sunrise S.-R (SAR, \$49,500), Noble Nashua S.-R (SAR, \$43,800), Alex M. Robb H.-R (AQU, \$41,832), Master Digby S.-R (AQU, \$40,200), 2nd Excelsior Breeders' Cup H. [G3] (AQU, \$41,820), Whirlaway S. [L] (AQU, \$16,830), etc. Sire.

**PUPIL** (f. by Unbridled). 3 wins at 3 and 4, \$204,280, Maryland Racing Media H. [L] (LPL, \$45,000), 2nd Collition H. [G2] (PHA, \$50,000), Pennsylvania Oaks [L] (PHA, \$15,000), 3rd Next Move H. [G3] (AQU, \$11,890).

**Deceived** (c. by Broken Vow). Winner at 2 and 3, \$139,000, 3rd Mike Lee II S.-R (BEL, \$12,500), Damon Runyon S.-R (AQU, \$10,000).

Mrs. Coolidge. Placed at 3, \$7,040. Dam of 4 winners, including—**NAUGHTY HOLIDAY** (f. by Harlan's Holiday). 3 wins at 2 and 3, \$130,357, OBS Championship S.-R (OTC, \$60,000).

Engagements: NTRA, Breeders' Cup.

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<b>Brookmeade Stakes</b>	VA bred or sired, Fillies and mares, Three years and up, One and one eighth miles on turf	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>Punch Line Stakes</b> <i>(non-black type)</i>	VA bred or sired, Three years and up, 5.5 furlongs on turf	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>Oakley Stakes</b>	VA bred or sired, Fillies and mares, Three years and up, 5.5 furlongs on turf	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>Jamestown Stakes</b>	VA bred, sired or certified, Two year olds, 5.5 furlongs on turf <i>(Certified horses draw in if there are less than six VA bred or sired entered)</i>	<b>\$75,000</b>

Nominations close September 13th  
Contact the Racing Office at Laurel for more information (800.638.1859)



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Tod Marks

Ross Geraghty won his 100th jump race in the United States Thursday.

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## Turf Writers —

■ Continued from page 12

Geraghty said of the last fence. “I sat behind the two boys, they’re battling it out, doing all the hard work for me, I was surprised Willie was going so well, I could have waited for a split between the two boys but it wasn’t worth waiting. The only instructions I had was to wait until I got through the wings in the stretch.”

The race was over shortly after that. Optimus Prime opened a quick 2 lengths, then eased up over the final yards – winning with his ears pricked and a pat on the neck.

The win made Geraghty the 40th jockey to win 100 American jump races, and gave the Irishman eight Grade 1 victories since moving his tack here in 2009.

“To win 100 in this country, I’m joining an elite list, I don’t think I’ll get to 200, I don’t think I have that in me,” he said. “I’ve seen some lads over the years, Darren (Nagle), Xav (Aizpuru) Paddy (Young) with the picture of the board, it’s an achievement in a small colony, because our industry has small numbers. It has great people in it. To win a Grade 1 in Saratoga overshadows it a bit, it’s all the hard work in just short of nine years since I’ve been here.”

Geraghty, Hendriks and Mahoney teamed up – along with Wendy and Ben Griswold IV – to win the Grade 1 Iroquois this spring with Zanjabeel, who leads the 2018 standings with \$160,500 in earnings. They left him in the barn for Saratoga, but found a proper running mate.

“I worked him the other day, I thought he was better than anything I’ve ever sat on, he’s electric,” said Geraghty. “He can make you look good. I can’t compare him to anything, he’s tops as far as I’m concerned. He travels, he jumps, doesn’t make a difference what way he meets them, he’s got a turn of foot, we’ll see later on in the year if he’s got stamina, he’s been running over shorter distances, he’s the real deal.”

Hendriks paid full credit to Mahoney, who ran three Thursday – the winner and recent Irish imports Clarcam and The Game Changer, who faded to seventh and eighth but will be more suited to the autumn season.

“Man, they gave me some ammunition to train,” Hendriks said. “We’ve been so excited to run this horse. He’s got a real turn of foot, he’ll just gallop along and then he’s got like a sixth gear.”

Bred by Haras de Plasence, Optimus Prime won twice on the flat and twice over hurdles in France before selling for \$122,188 at Arqana’s summer mixed sale in 2016. With English trainer Dan Skelton, the son of Deportivo won three times over chase fences in 2017-’18 and was on the market this spring as an American prospect. Jockey Noel Fehily, who rode the horse seven times for Skelton, told Hendriks and Mahoney about the bay gelding.

“The worry was when we bought him that he wasn’t going to get our trip over here, which he might not, but he’s so laid back I think he’ll relax and be OK,” said Hendriks. “Ross said he was very keen today and Noel said he would be real strong his first race and then after he runs once he’ll relax. I’m real excited about him.”

For Mahoney, the win confirmed a big investment in his steeplechase stable this year. The Marylander came into the race in a tight battle with perennial leader Irv Naylor for the owners’ championship, but mapped out a summer/fall push with Hendriks and assistant/girlfriend Eve Ledyard that could pay off.

“If it’s possible that we could have a successful year with Ricky and Eve and all of us, I’m going to do everything I can to make it successful and that’s what I’m trying to do,” Mahoney said. “I want to stay in and support a sport that I love and have been involved in for decades. That’s what it’s about. I’m in a position to do it, so I’m going to try.”

*Additional reporting  
by Sean Clancy.*

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# Saratoga Trifecta

Maryland-bred filly  
Monte Crista scores big

BY TOM LAW

Mike Pons made his way down the aisle toward the clubhouse steps moments after the field for Friday's \$100,000 Riskaverse Stakes hit the finish and contemplated aloud the magnitude of the moment for his family's Country Life Farm.

"We haven't won a stake here in forever," Pons said before he took his first step down the steps to the winner's circle ahead of a group of family and friends. A few minutes later Pons, his brother Josh, slowed but not stopped by a torn right Achilles ten-

Continued On Page 18



Tod Marks

Monte Crista hits the wire with a stakes win Thursday for Country Life Farm and trainer Mike Trombetta.

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# Keeneland September *CATCH* of *the DAY*

## Book 1 & 2 Yearlings

### MONDAY SEPT. 10

131 f. **EMPIRE MAKER** – Lochinvar's Gold  
Full sister to multiple SW/GSP **MEI LING** (\$522,383);  
immediate family of **MASTER COMMAND** (over \$1.1M)

### TUESDAY SEPT. 11

335 f. **MORE THAN READY** – Really and Truly  
1st foal out of SP Pulpit mare, she a half sister to  
3 stakes horses; family of **BROKEN VOW**

345 f. **PIONEER OF THE NILE** – R Heat Lightning  
**UPDATE:** 2YO half brother **ASTER PEGASUS**,  
undefeated GSW in Japan; dam is G1 SW

### WEDNESDAY SEPT. 12

633 f. **MORE THAN READY** – All Star Heart  
**UPDATE:** Dam's 1st foal stakes placed  
**ECCENTRIC SPINSTER**; out of G2 SW of \$465,769

674 f. **MEDAGLIA D'ORO** – Bachata  
Full sister to G2 SW/multiple G1-placed **GOLD  
MEDAL DANCER** (\$639,669)

### THURSDAY SEPT. 13

856 f. **MEDAGLIA D'ORO** - Dreaming of Julia  
2nd foal out of G1-winning A.P. Indy mare, she is  
half-sister to **ATREIDES** (by Medaglia d'Oro)

898 f. **GHOSTZAPPER** – Exclude (GB)  
1st foal out of winning half sister to  
multiple GSW **EXHI** (\$807,917)

### SATURDAY SEPT. 15

1043 f. **CURLIN** – Lady Samuri

1065 f. **BLAME** – Maggie Maggie

1095 c. **FIRST SAMURAI** – More Than Magic

1099 c. **WILL TAKE CHARGE** – Mystic Mama

1130 c. **ORB** – Quipperry

1166 f. **UNCLE MO** – Separate Forest

1229 c. **BLAME** – Trusty Temper

1299 f. **INTO MISCHIEF** – Branding

1315 c. **MUNNINGS** – Chambray

1339 c. **FLATTER** – Dance With Ron

1364 c. **STREET SENSE** – Exchange Cat



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# Riskaverse —

■ Continued from page 16

don suffered in an over-50 lacrosse game, and trainer Mike Trombetta met the filly Monte Crista and Jose Ortiz to celebrate the seminal victory.

"Hello, we have never won a stake here," Mike Pons said, correcting his prior point. "I said forever. Well, not in my lifetime, so forever. What a thrill. Just to be here is awesome."

The tradition of least one member of the Pons family in Saratoga at some point in the season goes back nearly 100 years. It started in 1922 when the Pons' father, the late Joe Pons, made his first "trip" to upstate New York.

"My dad was here in 1922 in utero, so he was born late in the meet," Mike Pons said. "It's family tradition now and if he didn't make Saratoga it was a wasted summer. We would drag him up here with all the kids, it got to be an annual thing. To come back up here and win, it's just too cool."

These days the Pons family comes to Saratoga to shop or sell at the sales — perhaps both — or to watch horses carrying the Country Life burnt orange and blue colors compete or see offspring of the stallions who stand at the Bel Air, Md., farm compete.

They did all three in 2018 and Monte Crista, a daughter of Cape Blanco bought on the cheap at last year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May 2-year-old sale, provided the highlight.

"This has been the trifecta," Mike Pons said. "We bought the lowest priced horse at the sale, Call Paul won the Saratoga Special, he's by Friesan Fire and then winning today. They say things come in threes. All the good things or bad things. These were definitely good things."



Tod Marks

Team Country Life makes the winner's circle at Saratoga.

Monte Crista cost \$30,000 at last year's Midlantic May sale — \$20,000 less than Country Life spent for a Palace Malice filly the second night of the Saratoga select sale Aug. 7. A Maryland-bred out of the Alphabet Soup mare Aruban Sandwich, Monte Crista appealed to the Ponses because of her pedigree rich with Maryland ties.

Out of a half sister to Grade 2 Colonial Turf Cup winner London Lane, Monte Crista is a great granddaughter of Foufa, the dam of graded stakes winner, Maryland-bred stakes winner and Preakness starter Foufa's Warrior and four other stakes winners that include Grade 1-placed Maryland Moon. Bred by Howard M. Bender Revocable Trust, Monte Crista originally sold for \$11,000 at Keeneland September and went to Timonium in Eddie Woods' consignment.

"I've had luck buying horses from old clients, from their estates and things," Mike Pons said. "I bought

her at Timonium, the Benders had already sold her and Eddie Woods had her. Bill Reightler saw her and said, 'you need to go look at this filly she's got no action.'

"That whole family is a terrific Maryland family. It's all right there in her pedigree. It was fun to get back in. We bid and turned around, nobody else did, at the time I'm like, 'go figure?' So we got her cheap. I saw Eddie Woods at the (Fasig-Tipton Kentucky) July sale and he said, 'you did ok with her didn't you?' Wonders never cease."

Monte Crista had won three straight when Pons bumped into Woods at the July sale — around the same time Josh Pons tore his Achilles tendon in an over-50 lacrosse game back home in Maryland. The three victories were on the turf, in a Laurel Park maiden, Monmouth Park allowance and a restricted allowance for Maryland-bred or Maryland-sired runners back at Laurel.

Trombetta sent Monte Crista out of the Mid-Atlantic and into open company for her next start and stakes debut. She finished third in the \$100,000 TaWee at Indiana Grand, beaten only 1 1/4 lengths after missing the break and going wide around the far turn.

Monte Crista impressed Trombetta training at Saratoga, particularly in her breezes on the Oklahoma Training Track turf. She trained around the rain for much of the meet and breezed twice on the Oklahoma since shipping up from Trombetta's main base at Fair Hill Aug. 7.

"With the way the weather has been, so many things have to line up to make it work," Trombetta said. "Thankfully it did with her up here."

Monte Crista broke a tad slow in the 1-mile Riskaverse and bumped a bit with Ferdinanda at the start. Jose Ortiz kept her three paths off

Continued On Page 19

## "This thing could cure a broken heart."

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# Riskaverse —

■ Continued from page 18

the hedge around the first turn while Maryland shipper and 72-1 longshot Madame X. set the pace.

Monte Crista tracked the leader behind slow fractions of :24.85 and :50.44 over the firm inner course before moving past midway around the far turn. She spurted away approaching the final straight and opened up by 2 1/2 lengths at the eighth pole. Tapit Today, the 2-1 favorite in the field of nine, tried to mount a rally but didn't seriously threaten the winner. Monte Crista won by 1 1/4 lengths from Tapit Today, who finished 2 1/2 lengths in front of Goodthingstaketime.

"I didn't think they'd go that slow early," Trombetta said. "I've had a lot of hard-luck trips and today was one that went our way for a change and it was in the right race. Really nice."

Mike Pons watched it all unfold from a box along the front row not far from the wire.

Josh Pons watched downstairs, decked out in shorts to keep his booted foot free and admittedly not "wanting to be the guy that changes any traditions at Saratoga."

Monte Crista improved to 4-for-6 and boosted her earnings to \$139,910. She also improved to 4-for-5 on the grass and got her connections thinking even bigger things.

"Dad had a little line where he'd say, 'Good Lord get me out of the gate in a good position, get to the middle of the race OK, but coming down the stretch up 5, slide over Lord, I'll take over,'" Mike Pons said. "It was that kind of race. We all felt like we were all going to jump in the saddle the last 50 yards. What a thrill, I'm so tickled."

"For the local guys to come here, it's like going to the Roman Coliseum and winning the crowd. Pretty good stuff. We were levitating."

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## Remembering Bailey

John Huppuch's loyal, constant canine companion for the last eight years has gone to the arms of The Lord.

Bailey touched the hearts of nearly everyone he ever met as the "Saratoga Celebrity Dog." He was an icon at the Saratoga Race Course — where he accompanied Huppuch as a service dog for the past six seasons.

Bailey was featured in NYRA's "Overnighter" (a daily publication for employees) in each of the last five meets and as recently as Aug. 12. He has also been on numerous television news programs over the years and was featured with Steve Caporizzo on Channel 10 the night before he died.

Bailey was also featured on a calendar benefitting Saratoga Arts as well as the Saratoga Animal Shelter — the facility from where he was rescued. He was a Beagle/Basset mix trained as a service dog and was 10 years old. Bailey died of a cancerous tumor the size of his great heart.

"He rescued me as much as I rescued him," Huppuch said. "A truly wonderful dog that will forever be missed. I thank The Lord for my time with him. He left paw prints on my heart."

Bailey is buried near a favorite tree in the woods in an undisclosed location. A young deer was spotted near his gravesite shortly thereafter.

A celebration of Bailey's life will be held on Friday, Aug. 24 at King's Tavern (across from the track) and on Monday, Aug. 27 at Quarter's Sports Bar (in the Price Chopper Plaza) after the races.

Huppuch thanks all who have shown their love and support of Bailey during this difficult time.



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Star Zach	2002	OB	B	Mudskipper	4	20	5	3	3	\$169,960	36	5.22
Honest Edge	2004	dk br	F	Indomitable Study								
Courting Fame	2005	B	F	Coastal Cloud	0	20	0			\$102,405	37	1.40
SUCCESSFUL DAN	2006	B	B	Successful Appeal	0	11	7			\$205,808	114	22.87
WIDE DAN	2007	dk	B	Worms' Easy	0	20	13					

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# Family Matters

## Autrys' 1st homebred triumphs at Saratoga

George and Stephanie Autry's venture into racehorse ownership began with Divadora, a New York-bred filly by Pleasantly Perfect out of the Dr. Blum mare Bedside Manner. Although she won two races in 11 starts, she went 0-for-4 at Saratoga Race Course.

The couple's foray into racehorse breeding also began with Divadora. After she retired in 2013, they matched her with Successful Appeal and the mare produced Apello. The following year, the Autrys bred Divadora to D'Funnybone and she had Dashing Dan. The Autrys' first homebred to race, Dashing Dan won Thursday's fifth race, a \$75,000 maiden special weight on the Mellon Turf Course for trainer Michael Dilger.

"We just appreciate everything Michael has done with the horse," George Autry said. "He's the first horse we've bred that's raced and he's out of the first horse that we ever owned, so it's a really neat thing and Michael has just done great things with him. It's really exciting."

As they watched Dashing Dan leave the winner's circle and watched the replay, George Autry summed up the experience of a homebred Saratoga winner.

"Our little baby," he said. "It's such a weird feeling, to play God like that and have it work out."

While the Autrys could have sold Divadora as a broodmare prospect, their interest in the game is



George and Stephanie Autry (left) in the winner's circle.

Tod Marks



Tod Marks

Dashing Dan makes off with Thursday's fifth race.

about more than money.

"We just love the horses so much that we didn't want to let them go after they had a career on the track," Stephanie Autry said. "We always wanted to see that something else good happened to them."

George Autry said they make sure their horses "end up in a good place" when they retire.

"We live in North Carolina, so we have five or six of them down there on farms near where we live that we adopted out," he said.

Dashing Dan's maiden win came in his second start. In his debut on the Saratoga turf Aug. 8, the gelding finished fifth and 12 3/4 lengths back after a bad break. When the gate opened, Dashing Dan shifted his weight to his hind legs and reared up. He raced 13 lengths back early and 18 1/4 lengths behind the field after a half-mile.

Dashing Dan broke on top Thursday and led the field gate-to-wire in the 1 1/16-mile race. He opened up 3 lengths around the final turn and cruised past the finish under Kendrick Carmouche. Dashing Dan won in 1:44.95 and gave Dilger his first win at the meet.

"We thought he was going to do a lot better," George Autry said. "The last race, he stood up in the stall and he was running at the end, so we felt like he'd do better. You never know in these baby races. We thought he'd do better, but we didn't think he'd do what he did."

— Brandon Valvo

• "Finally," Phil Serpe said, shaking Lisa Bartkowski's arm standing on the main track and waiting for Fixed Point after the finale.

Fixed Point won the 5 1/2-furlong maiden spe-

cial weight for WellSpring Stable and Serpe and Bartkowski, breaking his maiden in his seventh start and in the first start for the connections who claimed him for \$40,000 in March at Gulfstream Park. He made five starts before the claim from Nov. 25, 2017 to Feb. 18, 2018, the lone bright spot a runner-up in a 5-furlong maiden special weight at Gulfstream Jan. 19.

"He had run in a turf race and was great," said Bartkowski, Serpe's longtime partner, assistant and exercise rider. "He had run way too many times for a young horse to run in a row. We figured he needed a little break and needed to run back on the turf. The day we claimed him, he ran on the turf and ran well. He had two turf starts, a second and a third."

Serpe gave Fixed Point a rest through the spring and went back to more serious work at Belmont Park in early July. He moved to Saratoga just before the meet and blossomed.

"He worked on the dirt but he worked really good," said Serpe. "His dirt races weren't any good, but some turf horses are like that. He really showed some speed in the morning and when we looked at the race, Lisa came into the paddock and said, 'We really have to get to the lead.' I agreed. There were a couple of firsters, but really no speed in the race."

With Jose Lezcano aboard, the pair led all the way and finished three-quarters of a length clear of Measure Twice. The Midshipman colt's victory was Serpe's fourth of the meet.

"We're doing really well," said Serpe. "The horses are doing great."

— Shayna Tiller

Continued On Page 21



Thursday —

Continued from page 20

• Alan Herman’s and John Adger’s Rosebud’s Hope shipped in from Michael Stidham’s string at Monmouth Park and won the fourth, a \$40,000 claimer on the inner turf.

“We were cautiously optimistic, but very excited,” Herman said. “She’s a beautiful horse, we have a number of them, but this one seems to be moving up. Unfortunately, she got claimed, but overall it was a nice day for us.”

Flying P Stable and trainer Bruce Levine claimed the Kentucky-bred 3-year-old filly by Cowboy Cal out of the Curlin mare Hopelands.

“John Adger is my partner, he actually bred the horse,” Herman said. “This filly was kind of a gift to me from John. I’m a football agent so John and I became good friends through Bob McNair, who owns the Texans, so we’ve done a number of horses together. John said, ‘Alan, here’s a birthday present for you.’”

Entered in the sixth race Monday, Rosebud’s Hope’s Saratoga debut was delayed until Thursday as she was scratched by her trainer.

— David Woods

Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS	1ST
Chad Brown	33
Todd Pletcher	16
Steve Asmussen	12
Bill Mott	11
Jeremiah Englehart	8
Rudy Rodriguez	8
Jason Servis	8
Shug McGaughey	7
Kiaran McLaughlin	7
Dave Donk	6
Joe Sharp	6

JOCKEYS	1ST
Irad Ortiz Jr.	40
Javier Castellano	31
Jose Ortiz	29
Manny Franco	25
Luis Saez	24
Joel Rosario	19
Ricardo Santana Jr.	19
Junior Alvarado	18
John Velazquez	18

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## SARATOGA RESULTS

Thursday August 23.

### FIRST \$175,000, STAKES - NEW YORK TURF WRITERS CUP H., 4 YO'S & UP, 2 3/8M

2	Optimus Prime (FR)	R. Geraghty	\$16.40	\$8.40	\$5.40
6	New Member (IRE)	W. McCarthy		\$15.60	\$7.00
3	Iranistan	D. Nagle			\$2.90

B Gelding 2012, by Deportivo (GB) - Diluvienne (FR) by Kaldoun (FR)  
Owner: Rosbrian Farm. Trainer: Richard Hendriks.

Breeder: Haras de Plasence (FR). Late Scratches: Personal Start.  
Time: 4:31.83

Exacta (2-6), \$86.00; Superfecta (2-6-3-4), \$211.90; Trifecta (2-6-3), \$131.00

### SECOND \$90,000, ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

1	Miss Mimosa	J. Alvarado	\$6.10	\$3.40	\$3.30
5	Untaken	D. Davis		\$5.70	\$3.90
2	Tigalalu	J. Lezcano			\$3.10

Gr/ro Filly 2015, by Violence - Walloon by Alphabet Soup

Owner: Cheyenne Stables LLC. Trainer: William Mott.

Breeder: Stonehaven Steadings (KY). Time: 1:50.62

Daily Double (2-1), \$29.00; Exacta (1-5), \$20.50; Quinella (1-5), \$12.30; Superfecta (1-5-2-4), \$11.72; Trifecta (1-5-2), \$27.37

### THIRD \$50,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$50,000, 2 YO, 6F

2	The Sicarii	R. Santana, Jr.	\$6.20	\$3.40	\$2.70
7	Family Biz	J. Alvarado		\$9.90	\$3.90
1	Handsome Chewy	M. Franco			\$2.80

B Colt 2016, by Violence - Moshe Diane by Pollard's Vision

Owner: Loooch Racing Stables, Inc.. Trainer: Anthony Quartarolo.

Breeder: Rachelle Larsen (KY). Late Scratches: Mac's Revolution

Claimed: Not That Brady claimed by Imperio, Michael for \$50,000

Cadillac Frankie claimed by M and M Racing for \$50,000

Time: 1:11.10

Daily Double (1-2), \$11.70; Exacta (2-7), \$37.00; Superfecta (2-7-1-6), \$32.80; Trifecta (2-7-1), \$40.37; Pic 3 (2-1-2), \$107.00

### FOURTH \$64,000, CLAIMING \$40,000, 3 YO, 1M

2	Rosebud's Hope	J. Bravo	\$5.60	\$3.30	\$2.20
1	Sheputaspellonme	M. Franco		\$4.00	\$3.10
6	Hogans Holiday	F. Geroux			\$3.70

Ch Filly 2015, by Cowboy Cal - Hopelands by Curlin

Owner: Herman, Alan and Adger, John H.. Trainer: Michael Stidham.

Breeder: John H. Adger (KY).

Late Scratches: Solitary Gem, Salty Smile. Claimed: Rosebud's Hope

claimed by Flying P Stable for \$40,000, Hogans Holiday claimed by

John Grossi's Racing Corp. for \$40,000

Time: 1:36.92. Daily Double (2-2), \$11.70; Exacta (2-1), \$8.90;

Quinella (1-2), \$6.20; Superfecta (2-1-6-8), \$14.02; Trifecta (2-1-6), \$19.62; Pic 3 (1-2-2), \$38.50

### FIFTH \$75,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 1 1/16M

5	Dashing Dan	K. Carmouche	\$23.80	\$11.00	\$6.00
8	Scotty Brown	L. Saez		\$13.40	\$7.10
1	Graded On a Curve	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$3.70

Ch Gelding 2016, by D' Funnybone - Divadora by Pleasantly Perfect

Owner: Autry, George and Stephanie. Trainer: Michael Dilger.

Breeder: George Autry & Stephanie Autry (NY).

Late Scratches: Woodbury, Pipes. Time: 1:44.95

Daily Double (2-5), \$59.00; Exacta (5-8), \$215.25; Superfecta (5-8-1-7), \$1,518.60; Trifecta (5-8-1), \$498.75; Pic 3 (2-2-5), \$132.00

### SIXTH \$41,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$30,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

5	Expert	D. Cohen	\$16.40	\$7.70	\$3.80
4	Royal Edition	L. Saez		\$5.10	\$2.70
8	Our Honor	J. Castellano			\$2.10

B Colt 2015, by Point Given - Pinkie Pact by Broken Vow

Owner: Amendola, Robert, J.. Trainer: Patrick Reynolds.

Breeder: Stone Farm (KY). Late Scratches: Mr. Macfadden

Claimed: Expert claimed by My Purple Haze Stables LLC for \$30,000,  
Our Honor claimed by Rice, Linda for \$30,000

Time: 1:49.97

Daily Double (5-5), \$71.75; Exacta (5-4), \$36.75; Superfecta (5-4-8-7), \$25.00; Trifecta (5-4-8), \$35.25; Pic 3 (2-5-5), \$537.00; Pic 4 (2/4-2/4/5-5-5), \$705.50; Pic 5 (1-2/4-2/4/5-5-5), \$2,691.25

### SEVENTH \$57,000, STARTERS ALLOWANCE \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

6	Dream Passage	J. Rosario	\$6.50	\$2.90	\$2.50
1A	Hoponthebugus	M. Franco		\$2.50	\$2.10
9	Angel Food	D. Davis			\$4.90

B Filly 2014, by Stormy Atlantic - Raffie's Dream by Raffie's Majesty

Owner: Circle B Racing. Trainer: Brad Cox.

Breeder: Wellspring Stables, LLC (NY).

Late Scratches: Maho Bay, Leah's Dream

Time: 1:03.04

Daily Double (5-6), \$27.50; Exacta (6-1), \$6.00; Superfecta (6-1-9-4), \$11.92; Trifecta (6-1-9), \$15.62; Pic 3 (5-5-6), \$353.00

### EIGHTH \$32,000, CLAIMING \$16,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

8	Shanghai Schwartz	J. Castellano	\$7.60	\$4.70	\$4.00
1	Foolish Ghost	M. Luzzi		\$11.60	\$7.80
3	Carmine's Honor	J. Rosario			\$5.90

Gr/ro Colt 2015, by Shanghai Bobby - Red Hot Maria by Maria's Mon

Owner: Schwartz, Martin, S.. Trainer: Chad Brown.

Breeder: Popatop, LLC (KY).

Claimed: Shanghai Schwartz claimed by Hot Scot Racing Stables for

\$16,000, D'yer Mak'er claimed by Epona Racing Stable for \$16,000,

Candymankando claimed by Riccio, James A. for \$16,000

Time: 1:10.63

Daily Double (6-8), \$15.90; Exacta (8-1), \$58.25; Superfecta (8-1-3-4), \$172.50; Trifecta (8-1-3), \$201.00; Pic 3 (5-6-8), \$170.50

### NINTH \$100,000, STAKES - RISK AVERSE S., 3 YO, 1M TURF

5	Monte Crista	J. Ortiz	\$10.20	\$4.60	\$3.80
4	Tapit Today	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$4.00	\$3.10
9	Goodthingstaketime (Ire)	F. Geroux			\$2.90

Ch F 2015, by Cape Blanco (Ire) - Aruban Sandwich by Alphabet Soup

Owner: Country Life Farm. Trainer: Michael Trombetta.

Breeder: Howard M. Bender Revocable Trust (MD).

Late Scratches: Cash Out, Kitten's Covergirl

Time: 1:37.28

Daily Double (8-5), \$27.25; Exacta (5-4), \$18.50; Superfecta (5-4-9-7), \$32.15; Trifecta (5-4-9), \$31.62; Pic 3 (6-8-5), \$89.50; Grand Slam

(2/4/5/8-1/3/5/6/9-1/3/8-5), \$25.00

### TENTH \$85,000 MSW. 3&UP 5 1/2F TURF

2	Fixed Point	J. Lezcano	27.60	12.40	5.80
4	Measure Twice	L. Saez		8.90	4.70
5	Identity Politics	J. Ortiz			2.60

Ch. c. Midshipman-Shine A Spotlight, Nobiz Like Shobiz.

Breeder: Elizabeth Valando (KY). Owner: WellSpring Stable.

Trainer: Phil Serpe.

Late Scratches: Shadesofbrilliance, Shiny Copper Penny.

Exacta \$102.50. Trifecta \$141.25. Superfecta \$79.75. Double \$77.75.

Pick 3 \$545.50. Pick 4 \$856.25. Pick 5 \$7,281.50. Pick 6 \$48,703.

Pick 6 (5 correct) \$2,319.

On Track Handle: 3,057,172

Inter-State Handle: 9,218,429

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# Big Bucks

Lady Joan, others return to state ranks off open-company scores

BY TOM LAW

New York-breds take center stage today at the fifth Saratoga Showcase, six restricted stakes for 2-year-old horses, older horses, turf horses and dirt horses cobbled together for a big appetizer before the main event Saturday with the loaded Travers Day program.

The Showcase card stands on its own, as do New York-breds. Just ask Phil Serpe, who sends out Lady Joan in the \$150,000 Yaddo, Held Accountable in the \$200,000 Fleet Indian and possibly Clutch Cargo in the \$150,000 West Point.

"I don't know why people that race in New York all the time breed anything but New York-breds," Serpe said Thursday morning from his golf cart parked on the apron of the main track just before the break.

Serpe made that statement – maybe a free marketing slogan for the New York Thoroughbred Breeders or the New York Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund? – talking about the value of a recent win by Lady Joan. The 4-year-old Courageous Cat filly, who runs for Serpe and owners/breeders Tony and Pat Smith's Hilly Fields Stable, topped open company in a 1 3/8-mile optional claimer Aug. 10.

## YADDO STAKES PREVIEW

"How much is this race, \$150,000?" Serpe said of the 1 1/16-mile Yaddo, one of Saratoga's signature state-bred turf stakes. "Do you realize with our New York-bred program that she's made good money? She made just under \$78,000 winning that open two-other-than. The purse was \$92,000. You get 55 percent, plus there was a \$16,000 owner's award for running in an open race and she got the whole thing because she's by a New York stallion. And she got another 20 percent breeder award for being by a New York stallion."

Serpe figured the dollar amount to be \$77,600, not much less than the \$82,500 Lady Joan would earn with a win over eight others in the Yaddo (the eighth of 11 races today).

The enticement of the Yaddo's purse combined with where the race is run and Lady Joan's form after two starts at the meet – she finished third behind fellow Yaddo entrant La Moneda and Dolce Lili in another optional over opening weekend – made it an easy decision for Serpe to enter.

"Listen, we're wheeling her back pretty fast," Serpe said of the two-week break. "It's Saratoga and we come here to run. She's doing good



Tod Marks

Lady Joan comes into the Yaddo off a win here Aug. 10.

and we're going to run her. That was a big effort in her last race. All the guys, the handicappers, are going to say, 'she's going to bounce,' and all that other crap and maybe she will, but in my barn, she's doing well, she looks great, she's as ornery as ever, which is good for her, cutting back, I'm thinking it's going to help her because that was a big effort last time. Cutting back is only going to help her. We'll see what happens. It's Saratoga."

Lady Joan is the 8-1 fourth choice on the line for the Yaddo behind 8-5 favorite Fifty Five for trainer Chad Brown, 5-2 La Moneda for Tom Morley and the 5-1 Feeling Bossy for Jason Servis.

Lady Joan is out of the Power-

scourt mare Ladywell Court. She's the dam of Goodbye Brockley, a daughter of Cosmonaut who won the Statue of Liberty division of the New York Stallion Series for Hilly Fields and Serpe Aug. 9. Ladywell Court also produced the 2-year-old Cosmonaut ridgling The Postmaster, who ran two promising races this spring and summer at Belmont Park before missing the Saratoga meet with an injury.

"For (Hilly Fields) to be doing this, they're like one or two-horse breeders, it's amazing," Serpe said. "And it's not like we're sending mares to the most popular stallions in the world either."

Patricia Moseley's homebred La  
**Continued On Page 25**



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# Yaddo —

## ■ Continued from page 24

Moneda also comes into the Yaddo off a victory against open company. The 5-year-old Freud mare won July 22 going 1 mile on the inner course for her third straight victory, a streak that started in the first race on the June 9 Belmont Stakes Day card and continued June 30 at Belmont.

La Moneda has won five of seven starts on the grass with a second, the lone blemish in her debut last August for trainer Brendan Walsh. Morley took over La Moneda's training last fall at Belmont Park and won one of two starts with her before she returned to Walsh for her winter and spring prep at Palm Meadows and Keeneland.

"Brendan sent her up to New York this spring with a view to run her," Morley said. "She was going to be transferred into my name after that and then we just kept getting unlucky with the weather. Eventually Brendan and I agreed she had to run. He did all the hard work and got her ready, she ran on the slop and hated it, but then I got to benefit from all his hard work."

"She then won back-to-back races at Belmont and came up here and knocked out her open 2x in extremely impressive fashion. She's very much on the upward. She was a very late-starting filly, debuting at Saratoga as a 4-year-old and I believe Mrs. Moseley is thinking of keeping her in training next year."

Fifty Five won an open optional at Belmont in her most recent start July 15 at Belmont for Brown, who won three of the last five editions of the Yaddo with Grade 1 winners Dayatthespa in 2013 and 2014 and

Fourstar Crook in 2016.

Owned by Peter Brant, Fifty Five is 2-for-4 against New York-breds in her 13-start career highlighted by a victory for former trainer Tom Bush in the Grade 3 Florida Oaks in 2017. The 4-year-old Get Stormy filly won last year's Ticonderoga and finished second to Feeling Bossy in this year's Mount Vernon for Brown.

The Yaddo field also includes Overnegotiate, 11th in the Tropical Park Oaks in late December for Todd Pletcher, Purrageous Dyna, War Canoe, Tizzelle and Munchkin Money.

### Old friends meet again in West Point

The last of the six stakes on the Saratoga Showcase card is the West Point, which goes as the 10th at 6:23.

Dedicated fans of the race will recognize two familiar names in King Kreesa and Kharafa. King Kreesa, now 9 and fourth in an optional claimer Aug. 9 for trainer David Donk, won the race in 2016 and 2014 and finished second in 2015. Kharafa finished third in 2013, second in 2016 and third in 2017. Also 9, Kharafa comes off a fifth in the Grade 3 Oceanport at Monmouth Park July 29 for trainer Tim Hills.

Last year's West Point winner Get Jets is not in the field but runner-up Offering Plan is and the 6-year-old son of Spring At Last is the 6-5 favorite on the morning line. Trained by Chad Brown, Offering Plan won the Kingston two starts back over Rapt and Kharafa and is 2-for-6 lifetime on the grass at Saratoga.

The main draw of the West Point also includes Morrison, The J Y, Tapitation, Memories Of Peter, Mo Maverick, Rapt and Black Tide. J J's Dreaming and Clutch Cargo are entered main track only.

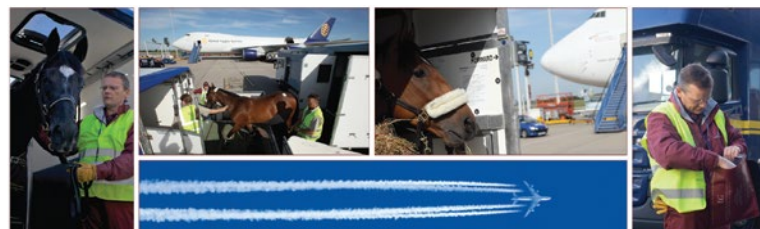


Tod Marks

King Kreesa (left) and Kharafa are in the West Point, again.

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# On the Rise

## Handal confident in English Soul

BY BRANDON VALVO

Since Ray Handal and Zilla Racing purchased English Soul for \$55,000 out of the 2017 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May Sale, the trainer felt she would be an open stakes winner. English Soul appeared to be on that track when she broke her maiden by 14 1/4 lengths last fall and won the state-bred East View Stakes in January. However, she soon met a series of setbacks.

English Soul suffered from an abscess on her neck over the winter and overcame a sickness. She scoped dirty after she finished second in the Bouwerie Stakes at Belmont May 28. Handal's confidence in the filly waned and he wasn't surprised when she finished third beaten 2 lengths in the New York Oaks at Finger Lakes July 21.

"She had a lot of new variables going on: shipping three hours the day of the race wasn't ideal, upping her Lasix and I changed the way I trained her a little bit after her comeback going into that Finger Lakes race," Handal said. "She might have been just a little short with her endurance first time going two turns."

Since the New York Oaks, English Soul has blossomed, reminding Handal of the filly he had so much hope in a year ago. The three-time winner and earner of \$177,634 posted two workouts at Saratoga, a 4-furlong move over the main track in :48.33 Aug. 10 and another half-mile breeze

### FLEET INDIAN PREVIEW

on Oklahoma in :48.22 Aug. 17. The 29-year-old is confident ahead of her run in today's 1 1/8-mile Fleet Indian Stakes for New York Bred 3-year-old fillies.

"She loves it up here. She's always looked good and trained well, but this is the first time her coat has started to dapple out and she just looks like that champ that I thought she was going to be," Handal said. "This is the first time I feel like she is definitely back to where I remember her and she's going to take a big step forward into this race."

"She was always a good work horse, but she was just a little more idle in her workouts, asking her a little more than I would like down the lane. Even though her times were pretty quick," Handal continued. "(Last year) she was working a minute flat like she was galloping and that's how she's coming into this. She worked that last workout and if you stood at the barn and watched her leave and come back, you would have thought she jogged one mile. It was like a walk in the park. Whereas before, she was tired after each workout."

English Soul will face 10 rivals in the \$200,000 Fleet Indian, including New York Oaks winner Split Time, who is 5-for-7 lifetime with \$240,700 earned. Linda Rice sends out the Take Charge Indy filly as the 5-2 morning



NYRA Photo/Chelsea Durand

English Soul won the East View at Aqueduct in January.

line choice. English Soul is 7-2 with Manny Franco in the saddle after drawing post 11. Handal feels the far outside post is an improvement to the inside draw that forced rider Sheldon Russell to put English Soul on the early lead in the 1 1/16-mile New York Oaks.

"It's not ideal, but I'd rather have 11 than one. I had the one hole last time and I was forced to use her speed maybe a little more than Sheldon and I wanted to, but we had to hold position and be forwardly placed," Handal said. "I think if she runs her race, she's going to win this. If she runs like I think she will, the post is going to be irrelevant, she's going to handle this field. I feel like I finally have her right where I want her. I think she's going

to take a massive step forward. I feel super confident with her coming into here."

Take Charge Aubrey will break from post two in the Fleet Indian and is 5-1 on the morning line. Bruce Levine will saddle the Take Charge Indy filly who rebounded from a seventh in the New York Oaks to win a 7-furlong allowance here Aug. 13.

Purely Lucky starts from the rail at 5-1 for Brad Cox off an allowance win two back going 1 1/8 miles on the Belmont turf course and a third going 10 furlongs over the Belmont grass July 12.

Rachel's Blue Moon is 8-1 off a 2 1/4-length allowance victory going a mile at Belmont July 11. Cause We

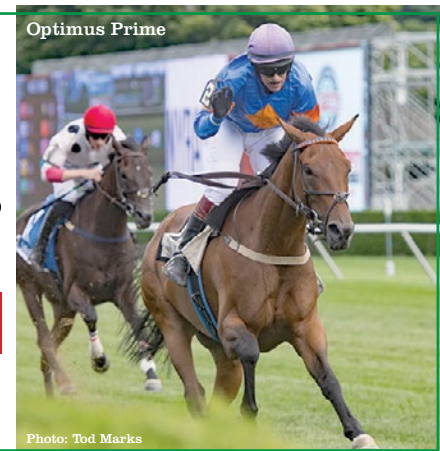
**Continued On Page 27**

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# Fleet Indian —

■ Continued from page 26

Are Loyal, Aunt Babe, Held Accountable, Our Super Nova, Indy's Lady and Pas de Deuce complete the lineup.

## Sea Foam favored in final leg of Big Apple Triple

Off a score in the New York Derby at Finger Lakes July 21, Sea Foam looks poised to capture the final leg of the Big Apple Triple, the Albany Stakes, today's third race. The 3-year-old son of Medaglia D'Oro finished fourth in the first leg of the New York-bred series, the 7-furlong Mike Lee Stakes at Belmont May 28. He was fifth in the Manila Stakes on the Belmont turf July 4 before his New York Derby triumph.

Sea Foam is 3-for-8 with \$236,070

earned. Christophe Clement will saddle the 2-1 morning line favorite.

Sea Foam's six challengers include the second and third place finishers in the New York Derby, Spectacular Kid and Analyze The Odds. The former won an allowance at Finger Lakes May 19 and has since finished third in a pair of statebred allowances at Belmont and in New York Stallion Stakes June 24. Alejandro Maymo trains and Andy Hernandez Sanchez will ride the 8-1 shot.

Analyze The Odds finished 5 1/4 lengths behind Sea Foam as the favorite in the New York Derby. He won the Mike Lee and is 4-for-12 with \$344,576 in the bank. He's 4-1 in the Albany for Jason Servis and Irad Ortiz Jr.

Evaluator and Speke are both 3-1 off runner up finishes at the meet. Singapore Trader and Bad Guy complete the field.

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# Next Step

## Two-year-old filly Time Warp moves up to stakes company

BY SHAYNA TILLER

Regular exercise rider Danny Ramsey led Time Warp out of her stall late Thursday morning as trainer Ken McPeck watched from the courtyard of his Barn 86 at the Oklahoma Annex. Ramsey took the gray filly for a spin down the walking area, and then halted in front of McPeck, who inspected her for today's Seeking The Ante, a \$200,000 stakes for 2-year-old state-bred fillies going 6 1/2 furlongs on the main track.

She shuffled forward, nibbling at Ramsey as he stood her up.

"Oh, stop it," Ramsey said, pushing her pink nose away. "She's doing better than good. I ride her every morning. She tries to buck me off most of the time. She's got a personality that's unbelievable. If you don't be careful she'll drop you in a heartbeat. You've got to pay attention to her. She's always happy. Not mean, just happy. Feeling good."

McPeck selected the daughter of Cairo Prince for Walking L Thoroughbreds at last year's Fasig-Tipton New York-bred sale. In the early stages of his career, he developed an eye for high-quality horses while buying on a budget, and has built a large client base doing so.

"When I started buying young

### SEEKING THE ANTE PREVIEW

horses I had a modest budget," said McPeck. "A gentleman in Lexington named Roy Monroe let me buy my first yearling when I was in my 20s and Roy gave me a \$6,000 budget. It wasn't a whole lot to work with. I learned how to buy horses with modest budgets out of survival.

"When you're doing this and you're competing against guys like Wayne Lukas, Bill Mott and Shug (McGaughey), this is years back way before (Todd) Pletcher and Chad Brown arrived on the scene, you learned to spend people's money wisely because you needed a really good horse to be competitive. What's the old saying? You don't go to a gun fight with a BB gun. You have to have good horses to be competitive. That's driven a lot of it."

He's used that method to select top horses including Golden Ticket as a 2-year-old for \$100,000, champion Curlin as a yearling for \$57,000 and Take Charge Lady as a yearling for \$175,000. Walking L Thoroughbreds purchased Time Warp for \$230,000 as a yearling on McPeck's recommendation.

The six-figure pricetag is by no means in garage-sale league, but it's a



Tod Marks

**Time Warp tackles stakes company for trainer Ken McPeck.**

long way from the \$1 million and up some yearlings reach.

"(Cairo Prince) has had some really handsome or beautiful yearlings," said McPeck. "I predicted early on that I thought he was going to have a good shot at being a first-crop leading sire. Sky's the limit with that particular stallion. Although, I don't get so obsessed with the stallion.

"In her case, she's out of a Deputy Minister mare and I'm crazy about Deputy Minister. I've had so much success with that particular line, or at least it being in the family somewhere."

McPeck's top trainees Take Charge Lady, Golden Ticket, Sarava and Eskimo Kisses all have Deputy Minister as their grandsire or broodmare's sire.

Curlin is also out of Deputy Minister mare Sherriff's Deputy.

"(Time Warp) is a beautiful filly," said McPeck. "She's a good package, a Cairo Prince out of a Deputy Minister mare so maybe we'll keep adding to that. It's been something that's worked for me."

Time Warp made her first start in a 5 1/2-furlong maiden July 25, finishing eighth. She rebounded quickly, romping by 4 1/4 lengths to break her maiden going 7 furlongs Aug. 9.

"We thought she would win first time," said McPeck. "We thought she was a big chance first time out and she just balked leaving the gate. We came right back and in the second start we'd schooled her several more

**Continued On Page 30**

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# Seeking The Ante —

■ Continued from page 28

times and she got it right the second time pretty well. I suspect she's got a big chance this weekend."

At 5-1 on the morning line, Javier Castellano gets the return call.

Richard Vega sends out 5-2 favorite Collegeville Girl for Robert Brittingham, Salvatore De Bunda and Wire To Wire Stable. The daughter of Central Banker won her debut July 25, beating Time Warp. Kendrick Carmouche is back aboard.

Party Like Grandma is the 7-2 second choice for trainer Jeremiah Englehart, who owns the horse with Flower City Racing and Chris Meyer. The daughter of Desert Party won her first race at Finger Lakes by 11 1/2 lengths at Finger Lakes July 12. An-

dre Worrie gets the return call.

Completing the field are Icy Lady, Maiden Beauty, Awesome Debate, She's Trouble and Harley Q.

## Funny Cide draws seven

The second stakes on the card Friday is the \$200,000 Funny Cide for state-bred juveniles going 6 1/2 furlongs on the main track. A field of seven is entered, and Arlington-based trainer Larry Rivelli sends out 3-1 Dugout.

Dugout made his first start at Saratoga July 23, romping in the 5 1/2-furlong maiden by 7 1/4 lengths.

"We kind of knew what we had training in Chicago, but he had not run on the dirt which was a concern of mine," said Rivelli Thursday morning. "He had worked on the Polytrack and was working lights out. I'd put him against other pretty significant

horses in my stable and he'd outwork them. The only concern was that his siblings tend to lean towards turf and Poly than they do the dirt.

"It rained, so it was harder and faster which was good for him. He's been stabled here and is training well so I'm expecting a big effort from him tomorrow."

Rivelli co-bred the son of Adios Charlie and Lit De Justice mare Rooney Doodle with Richard Ravin, adding Patricia's Hope LLC into the racing ownership.

"The mare's a pretty good mare," said Rivelli. "Dr. Jean White gets all the credit. She takes care of all my mares and all my babies. She pretty

much put that together, I leave that up to her.

"He's actually growing as we speak, this horse keeps getting bigger and bigger as the days go by. His half-brother is this big, giant, monster horse. This horse is really doing good, I think he might be even bigger. Right now, everything's been perfect. He hasn't taken a bad step or missed an oat so he's all systems go. I'm pretty confident, actually."

Castellano gets the return call after leading wire-to-wire aboard the colt in his last start.

The rest of the field includes Woodbury, Dalliance, Red Zinger, Bustin To Be Loved, Bankit and La Fuerza.



Tod Marks

Dugout runs in the Funny Cide for trainer Larry Rivelli.



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Friday, August 24.

**1ST (1:00PM). \$75,000, MSW, 2 YO, 5 1/2F (TURF)**

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double				
1	.....8.....	Beachside.....	I. Ortiz, Jr. ....	L. Rice.....5-2
1a	.....9.....	Sounds Good.....	J. Ortiz.....	L. Rice.....5-2
2	.....1.....	Semper Paratus.....	M. Franco.....	M. Nevin.....15-1
3	.....2.....	Pipes.....	J. Rosario.....	G. Contessa.....4-1
4	.....3.....	Empiremeister.....	E. Cancel.....	E. Wilkinson.....20-1
5	.....4.....	Magical Tale.....	J. Lezcano.....	J. Ryerson.....20-1
6	.....5.....	Qian B C.....	D. Davis.....	C. Baker.....8-1
7	.....6.....	Analyzethisandthat.....	W. Garcia.....	R. Cash.....9-2
8	.....7.....	Wicked Grin.....	D. Cohen.....	C. Clement.....3-1
9	.....10.....	Bozzini.....	L. Saez.....	J. Englehart.....8-1
10	.....MTO.....	Mister Muy Bien.....	Rider TBA.....	R. Rodriguez.....5-2

**2ND (1:35PM). \$77,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F**

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double				
1	.....6.....	Wushu Warrior.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	C. Englehart.....8-1
1a	.....8.....	It's Hot Out.....	M. Franco.....	C. Englehart.....8-1
2	.....1.....	Bluegrass Express.....	K. Carmouche.....	R. Vega.....5-1
3	.....2.....	Freud's Affair.....	J. Rohena.....	C. Progno.....10-1
4	.....3.....	H Man.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Rodriguez.....8-5
5	.....4.....	Candy Zip.....	F. Geroux.....	L. Rivelli.....4-1
6	.....5.....	Samay.....	D. Davis.....	M. LeCesse.....6-1
7	.....7.....	Leap to Glory.....	J. Rosario.....	C. Baker.....9-2

**3RD (2:10PM). \$250,000, STK - THE ALBANY, 3 YO, 1 1/8M**

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Evaluator.....	M. Franco.....	M. Dilger.....3-1
2	.....2.....	Singapore Trader.....	J. Velazquez.....	T. Pletcher.....10-1
3	.....3.....	Bad Guy.....	P. Fragoso.....	A. Maymo.....20-1
4	.....4.....	Speke.....	L. Saez.....	T. Pletcher.....3-1
5	.....5.....	Spectacular Kid.....	A. Hernandez Sanchez.....	A. Maymo.....8-1
6	.....6.....	Analyze the Odds.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	J. Servis.....4-1
7	.....7.....	Sea Foam.....	J. Rosario.....	C. Clement.....2-1

**4TH (2:45PM). \$75,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)**

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Miss After School.....	J. Lezcano.....	T. Bush.....15-1
2	.....2.....	Gypsy Mama.....	D. Davis.....	D. Schettino.....15-1
3	.....3.....	Shak's Hidden Gem.....	J. Rosario.....	G. Contessa.....9-2
4	.....4.....	Tiztinabella.....	R. Maragh.....	P. Gleaves.....12-1
5	.....5.....	Seven Jewels.....	L. Saez.....	B. Cox.....8-1
6	.....6.....	Empress Sophia.....	D. Cohen.....	D. Lukas.....12-1
7	.....7.....	Mensa Member.....	J. Ortiz.....	C. Brown.....3-1
8	.....8.....	Caralicious.....	J. Alvarado.....	M. Friedman.....10-1
9	.....9.....	Tashmoo.....	K. Carmouche.....	M. Dilger.....12-1
10	.....10.....	Shady Shady Shady.....	J. Velazquez.....	M. Nevin.....5-2
11	.....MTO.....	Alreadycelebrating.....	J. Castellano.....	T. Morley.....7-2
12	.....MTO.....	Mary's Girl.....	J. Lezcano.....	R. Schosberg.....5-1

**5TH (3:20PM). \$200,000, STK - THE FUNNY CIDE, 2 YO, 6 1/2F**

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Woodbury.....	J. Ortiz.....	R. Rodriguez.....12-1
2	.....2.....	Dalliance.....	A. Cox.....	K. Rice.....15-1
3	.....3.....	Red Zinger.....	J. Rosario.....	G. Contessa.....10-1
4	.....4.....	Bustin to Be Loved.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	G. Contessa.....9-2
5	.....5.....	Bankit.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	S. Asmussen.....2-1
6	.....6.....	Dugout.....	J. Castellano.....	L. Rivelli.....3-1
7	.....7.....	La Fuerza.....	J. Velazquez.....	T. Pletcher.....5-2

**6TH (4:05PM). \$80,000, AOC \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)**

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 6, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Colonel Tom.....	D. Davis.....	G. Weaver.....6-1
2	.....2.....	Polar Axis.....	J. Velazquez.....	M. Nevin.....9-2
3	.....3.....	Ethan Hunt.....	J. Rosario.....	J. Toscano, Jr.....12-1
4	.....4.....	Speightful Kitten.....	M. Franco.....	L. Rice.....15-1
5	.....MTO.....	The Caretaker.....	L. Saez.....	K. McLaughlin.....5-2
6	.....6.....	Frisky Magician.....	J. Ortiz.....	J. Abreu.....5-2
7	.....7.....	Discretionary Marq.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	C. Clement.....8-1
8	.....8.....	The Crocheron Kid.....	E. Cancel.....	D. Donk.....10-1
9	.....9.....	Banana Thief.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	S. Asmussen.....7-2
10	.....MTO.....	Stoney Bennett.....	M. Franco.....	L. Rice.....9-5
11	.....11.....	Samadi Sky.....	J. Alvarado.....	E. Barker.....8-1

**7TH (4:40PM). \$200,000, STK - THE SEEKING THE ANTE, 2 YO, F , 6 1/2F**

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Party Like Grandma.....	A. Worrie.....	J. Englehart.....7-2
2	.....2.....	Icy Lady.....	J. Ortiz.....	M. Gorham.....12-1
3	.....3.....	Maiden Beauty.....	J. Rosario.....	G. Contessa.....9-2
4	.....4.....	Collegeville Girl.....	K. Carmouche.....	R. Vega.....5-2
5	.....5.....	Awesome Debate.....	D. Davis.....	C. Baker.....15-1
6	.....6.....	Time Warp.....	J. Castellano.....	K. McPeek.....5-1
7	.....7.....	She's Trouble.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	L. Rice.....4-1
8	.....8.....	Harley Q.....	M. Franco.....	U. St. Lewis.....10-1

**8TH (5:15PM). \$150,000, STK - THE YADDO, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)**

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Overnegotiate.....	J. Velazquez.....	T. Pletcher.....15-1
2	.....2.....	La Moneda.....	J. Alvarado.....	T. Morley.....5-2
3	.....3.....	Feeling Bossy.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	J. Servis.....5-1
4	.....4.....	Purrageous Dyna.....	J. Bravo.....	E. Allard.....20-1
5	.....5.....	War Canoe.....	D. Davis.....	G. Contessa.....10-1
6	.....6.....	Tizzelle.....	R. Maragh.....	H. Bond.....12-1
7	.....7.....	Fifty Five.....	J. Castellano.....	C. Brown.....8-5
8	.....8.....	Lady Joan.....	L. Saez.....	P. Serpe.....8-1
9	.....9.....	Munchkin Money.....	J. Ortiz.....	B. Lynch.....15-1

**9TH (5:49PM). \$200,000, STK - THE FLEET INDIAN, 3 YO, F , 1 1/8M**

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Purely Lucky.....	J. Castellano.....	B. Cox.....5-1
2	.....2.....	Take Charge Aubrey.....	J. Ortiz.....	B. Levine.....6-1
3	.....3.....	Split Time.....	J. Alvarado.....	L. Rice.....5-2
4	.....4.....	Cause We Are Loyal.....	J. Lezcano.....	M. Hennig.....20-1
5	.....5.....	Aunt Babe.....	E. Cancel.....	J. Ferraro.....30-1
6	.....6.....	Held Accountable.....	D. Davis.....	P. Serpe.....15-1
7	.....7.....	Rachel's Blue Moon.....	L. Saez.....	J. Jerkens.....8-1
8	.....8.....	Our Super Nova.....	A. Hernandez Sanchez.....	L. Linn.....30-1
9	.....9.....	Indy's Lady.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	J. Englehart.....8-1
10	.....10.....	Pas de Deuce.....	R. Maragh.....	J. Morrison.....12-1
11	.....11.....	English Soul.....	M. Franco.....	R. Handal.....7-2

**10TH (6:23PM). \$150,000, STK - THE WEST POINT PRESENTED BY TRUSTCO BANK, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)**

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Morrison.....	L. Saez.....	J. Sharp.....12-1
2	.....2.....	The J Y.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	M. Hennig.....20-1
3	.....MTO.....	J J's Dreaming.....	J. Ortiz.....	M. Hennig.....1-1
4	.....4.....	Tapitation.....	M. Franco.....	R. Nicks.....8-1
5	.....5.....	King Kreesa.....	J. Ortiz.....	D. Donk.....10-1
6	.....6.....	Offering Plan.....	J. Castellano.....	C. Brown.....6-5
7	.....7.....	Memories of Peter.....	J. Alvarado.....	J. Ryerson.....12-1
8	.....8.....	Mo Maverick.....	K. Carmouche.....	G. Weaver.....12-1
9	.....MTO.....	Clutch Cargo.....	Rider TBA.....	P. Serpe.....4-1
10	.....10.....	Kharafa.....	D. Davis.....	T. Hills.....6-1
11	.....11.....	Rapt.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Ribauda.....6-1
12	.....12.....	Black Tide.....	J. Lezcano.....	D. Cannizzo.....12-1

**11TH (6:57PM). \$45,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)**

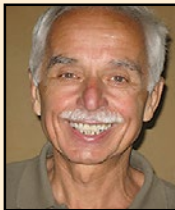
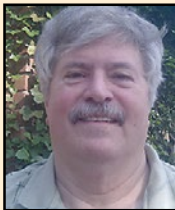



Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta				
1	.....1.....	Step to the Bank.....	S. Jimenez.....	J. Parker.....50-1
2	.....2.....	Wild William.....	M. Franco.....	J. Abreu.....4-1
3	.....3.....	Enchanted Forest.....	P. Fragoso.....	K. LeBlanc.....20-1
4	.....4.....	Good Old Boy.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	M. Maker.....12-1
5	.....5.....	Cross Multiply.....	J. Rosario.....	G. Contessa.....5-1
6	.....6.....	Quintarelli.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	H. Bond.....20-1
7	.....7.....	Back of the Watch.....	L. Reyes.....	T. Morley.....15-1
8	.....8.....	No Worries Mate.....	L. Saez.....	J. Englehart.....15-1
9	.....9.....	Causorcelebration.....	D. Davis.....	T. Morley.....7-2
10	.....10.....	Pequeno Grande.....	A. Hernandez Sanchez.....	R. Rodriguez.....15-1
11	.....11.....	Neutral Zone.....	M. Luzzi.....	M. Friedman.....30-1
12	.....12.....	Brockmoninoff.....	E. Cancel.....	G. Weaver.....5-2
13	.....AE.....	Foxie's First Pick.....	D. Cohen.....	G. DiPrima.....20-1
14	.....AE.....	The Mason Factor.....	J. Ortiz.....	J. Englehart.....4-1

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**Power**  
grid

Race #	 <b>John Shapazian</b>	 <b>Charles Bedard</b>	 <b>Tom Law</b>	 <b>Donald Phillips</b>	 <b>Tom Amello</b>
<b>1</b>	Mister Muy Bien Rice entry Analyzethisandthat	Rice entry Pipes Wicked Grin	Rice entry Wicked Grin Analyzethisandthat	Pipes Analyzethisandthat Wicked Grin	Sounds Good Wicked Grin Analyzethisandthat
<b>2</b>	H Man Samay Leap To Glory	H Man Leap To Glory Bluegrass Express	H Man Leap To Glory Candy Zip	H Man Candy Zip Leap To Glory	Leap To Glory Bluegrass Express H Man
<b>3</b>	Speke Evaluator Sea Foam	Sea Foam Analyze The Odds Singapore Trader	Evaluator Sea Foam Speke	Evaluator Sea Foam Speke	Analyze The Odds Sea Foam Singapore Trader
<b>4</b>	Mensa Member Shady Shady Shady Seven Jewels	Alreadycelebrating Shady Shady Shady Mensa Member	Shady Shady Shady Mensa Member Seven Jewels	Shak's Hidden Gem Shady Shady Shady Mensa Member	Mensa Member Shady Shady Shady Tiztinabella
<b>5</b>	La Fuerza Bankit Dugout	Bankit La Fuerza Dugout	Bankit La Fuerza Dugout	La Fuerza Bustin To Be Loved Dugout	La Fuerza Bustin To Be Loved Bankit
<b>6</b>	Stoney Bennett Frisky Magician Banana Thief	The Caretaker Polar Axis Frisky Magician	Frisky Magician Banana Thief Polar Axis	Frisky Magician Banana Thief Ethan Hunt	Discretionary Marq Frisky Magician Polar Axis
<b>7</b>	Collegeville Girl Party Like Grandma Maiden Beauty	Collegeville Girl Party Like Grandma She's Trouble	Maiden Beauty Collegeville Girl Party Like Grandma	She's Trouble Collegeville Girl Party Like Grandma	She's Trouble Party Like Grandma Awesome Debate
<b>8</b>	Fifty Five La Moneda Lady Joan	Fifty Five La Moneda Feeling Bossy	La Moneda Fifty Five Lady Joan	Fifty Five Tizzelle La Moneda	Fifty Five Tizzelle La Moneda
<b>9</b>	Split Time Rachel's Blue Moon Take Charge Aubrey	Split Time English Soul Take Charge Aubrey	Split Time Rachel's Blue Moon Purely Lucky	Indy's Lady Pas De Deuce Split Time	Take Charge Aubrey Split Time Rachel's Blue Moon
<b>10</b>	Offering Plan Morrison Mo Maverick	J J's Dreaming Offering Plan Kharafa	Offering Plan Rapt Kharafa	Rapt Kharafa Offering Plan	Offering Plan Tapitation Rapt
<b>11</b>	Brockmoninoff Wild William Causforcelebration	Brockmoninoff Causforcelebration Wild William	Brockmoninoff Causforcelebration Wild William	Causforcelebration Brockmoninoff Wild William	Brockmoninoff Cross Multiply Wild William
2018 Records	<b>86/296</b>	<b>67/296</b>	<b>67/296</b>	<b>54/296</b>	<b>43/219*</b>

Our fifth handicapper will be a special guest each day.

**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 two meets for Saratoga Today and with daughter Kate and wife Renee operates the Brunswick at Saratoga Bed and Breakfast at 143 Union Avenue.

Thursday, Richard Hutchinson picked two 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).

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



# On Tour

Three years ago, Fasig-Tipton asked us to come up with something creative. The sales company has been with us from the start. Back when I pitched Terence Collier on an advertising plan and he pitched Boyd Browning Jr. on a few black and white ads. Browning balked, asking why they should advertise in some paper he had never heard of and we somehow convinced him he should. It's been a copacetic relationship ever since. They're even our landlords now.

When they asked for creativity, we didn't think about it long. We had been thinking about the Stable Tour, a simple horse-by-horse look into a trainer's barn, and pitched it. They loved it. Almost as much as we did.

The first year, we wondered if Fasig-Tipton and The Special would be the only ones that thought it was a good idea. Quickly, we learned that trainers like it and the readers love it. Sure, we've had a few trainers say no. Our friend Steve Klesaris politely declined, "I read that, I thought to myself, 'That is something I definitely don't want to do.' " You don't argue with Steve Klesaris. John Shirreffs turned us down, that one surprised us, but we don't hold grudges. A few have been rude, but we rise above. We've certainly missed trainers each season, but we try to include everybody.

It's a simple process.

We walk into a trainer's barn and ask them about their horses. It's part of the reason why we started The Special, just to be able to talk to horsemen about horses. It's better than writing previews, when a trainer is on the spot, worrying about jinxing his horse. It's better than writing recaps, when the world descends on the winner's circle and exclusivity is nothing but a pipe dream, although we still do our best.

The Stable Tour is the one time to slow down, learn something, hear about the nuances of each horse and get a sense of the Jenga process that each

trainer does each day with each horse. It reminds me of walking down the shedrow with my dad, the reason I fell for this sport. Dad would straighten a Baker Blanket, fix a bandage, throw some grain to a horse that looked like he needed it, run his hand down a horse's tendon and hope against hope. A lot of times, it was just the two of us, though I know he did the same thing with my brother and sister, their time to be with Dad. They were our Stable Tours.

Here we are so many years later, still doing Stable Tours. Some trainers sit in their office and read a sheet, we'd rather walk down the shedrow, lean on a webbing and meet their horse in their natural environment. My friends who don't know about horses have always asked, "What are horses like?" I tell them, "Just like people. There are fast ones, slow ones, dumb ones, lazy ones, erratic ones, nervous ones, honest ones and on and on through every personality trait in the book. But, remember, not bad ones. Bill Mott taught me that on a Stable Tour a few years ago, ambling down his shedrow and offering one of his great Mott-isms, "I catch myself saying it, 'He's a bad horse.' He's not a bad horse, he's just a slow horse."

I love that one. A bad horse on the New York circuit is suddenly a good horse on the Maryland circuit. He didn't go from bad to good, just went from slow to fast.

So each day we talk to trainers about their fast horses and their slow horses, although most of the time the slow ones are left out of the tour. I wish we had more room.

Writing the Stable Tour is cumbersome, time-consuming, but the actual art of the exercise is magical.

Thursday I passed Jimmy Jerkens watching his last set and asked about a Stable Tour. See, I play my cards right, Jerkens had won five of his last six, there's nothing like timing.

"Sure, when?"

"Today?"

"Sure. Half hour?"

"See you then."

I walk into Jerkens' barn a half hour later (always be on time when it comes to Stable Tours), he finishes spraying his shedrow with a hose and walks into the center of the walking ring, pulling coolers off two horses, showing them off, eyeing them up for me and him. We walk into his barn and begin to walk stall to stall. Jerkens walks in one stall and leads Point To Remember to the front, just to show him off, the chestnut colt dive-bombs my pad of paper and tape recorder. When he runs again, I'll think of the day I met him. Jerkens walks, stops, walks, stops. We talk about curbs, a non-sweater and a little horse who always tries. I think about his dad, sadly, we started the Stable Tour four months after he died.

Jerkens pets a big bay colt between the eyes, his voice lowers, almost quavers, "This is a real good horse that broke down earlier in the meet, condylar fracture..."

I finish his sentence.

"...Yeah, you told me how much you liked him as a 2-year-old, I put him on my stable mail and he showed up on the worktab two years later. I didn't know who he was, then I looked at my notes, 'Jerkens, 2-year-old, can really run.'

American Guru nudges my chest.

You'll read about it all tomorrow.



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