

Year 18 • No. 24

Saturday, August 25, 2018

The Saratoga

Special

Saratoga's Racing Newspaper since 2001



Wonder Woman

Star filly aims for history
on massive Travers Day card

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LICENSE PLATE OF THE DAY

RACE4ME, Florida

BY THE NUMBERS

2.5: Over/under line David Donk set for himself coming into the meet. Hope you bet the over, he's at six wins, and counting.

1: Winter hat on the backstretch at 9:55 a.m. Friday.

NAMES OF THE DAY

St. Louie, fifth race. The 6-year-old gelding is by Arch.

Elate seventh race. Yes, she's been here before. There's nobody better at names than Claiborne Farm and Adele Dilschneider. Four-year-old filly is out of Cheery.

End Of An Era, 11th race. The 5-year-old gelding is out of History.

WORTH REPEATING

"It doesn't matter if we're ready, it's if she's ready."

Claiborne Farm's Dell Hancock when asked if she was ready for Elate's appearance in the Personal Ensign

"Hey, Arch..."

Doc Richardson, to The Special's Sean Clancy, who looks nothing like trainer Arch Kingsley

"He'd go around the moon 30 times on the wrong lead."

Trainer, watching an exercise rider



Tod Marks
Jimmy, John and Jack. Jimmy Barnes (standing) and John Terranova try to figure out if they know Jack Friday morning.

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WORTH REPEATING

"Ten lines, you mean."

Trainer Jimmy Jerkens, when The Special's Sean Clancy said they wrote 10 paragraphs about Can You Diggit's win in the Evan Shipman

"Every horse?"

Trainer Todd Pletcher, when told that The Special was getting a quote about every Travers Day runner (we meant every stakes runner)

"It's a good feeling."

Trainer Jorge Abreu, when asked what it felt like to get a horse like Sword Dancer runner Revved Up in the barn

"The claim slips today are like filling out an application for the Army."

Trainer Barclay Tagg, back in the claiming game after a long absence

"All the time."

Jockey Joel Rosario when asked if Therapist was amazing after a turf workout Friday

"Athletes, right? That's all it is. I think those real route horses are leggier and lengthier and they have the disposition that makes you think about it."

Trainer Jonathan Thomas, talking (not seriously) about the steeplechase prospects of Travers hopeful Catholic Boy

"He's in there more than The Chief is."

NYRA's Steve Jordan, about the frequency of trainer Phil Serpe stories in The Special

"It was a seamless transition. Things don't change much around here that's for sure."

Trainer Mike "Whitey" McCarthy, a former assistant to Todd Pletcher, on training City Of Light out of his former boss' barn on the Oklahoma before today's Grade 1 Forego

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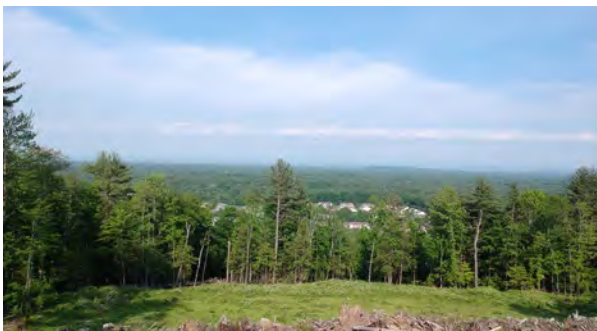
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is, but I'm not very conventional."
Trainer Dale Romans when told the **Matt Winn**
and Indiana Derby was an unconventional path the to Travers



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MY DADDY IS MOSLER,

a son of War Front trained by Bill Mott for Adele Dilschneider and Seth Hancock. They stand Mosler with Country Life in Maryland. My mom Fifteen Moons is by Malibu Moon, who began his career at Country Life. My sister Mayla won stakes and \$305,132. My sister Lunar Rille just won a Laurel maiden for Country Life. My mom's sister is Grade 1-winner Hookedonthefeelin, the dam of Grade 1-winner Jimmy Creed. I hope I live in Bill Mott's barn at Saratoga in two years. You gotta have a plan in life.



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WORTH REPEATING

"That's a good way to put it."

Jockey Mike Smith when told that riding **Abel Tasman** is like marriage

"They've taken plenty of mine. It's part of the game."

Smith about replacing jockey **Drayden Van Dyke** aboard **Marley's Freedom**

"I'm trying to park in Saratoga so the kids can get on the carousel."

Trainer Chuck Lawrence, when asked what he was doing **Friday afternoon**

"You want a comment on Round? He's good, he was fresh this morning, we rode him down a little bit, he got to going a little better late in the morning, he came off the bridle and was lobbing along pretty good."

Trainer Bill Mott, replacing lead pony **Round**
for Personal Ensign starter **Elate** in **The Special's** preview

"It's awesome. Great atmosphere. Very laid back. It's great."

British trainer Ed Walker when asked what he thought of **Saratoga**

Hanging around the backside? Want some fun? Stand between trainers **Barclay Tagg** and **Jimmy Toner** and just listen. Friday morning provided world-class banter.

Toner: "He's my hero. When I was growing up I wanted to be **Barclay Tagg**."

Tagg: "Are you kidding? I remember bringing horses to New York and he'd be there in a suit, always a suit, walking around with billionaire owners."

Toner: "Billionaire owners . . . well, none of them remembered me in their wills. I wish I had **Barclay's** money. I'd retire."

"The question is what will the feeling be like Sunday. I think we're going to have a hangover, either way."

Trainer Dale Romans on running three horses in **Grade 1** stakes today

"Our relationship is good and hopefully Saturday it will get a hell of a lot better."

Trainer Steve Asmussen on his partnership with **Mick Ruis**;
Asmussen trains **Union Strike**, who runs in today's **Grade 1 Ballerina**, for **Ruis**

"They might be better, but none are doing better."

Mark Casse on Travers contender **Wonder Gadot**

"I don't think you can drive there direct."

Jockey Mike Smith, while changing planes in **Detroit** on his way to **Saratoga**

"Oh, God yeah."

Joe Clancy when asked if today's edition of **The Special** was a record at 80 pages

"Can't wait to see what tomorrow is going to be like."

Crossing guard on **Union Avenue** a little after 10 a.m. **Friday**

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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 Friday, 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 eight. 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** **Kharafa. He's 9 and he's good, with a win in the West Point on the New York-bred program's Saratoga Showcase Day.**

On the bubble: Cape Angel, Farrell, Mucho, Promises Fulfilled, Gatherin'-thegreat, 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'z Slew (Happy Retirement), Tricky Escape shipping up – twice – from Delaware to win the Waya, Lacey Gaudet with a winner, Endorsed and Code Of Honor, Rushing Fall, Ricky Hendriks and Ross Geraghty sweeping the jumps Aug. 22-23.

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The Chief... Day 24

"Jimmy Harris was the best. Every horse would get rubbed as if he was a stakes horse. He rubbed Beau Purple, Admiral Vee. He was off the day Beau Purple came in the barn, I put him in his stall. He came in the next morning and said, 'Who that donkey in my stall?' I said, 'That's a horse called Beau Purple.' He said, 'Yeah, where he pull grass at?' I said, 'He's a nice horse.' He said, 'Yeah, we'll see about that.' I didn't think that much about Beau Purple, I thought he was in between, not quite a stakes horse. Mr. Dreyfus said don't ever hedge about putting the horses in the stakes races, it's like poker, you've got to ante up. I said, 'There's one tonight, closes at 11 o'clock.' Tommy Trotter, in those days, he wouldn't take a stake nomination a minute after 12, nowadays, they're flexible, I got somebody to get him on the phone and put him in, and he won the race, that's when he beat Kelso and Carry Back."

– Trainer Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015



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Tod Marks

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with Jimmy Jerkens

We pick our spots. One of our regulars on the Stable Tour, Jimmy Jerkens began the meet slowly. We didn't go near his barn on the Oklahoma side. When he went 5-for-6, we showed up.

Coming off his most lucrative season, when his horses earned \$5.5 million, Jerkens has won 29 races and \$2 million this year. It's a long way from 2011-13 when Jerkens didn't crack the million-dollar mark. Those days are long gone as his horses have earned at least \$4 million in every season since. If you're a numbers guy, Jerkens has won races at a 21 percent clip for his career.

The Special's Sean Clancy stopped by Jerkens' barn Thursday morning.



Tod Marks

Trainer Jimmy Jerkens (right) is 5-for-21 at the meet through Friday.

Punchline: The big, placid bay son of Into Mischief, wearing Team Colors' halter, finishes walking around the outside walking ring after a routine gallop. Jerkens pulls off his blanket and takes a long look at the imposing colt. "This is a 2-year-old of Centennial's, he just got here three weeks ago. He's up to a half-mile, he's big, but needs to fill out. He won't be ready for a while."

Go Zappem: Jimmy Jerkens will always be the Chief's son, he's proud of it, especially when he shows off a 3-year-old filly on the walking ring. Jerkens pulls off a blue and red cooler. "You might remember the mare my father had, Go Unbridled. She's out of her, by Ghostzapper, New York-bred. She wasn't showing a whole lot, we put her on the turf the other day and it seemed like it woke her up a little bit. There's a race at the end of the meet but we might wait until the beginning of Belmont."

Point To Remember: Jerkens unsnaps a blue runner and webbing and walks into the stall with the chestnut son of Point Of Entry. "Come here, boy. Come here. This horse broke his maiden the other day. I thought it was a good race, he ran well the time before that and ran the same type of race. He's had some issues behind. He's got big curby hocks. I haven't run him on the turf, I worked him on it last year and he acted like he hated it. Then he started working good enough on the dirt that we left him on the dirt, we think he'll go on a little bit."

Lion Dance: Adena Springs homebred 2-year-old is by Bernardini out of Cat Moves, winner of the 2009 Prioress for owner/breeder Ned Evans. "I might run him before we leave here. We like him. I would have run him already but he's been

real slow to learn about the gate. He broke good, then we took him back to remind him and he didn't break good. I'll probably gallop him out a little bit and run him, see what happens."

Mihos: Wow. Big, beautiful colt stands at his webbing like he's expecting Jerkens to pay a toll. "This is a nice 2-year-old of Centennial's. By Cairo Prince, he's getting pretty close. He'll run back home. He's made great strides in the last few weeks."

Delta Prince: Royalty. Son of Street Cry and Delta Princess owns four wins, including the Grade 2 King Edward Stakes in June. He just missed running down Voodoo Storm in the Fourstardave earlier this meet. Jerkens introduces him. "This is the horse who finished a close second in the Fourstardave, his name is Delta Prince. He won the King Edward at Woodbine off a long layoff, he ran really fast, the track was very hard but he ran really well. I thought he ran terrific in the Fourstardave, we knew he hated the going but he sure put in a good effort. That late bump at the end didn't help. He's probably going to run back in the Woodbine Mile."

Can You Diggitt: Chester and Mary Broman's homebred walks to the front of the stall and jabs his head into a visitor's chest. "This is the little guy who won the stake the other day. He's been hard knocking for a while, he finally got his due the other day. He ran well in the open a other than, I thought if he ran the same race he would be tough."

Hit The Town Runin: Son of Speightstown fetched \$250,000 from the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Select Sale in 2017. "He shows

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good ability but he's very big, his ankles started getting round right away so we backed off him. I don't think we're going to send him home. We'll probably keep him here, probably give him a blister, keep him under tack, give him some road-work. We like him a lot."

Illudere: Centennial Farm's son of Ghostzapper finished fourth in his debut at Belmont Park and again at Saratoga. "On the fence whether we're going to run him back here or wait for Belmont. We like him pretty good. He had a little bit of a non-sweating issue but he seems to be turning the corner, the cooler weather around the corner should help him."

Rocketry: Right out of a Munnings painting, the son of Hard Spun is another one who Jerkens introduces like a family member. "This is Rocketry. He ran Wednesday in the John's Call, a little lackluster for him. I don't think he appreciated being bogged down on the inside the whole time, he pulled him away but he's so big and long, he just didn't accelerate quick enough. He was gaining again at the very end but they had the jump on him because they were out in the clear and he was still down inside. He's probably a horse you just have to leave out even if you're losing ground."

American Guru: Three-for-four in his career, the son of Unbridled's Song suffered a condylar fracture after a 6-furlong breeze July 29. "This is a real good horse who broke down earlier in the meet, that was a real...that was tough to take. His only loss was by an inch to Voodoo Song. We were working him, getting him ready and he got a condylar fracture. We operated on him. He's ready to ship, he'll go back to Canada any day now."

Three Perfections: Winner of one race from nine starts, Dragon Squared's 5-year-old is entered Sunday. "He condylar fractured here last year. He's had one start and was fourth this year."

House Limit: Owned and bred by Joseph Shields, the son of First Defence has posted five breezes here in preparation for his debut. "He worked in a minute this morning. There's a 6 1/2 furlong maiden race next week. He's been difficult in the gate trying to get him to behave and break the way you want, but outside of that, he's definitely ready to run. Hopefully between now and then we can get him a little more settled in the gate."

Continued On Page 9

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

Sweet Sting: Adena Springs homebred finished sixth in the Riskaverse Thursday. “She started tying up when we got up here, right on top of a race, then she got rained off the second time, so she hadn’t run for two months, it was time to get her going. She probably wants more than a mile, her only win was going a mile and an eighth in Florida. She ran very well to La Moneda at Belmont, she ran a nice even second.”

Bambalina: By Bernardini out of champion Perfect Sting, the 2-year-old filly could have a big future. “She’s been doing very well. She’ll breeze on the turf Friday (she went 7 furlongs in 1:31.49). She’s close. There’s a 5 ½ but I’m not sure I want to do that, Bernardini-Perfect Sting. I think with one more work under her belt, she can do the mile in the next maiden race.”

Lead Pony: Jerkens points to him in his stall and says, “That’s the pony.” Asked his name, Jerkens yells down the shedrow, “What’s his name again?” One groom yells Bailey. A hotwalker yells Linebacker. He wears Securitz’s halter.

Shelley Ann: Owned and bred by Phil Birsh, the New York-bred is a full sister to 2015 Wood Memorial runner-up Tencendur. “This is a nice filly, she’s long and lengthy but she’s done very well the last three weeks. She’s probably three weeks away from running.”

Holy Helena: Adena Springs’ homebred daughter of Ghostzapper has won six races, including the Woodbine Oaks, the Queen’s Plate and the Sheepshead Bay Stakes: “This is a nice mare. She breezed (Thursday) morning, she was at Adena in Canada for a month, this was her second breeze. She probably won’t make the stake here or Kentucky

Downs, that will be cutting it a kind of close so we’ll have to wait for something back home. She was fifth at Belmont, the idea was to go to Canada for a rest but they said she looked so good when she got there, they ran her on the day of the Queen’s Plate. She finished third, but we’re missing these races because of that. That’s OK.”

Weather Wiz: Son of Tiznow broke his maiden at Belmont in June and finished fourth here. “He made all the pace on a slow track and hung in there pretty good, there’s a race back for him on the 1st.”

Timber Ghost: One of the most impressive maiden winners at the meet, son of Ghostzapper (another one) ripped to an impressive score Sunday. “He ran good and fast. His mother was a real good sprinter of Mike Hushion’s, Harissa. I think he’s a nice horse, who knows, he might go on. Ghostzapper, they usually do, it’s nice to have speed and endurance. I thought he would run well but I didn’t think he would run off the screen and run 9 flat. I would have been really disappointed if he didn’t show up. Everything pointed to him running good.”

Eleveneses: Daughter of More Than Ready won the Any Limit Stakes at Gulfstream and just recently returned to the stable. “We gave her a little time. She won a little stakes in Florida and then she didn’t run well in a stake at Laurel so we sent her up to Sugar Maple for the best part of the summer. She’s a three other than, she’s going to be hard to spot, we’ll have to be imaginative. I’d like to try her on the turf one time, get her in an allowance race going seven eighths on the turf at home, I think she’ll like it.”

Rachel’s Blue Moon: Homebred for Chester and Mary Broman, the New York-bred daughter of Bodemeister finished seventh in the Fleet Indian Friday. “She won a nice a other than New York-bred mile before we came up here. We were trying to get her ready for a mile and an eighth. She ran the mile well but two turns...”

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Story of the Day

BY TOM LAW

Saratoga Race Course's signature event – the \$1.25 million Travers Stakes – always packs plenty of intrigue and today's 149th edition falls right in line. A field of 11 entered the 1 1/4-mile Travers and it's no stretch to call the collection a pitchman's dream.

- The race's two main contenders Good Magic and Gronkowski, at least on paper and in the eyes of NYRA's morning-line maker, come from the same barn of trainer Chad Brown who grew up not far from Saratoga Springs and wants to add the Travers to his growing resume.

- Kentucky-bred and Irish-raced, Medelsohn is back on U.S. soil for a fourth time chasing one of this country's top prizes.

- Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas, who has a penchant for winning big races with horses "who don't belong," sends out Bravazo.

- Catholic Boy, a Grade 1 winner on turf, takes another shot at a top-tier dirt race.

And then comes the storyline fans who line up on Union Avenue to snag a picnic table in the backyard or deliberate over a delicious brunch downtown will discuss the most. Can a filly beat the boys?

Wonder Gadot is the filly and the boys are the 10 other 3-year-olds entered in the Travers. She's al-

ready done it twice, on her native Canadian soil in classic races no less. The Travers is the Travers, however, and one of the most coveted races in the world.

The magnitude of a possible victory by Wonder Gadot isn't lost on Irad Ortiz Jr., who climbs aboard the filly for the first time today.

"She's going to go against some of the toughest horses in the nation right now but I think they have to do it," Ortiz said Friday morning. "If she wins that race the world will know it and be talking about it. That would be amazing."

Wonder Gadot's last two races were amazing, a 4 3/4-length victory in the Queen's Plate at Woodbine June 30 and a 5 3/4-length score in the Prince of Wales at Fort Erie July 24. Trainer Mark Casse and owner Gary Barber initially considered the Grade 1 Alabama for Wonder Gadot's next start – bypassing a chance to sweep the Canadian Triple Crown – and later settled on the Travers.

Barber likes to think big and Casse isn't about to slow him down. They first thought about running Wonder Gadot against the boys in the winter.

"We always have flirted with her going against males," Casse said. "It's gotten impossible now for a filly to run in the Kentucky Derby. To do it you have to run in preps. She may have run in the Kentucky Derby had it been the old rules using graded

stakes earnings."

Casse and Barber liked the challenge of running against males. They liked the opportunity for the filly to go 10 furlongs – compared to the 9 of the Kentucky Oaks, where she finished second to Monomoy Girl – even more.

"We wanted the mile and a quarter. We've always wanted the mile and a quarter," Casse said. "Everyone has said she's gotten better as the year has gone on but I think it's been the distance. She's run in longer races now. She has this high-cruising speed. She just keeps going and doesn't slow down. That's more effective at a longer distance."

Wonder Gadot will bid to become the first filly to win the Travers since 1915 against the likes of 2-1 favorite and 2017 champion 2-year-old male Good Magic and 4-1 second choice Gronkowski from Chad Brown's barn.

Good Magic comes in off a victory in the Grade 1 Haskell Invitational and a resume that includes last year's Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile. Gronkowski finished second in his U.S. debut – and his first start for Brown – to Triple Crown winner Justify in the Belmont Stakes.

The Travers is one of seven stakes worth \$4.95 million on the card that starts at 11:35 a.m. The seven stakes are previewed on the following pages of a record-sized edition of The Saratoga Special. The 80-page edition you hold in your hands previews every stakes with a comment from someone associated with every horse, continuing a tradition that started during our first year of publication in 2001.



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First-Crop Sires	2YOs	SHs	SWs	Wnrs
CROSS TRAFFIC	89	2	1	10
GOLDENCENTS	119	2	2	7
ITSMYLUCKYDAY	80	-	-	7
Cairo Prince	120	-	-	7
Noble Mission (GB)	111	-	-	5

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Chairman
CHINA HORSE CLUB



CHC杰士马主俱乐部
CHINA HORSE CLUB



6. The H. Allen Jerkens

Grade 1. \$500,000. 3-year-olds. 7 furlongs. 2:23 p.m.



Tod Marks

Promises Fulfilled and Luis Saez look to duplicate their Amsterdam win.



Tod Marks

Engage finished second in the Woody Stephens and Amsterdam.

1. PROMISES FULFILLED

The deserving favorite at 8-5 on the morning line. Dale Romans trainee took the Grade 2 Fountain of Youth in his first start of the year. Four weeks later, he was eased after taking part in a fast pace in the Florida Derby. The son of Shackleford set another quick pace in the Kentucky Derby and faded to finish 15th. Robert Baron's chestnut colt was cut back in distance when third in the Grade 2 Woody Stephens and enters off a 3 1/4-length score in the Grade 3 Amsterdam July 28. He worked 4 furlongs in :47.66 Aug. 19 ahead of this.

Trainer Dale Romans: "The horse is doing great since the race. We got one breeze in him and it went well. I think he's moving great. I expect him to move forward off that race. He's just getting better and better. It's a big step, it's a Grade 1 and that would make him a stallion, but hopefully he comes out of there running like he did last time. He looks like the only speed in the race, so hopefully we just keep right on going. I love the spot. The one hole, I'd rather have two or three, but we're all right. He's fast enough that it doesn't matter."

2. TELEKINESIS

The inexperienced talent. The Stonestreet Stables' colt was impressive on debut winning a maiden at Fair Grounds in February. That's his only effort at a sprint distance in his career. He finished second, beaten a head, in the Grade 3 Lexington at Keeneland. Mark Casse sent the Ontario-bred to Woodbine and he won the Plate Trial June 9. He didn't fare as well three weeks later in the Queen's Plate, finishing fifth. Javier Castellano gets back aboard for the first time since the Lexington.

Trainer Mark Casse: "He could be a freak. He's just got an unbelievable amount of talent. I don't think we've seen his true talent yet. It's hard to pass up the Queen's Plate. That's a great thing to win. He won the Plate Trial but he didn't win the way he should win the Plate Trial. He should have won in a gallop but he had to work for it. He did win, so it's hard not to run in the Queen's Plate. Then he was caught up in a speed duel, one of the horses he got caught in a speed duel with was my other horse, Neepawa, who then came back and won the Breeders' Stakes. We thought all along he would be a good sprinter. We'll see, he's training super and it's a tough race. That's why they call them Grade 1s. We've sharpened him up pretty good. He's fast. We'll see how he handles the kickback, there's some serious speed in there."

3. ENGAGE

The proven class. Last year's Grade 3 Futurity Stakes winner was second to Promises Fulfilled in the Amsterdam. He finished in front of that rival when second to Still Having Fun in the Woody Stephens. Jose Ortiz has ridden Woodford Racing's colt in every start but one and he has the mount again today for trainer Chad Brown.

Jockey Jose Ortiz: "It's a good spot for him. Seven furlongs will probably be a little better for him than the 6 1/2 last time. If they put some pace in front of him he will come with a run. He's pretty nice and is running good. He came up short last time, but that was a nice performance by the other horse. He's in good shape."

The Special's Travers Day stakes preview interviews by Ben Gowans, Shayna Tiller, Brandon Valvo, Tom Law, Sean Clancy and Joe Clancy.



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BUCK POND FARM

6. The H. Allen Jerkens

Grade 1. \$500,000. 3-year-olds. 7 furlongs. 2:23 p.m.



Tod Marks

Seven Trumpets chased Firenze Fire home in the Dwyer.



Tod Marks

Gidu goes turf to dirt for trainer Todd Pletcher.

4. GIVEMEAMINIT

The outsider. Louisiana-bred gives trainer Dallas Stewart a stakes runner on Travers Day. Son of Star Guitar was third by a neck in last year's Grade 1 Hopeful when still a maiden. He didn't win his first race until January 28 at Fair Grounds in a state-bred maiden special. He was third in the Grade 3 Pat Day Mile at Churchill and sixth behind many foes he meets today in the Woody Stephens. Julien Leparoux rides the colt owned by Valene Farms for the first time.

Trainer Dallas Stewart: "He's doing good. He flew up here Wednesday and shipped good. I just galloped him at Oklahoma, but he ran here last year as a 2-year-old and ran good in the Hopeful. He's been here before and feels very comfortable here. We tried to stretch him back out in the Indiana Derby last time and it just didn't work out good. He looks to be like a one-turn type horse, but a pretty good one-turn horse. It's a big race on Travers day and he'll have to perform."

5. SEVEN TRUMPETS

The "other" Romans. West Point Thoroughbreds' colt raced on the Triple Crown trail with limited success this spring, but improved after turning back this summer. He won an allowance optional in a one-turn mile at Churchill May 31 and finished second to Firenze Fire for the second time in his career last time out in the Grade 3 Dwyer. He was only beaten a half-length to that rival in the Jerome at Aqueduct in January, but finished 9 lengths behind him in his last effort. He's fired two bullets ahead of this start, a 5-furlong move :59.93 Aug. 5 and another five-eighths breeze in :58.44 Aug. 11. Regular rider Robby Albarado gets the mount again.

Trainer Dale Romans: "He's a horse that's drastically improved since his last race. I don't know what got into him, it's like the switch went on. He worked in :58.2 here and I haven't had a horse work like that in a long time. Tammy (Fox) couldn't pull him up until he got all the way back around to the wire. He has really, really improved. You want him to be able to stop, but you're glad he doesn't want to, so it's a catch 22. He wasn't running bad, but he just didn't get over the hump. When we shortened him back up, it seems to have really helped him. I'm not ruling out stretching out later, but right now it looks like sprinting is his thing."

6. GIDU

The wildcard. Zayat Stables' son of Frankel has never competed in a race on dirt. He finished sixth beaten only 2 1/4 lengths in the Group 1 Commonwealth Cup at Royal Ascot in June. The colt trained by Todd Pletcher ran off with John Velazquez in the Grade 2 Hall Of Fame August 3. He still had the lead at the top of stretch but expended too much energy early and finished fourth beaten 1 3/4 lengths. Velazquez will try to navigate a more favorable trip today.

Trainer Todd Pletcher: "This is an experiment. He's a horse who's always trained well on the dirt, he's out of an Unbridled's Song mare, his style, he can be a little bit keen, seven eighths, you don't have to grab him. He's got a stallion's pedigree, it's one of those things, we feel like if we're going to take a shot and he likes the dirt, we're going to go for it. We've kicked it around a while, it was just which race are we going to try him in and we finally decided seven eighths would be a good distance, timing was good, then we wanted to see the post, everything seems to be falling into place. It's one good thing about seven eighths, they'll be going fast enough, you can break and drop your hands down and let him get comfortable."

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TAKE CHARGE LADY, by Dehere. 11 wins to 4, \$2,480,377. Won Ashland S. [G1], Overbrook Spinster S. [G1] twice, Walmac Int'l S. [G2], Fair Grounds Oaks [G2], Silverbulletday S. [G3], Arlington Matron H. [G3], Wood S. [G3], Ntra Great State Chal Inv Distaff S. 2nd Kentucky Oaks [G1], Apple Blossom H. [G1], Ogden Phipps H. [G1], Gazelle H. [G1], Delaware H. [G2], Falls City H. [G2], Rod S. [G2]. Dam of 6 foals to race, 5 winners--

WILL TAKE CHARGE (c, by Unbridled's Song) **Champion 3YO Colt**. 7 wins at 2, 3, and 4, \$3,924,648, Travers S. [G1], Clark G. Ross S. [G2], Pennsylvania Derby [G2], Oaklawn H. [G2], Rebel S. [G2], Smarty Jones S. [G1] by a nose, etc.

TAKE CHARGE (c, by Unbridled's Song) 3 wins at 2, 3 and 4, \$1,103,496 in US. Won Florida Derby [G1], Washington Futurity [G3],

including--
Charmie S. [G1], \$692,126, S. [G1], [G3].

2nd Dam

FELICITA, by Rubiano. Unr. Won Ashland S. [G1], Overbrook Spinster S. [G1],

TAKE CHARGE LADY (f, by C. [G1] above.
COMMENDATION (f, by C. [G1] at 2, \$226,956 in NA. [G1] at 5 and 6, \$88,782 in US. Won Boulogne C. [G3], 2nd Jockey Derby [G3], Paters S. (1 div), S. [G1] S. 3rd [G3], Dave S. [G3], \$315,738)

EVENTAIL (f, by Lea [G1] at 3 and 4, \$300,895 in NA. [G1] in Mount Verno S. H. (2 div), New York Oak [G1], Bee H. [G1], Ticonderoga S. [G1]. Dam of--

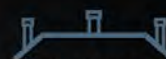
STRAIGHT STORY (f, by G. [G1] Causeway S. [G1] 7 wins, 2nd, \$736,393, Autumn S. [G2], Fort Marcy S. [G1], West Point S. 2nd Jockey Derby [G1], Virginia Derby

TRIVERS STAKES (G1) WINNER
WILL TAKE CHARGE

WILL TAKE CHARGE

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6. The H. Allen Jerkens

Grade 1. \$500,000. 3-year-olds. 7 furlongs. 2:23 p.m.



Tod Marks

Firenze Fire comes off a lopsided win in the Dwyer July 7.



Tod Marks

Still Having Fun looks to improve to 2-for-2 in New York.

7. STILL HAVING FUN

The underdog. Well, maybe not anymore after he won the Woody Stephens in his last start. He's unraced since Grade 2 score. Trainer Tim Keefe purchased the Maryland-bred for \$12,000 and the son of Old Fashioned has made \$431,703 in eight starts. Adam Wachtel and Gary Barber joined Terp Racing as owners after his first start. The Mid-Atlantic shipper hasn't finished worse than second in six races around one turn. Joel Rosario rode him perfectly in the Woody Stephens, rallying from far off the quick pace. He's back on today.

Trainer Tim Keefe: "I wouldn't change anything. We've been thinking about this race since the Woody Stephens. He's trained great since. He's put on weight, he's filled out, he's bigger, he's grown. Nothing seems to faze him, he's just been a different kind of horse. I took this picture of him yesterday sleeping, that's him, he's just happy, chilling out. You could set off firecrackers and he doesn't care."

8. FIRENZE FIRE

The "that was some race last time" horse. Jason Servis' colt won the Dwyer by 9 lengths. He took the lead at the top of the stretch and kept going, and kept going, and kept going. Mr Amore Stable bred and owns the son of Poseidon's Warrior. He won the Grade 3 Sanford here last year and went on to win the Grade 1 Champagne at Belmont. He wasn't successful on the Derby trail, but is clearly better suited to one-turn races. Irad Ortiz Jr. rode him in the Dwyer for the first time since the Breeders' Cup and will be on him again today.


Trainer Jason Servis: "I was surprised he ran that kind of race, but I hadn't been able to give him a freshening because we were trying to get Derby points, that was on the bucket list. We got that done, but he got two months, it was nice, I could back off him before the Dwyer. Everybody says it was one turn, but I think it was because he was fresh, I got him in the round pen for 10 days after the Derby, I didn't have to hone on him, I just let him take us along. He was training great, but we didn't expect him to win by 10. This race was on the radar after the Dwyer, we talked about the Haskell but it was close after a big race, he would probably get a mile and an eighth but I don't think that's his best distance. When you don't have to do as much with them, they look better, they act better. I would like to see some early fractions, I don't tell Irad too much, he and I have been really clicking it feels like forever, we'll talk a little but he knows it's his horse when he hits the track. We gave him time, we treated him like the Dwyer was hard on him, but I don't know how hard it was on him."

Jockey Irad Ortiz Jr.: "He was working really well going into (the Dwyer). So, I expected a good race from him but he impressed me the way he did it. He was traveling well and taking me the whole race. When I asked him, he just took off. I knew I opened up but I wanted to still be aggressive because last year he used to wait on horses sometimes. He usually didn't win by that far, that's the first time he's won by so much. He's gotten stronger."

9. FUNNY DUCK

The mud freak. Colt trained by Rusty Arnold won the Pat Day Mile by 4 3/4 lengths over a sloppy Churchill downs main track on Derby day. Calumet Farm's son of Distorted Humor failed to fire in a pair of two-turn races since that big win, beaten a combined 23 3/4 lengths.

Trainer Rusty Arnold: "The slop was really, really good for him but I also think the one turn mile really helped him just as much. We had searched on where he belonged, we hit it that day, then the places we ran him back he got rank into the first turn in both of them and didn't finish. He's trained some kind of good here. Now, you're looking at (Firenze Fire) who freaked in his last race, he's shortening back like everybody, other than him, it just doesn't seem to be any horses who look unbeatable. He blew out great on Monday, he's going to show up. There should be plenty of pace, he needs the trip and he needs to show up. I know he's going to be a big price, but he was on Derby Day and it didn't bother me. I think he's going to run well."



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7. The Personal Ensign

Grade 1. \$700,000. Fillies and mares. 3-year-olds & up. 1 1/8 miles. 2:59 p.m.

1. ABEL TASMAN

Kentucky Oaks winner, champion and winner of the Grade 1 Ogden Phipps. Bob Baffert's filly was flat in her 2018 debut Kentucky Derby weekend at Churchill Downs but rebounded in a big way last time winning the Phipps. She silenced doubters and won by 7 1/2 lengths. Mike Smith rides the filly owned by China Horse Club and Clearsky Farm for the ninth straight time.

Jockey Mike Smith: "She's not the easiest thing to ride but she's a whole lot of fun to ride. She's a little bit challenging and that's what I love about riding her. Along with that challenge is an abundance of talent. You play it off the break with her, sometimes she'll want to make a middle move, you have to be careful leaving there, because if you try to be too aggressive leaving there to get her into position, she might break slow and then want to take off with you. Good, light hands with her, let her run happy. If you take something away from her when she wants to do it, she might get mad at that too and let go. She's different. When she fires her A race, she beats most of them. It all depends how she breaks. I've had some of the worst trips I've ever had on her on the outside.

"She'll break slow and you'll try to drop in and save some ground and, whhhhhh, she'll take off. Being down in there, we'll get away and see how she jumps. She got away good the last time and took me right up there early. I'm not going to take anything that comes easy to her, I'm going to just try to get her in a nice, happy, comfortable rhythm where I feel she's happy, I know when she's happy she's going to run big. It could be last and it could be in front. She'll leave there completely off the bridle but if you pick at her, man, she'll go from zero to 50, like, now. You have to be really careful, I try to break and keep my hands down and she settles, we're fine. If she doesn't and she wants to work her way to the lead, you kind of have to let her because I've grabbed a hold of her and said, 'No, you stay here' and she says, 'Fine, I'll stay here.' That doesn't work. In saying that, we've got to know each other really well and I know when she's happy and when she's happy she's run well. Where that happy place is I won't have any idea until we leave there and I find it.

"She's not one you can turn on and then put your hands down and she'll turn off, she's a bit different. She's like that in the morning a little bit, she'll start off really lethargic and you get after her to keep up and all of a sudden you're running by your company. I really enjoy riding her, I really do, she's a lot of fun. I try to think what she's thinking and go with it. If I'm going to make her do something I try to make her think it's her idea, if I can pull that off, it seems to work."

2. SHE TAKES HEART

The first Looch. Ron Paolucci's Looch Racing Stables accounts for two of the six Personal Ensign entrants. Peter Walder trains the 5-year-old Wilburn mare who shipped from South Florida into Anthony Quattarolo's Saratoga barn last weekend. The five-time winner was second in the Added Elegance Stakes at Gulfstream Park in her last start. Eric Cancel rides.

Anthony Quattarolo: "She's been here since last Sunday. Peter's coming (Friday night). It was Ron's plan to run them both here. She's settled in. We took her to the paddock, she was good and relaxed, no problems."

3. FUHRIOUSLY KISSED

The second Looch. The mare that is actually trained by Quattarolo finished third in the Grade 1 Apple Blossom at Oaklawn, her first start for Paolucci and her trainer. She followed that up with another third in the Grade 3 DuPont Distaff at Pimlico. She was fourth behind Elate in the Delaware Handicap in her last start. Jose Bracho travels from Presque Isle Downs for the mount.

Trainer Anthony Quattarolo: "She's good. Real good. It's a tough race, you've got Abel Tasman and Elate. If she gets some pace and saves some ground on the rail and picks up the pieces. She got a rough trip in the Del Cap, she got caught wide in the first turn, then he swung her wide in the last turn, she didn't get beat far for second and she was running, she was running by them at the wire, well, everybody but the winner. There's speed in there. Mike Smith's going to want



Tod Marks

Abel Tasman gallops at Saratoga this week.

to hold position from the rail, we'll drop to the rail and see how the race develops. If they go fast and they come back to her, she should run well. It's all about the pace. You never know in this game, right?"

4. WOW CAT

The Chilean Grade 1 winner. The daughter of Lookin At Lucky failed to wow in the Shuvee at 4-5 last time. Peter Brant's and Stud Vendaval's filly raced in second behind Farrell from start to finish, never getting by that rival in the stretch and losing by a neck. The Shuvee was her first American start and now she faces the top two in the older female division. She was undefeated in her native country in eight starts and won four Grade 1's. John Velazquez rode her 27 days ago and is aboard today.

Jockey John Velazquez: "She ran really well, she just got tired the last sixteenth of a mile, she kept running, I thought it was a really good effort. She ran a really gutsy race. I just hope that now she has a race under her belt that she will be a lot of stronger. She was tired, she was tired on the gallop out. She put up a really good fight from the quarter pole to the wire, I was fighting the horse outside me, trying to keep her there, she almost got there, but she just got tired. I won't change anything. They went a nice pace the last time, they didn't go too fast, they didn't go too slow so she was there in a comfortable position. Hopefully we can get them down the lane. I need a little help on the front with Farrell, because nobody went with her the last time. You don't know which Abel Tasman is going to show up, she's either way back or she runs off."



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7. The Personal Ensign

Grade 1. \$700,000. Fillies and mares. 3-year-olds & up. 1 1/8 miles. 2:59 p.m.

5. FARRELL

The frontrunning Shuvee upset winner. Daughter of Malibu Moon seeks her first Grade 1 win. She's won four Grade 2 stakes, and placed in the Grade 1 La Troienne in May. Became a millionaire in the Shuvee for owner/breeder Coffeepot Stables and should be on the pace again today for jockey Channing Hill.

Trainer Wayne Catalano, while watching her train aggressively on the main track Thursday: "Here she is . . . Oh my goodness, that's the best she's ever been right there. That's the best she's ever been. She's very happy, she came out of the (Grade 3 Shuvee win here July 29) excellent. She ate very well, trained very well. We plan on being in front. She'll relax up there. Channing does a great job with her, relaxing her. She breaks sharp and comes away from there, then she comes back to him and settles real nice. She's got the race over the track, that's going to help us. She got the distance before, that's going to help us."

6. ELATE

The Alabama winner ready for her rematch. Claiborne Farm's and Adele Dilschneider's homebred put her name in consideration for top 3-year-old filly honors last year with a victory in the Alabama and Grade 1 Beldame after a close second to Abel Tasman in the Coaching Club American Oaks. She romped in the Grade 2 Delaware Handicap in her 2018 debut July 14. Bill Mott won this race in 1994 with Link River - when it was known as the John A. Morris - and back-to-back editions with Royal Delta in 2013 and Close Hatches in 2014.

Trainer Bill Mott: "She's never disappointed us, I think we ran a horse that was a little bit tired in the Breeders' Cup, that's all. This was the plan, getting here. We were looking at this, the Beldame and the Breeders' Cup, just working backwards in that order and whatever would get us here the best with some importance. The Delaware Handicap worked out great, it was an eighth of a mile further but it gave us an extra couple of weeks, rather than the Shuvee. It gave us a little bit more time for her to recover from her first race, I think she actually needed it. We weighed her going into the Delaware Handicap, I do not know much about weighing horses and how they respond after races, I'm a novice at it, we weighed her routinely. She lost weight for two weeks after that race and then she slowly started to come back. The other day, she was close to her weight that she was going into the Delaware race. It was interesting, it was like, 'Jeez, this doesn't make sense. It's been a week, 10 days, two weeks...' She was 1,248 and she went to 1,222 and then slowly went back up. I don't understand a lot about it, it was just a learning experience with her. I could see it maybe a little bit, but you don't actually know how much unless you're stepping on that scale. I was even questioning, 'Think that scale is right?' We were wondering."

"We would have started earlier, she developed a little bit of a splint. It held us up. It was hot and painful, we had to just stop and cool it out. That was in March. We already breezed a couple of times, we were thinking Apple Blossom was a possibility, the Doubledogdare, the Grade 1 at Churchill. We missed them all. Instead of May, it was July."

"You can't shortcut for those kind of races, we all deal with issues with horses, that's a normal thing, but you can't have something bothering them going into those kinds of races. We walked her for three weeks. It was big and hot, it was bothering her. There are all kinds of different splints, you can have a little splint, paint it, poultice it, and go ahead, no big deal. This was the kind that needed to be taken care of, if you keep going, they grow and they really develop into a problem. They start building up that bone and they get bigger and bigger and bigger. As hot and painful as it was, we had no choice."



Tod Marks

Wow Cat finished second in the Shuvee.



Tod Marks

Farrell eyes her first Grade 1 for trainer Wayne Catalano.



Tod Marks

Elate and her pal Erma Scott or Erma Scott and her pal Elate. Either way, it's all good.



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Tamara Valentine | 518.573.7096 5 Beds / 4 Baths



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985 Midline Rd, Amsterdam **\$474,900**
Darlene Chorman | 518.496.6564 3 Beds / 3 Baths



290 North Main St, Salem **\$319,000**
Neil Corkery | 518.588.8581 3 Beds / 2 Baths



3 Perry La, Cambridge **\$399,000**
Oliver Aldrich | 518.421.2502 4 Beds / 5 Baths

8. The Ballerina

Grade 1. \$500,000. Fillies and mares. 3-year-olds & up. 7 furlongs. 3:35 p.m.



Tod Marks

Tequilita seeks her fifth career win for trainer Michael Matz.



Tod Marks

Ivy Bell shortens up after finishing fourth in the Shuvee.

1. TEQUILITA

The Mid-Atlantic shipper. Dee Dee Matz's homebred Union Rags filly makes second straight start at 7 furlongs and eighth in her career. She's won three times at the trip, once around two turns in the Grade 3 Charles Town Oaks. Third in last year's Grade 1 Test, Tequilita comes off a fourth behind Still There in the \$75,000 Twixt at Laurel Park. She races with blinkers for the first time today.

Trainer Michael Matz: "She's turned out to be a nice filly. She's a real delight to be around. Last couple of races, I've tried to stretch her out a little bit as a 4-year-old thinking she could go long. She didn't run any good. I might have messed her up a little bit by going long. There's no place else to run her right now. I know we're in a tough spot, we're going to be the longest shot on the board. She ran well as a 3-year-old in the Test. We're just hoping for a little luck. We're just trying to change some things up a little bit to get her a little more into the game (with blinkers)."

2. IVY BELL

The consistent mare returning to a sprint. The winner of the Grade 2 Inside Information in first start for Todd Pletcher back in March at Gulfstream looks to end three-race losing streak. Fourth in the Grade 3 Shuvee at 1 1/8 miles, 5-year-old Archarcharch mare finished second to Abel Tasman in Grade 1 Ogden Phipps prior to Saratoga debut.

Trainer Todd Pletcher: "We've been pointing to this race for a while, she teased me a little bit training her, I thought she might want to run a little further. She didn't run badly in the Phipps, lost to an awfully good mare. She kind of bottomed out at the sixteenth pole in the Shuvee. The plan was all along to back up into seven-eighths and sometimes you can get a good performance after a couple of routes. She's proven at seven-eighths, we just scaled her back, didn't have to train her much in between, hopefully, she regains her form."

3. STILL THERE

The New York-bred with only four starts. Twixt Stakes winner ships in from Kentucky for PT and K Stable and trainer Dane Kobiskie. Four-year-old by Union Rags started her career with two wins before a sixth on the grass at Belmont June 29. David Cohen rode her in a May 27 victory at Belmont and the turf loss a month later. Twelfth in the standings with 10 wins through Friday, he gets back aboard today.

Jockey David Cohen: "She seems to be a very versatile type of filly. Watching her first race, she didn't break great, made a big move down the backside and sustained it. I expected her to break better, which she did, and she was still able to make that type of big move. She was further mentally than you would expect for a horse running only the second time. I saw her about 3 or 4 days ago and physically she's put on so much muscle. She looks so great. Dane Kobiskie has done an amazing job with her. He takes his time with his horses and it really shows with her, how well she's progressed mentally and physically. It's a dream come true to just be back in the saddle and part of the sport. To be at the pinnacle of horse racing in the world, it's a blessing."

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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8. The Ballerina

Grade 1. \$500,000. Fillies and mares. 3-year-olds & up. 7 furlongs. 3:35 p.m.



Tod Marks

Finley'sluckycharm has won 11 of 17 and comes off a win in the Honorable Miss.



Tod Marks

Lewis Bay dominated the Bed O' Roses in June.

4. CAIRENN

The improving Florida-bred. First Dude filly makes jump to Grade 1 company off runner-up in Shine Again, her third straight on-the-board finish in a stakes since transferring to trainer Graham Motion this spring. Heider Family Stables, Madaket Stables and Michael Kisber purchased 4-year-old filly privately after a second in Primonetta Stakes at Laurel in April.

Trainer Graham Motion: "She's just a really hard-knocking, consistent filly no matter where we take her. On paper, it's a bit of a stretch to think she can win a Grade 1, but I don't think it's a stretch to think she can get a piece of one. She ran well the other day in the prep, and we said then that if she trained well after that race and she was doing well we'd take a shot in this race."

5. FINLEY'SLUCKYCHARM

The admirable Grade 1 winner. Carl Moore's Twirling Candy mare made up for tough beat in last year's Grade 2 Honorable Miss with a 2 1/4-length victory in same race July 25. Trainer Bret Calhoun hoped to run in last year's Ballerina but she missed the race with a minor setback. She won the Grade 1 Madison at Keeneland last spring and is 11-for-17 with \$913,068 in earnings.

Trainer Bret Calhoun: "We were disappointed last year, to come back and win this year was special. Any time you win a race at Saratoga is special, but especially a graded stakes. She put it all together this year. She's learned to race better, she understands it a little better, she's a little bit more relaxed. She's got a high cruising speed but she's more willing to settle as she's gotten older. She can be forwardly placed because she's fast. She's been good since that race, she breezed really well last week. It's no secret if you look at her form, there are races she runs that are big races and then she's regressed off of them, but if anybody saw the Madison, it was understandable how a horse would regress off of that, they raced wide open and she held them off. The older she's gotten and the harder she runs in these big races, it's harder for her to turn around as an older horse than it was as a younger horse. Timing wise, the owner and I discussed it, I would love to run her here and then train her to the Breeders' Cup. We wouldn't have considered the Ballerina had I thought the Honorable Miss was a tough race on her. She got a big number but things went her way, I don't think it looked like it was that hard of a race. She had to put in a strong effort, but it wasn't a gut-wrenching effort. It would mean everything to win a Grade 1 here."

6. LEWIS BAY

The mare coming off her best race yet. Chad Brown freshened up the 5-year-old Bernardini mare after 5 1/2-length victory in the Grade 3 Bed O' Roses at Belmont June 8. Fourth in the Grade 1 Test in 2016 in lone Saratoga appearance, she's 2-for-5 at 7 furlongs and placed in two Grade 1s at the distance this spring in Kentucky for owners and breeders Alpha Delta Stables.

Jockey Irad Ortiz Jr. "She always shows up and is doing good. Last time she ran really good in the race at Belmont, very impressive. That race was at 7 furlongs and so is this one, that's good for her. And there's probably going to be some speed in the race and she'll probably be forwardly placed."

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8. The Ballerina

Grade 1. \$500,000. Fillies and mares. 3-year-olds & up. 7 furlongs. 3:35 p.m.



Tod Marks

Union Strike makes her first start for trainer Steve Asmussen.



Tod Marks

Highway Star looks to pad her \$1.1 million in career earnings.

7. MARLEY'S FREEDOM

The California shipper. Cicero Farms' 4-year-old Blame filly is 2-for-2 under Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert's care, winning the Grade 3 Desert Stormer at Santa Anita and the Grade 2 Great Lady M at Los Alamitos. She makes her first start outside California and reunites with Hall of Fame jockey Mike Smith.

Jockey Mike Smith: "I've only ridden her twice, I won an allowance race on her last fall and I rode her back in Florida (in the Grade 3 Hurricane Bertie). She stumbled really badly, she got up and didn't really care to run much at all that day. I'm excited to ride her back, she seems to be back on track and really running well. This is going to be by far her toughest test that's she's run in, but she's ready and she has that kind of ability. She's a big powerful mare, she's strong. I've watched her train, she's been training really well."

8. UNION STRIKE

The transfer student. Mick and Wendy Ruis' 4-year-old came to Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen's Saratoga string with Bolt D'Oro this summer. Ruis and Asmussen don't have a history together, but met when stabled next to each other at Santa Anita Park. The 4-year-old Union Rags filly won the Grade 1 Del Mar Debutante Stakes at 2 and the Santa Paula Stakes last year. In two starts this season, she finished seventh in the Grade 2 La Canada Stakes in January and third in the Grade 3 Chicago Handicap in June. Posted four workouts over the Oklahoma Training Track since arriving, including a 5-furlong breeze in 1:00.44 Aug. 13.

Trainer Steve Asmussen: "She came up with Bolt D'Oro on the same trip. She is all class and is a very impressive filly that we're fortunate to run and I think will run huge. We were stabled in the barn next to him when we went out there with Gun Runner and things fell into place like they always seem to for me, so hopefully it continues. She's beautiful and she's obvious talent wise and mentally. Hopefully we'll get a good run from her. I think the draw is very good for her."

9. HIGHWAY STAR

The gutsy, overachieving New York-bred. Chester and Mary Broman's homebred daughter of Girolamo seeks first Saratoga win in her third start. Narrowly beaten in last year's Ballerina, she won the Grade 2 Gallant Bloom last fall at Belmont to earn a trip to the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint. She's finished second three times in four starts this season.

Trainer Rodrigo Ubillo: "Last year was a great year for her, she got into her peak. She's run second the last few times. Something's been missing, she's just been having bad luck. She worked last Monday, got a bullet workout going :46 and change. She lost a shoe. I was concerned but the next day we were able to put the shoe back on and she went back to training. According to the last breeze, she seems to be sharp. The good thing is she's consistent. She always runs her race."



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9. The Forego

Grade 1. \$600,000. 3-year-olds and up. 7 furlongs. 4:12 p.m.



Tod Marks

Nine-time winner Limousine Liberal makes is fourth start at Saratoga.



Tod Marks

Awesome Slew finished third behind today's rival No Dozing July 21.

1. LIMOUSINE LIBERAL

The hard-knocking 6-year-old. Runner-up to eventual champion and Breeders' Cup Sprint winner Runhappy in the 2015 King's Bishop, 6-year-old Successful Appeal gelding looks for first Saratoga win after three defeats. Third in last year's Grade 1 Alfred G. Vanderbilt, he's a four-time graded stakes winner for trainer Ben Colebrook coming off a win in the Grade 2 Belmont Sprint Championship.

Trainer Ben Colebrook: "He seems like he's as good as he's ever been. We're back at Saratoga, chasing that Grade 1. That's all he's missing. I'm not sure he's a New York horse now. He's like his trainer, he'll tolerate it but he's always wanting to get back to Kentucky. He's ready, we'll see. He won from the 1-hole last time at Belmont. There's not a lot of speed directly outside of him. Hopefully if he gets a clean break he can take Awesome Slew's or Whitmore's spot if they don't decide to go. As he's gotten older he's gotten better. After his first race he was so reluctant to be inside of horses because he had such a terrible trip in the first race of his career. He was shy down there, almost reluctant. But the way he ran at Belmont down on the inside I don't think anything is going to bother him. He showed guts and determination last time."

2. AWESOME SLEW

The classy veteran. Runner-up to Drefong in last year's Forego, he's made 17 of his 21 starts in graded stakes races. Live Oak Plantation's homebred son of Awesome Again, winner of the Grade 3 Smarty Jones in 2016 and Grade 3 Commonwealth and Grade 3 Ack Ack in 2017, he finished third behind No Dozing in optional claimer here July 21.

Trainer Mark Casse: "I don't know what to think of Awesome Slew. We trained him a little different this year for this race. You'll see I blew him out pretty hard and I did it on purpose. I thought maybe I babied him into his last race, so I wanted to be a bit more aggressive. What made Tepin great, World Approval great and Wonder Gadot great, is they have the ability to adjust. If there's not a lot of speed they'll be the speed. If there is a lot of speed they'll sit off of them. He doesn't have that luxury. He needs it to set up."

3. WHITMORE

The linebacker. Runner-up to Imperial Hint in the Grade 2 True North and to Limousine Liberal in the Grade 2 Belmont Sprint Championship, Pleasantly Perfect gelding makes Saratoga debut with six stakes wins on his resume. Trainer Ron Moquett keeps a list of races he'd like to win on a wall in his Hot Springs, Ark., home, and he checked one off last year. He repeated in the Grade 3 Count Fleet Sprint at Oaklawn Park this year.

Trainer Ron Moquett: "I like our post and I love our horse. He's the man. The rest of it is how the race falls out and from that point you've got to feel comfortable about what we're walking over with there. He's acted like a big boy up here. This is a race I want to win bad. It's a wall race. It's one you definitely want to win. There's some good competition, some really nice horses. It's the kind of race you could run three or four times and get three winners. We're shooting for this to be our time and I'm sure the other guys are, too. It's one of the marks we made, a mile marker. This race, the one at Keeneland then the Breeders' Cup."

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9. The Forego

Grade 1. \$600,000. 3-year-olds and up. 7 furlongs. 4:12 p.m.



Tod Marks

A Saratoga rookie, Whitmore looks for his 11th lifetime win.



Tod Marks

No Dozing looks for his second win of the meet.

4. HEARTWOOD

The shipper. James Chapman's and Stuart Tsujimoto's Tapit colt makes Saratoga debut after starts in 2018 at Turfway Park, Keeneland, Churchill Downs, Pimlico, Thistledown and Mountaineer. He's won two of eight this year, including the Senator Robert C. Byrd Memorial at Mountaineer Aug. 4.

Trainer James Chapman: "The trip was 780 miles, it took about 13 hours. I decided to come about 30 minutes before they closed the entries when I found out he wouldn't be the ninth (horse) in case he runs bad I'd have to pay the \$10,000 to start. Eighth covers it. We're just taking a shot. I'm trying to get him placed in one of these bigger races as a stallion. He ran really well last time. The way he did it, he has a lot of quirks about him and he split horses and finished on the inside. He did a lot of things he had trouble doing before. I think he's just maturing and getting better but this is a tough spot to test him."

5. NO DOZING

The Opening Weekend winner. Jumped into the conversation among older sprinters with a knockout win here July 21 – his first start since November and first as a gelding. Lael Stable homebred son of Union Rags followed a similar schedule into the Allen Jerkens here last year, but finished sixth.

Trainer Arnaud Delacour: "I thought he would probably need the race off the layoff (last time) but he did great and came back in good shape. The five weeks is perfect timing I would say. He had a very good breeze two weeks ago (Aug. 13). I think the rider (wife Leigh Delacour) rode according to instructions, which I always enjoy. Anywhere between 7 furlongs and a one-turn mile suits him. We'll take a shot today and probably come back in the Kelso if he runs a decent race. He has changed since we gelded him. He's also grown, so that's not only the gelding but the time off and the fact that he turned 4. He's shown improvement. He's got tactical speed, Rosario knows him, we'll take a shot."



Tod Marks

C Z Rocket returns to the scene of his debut win in 2017.

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9. The Forego

Grade 1. \$600,000. 3-year-olds and up. 7 furlongs. 4:12 p.m.



Tod Marks

Warrior's Club exits a second in the Vanderbilt.



Tod Marks

City Of Light ships in from California for trainer Mike McCarthy.

6. C Z ROCKET

Frank Fletcher's City Zip colt won the first three starts of his career last year – each from the inside post – and was a dull sixth in the Grade 1 Malibu in California to close his 3-year-old season. Returned to the races June 1 with a third behind graded stakes winner American Anthem, then blitzed six others in the Kelly's Landing going today's 7-furlong trip at Churchill Downs.

Trainer Al Stall: "We ran through our conditions lickety split and that changes everything. We almost won the Malibu with Central Banker (in 2013) and races like that are always in your mind. That's the way it is with me anyway. We tried, it just didn't work out. Richard Mandella was taking care of him for me and he said he grew a lot of hair out there for some reason and it just didn't work out. That's a draw-a-line-through race. We got him back, got a good breather, got a good race into him and then he ran real well the last time. He took a nice, nice step forward in the Kelly's Landing. You can't say that's a race you expect, but it's a race you hope from a horse. Now that you've seen it once, you can expect it. He does well here. This is a home game for him. He's been here since July 6, and he won here last year. I like that. Big, nice horse, he's going to get a full test but we think he stacks up."

7. WARRIOR'S CLUB

The people's horse. A victory by the 4-year-old son of Warrior's Reward would flood the winner's circle with members of the Churchill Downs Racing Club, just as they did April 7 after the Grade 3 Commonwealth at Keeneland. Trained by Hall of Famer D. Wayne Lukas, Warrior's Club is 5-for-26, first or second in all three Saratoga starts and coming off a second in the Grade 1 Alfred G. Vanderbilt.

Trainer D. Wayne Lukas: "Luck sometimes is one of the better things to have in this game, but we were fortunate enough to find a really good horse. Every trainer and every owner that's in Thoroughbred racing should be lucky enough to find a Warrior's Club. He's such an overachiever and such a wonderful horse for the amount of money spent. He's given the club members quite a ride. We're running in Grade 1 races, how could you ever predict that? I really think he's coming into a better race. He's maturing, he's very professional. Horses have good days, bad days, average days and he seems to have good days all the time. He gives you that level of confidence that you don't get in a lot of horses. I feel like I've got a chance to get top form out of him better than even Bravazo."

8. CITY OF LIGHT

The California invader. William and Suzanne Warren's multiple Grade 1 winner cuts back in distance after a third in Grade 1 Gold Cup at Santa Anita going 10 furlongs. He's 2-for-3 at the Forego's 7-furlong trip, the wins coming in the Grade 1 Malibu and Grade 1 Triple Bend. The 4-year-old son of Quality Road is trained by Mike "Whitey" McCarthy, former longtime assistant to Todd Pletcher who spent the 2003, 2004 and 2011 summers in Saratoga.

Trainer Mike McCarthy: "We had a couple races we were thinking about, the Whitney was obviously one of them. Mr. Warren is a sporting kind of guy, wanted to bring the horse to New York. It could have been the Whitney, could have been the Woodward. We had a little bump on the road at Del Mar and I didn't want to force it to try and make the Whitney so here we are. The horse has been doing good the last few weeks this made the most sense. He's got two very good 7-furlong races. The Malibu and the Triple Bend, two solid, solid performances. He gets a great post draw here."



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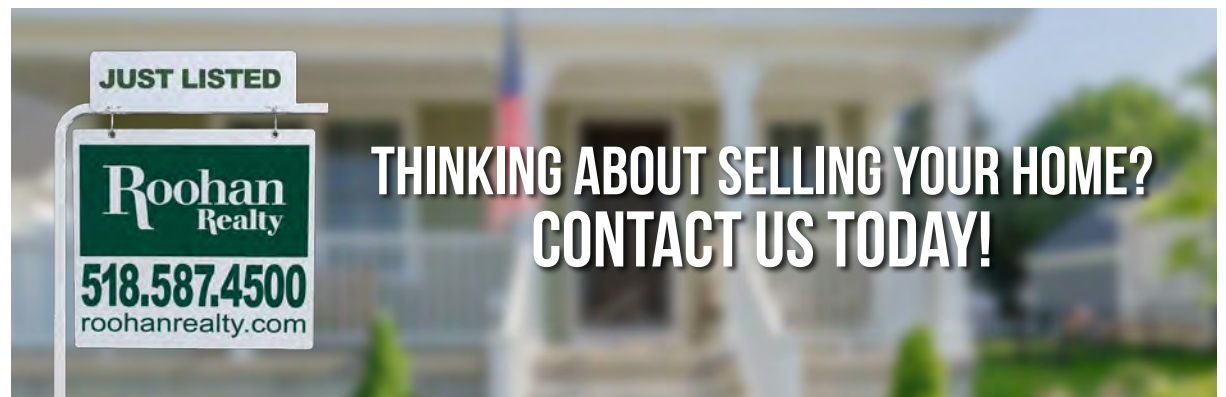
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10. The Sword Dancer

Grade 1. \$1 million. 3-year-olds and up. 1 1/2 miles. Turf. 4:49 p.m.

1. GLORIOUS EMPIRE

One of two Bowling Green winners. Matt Schera's veteran gelding dead-headed with Channel Maker here July 28, setting all the pace under Julien Leparoux. He's 2-for-3 at Saratoga and returns from trainer Chuck Lawrence's base at Fair Hill Training Center for his Grade 1 debut.

Trainer Chuck Lawrence: "He certainly has the ability to do it again, he's a very talented horse. In any of these races, it comes down to pace and trip and all that. He's an incredibly talented horse, his biggest challenge is his mind if he can keep it together. We picked a pretty big day to do that but we did it on Jim Dandy Day, that was a pretty big crowd. He had a beautiful gallop Friday, a beautiful work last week, he went seven eighths in 1:27, out a mile in 1:39, he hasn't missed a beat. I couldn't be happier with the horse, I just hope I'm happy when I put the jock up, he's a tough horse to deal with. I've done a lot of Mikey Smithwick on him, we put him on the van and took him to the races, we paddock school him, take him cross country, turning him out, just doing different things, trying to figure out what works for him. For us, it's a lot of training, the biggest thing is to keep him occupied and not in a claustrophobic panic, you don't want to stop with him. The kids love him, he's a dream, training him is a dream, but for some reason when he goes to the paddock, he's had a history of clearing out the paddock. I don't like to talk about it because I haven't had that problem, hopefully, we can keep him focused on his job. That all translates to his race, a bad experience in the paddock goes out on the track with him. I was tickled to death with him before the Bowling Green. I've heard prior stories, from paddock judges and other people, since we've had him, we've paddock schooled him a lot, it's taught me what works for him. We're a long shot but you can't win it if you're not in it. When I first got this horse, I told Matt (Schera), 'He is one the nicest, if not the nicest horse I've ever had.' Not that I've had that many great horses, but he would work five-eighths in :59, a minute, and he would keep going. There are a lot of fast horses out there but the horses who can turn it on after a work...he's been a lot of fun to train, he's a really cool horse."

2. SPRING QUALITY

The Manhattan longshot. Winner of the Grade 1 turf stakes on the Belmont Day undercard at 18-1 shipped to Chicago for the Arlington Million Aug. 11, but didn't run due to an impaction. The George Strawbridge Jr. homebred gets a new assignment going 1 1/2 miles for the first time. Son of Quality Road is 9-for-11 in the exacta, and came from deep in a crowded field of 13 to prevail by a neck in the Manhattan for jockey Edgar Prado.

Trainer Graham Motion: "That's the farthest trip we do in a van, and it's always in the back of my mind, but most of the time they're fine. Looking at it, he'd probably never done something like that and for whatever reason it got to him. He was never in that bad of shape. He trained every day, but he just wasn't comfortable enough to run. Saturday night he was better and got back to himself. Sunday he was good and he got on the plane and flew to Saratoga. That part of it worked out, otherwise he would have had to have gotten on a van back to Maryland. He hasn't missed a beat. He galloped here Monday (Aug. 13), had an easy half-mile on the turf the next day (officially 5 furlongs in 1:07.21). It was very soft and he just needed to do something. I didn't want to miss a breeze if we were trying to run in the Sword Dancer. Then he breezed a proper five-eighths on the grass Monday (1:02.88). After he won the Manhattan, it was a toss-up between these two races anyway. The Million was appealing. It was two weeks earlier, that turf course is in really good shape, it's the same distance he just won at. There was a lot to like about that, but it was always a toss-up between the two races. This is Plan B, but it's not a huge stretch. I don't imagine a mile-and-a-half is going to be an issue. There's a bit of pace in the race, though I'm not sure he's totally pace-dependent either. He's a nice horse."



Maggie Kimmitt

Spring Quality heads back to the barn after training at Fair Hill this spring.

Laurel Park Fall Stakes Schedule

CLOSES.....	RUNS.....	STAKE.....	AGE	DISTANCE	PURSE
Thu., Sep. 6	Sat., Sep. 15	Frank J. De Francis Mem. Dash (G3) ..M	3 & Up	6 Furlongs	\$250,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 6	Sat., Sep. 15	All Along Stakes (Listed)	F&M 3 & Up	1 1/16 Miles (T)	\$150,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 6	Sat., Sep. 15	Laurel Dash (Listed) ..M	3 & Up	6 Furlongs (T)	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 6	Sat., Sep. 15	Laurel Turf Cup (Listed)	3 & Up	1 1/2 Miles (T)	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 6	Sat., Sep. 15	Laurel Futurity	2-y-o.....	6 Furlongs (T)	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 6	Sat., Sep. 15	Selima	Fillies 2-y-o	6 Furlongs (T)	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 6	Sat., Sep. 15	Sensible Lady Turf Dash ..M	F&M 3 & Up	6 Furlongs (T)	\$100,000 Guaranteed

Thu., Sep. 13 ..	Sat., Sep. 22	Jamestown (Reg. VA-bred/Sired)	2-y-o.....	5 1/2 Furlongs (T)	\$75,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 13 ..	Sat., Sep. 22	Punch Line (Reg. VA-bred/Sired)	3 & Up	5 1/2 Furlongs (T)	\$75,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 13 ..	Sat., Sep. 22	Oakley (Reg. VA-bred/Sired)	F&M 3 & Up	5 1/2 Furlongs (T)	\$75,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 13 ..	Sat., Sep. 22	Bert Allen (Reg. VA-bred/Sired)	3 & Up	1 1/16 Miles (T)	\$75,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 13 ..	Sat., Sep. 22	Brookmeade (Reg. VA-bred/Sired)	F&M 3 & Up	1 1/16 Miles (T)	\$75,000 Guaranteed

Thu., Sep. 20 ..	Sat., Sep. 29	Balt/Wash International Turf Cup (G3)	3 & Up	1 Mile (T)	\$200,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 20 ..	Sat., Sep. 29	Bald Eagle Derby	3-y-o.....	1 1/2 Miles (T)	\$150,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 20 ..	Sat., Sep. 29	Find (Reg. MD-bred/Sired)	3 & Up	1 1/16 Miles (T)	\$75,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 20 ..	Sat., Sep. 29	All Brandy (Reg. MD-bred/Sired)	F&M 3 & Up	1 1/16 Miles (T)	\$75,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 20 ..	Sat., Sep. 29	Challedon (NW of a Sweepstakes)	3 & Up	7 Furlongs	\$75,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 20 ..	Sat., Sep. 29	Shine Again (NW of a Sweepstakes)	F&M 3 & Up	7 Furlongs	\$75,000 Guaranteed

Wednesday, October 10 - Pre-entry Deadline for Maryland Million Day, Saturday, October 20

Thu., Nov. 1	Sat., Nov. 10	City of Laurel (Listed)	3-y-o.....	7 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 1	Sat., Nov. 10	Safely Kept (Listed)	Fillies 3-y-o	7 Furlongs.....	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 1	Sat., Nov. 10	Richard W. Small (Listed)	3 & Up	1 1/8 Miles.....	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 1	Sat., Nov. 10	James F. Lewis III	2-y-o.....	6 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 1	Sat., Nov. 10	Smart Halo	Fillies 2-y-o	6 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed

Thu., Nov. 15 ..	Sat., Nov. 24	Geisha (Reg. MD-bred/Sired)	F&M 3 & Up	1 Mile.....	\$75,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 15 ..	Sat., Nov. 24	Willa on the Move	F&M 3 & Up	6 Furlongs.....	\$100,000 Guaranteed

Thu., Nov. 29 ..	Sat., Dec. 8	MD Juv. Futurity (Reg. MD-bred/Sired)	2-y-o.....	7 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 29 ..	Sat., Dec. 8	MD Juv. Filly Ch. (Reg. MD-bred/Sired)	Fillies 2-y-o	7 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 29 ..	Sat., Dec. 8	Howard M. Bender Mem. (Reg. MD-bred/Sired) ...	3 & Up	6 Furlongs	\$75,000 Guaranteed

Thu., Dec. 20 ..	Sat., Dec. 29	Thirty Eight Go Go	F&M 3 & Up	1 Mile	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Dec. 20 ..	Sat., Dec. 29	Dave's Friend	3 & Up	6 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Dec. 20 ..	Sat., Dec. 29	The Heft Stakes (Listed)	2-y-o.....	7 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Dec. 20 ..	Sat., Dec. 29	Gin Talking	Fillies 2-y-o	7 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Dec. 20 ..	Sat., Dec. 29	Jennings (Reg. MD-bred/Sired)	3 & Up	1 Mile	\$75,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Dec. 20 ..	Sat., Dec. 29	Politely (Reg. MD-bred/Sired)	F&M 3 & Up	6 Furlongs	\$75,000 Guaranteed

M - Denotes MATCH Series race



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10. The Sword Dancer

Grade 1. \$1 million. 3-year-olds and up. 1 1/2 miles. Turf. 4:49 p.m.

3. FUNTASTIC

Fourth string to first string. Jose Ortiz jumps back aboard after his brother Irad Ortiz Jr. and Joel Rosario rode him in optional claimers in New York and Antonio Gallardo rode son of More Than Ready to victory at 23-1 in Grade 1 United Nations at Monmouth last time. Chad Brown bids for third win in grass marathon in last six years.

Jockey Jose Ortiz: “He ran well in the United Nations, I think his best career number running on the front that day. This is another long race, I’m not sure too many people are going to want to be on the lead, if he’s there I’m not going to take it away from him. He won there in the United Nations and if he’s there in the Sword Dancer he’s there. We’ll try to go as long as we can and run home. It’s a tough race.”

4. HI HAPPY

The Argentinian star. A multiple Group 1 winner in Argentina before coming to the U.S. in 2016, 6-year-old son of Pure Prize started his Northern Hemisphere career in Southern California before joining Todd Pletcher’s barn this year. He won the Grade 2 Pan American and Grade 1 Man o’ War before a third in the Manhattan and a sixth in the Bowling Green.

Trainer Todd Pletcher: “Got to toss the Bowling Green, he’s been a consistent horse for us, hated the soft ground, looks like we’re going to get lucky and the weather’s going to clear out, I was kind of worried up until a few days ago, this has been the plan to run back here, if it came up soft, we would have scratched. I think he tried for a while, when Johnny had him held up against the bridle he said he was OK, but as soon as he had to start going, he fell apart on him. He came back well and has trained well, just hope he gets back to his best race.”

5. HIGHLAND SKY

The weather watcher. Bonner Young’s homebred finished fifth in the Bowling Green July 28 and was scratched (due to soft turf) from the John’s Call here Wednesday. Five-year-old son of Sky Mesa eyes a fifth lifetime win and his first in a graded stakes (he’s placed in two). Manny Franco, aboard for an optional-claiming win at Belmont in late June, takes the return call.

Trainer Barclay Tagg: “I didn’t want to run him in the soft stuff because he’d just run a lousy race in the soft stuff. They were calling for nice weather for a couple days, and I’ve always been for running him in better races anyway. I think he’s a very good horse but when you’re a come-from-behind horse in big fields, you’ve got to get a lot of luck. He’s very honest, he’s a lovely horse, he’ll run his best race no matter who he’s up against. He needs more ground. We were thinking going shorter brings those speedballs back to him, and that’s true but I just don’t think he’s that kind of horse. He’ll make it up with more ground. He doesn’t get tired. He’s a grinder, boy. He worked fast the other day (a half-mile in :49.09 over the main track), but that shouldn’t hurt him and might actually make him sharper.”

6. BIGGER PICTURE

The claim to fame. Claimed by owner Three Diamonds Farm and trainer Mike Maker for \$50,000 in November 2015, he’s competed almost exclusively in stakes since. A four-time graded stakes winner, 7-year-old Badge Of Silver gelding won last year’s Grade 1 United Nations, finished second in the Grade 2 Bowling Green and third in the Sword Dancer last season. He’s 1-for-5 this year and finished fourth last time in the Bowling Green, beaten a length.

Owner Kirk Wycoff: “He didn’t really like Florida. It’s hot there and he didn’t really do well on that sandy surface at Gulfstream. He ran good when he won the Connolly but his last two efforts he could’ve easily won if he didn’t lose that length at the gate. He’s right where he needs to be.



Tod Marks

Hi Happy tries to win for the third time this year.



Tod Marks

Sadler's Joy aims to repeat in today's Grade 1.

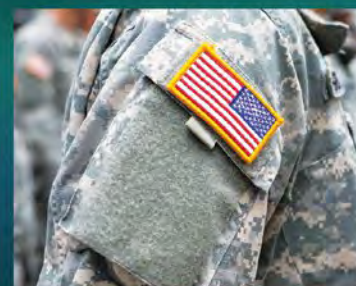
Obviously, those races have all set up to be won on the front end by longshots and it looks like there’s more speed in the Sword Dancer. Irad’s very smart, he’ll judge the pace but we’re obviously not going to be in front and not in back. We’re in a good spot to save some ground and make a run at the end, which is what he’s really good at.”



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10. The Sword Dancer

Grade 1. \$1 million. 3-year-olds and up. 1 1/2 miles. Turf. 4:49 p.m.

7. CHANNEL MAKER

The other Bowling Green winner. English Channel gelding just got up to dead heat with Glorious Empire July 28, his first win since the 2017 Breeders' Stakes at Woodbine going today's 12-furlong trip. Owned by Gary Barber and Wachtel Stable, Channel Maker reunites with Joel Rosario.

Trainer Bill Mott: "He's had some tough trips where maybe he could have been closer. He's a horse who you wind up making a lot of excuses for because he comes from behind and incurs some traffic. He's not easy to ride, it's not like you point him and he goes. Rosario did a great job with him, because he's one of those horses you push on him, he brings his head up. If you take too much hold of him, his head comes up. It's not like he levels off and finds his stride. He had the right amount of rhythm with him where he got the most out of him. He doesn't over whip and he doesn't bang too much. I've never seen a guy get more run out of a horse with less whip, maybe Pat Day, I think he understands when a horse is really giving it to him. It was funny after the race, they were watching it and they said he quit riding him right before the wire, but I said, no he was keeping him straight, I gave him the benefit of the doubt because I know he'll do that. It was just in the last jump, I know he'll do that, he grabbed the right rein to keep him from laying on that other horse. He's just made that way, just the way his head and neck comes out of his shoulders, instead of being out here, it's up here."



Tod Marks

Channel Maker dead-heated for the win in the Bowling Green last month.

8. SEAHENGE

Mendelssohn's friend. Coolmore's 3-year-old Scat Daddy colt returns to the grass for the first time since last fall's Group 1 Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster and takes on older horses for the first time. He's run four times this year - on synthetic at Dundalk in Ireland and dirt in the UAE Derby in Dubai, Pat Day Mile at Churchill Downs and the Grade 3 Dwyer at Belmont Park.

Assistant T. J. Comerford: "Look, we were going to run him in the Travers as well but we decided to run him on the turf. He has form on the turf, plenty of form, he's a Grade 2 winner on the turf. He'll stay, they're two staying horses, they won't have any problem staying. I like Seahenge, he doesn't have the same pace as Mendelssohn, but this is different. These races aren't easy, this is Saratoga. We came here last year with Idaho, I thought he would win."



Tod Marks

Seahenge ships over from Ireland for the Sword Dancer.

9. REVVED UP

The new addition. Kingsport Farm spent \$350,000 to purchase 5-year-old by Candy Ride out of champion Storm Flag Flying at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July horses of racing age sale. He won four of 22 for Phipps Stable and trainer Shug McGaughey and finished second in the Grade 3 Arlington Handicap before the sale.

Trainer Jorge Abreu: "He worked well both times, I really liked the way he galloped out. The horse came in good shape, but I've seen a big change in him, I didn't know what the horse was like before, but I like what I see. He came straight to Saratoga after the sale. I think it's a better deal when you get a horse who's already made. He likes Saratoga, he's run his best races in Saratoga. I know he's training good enough, but I know it's not a walk in the park, but he's not impossible in there."

10. SADLER'S JOY

The defending champ. Woodslane Farm homebred became owners first Grade 1 winner when he captured the Sword Dancer last year. The son of Kitten's Joy went on to finish fourth in the Breeders' Cup Turf at Del Mar. After a winter break, the Tom Albertrani trainee won the Grade 2 Mac Diarmida at Gulfstream, was fourth to Hi Happy in the Grade 2 Pan American and second to that rival in the Grade 1 Man O' War. He also finished second to Spring

Quality in the Grade 1 Manhattan and third behind dead-heat Bowling Green winners Channel Maker and Glorious Empire. Returns to preferred distance.

Trainer Tom Albertrani: "This year I think he's been stronger and better. He's really developed into a nice older horse. He's been very honest, he runs the same race every time, always right there on the money every time he runs. We're really happy with this horse's progress over this last year. He makes it very exciting and a nail-biter at the same time. You can definitely see the way he looks, he's filled out, just looks stronger, he just really looks like he's grown. He's had a good run. We brought him back off the Breeders' Cup, gave him a little break and he ran a huge race in the Mac Diarmida going from last to first in the stretch. It was an unbelievable run. The Manhattan was one of his best runs ever, to be cutting back to a mile-and-a-quarter, which isn't his best distance. I thought he ran huge that day. His last few races have been incredible just narrowly getting beat. The horse just shows up everytime, now we just have to get him to have his head on the other side of the line this time."

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NATIVE DANCER
2:05.60

1957
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1959
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1966
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2:01.60

1967
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2:01.60

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ALYDAR
2:02.00

1988
FORTY NINER
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2002
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2:02.53

2006
BERNARDINI
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2016
ARROGATE
1:59.36 (NTR)



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11. The Travers

Grade 1. \$1.25 million. 3-year-olds. 1 1/4 miles. 5:44 p.m.



Tod Marks

Wonder Gadot will try to take a bite out of Travers history today.



Tod Marks

Gronkowski makes his second American start and is the second choice.

1. TRIGGER WARNING

The Cinderella story from Thistledown. Ohio-based trainer Mike Rone brings son of Candy Ride to Saratoga off second in Grade 3 Indiana Derby and third in Grade 3 Ohio Derby. He won the 6-furlong Tom Ridge on Presque Isle Downs' synthetic track prior to those races in his first start for Rone.

Trainer Mike Rone: "I'm based at Thistledown and from Cleveland, Ohio. It was kind of a team decision. Everybody's on, the owner and I. He's done everything we've asked of him. He ran hard. He was seven-wide leaving the first turn in the Ohio Derby, and got beat a length. At Indiana, I don't think the rider or the horse, either one, saw that horse until the last jump. We want to show some speed going into that first turn, that's for sure. You're going to get covered up down in there."

2. WONDER GADOT

The story of the race. Can a filly beat the boys in Saratoga's signature race? It hasn't been done since Lady Rotha won in 1915. The last time a filly attempted it was in 1979 when Calumet Farm's champion Davona Dale finished fourth in General Assembly's record-setting victory.

Trainer Mark Casse: "I've done more television stuff and more interviews before this race than I've ever done for one single race. I had the favorite for the Kentucky Derby and there wasn't this much interest. Part of it is Saratoga, there's so much coverage here, but part of it is her. Anytime people start talking about trying to make history, something that hasn't been done in a long time, that brings a lot of interest. The factor of the female against the males, that draws people in. We walk around town and the track, my wife and I, and people come up to us and say, 'oh, we're rooting for her.' Just randomly."

3. GRONKOWSKI

The Euro transplant who outperformed expectations in the Belmont Stakes. Phoenix Thoroughbreds runner makes his second start for Chad Brown after winning four of six for trainer Jeremy Noseda in England. The Lonhro colt made a run at Justify in the Belmont, but came up 1 3/4 lengths short. Joel Rosario gets on the 4-1 second choice for the first time in a race.

Trainer Chad Brown: "It didn't work out to get someone who knows the horse in this race, but we've had a lot of luck with Joel. He's a good rider in big money races like this. He also breezed the horse (5 furlongs in 1:00.02 Aug. 19), so I'm happy about that. He's a lot sharper now (compared to leading up to the Belmont Stakes), whether that leads to a better break I don't know. Now that he's been in the barn and we've had more time with the horse, gotten to know him better. He's in a nice rhythm right now."

4. BRAVAZO

D. Wayne's horse. Three-time Travers-winning trainer D. Wayne Lukas takes another swing on the big stage with the Grade 2 Risen Star winner. Second to eventual Triple Crown winner Justify in the Preakness and to Good Magic in the Grade 1 Haskell Invitational, Calumet Farm's Awesome Again colt made his debut last summer at Saratoga when eighth in a 7-furlong maiden.

Trainer D. Wayne Lukas: "He's bigger, stronger, better. He's more focused mentally. I expected him to gain weight, he's turning the corner on the 3-year-old season. He had a really good couple weeks here. We're going to show up pretty good. He's got that tactical speed. He's one of the few horses in the 3-year-old campaign that can dictate a little bit of where he wants to be. That's what made Justify so great, he could dominate and predict the rate pretty much the way he wanted it to run. Not all horses could do that, but we came close. We'll be able to be up there with the rest of them."

Four of Saratoga's Grade 1 stakes running today have been won by Maryland-breds.



Millionaire **URBANE** won the G1 Personal Ensign in 1996.



Multi-millionaire **AWAD** won the G1 Sword Dancer in 1997.



Millionaire **SHINE AGAIN** won back-to-back runnings of the G1 Ballerina in 2001 and '02.



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Over the 30-year history of the G1 King's Bishop, just renamed the H. Allen Jerkens Memorial, **KING'S NEST** set a stakes record winning it in 1988, **HOUSTON** came back in 1989 and won it, and **THE BIG BEAST** captured the 2014 running.

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11. The Travers

Grade 1. \$1.25 million. 3-year-olds. 1 1/4 miles. 5:44 p.m.



Tod Marks

Vino Rosso was running late in the Jim Dandy.



Tod Marks

Meistermind is 30-1, but will appreciate the distance.

5. VINO ROSSO

The quirky Wood Memorial winner. Repole Stable's and St Elias Stable's Curlin colt bounced back from a ninth in the Kentucky Derby with a fourth in the Belmont Stakes before a late-running second in the Grade 2 Jim Dandy. Son of Curlin found his best stride late in the Jim Dandy and finished three-quarters of a length behind Tenfold.

Trainer Todd Pletcher: "I was disappointed in the Jim Dandy because he had the potential to win it if he would have stayed a little more focused early on and put himself in a position to have a chance turning for home. He dropped so far back in the first turn, then he kind of crept back into the race at the half mile pole, he dropped back again and then finally...it reminded me of a couple of his races at Tampa where you felt like, maybe, you ran the best horse but you didn't win. Maybe a little bit of a stretch out and he also might be the kind of horse that benefits from a bigger field, someone to keep him engaged early on, hopefully there's an honest pace up front and he shows up and tries. He was asking him and he wasn't responding, finally he crept into contention at the half-mile pole and I said, 'OK, we might have a chance from here.' Then he drops back again, at that point, I felt like it was hopeless, then you look up at the sixteenth pole and he's back in there. We just need a good, honest performance. We switched him to draw reins to try to gather him up, make him engage himself, use himself a little better. We're going to change his shoeing a little bit because it seems like he doesn't negotiate the turns as well as the straightaways, we'll put a little longer toe behind, so hopefully he can get a better grip of it. In the old days, you might put mud caulks on. It's a combination of a lack of focus and not running the turns well. That's what he did at Tampa, Johnny thought he was spinning his wheels around the turn. The only time he ran at Belmont was in the Belmont, he actually ran the turn pretty well that day because Johnny went after Justify at the half-mile pole and actually almost got to his flank, it cost him a better placing in the long run but we were trying to win the race, not finish second."

6. MEISTERMIND

The hail mary. The 30-1 shot would be a surprise to all but his trainer, Steve Asmussen. Owned by WinStar Farm, China Horse Club International and SF Racing, the Bodemeister colt broke his maiden two back going 10 furlongs at Churchill Downs June 30 in 2:03.91, faster than the final time of the Kentucky Derby. Finished fifth in an allowance at 9 furlongs over a muddy, sealed track Aug. 3 and will appreciate the extra furlong here. Out of Mining My Own, Meistermind is a half to 50-1 winner of the 2009 Kentucky Derby, Mine That Bird.

Trainer Steve Asmussen: "He just stays. He gets a mile-and-a-quarter. It's a family tradition to be shocking. He ran the fastest mile-and-quarter of the meet at Churchill. He stays. A lot of them can beat him at a mile-and-an-eighth, but it isn't a mile-and-an-eighth. There are just very few opportunities to run that horse as far as he wants to run and this is one of them. It will be quite rewarding if he runs to what he's capable of."



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SWING AND SWAY (SW, \$381,490)

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SPLIT TIME (SW, \$264,700)

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11. The Travers

Grade 1. \$1.25 million. 3-year-olds. 1 1/4 miles. 5:44 p.m.



King Zachary.

Tod Marks



Mendelssohn.

Tod Marks



Good Magic.

Tod Marks

7. KING ZACHARY

Dale's horse. Son of Curlin suffered a series of setbacks early in his career, but put it all together with a win in the Grade 3 Matt Winn Stakes at Churchill June 16. He went to the Grade 3 Indiana Derby next, but shipping in close to the race didn't agree with him. Romans brought the colt to Saratoga nice and early and worked him three times over the main track, including a bullet :59.66 move Aug. 19. Robby Albarado rides for Thomas Conway.

Trainer Dale Romans: "His Matt Winn, that was the breakthrough race that we'd been looking for. He ran such a huge race that day. He has some excuses for his subpar effort in the Indiana Derby. Both of his races that were subpar, we shipped in right on top of the race, so we made sure that we got in early for this one. He worked over the racetrack three times and he's handled it well and I think the mile-and-a-quarter will benefit him. He had a little issue, he bucked his shins right when he was ready to run last year in the middle of the summer, which knocked him out, so we barely got him back and then he had a little issue out of his first race. Second race, we figured he should have won by 10, he almost got knocked down by a horse trying to make a gap. He's had a rough start, but he's starting to level off now and train more consistent, run more consistent. I think the best is ahead of him."

8. MENDELSSOHN

The loudmouth Irishman. The buzz horse of the Kentucky Derby - easy to do as a \$3 million yearling, half brother to multiple champion Beholder and 18 1/2-length UAE Derby winner - returns to the U.S. for the third time. He won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf in his first American start, finished last in the Kentucky Derby in his second and third in the Grade 3 Dwyer in his third. Regular rider Ryan Moore makes the trip from Ireland to ride for trainer Aidan O'Brien.

Assistant trainer T. J. Comerford: "They traveled in well. They're good travelers, because they have done plenty of it. His run in the Grade 3 was good, it was a nice steppingstone from the Kentucky Derby. Realistically, it was probably a big ask to turn up and win. I wouldn't have been surprised if he won, he just has to find his way again from where he was in Dubai. It's hard to gauge him, it's different, because this is dirt racing and it's tough. He's coming, he's definitely coming. Aidan has plenty of faith in him. You have to try. It's very rare that you come across a dirt horse especially on our side of the water. He won in Dubai on the dirt, you just hope. It's a long time since we won a dirt race. I think it's Johannesburg, we've been touched off in the Breeders' Cup Classics and all. We want to win a dirt race because they're rare. Go And Go, Dermot Weld. Johannesburg. He's bred for it, do we stick to the turf or do we keep going, it's not fair on the horse if we keep switching, at least we're willing to try."

9. GOOD MAGIC

The 2-year-old champ. Stonestreet Thoroughbreds' and e Five Racing Thoroughbreds' Curlin colt made debut on last year's Travers Day card, finishing second in 6 1/2-furlong maiden. He was also second in the Grade 1 Champagne and won Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile to lock up the Eclipse Award. Winner of the Grade 2 Blue Grass and second in this year's Kentucky Derby to eventual Triple Crown winner Justify, Good Magic rolled to 3-length win last time in the Grade 1 Haskell.

Jockey Jose Ortiz: "He's doing fantastic, drew a very good post. Hopefully he'll break good and put himself right there. He's always run pretty forward. We'll try and work out a similar trip that he had at Monmouth in the Haskell and in the Breeders' Cup, be forward somewhere. I know he'll be there for me when I ask him. A race like he ran in the Kentucky Derby would be great here. A dry track will be much better, but if it rained I wouldn't be worried either. We're not supposed to have rain in the forecast though, thankfully."

SEPTEMBER 22, 2018 *Commonwealth Day at Laurel*



Bert Allen Stakes	VA bred or sired, Three years and up, One mile and one eighth miles on turf	\$75,000
Brookemeade Stakes	VA bred or sired, Fillies and mares, Three years and up, One and one eighth miles on turf	\$75,000
Punch Line Stakes <i>(non-black type)</i>	VA bred or sired, Three years and up, 5.5 furlongs on turf	\$75,000
Oakley Stakes	VA bred or sired, Fillies and mares, Three years and up, 5.5 furlongs on turf	\$75,000
Jamestown Stakes	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>	\$75,000

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



Virginia Thoroughbred Association
250 West Main Street, Suite 100, Charlottesville, VA 22902
(434) 977-3716



11. The Travers

Grade 1. \$1.25 million. 3-year-olds. 1 1/4 miles. 5:44 p.m.

10. TENFOLD

The Jim Dandy winner. The son of Curlin won the annual prep for the Travers and has registered two works since, a 5-furlong breeze in 1:01.03 on the Oklahoma track Aug. 12 and a half-mile work in :50.09 Aug. 19. Winchell Thoroughbreds' homebred finished fifth in the Grade 1 Arkansas Deby and third beaten three-quarters of a length in the Preakness this spring before running fifth in the Belmont Stakes. The outside draw will suit his stalking style according to trainer Steve Asmussen.

Trainer Steve Asmussen: "He's doing really well. It was a very nice win for him in the Jim Dandy and he's trained very well since. Looks like the weather is going to be nice. Any time you run horses of this caliber, you want as good a circumstances as possible. I think the Preakness proved that we were about three-quarters to a length away from where we wanted to be. The Travers is obviously a race of similar caliber as the Preakness, minus Justify. He's going to need to work out a good trip. Hopefully we'll have success. I think there's still improvement in him. It should work out really well for him if he breaks like he did in the Jim Dandy. At a mile-and-a-quarter it ought to allow him really good position. We've been a little more aggressive with him and have had success for doing so."



Catholic Boy leans into the turn during a Travers workout.

Tod Marks



Tod Marks

Tenfold looks for the Jim Dandy-Travers double.

11. CATHOLIC BOY

Turf-to-dirt-to-turf-to dirt. A Grade 1 winner on turf last time in the Belmont Derby, the More Than Ready ridgling looks to add a Grade 1 on dirt (where he won the Grade 2 Remsen last year) to his growing resume for Bob LaPenta, Madaket Stables, Siena Farm and Twin Creeks Racing. Unbeaten in two tries with the bay, the Grade 3 Pennine Ridge and the Belmont Derby, Javier Castellano takes the return call. In each of his last two starts, Catholic Boy was passed in the stretch before rallying to win a photo over Analyze It.

Trainer Jonathan Thomas: "Physically he's moving really well. He's put on great flesh the last couple months and most importantly he's bounced out of what, on paper, look like hard races for him. He's come out better for them just in terms of being robust and training forwardly. Right before the Belmont Derby the discussion was, 'If he were to win and get a Grade 1 attached to him, then it would allow us to get a little more creative as far as running in the Travers.' Had he finished second in the Belmont Derby, we probably would have run in the Secretariat (on turf at Arlington Park Aug. 11) trying to get that elusive Grade 1. Because he won, it allowed us the chance to think outside the box one more time, especially being a race against 3-year-olds and a mile-and-a-quarter. If it worked, the upside is enormous especially from a residual value for a stallion. He's got an exceptional resume and all the guys in Kentucky are just waiting for him to win a Grade 1 on the dirt. Through the Belmont Derby, it had only been 11 months and two weeks since he broke his maiden. That's hard to think about. We never forced anything at any time with him. Everything came up organically, we never ran him unless we felt like he had a chance and the same goes for here."

On the horse's competitive streak: "I can't train that into them. They either possess that or they don't. You can't buy that. It's one of those intangibles that keeps this game what it is. It's that elusive kind of desire in a horse that eludes all of us and every once in a while we're lucky enough to get it. He's intelligent, very intelligent. He's a very generous-training horse. He's never had a bad day of training. I think he's getting stronger and more confident. That desire to win is everything. That's the difference between being in the record books or not being in the record books."

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Tod Marks

What they're all shooting for in
The Travers, the Man o' War Cup.



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12. The Ballston Spa

Grade 2. \$400,000. Fillies and mares. 3-year-olds and up. 1 1/16 miles. Turf. 6:20 p.m.



Tod Marks

A Raving Beauty.



Sean Clancy

Indian Blessing.

1. A RAVING BEAUTY

The German filly flourishing in America. One of three for trainer Chad Brown in the final stakes of the day, 5-year-old Mastercraftsman mare was a stakes winner in her native country before coming stateside in late 2017. She's won two of three in the U.S., all with Irad Ortiz Jr. aboard, including a victory two back in the Grade 1 Just A Game at Belmont Park.

Jockey Irad Ortiz Jr.: "I love that filly, she's awesome. I've ridden her three times, she won two and last time she got beat by Sistercharlie, another nice filly who won the Beverly D. She'll be all right. Being in post position 1 I think she'll be right there, save some ground and I'll try to work it out to pick them off at the end."

2. INDIAN BLESSING

The British version. Trainer Ed Walker brings the English-bred 4-year-old Sepoy filly - who shares names with 2007 Eclipse Award-winning 2-year-old filly - for a start in America. She's 3-for-13, including a victory in the Group 3 Sparkasse Holstein Cup at Hamburg in Germany, and adds Lasix.

Trainer Ed Walker: "We want to try her hand here to see if she's good enough for a Group 1 here. She's very talented, she's a proper Group 3 European filly, she's Group 2 placed. Her European form will give her a much better chance than the morning-line price indicates. We think the way your races are run here will suit her, she just needs to settle, she can run a bit keen. I'm pleased it's a short field, Julien is a great rider with good hands, hopefully he'll settle her, it's massive prize money, it's \$400,000. It's unbelievable, you don't get that for winning a Group 1 in the U.K. and they're tougher.

"She's probably not good enough to win a Group 2 at home. She's a well-bred filly, we're just improving her pedigree and trying to pick up some money along the way. She'll go home, if she went and won this we'd have to think about the Breeders' Cup but let's get this done first.

"If she relaxes, she's got a real good turn of foot. She's a real strong finisher. When she won the race in Germany, the last furlong, she hit the line really hard. She's got a very high cruising speed. Like all the good horses, she can quicken off a strong pace but she has to relax. She's a tough nut, even at Goodwood when she was just beaten in the Group 3, she was crowded on the rail, she was far too keen. Watching it I was thinking she was going to go out like a light, but she just grits it out, she won't stop trying. Over racing is her downfall, she would be a better filly if she would relax, it's annoying. The worst she's been is when she's overcrowded so I'm glad it's a not a big field. Julien will take his time with her. You guys will be quicker out of the gates than her, there's pace in the race, you just have to ride her cool and calm and confidently, get her to relax. She'll be hitting the wire as you say pretty strong. She can quicken and she tries bloody hard. She'll run through a brick wall for you.

"If the Lasix brings out some improvement...when in Rome. I don't understand Europeans who come over here and don't use it. I know there's ethical reasons about whether or not horses should be running on Lasix, but that's a different debate. If you're going to take on athletes it's got to be a level playing field. She's trained on it at home, she's used to it. I would be confident in saying that it will help her."

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12. The Ballston Spa

Grade 2. \$400,000. Fillies and mares. 3-year-olds and up. 1 1/16 miles. Turf. 6:20 p.m.



Tod Marks

Proctor's Ledge.



Tod Marks

Off Limits.



Tod Marks

Hawksmoor.

3. PROCTOR'S LEDGE

The big mare who went 2-for-2 at Saratoga last year. She didn't fare as well in her third local start in last month's Diana. She found herself in uncomfortable positions for much of the race and finished fifth. Patricia Moseley's home-bred won the Grade 2 Distaff Turf Mile at Churchill this year and followed that up with a second to A Raving Beauty in the Grade 1 Just A Game.

Assistant trainer and regular work rider Paul Madden: "She broke well (in the Diana) and then got further back than we probably wanted. She was only beaten 2 1/2 lengths. In races like that, you need everything to go right. It's going to be a tactical race (today) with only six runners. She's very easy to ride in the morning. She does better up here. She eats better and does really like it up here. I think horses in general do well up here. The air is good and horses do well. All of her works have been on schedule. Her last work was on the grass, she worked really well. Her work before that was on dirt and that was the plan. They get more out of a dirt work. We're very hopeful."

4. HAWKSMOOR

The classy and consistent Irish-bred. Lael Stables' 5-year-old mare set the pace and finished fourth in the Diana, a half-length behind A Raving Beauty. She was second in a pair of Grade 1's for trainer Arnaud Delacour to close out her 2017 campaign. She was run down late in the First Lady and Off Limits defeated her in the Matriarch. Javier Castellano gets aboard her for the first time.

Trainer Arnaud Delacour: "We had this race in mind since the beginning. The idea was to do the Diana and then the Ballston Spa. There were a few other options...but she's ready now and doing very well. She's been training at Saratoga. She only got beaten 1 3/4 lengths last time, which I thought was a good performance. I'd love to see her one time get a position and be covered up right off the pace but I don't know about the pace scenario with a 6-horse field. We'll see, but definitely she needs to be placed forwardly."

5. QUIDURA

High-dollar prospect. Peter Brant purchased English-bred mare for \$3.6 million at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky November mixed sale and sent her to Chad Brown. A multiple graded stakes winner in North America in 2016 and 2017, she returned from lengthy layoff to finish second to stablemate Fifty Five in optional claimer at Belmont July 15.

Jockey Jose Ortiz: "She came off a layoff last time, a big layoff. She had been working really well then had to run on a yielding turf and got beat by Fifty Five, who is a nice filly. If you take that race off she'd belong in the race. She's got a big shot. She'll have a forward position, this filly has speed. She's doing very well. A Raving Beauty is in there, she'll be very tough."

6. OFF LIMITS

Irish-bred American Grade 1 winner. Martin Schwartz's 6-year-old Mastercraftman mare returns from an almost two-month break after finishing fourth as the favorite in the Grade 1 Just A Game on the Belmont Stakes undercard. Trained by three-time Ballston Spa winner Chad Brown - including last year with Lady Eli - Off Limits won the Grade 1 Matriarch last November at Del Mar under Joel Rosario, who returns on the mare today.

Jockey Joel Rosario: "She's a really good filly. She's easy to ride. Just let her do whatever she wants to do. She always wants to follow another horse. I'll just listen to what Chad has to say and take it from there. Whatever he wants me to do, I'll try to do."

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Saturday, August 25.

1ST (11:35AM). \$85,000, MSW, 2 YO, 6F

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

1	1	Greyes Creek	I. Ortiz, Jr.	C. Brown	8-5
2	2	Mischievous Bird	J. Leparoux	N. Casse	9-2
3	3	Classy John	B. Hernandez, Jr.	D. Stewart	8-1
4	4	Lucid Dream	D. Davis	E. Guillot	15-1
5	5	Puttheglassdown	L. Saez	J. Englehart	2-1
6	6	Starting Point	J. Ortiz	W. Mott	6-1
7	7	Strong Union	D. Cohen	D. Lukas	12-1

2ND (12:08PM). \$77,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (TURF)

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

1	1	Carthon	E. Cancel	G. Sciacca	15-1
2	2	New Jersey John	L. Saez	M. Dini	8-1
3	3	Blame the Thief	D. Davis	T. Hills	30-1
4	4	Way Early	M. Franco	G. Weaver	8-5
5	5	Collective Effort	I. Ortiz, Jr.	R. Handal	5-1
6	6	Ides of Arch	R. Maragh	L. Gyarmati	12-1
7	7	Mango M.	J. Rosario	C. McGaughey III	6-1
8	8	Six Sided Bling	R. Santana, Jr.	M. Ferraro	30-1
9	9	Shiraz	J. Ortiz	M. Maker	8-1
10	10	Appealing Briefs	D. Cohen	J. Abreu	10-1
11	11	Stormy Justin	L. Reyes	P. Correa	30-1
12	12	Siggie	J. Alvarado	R. Lerman	20-1
13	AE	Masterkey	L. Saez	J. Buckley	20-1
14	AE	Chic N Wilbur	D. Cohen	D. Conway, Jr.	30-1
15	AE	Jupiter Rising	J. Castellano	T. Pletcher	15-1
16	MTO	Dynamax Prime	Rider TBA	J. Englehart	3-1

3RD (12:41PM). \$87,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	Tommy T.	J. Rosario	R. Barbara	9-5
2	2	Fixedincome Larry	D. Cohen	J. Englehart	20-1
3	3	Honorable Treasure	B. Hernandez, Jr.	K. McPeck	10-1
4	4	Souper Catch	M. Franco	M. Casse	4-1
5	5	Soutache	E. Cancel	R. Nicks	8-1
6	6	Hollywood Star	I. Ortiz, Jr.	D. Romans	8-1
7	7	Cerretalto	D. Davis	H. Bond	6-1
8	8	Silver Dust	L. Saez	W. Calhoun	7-2

4TH (1:14PM). \$85,000, MSW, 2 YO, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

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

1	1	Honey Won't	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	20-1
2	2	Skychief	R. Santana, Jr.	M. Maker	20-1
3	3	Digital Footprint	J. Castellano	C. Brown	2-1
4	4	Salvator Mundi	B. Hernandez, Jr.	K. McPeck	10-1
5	5	Rock On Kitten	L. Saez	M. Maker	8-1
6	6	Forty Under	M. Franco	J. Englehart	15-1
7	7	Social Paranoia	J. Velazquez	T. Pletcher	9-2
8	8	Americano	J. Ortiz	W. Mott	12-1
9	9	Moon Colony	J. Leparoux	M. Casse	7-2
10	10	Coast	I. Ortiz, Jr.	T. Pletcher	8-1
11	AE	Ian Glass	I. Ortiz, Jr.	T. Morley	10-1
12	AE	Gunslinger (IRE)	M. Franco	C. Martin	12-1
13	AE	Medina Ridge	L. Saez	C. McGaughey III	8-1
14	AE	Noble Nebraskan	E. Cancel	G. Weaver	10-1
15	MTO	Cotton House	Rider TBA	C. Clement	8-1

5TH (1:48PM). \$92,000, AOC \$62,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 3/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	Tathqeef	J. Rosario	K. McLaughlin	8-1
2	2	Bird's Eye View	L. Saez	M. Dini	6-1
3	3	Makarios	J. Leparoux	N. Zito	15-1
4	4	Red Knight	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	7-2
5	5	Classic Covey	I. Ortiz, Jr.	W. Mott	4-1

6	6	Markitoff	M. Franco	M. Maker	6-1
7	7	Scholar Athlete	E. Prado	H. Motion	8-1
8	8	Vigilante	J. Ortiz	E. Kenneally	5-1
9	MTO	Team Colors	D. Cohen	R. Diodoro	5-2
10	10	Mr Maybe	D. Cohen	J. Toscano, Jr.	20-1
11	11	St. Louie	J. Castellano	A. Dutrow	12-1

6TH (2:23PM). \$500,000, STK - THE H. ALLEN JERKENS PRESENTED BY RUNHAPPY, 3 YO, 7F

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

1	1	Promises Fulfilled	L. Saez	D. Romans	8-5
2	2	Telekinesis	J. Castellano	M. Casse	20-1
3	3	Engage	J. Ortiz	C. Brown	4-1
4	4	Givemeaminut	J. Leparoux	D. Stewart	30-1
5	5	Seven Trumpets	R. Albarado	D. Romans	15-1
6	6	Gidu (IRE)	J. Velazquez	T. Pletcher	10-1
7	7	Still Having Fun	J. Rosario	T. Keefe	6-1
8	8	Firenze Fire	I. Ortiz, Jr.	J. Servis	5-2
9	9	Funny Duck	B. Hernandez, Jr.	G. Arnold, II	30-1

7TH (2:59PM). \$700,000, STK - THE PERSONAL ENSIGN, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 1 1/8M

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

1	1	Abel Tasman	M. Smith	B. Baffert	6-5
2	2	She Takes Heart	E. Cancel	P. Walder	50-1
3	3	Fuhriously Kissed	J. Bracho	A. Quartarolo	20-1
4	4	Wow Cat (CHI)	J. Velazquez	C. Brown	4-1
5	5	Farrell	C. Hill	W. Catalano	6-1
6	6	Elate	J. Ortiz	W. Mott	7-5

8TH (3:35PM). \$500,000, STK - THE KETEL ONE BALLERINA, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 7F

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

1	1	Tequilita	M. Franco	M. Matz	20-1
2	2	Ivy Bell	J. Castellano	T. Pletcher	5-1
3	3	Still There	D. Cohen	D. Kobiskie	12-1
4	4	Cairenn	J. Ortiz	H. Motion	15-1
5	5	Finley'sluckycharm	B. Hernandez, Jr.	W. Calhoun	3-1
6	6	Lewis Bay	I. Ortiz, Jr.	C. Brown	3-1
7	7	Marley's Freedom	M. Smith	B. Baffert	5-2
8	8	Union Strike	R. Santana, Jr.	S. Asmussen	15-1
9	9	Highway Star	L. Saez	R. Ubillo	10-1

9TH (4:12PM). \$600,000, STK - THE FOREGO, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	Limousine Liberal	J. Ortiz	B. Colebrook	3-1
2	2	Awesome Slew	J. Velazquez	M. Casse	10-1
3	3	Whitmore	R. Santana, Jr.	R. Moquett	4-1
4	4	Heartwood	M. Franco	J. Chapman	30-1
5	5	No Dozing	J. Rosario	A. Delacour	12-1
6	6	C Z Rocket	S. Bridgmohan	A. Stall, Jr.	9-2
7	7	Warrior's Club	L. Saez	D. Lukas	10-1
8	8	City of Light	I. Ortiz, Jr.	M. McCarthy	9-5

10TH (4:49PM). \$1,000,000, STK - THE SWORD DANCER, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/2M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4

1	1	Glorious Empire (IRE)	J. Leparoux	J. Lawrence, II	10-1
2	2	Spring Quality	E. Prado	H. Motion	4-1
3	3	Funtastic	J. Ortiz	C. Brown	9-2
4	4	Hi Happy (ARG)	J. Velazquez	T. Pletcher	6-1
5	5	Highland Sky	M. Franco	B. Tagg	12-1
6	6	Bigger Picture	I. Ortiz, Jr.	M. Maker	8-1
7	7	Channel Maker	J. Rosario	W. Mott	5-1
8	8	Seahenge	W. Lordan	A. O'Brien	30-1
9	9	Revved Up	J. Alvarado	J. Abreu	15-1
10	10	Sadler's Joy	J. Castellano	T. Albertrani	7-2

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11TH (5:44PM). \$1,250,000, STK - THE RUNHAPPY TRAVERS, 3 YO, 1 1/4M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	Trigger Warning	I. Rosendo	M. Rone	30-1
2	2	Wonder Gadot	I. Ortiz, Jr.	M. Casse	5-1
3	3	Gronkowski	J. Rosario	C. Brown	4-1
4	4	Bravazo	L. Saez	D. Lukas	12-1
5	5	Vino Rosso	J. Velazquez	T. Pletcher	10-1
6	6	Meistermind	M. Franco	S. Asmussen	30-1
7	7	King Zachary	R. Albarado	D. Romans	15-1
8	8	Mendelssohn	R. Moore	A. O'Brien	12-1
9	9	Good Magic	J. Ortiz	C. Brown	2-1
10	10	Tenfold	R. Santana, Jr.	S. Asmussen	8-1
11	11	Catholic Boy	J. Castellano	J. Thomas	8-1

12TH (6:20PM). \$400,000, STK - THE WOODFORD RESERVE BALLSTON SPA, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	1	A Raving Beauty (GER)	I. Ortiz, Jr.	C. Brown	7-5
2	2	Indian Blessing (GB)	J. Leparoux	E. Walker	12-1
3	3	Proctor's Ledge	J. Velazquez	B. Walsh	4-1
4	4	Hawksmoor (IRE)	J. Castellano	A. Delacour	6-1
5	5	Quidura (GB)	J. Ortiz	C. Brown	4-1
6	6	Off Limits (IRE)	J. Rosario	C. Brown	3-1

13TH (6:54PM). \$45,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	1	Lucky Leo	R. Albarado	D. Romans	20-1
2	2	Wisely	I. Ortiz, Jr.	M. Hennig	5-1
3	3	Proximate to Power	M. Franco	P. Serpe	15-1
4	4	A I Initiative	D. Cohen	J. Abreu	15-1
5	5	Azzedine (FR)	J. Castellano	C. Brown	2-1
6	6	Rough Justice	D. Davis	T. Bush	30-1
7	7	End of an Era	M. Luzzi	E. Voss	8-1
8	8	Local Edition	R. Maragh	T. Bush	30-1
9	9	Victor Lounge (IRE)	L. Saez	D. Gargan	9-2
10	10	Uncle Larry	J. Ortiz	T. Pletcher	8-1
11	11	Spring On Curlin	J. Rosario	C. Baker	12-1
12	12	Bay Hill	R. Santana, Jr.	M. Maker	12-1
13	AE	Telecommunication	J. Ortiz	J. Englehart	15-1
14	MTO	American Rule	Rider TBA	G. Contessa	8-5

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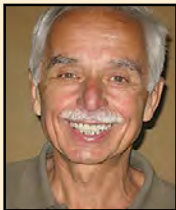
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the
**Power
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**John
Shapazian**



**Charles
Bedard**



**Tom
Law**



**Donald
Phillips**



**Patrick
McGoey**

Race #					
1	Greyes Creek Starting Point Puttheglassdown	Puttheglassdown Starting Point Greyes Creek	Greyes Creek Puttheglassdown Starting Point	Puttheglassdown Mischievous Bird Greyes Creek	Puttheglassdown Starting Point Greyes Creek
2	Way Early New Jersey John Mango M	Dynamax Prime Way Early Collective Effort	Way Early Shiraz Collective Effort	Way Early New Jersey John Appealing Briefs	New Jersey John Way Early Carthon
3	Silver Dust Cerretalto Souper Catch	Tommy T Soutache Cerretalto	Tommy T Souper Catch Hollywood Star	Tommy T Hollywood Star Souper Catch	Silver Dust Tommy T Hollywood Star
4	Digital Footprint Coast Social Paranoia	Digital Footprint Social Paranoia Gunslinger	Digital Footprint Honey Won't Medina Ridge	Digital Footprint Rock On Kitten Salvator Mundi	Digital Footprint Salvator Mundi Rock On Kitten
5	Vigilante Red Knight Classic Covey	Red Knight St. Louie Classic Covey	Red Knight Classic Covey Bird's Eye View	Vigilante Red Knight Classic Covey	Red Knight Classic Covey Birds Eye View
6	Promises Fulfilled Firenze Fire Engage	Promises Fulfilled Engage Still Having Fun	Still Having Fun Firenze Fire Givemeaminut	Still Having Fun Promises Fulfilled Givemeaminut	Promises Fulfilled Engage Telekinesis
7	Abel Tasman Elate Wow Cat	Abel Tasman Elate Wow Cat	Elate Abel Tasman Farrell	Elate Fuhriously Kissed Abel Tasman	Elate Abel Tasman Wow Cat
8	Marley's Freedom Finley'sluckycharm Lewis Bay	Marley's Freedom Finley'sluckycharm Lewis Bay	Finley'sluckycharm Marley's Freedom Lewis Bay	Lewis Bay Finley'sluckycharm Marley's Freedom	Marley's Freedom Ivy Bell Lewis Bay
9	City Of Light C Z Rocket Whitmore	City Of Light Limousine Liberal Whitmore	Whitmore City Of Light Limousine Liberal	Whitmore Warrior's Club City Of Light	C Z Rocket City Of Light No Dozing
10	Funtastic Channel Marker Sadler's Joy	Sadler's Joy Hi Happy Spring Quality	Spring Quality Sadler's Joy Funtastic	Sadler's Joy Bigger Picture Spring Quality	Sadler's Joy Channel Maker Bigger Picture
11	Gronkowski Wonder Gadot Vino Rosso	Good Magic Wonder Gadot Tenfold	Wonder Gadot Good Magic Catholic Boy	Gronkowski Tenfold Good Magic	Catholic Boy Good Magic Gronkowski
12	A Raving Beauty Quidura Off Limits	Off Limits Quidura Proctor's Ledge	Proctor's Ledge A Raving Beauty Quidura	Off Limits Proctor's Ledge A Raving Beauty	A Raving Beauty Off Limits Proctor's Ledge
13	Azzedine Wisely Uncle Larry	Azzedine Victor Lounge End Of An Era	Azzedine Uncle Larry End Of An Era	Azzedine Bay Hill Victor Lounge	Spring On Curlin End Of An Era Victor Lounge
2018 Records		88/307	71/307	70/307	54/307
					44/230*

Our fifth handicapper will be a special guest each day.

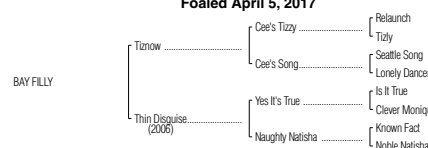
Guest Handicapper

Today's guest handicapper is Patrick McGoey is an attorney from New Orleans who won the 2011 and 2012 Breeders' Cup Betting Challenge and the 2018 Kentucky Derby Betting Challenge. Friday, Tom Amello picked one winner.

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

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

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

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 NEWYORKER (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.
 Registered New-York bred.

September Spotlight

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Turn Back The Clock

Veteran gelding Kharafa earns first Saratoga win in seventh try



Tod Marks

Kharafa (right) digs in late to win the West Point, part of the New York-bred Saratoga Showcase Day.

SARATOGA SHOWCASE RECAP

Dylan Davis sat tall and proud aboard Kharafa as they exited the paddock for Friday's West Point. The 9-year-old bay gelding exuded confidence, curled his neck, flaunted a muscular topline and grabbed at the bit. The confidence in the paddock proved genuine and a few minutes later Kharafa and Davis won the \$150,000 stakes to highlight the Saratoga Showcase card for New York-breds.

Trained by Tim Hills for owners Paul Braverman and Tim Pinch, Kharafa secured his 13th win in his 50th start, bringing his earnings to \$1,235,997. He'd hit the board in five of six prior starts at Saratoga without a trip to the winner's circle. He ran in two other editions of the West Point, finishing third in 2013 and second in 2016.

"He's never done well at Saratoga," said Hills. "In fact, he gets real keyed up with the crowd. It was nice to break through here.

"Every time he comes back and fires like that, it's another special moment. It never gets old. The first

horse I ran here won in 1987 with Angel Cordero. I've always told people, 'when you win a race at Saratoga everybody knows. The world is watching. There's nothing better.' "

Kharafa showed up in Hills' barn in 2011 and has consistently performed well on the New York circuit ever since. He won his last race nearly two years ago in the Ashley T. Cole at Belmont Park in September 2016.

"I've had him since he was a 2-year-old," Hills said. "His breeder was Larry Durocher, who passed away about five years ago. We'd run him during the summer in the New York-bred races and since he's a turf horse, we put him away for the winter. So as a 9-year-old he's very sound because we put him away. He runs like he's 5 years old."

After taking this past winter off, Kharafa fin-

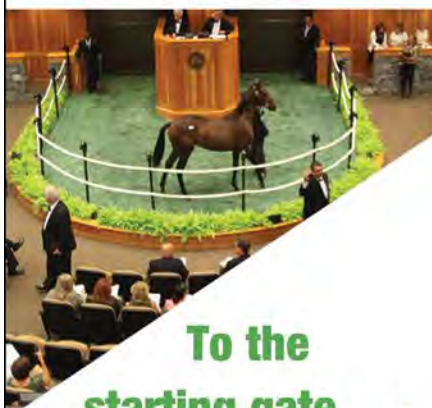
ished 10th in his first start this year in the Elusive Quality at Belmont April 28. He stayed at Belmont through the spring-summer meeting, and finished third in the Kingston and fourth in an allowance with Davis aboard for the first time. Jose Ortiz rode the gelding to a fifth in the Grade 3 Oceanport on the Haskell Day card at Monmouth July 29.

With Davis riding for the West Point, Kharafa chased from the back as 24-1 longshot Black Tide led the field through fractions of :22.91 and :46.41. Davis urged his mount forward around the turn, steadily gaining on the leader. Davis swung wide, smacked him left-handed and Kharafa closed strongly to win by a half-length.

"I was a little worried today that all day speed's been holding on the turf, and there was a lot of speed in the race," said Davis. "It set up well. I didn't want to change anything with the way I like

Continued On Page 62

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BREEDERS' CUP FILLY & MARE TURF	KENTUCKY DERBY (2)	SWORD DANCER (4)
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DUBAI WORLD CUP	MAKER'S 46 MILE (3)	VANITY HANDICAP
FLORIDA DERBY	MANHATTAN (2)	WHITNEY HANDICAP (2)
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	MATRIARCH (2)	

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Showcase —

■ Continued from page 60

to ride him, just come off the pace and save all the ground.

"I was just inching my way, trying to find a seam where I could fit and try to imagine how the race was going to play out in front of me. I was able to swing outside and he was really on his game today."

Hills watched the replay for the second time in the clubhouse with his wife clinging to his side.

"It was perfect," said Hills. "I loved his father (Robbie Davis), he rode for me for years. I've just been watching him ride and I wanted one rider who was going to ride him all the time. He listens. There's nothing better than that. He's got a hell of a future."

"We'll go through the rest of the New York-bred series with (Kharafa) and see what happens. He has reservations at Old Friends whenever he decides to retire."

— *Shayna Tiller*

Ready-made La Moneda wins Yaddo

Junior Alvarado loved La Moneda's chances in the Yaddo Stakes.

"I'm going to win. I don't know by how much, but I'm going to win," Alvarado told trainer Tom Morley in the paddock before the 1 1/16-mile turf event.

La Moneda proved him right, coming out on top of a three-way photo over Lady Joan and Fifty Five in the \$150,000 stakes for fillies and mares.

Morley marched enthusiastically into the winner's circle and embraced La Moneda's owner and breeder Patricia Moseley before going over to give wife Maggie Wolfendale (on horseback working the Saratoga Live television broadcast) a kiss before posing for the win picture.

"They don't come around all the time these good ones, so you really have to appreciate them when they do," Morley said.

La Moneda won twice last year after finishing sixth in her debut at Saratoga. The daughter of Freud was undefeated in three turf starts this year before the Yaddo. She won twice at Belmont; first in the opening race Belmont Stakes Day and then in an open first-level allowance three weeks later. She won against open company again July 22 at Saratoga.

"Huge kudos to Brendan Walsh. At the end of the day, he did all the hard work. If he had a string year-round in New York, she'd be trained by him," Morley said. "Brendan said to me before she debuted here last year, I think I have a New York-bred in my barn that can win a graded stake. We've taken our time, picked our spots and she just keeps getting better and better. I do think she is good enough to win a graded stake but today was the aim."

Lady Joan sped off and took the lead past the stands the first time. La Moneda and Fifty Five



Tod Marks

La Moneda (right) fights off Fifty Five in the Yaddo.

settled in the middle of the eight-horse field, but several lengths off the leader. Javier Castellano had won on both Fifty Five and La Moneda going into Friday's race, rode Fifty Five and positioned her directly behind La Moneda on the backstretch.

La Moneda started to gain around the turn while Alvarado still had a tight hold. Castellano was forced to ask Fifty Five to keep up. She did and made a run in the stretch to the outside of the winner, who had Lady Joan to her inside. La Moneda surged at the right time to win by a neck over Lady Joan, who was a nose better than Fifty Five.

"It was a massive performance, on a track that really looked like it favored speed all day. I thought that might help us with Fifty Five probably going to sit behind us, but I have to say that all the way down the lane I was a little worried about catching the horse in front us," Morley said with a laugh. "Junior said, 'Tom, I had to beat two horses, the one in front of me and the one I knew was going to be right behind me.'"

Moseley and her family were there to cheer on the 5-year-old homebred. They will cheer on the Brendan Walsh-trained Proctor's Ledge, another homebred, in today's Grade 2 Ballston Spa.

"She's a gamer. We raised her in our paddock fields in Massachusetts," Moseley said of La Moneda. "I wouldn't say we thought she was going to be



Tod Marks

Continued On Page 64

Tom Morley congratulates Junior Alvarado.



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2018 September Meet Stakes Schedule

September 14 - September 30

POCAHONTAS (GII)

2018 "Win and You're In Juvenile Fillies Division"
2019 Kentucky Oaks Points Race

Runs Sat., Sept. 15	Closes Sept. 1
\$200,000	(\$200 nomination fee)
Fillies, Two Years Old	1-1/16 Miles

IROQUOIS (GIII)

2018 "Win and You're In Juvenile Division"
2019 Kentucky Derby Points Race

Runs Sat., Sept. 15	Closes Sept. 1
\$150,000	(\$150 nomination fee)
Two Year Olds	1-1/16 Miles

LOCUST GROVE (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 15	Closes Sept. 1
\$100,000	(\$100 nomination fee)
Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up	1-1/16 Miles

OPEN MIND

Runs Sat., Sept. 15	Closes Sept. 1
\$100,000	(\$100 nomination fee)
Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up	6 Furlongs

DOGWOOD (Listed)

Runs Sat., Sept. 22	Closes Sept. 8
\$100,000	(\$100 nomination fee)
Fillies, Three Years Old	7 Furlongs

ACK ACK (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 29	Closes Sept. 15
\$100,000	(\$100 nomination fee)
Three Years Old & Up	1 Mile

LUKAS CLASSIC (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 29	Closes Sept. 15
\$200,000	(\$200 nomination fee)
Three Years Old & Up	1-1/8 Miles

JEFFERSON CUP (Listed)

Runs Sat., Sept. 29	Closes Sept. 15
\$100,000	(\$100 nomination fee)
Three Year Olds	1-1/8 Miles Turf

Ben Huffman Racing Secretary: 502.638.3820 • ben.huffman@kyderby.com
Dan Bork Asst. Racing Secretary, Stakes Coordinator: 502.638.3806 • dan.bork@kyderby.com
Fax: 502.636.4479

Showcase —

■ Continued from page 62

special, but we liked her."

British trainer Ed Walker is also here for the Ballston Spa this weekend and was at the track Friday to cheer on and congratulate Morley, who he called his "best mate."

"Tom and I came through the ranks and worked together, we're great friends," said Walker, who runs the English-bred Indian Blessing today. "We worked at the same stud farms as kids. It's so good to be here. I've seen him doing so well but we never get to celebrate and share each other's successes."

— Ben Gowans

Handal gets 1st Saratoga stakes win

Members of the Zilla Racing Stable turned out more than 50 strong to see English Soul run in the \$200,000 Fleet Indian. They stood on their toes and grasped the outside rail of the winner's circle, imploring their filly in the 9-furlong stakes for 3-year-olds.

English Soul broke sharp from post 11 and tracked pacesetters Take Charge Aubrey, Cause We Are Loyal and Purely Lucky. English Soul raced in the three path around the first turn and up the backstretch, attending a :23.67 quarter and :48.66 half. Three deep again around the final turn,

Manny Franco sent English Soul after Take Charge Aubrey and Cause We Are Loyal into the stretch.

Take Charge Aubrey kept her head in front past the sixteenth pole as English Soul bore down and Split Time and Indy's Lady closed from the back. The four fillies crossed the wire together and English Soul bobbed heads with Take Charge Aubrey.

The Zilla partners didn't need the photo finish.

The group erupted into cheers, jumped up and down, hugged, kissed and high-fived. The slow-motion replay on the infield board did bring the celebration to a halt. Together, the partners' crescendo fell to a dead silence as they saw the finish again. They stared intently as the angle showed English Soul's chestnut face and white blaze cross the wire first. The group exploded again and the noise intensified when the stewards put up English Soul's number.

"I get more emotional because the partners, I know what it means to them too," Zilla Racing's Mike Piazza said. "Not only am I experiencing winning at Saratoga from my own personal point of view, I know the emotion and how much it means to these guys, so it's tremendous."

English Soul improved to 4-for-8 and raised her bankroll to \$287,634. The \$55,000 buy at the 2017

Continued On Page 66



Tod Marks

English Soul (second from right) wins the Fleet Indian in a scramble.

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Showcase —

■ Continued from page 64

Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May 2-year-old sale gave trainer Ray Handal his first Saratoga stakes victory. The win came two years after the 29-year-old won his first race here with Zilla's Winter Springs and seven months after English Soul gave him his first stakes victory in the East View at Aqueduct.

"It hasn't really sunk in too much yet. I'm just proud of the filly running a huge race," Handal said. "The meet itself has been just something out of a fairytale book for myself and my team. Jose Mejia, my assistant here, and my girlfriend Holly (Ferris), and the whole staff put in so much time and effort. We're not done yet, but to have the stakes winner is the icing on the cake."

Handal credits Zilla Racing with kick-starting his career. The fractional ownership group gave Handal a chance two years ago with a claimer and after some success the relationship blossomed. Handal now has more than 20 horses, \$2.3 million earned and 62 wins, including four at Saratoga.

"I was dead in the water and they were the claiming proposition and they put the spark to my career. It's quite fitting to get my first Saratoga stakes win for them," Handal said. "They're a bunch of great people and Mike Piazza does such a tremendous job with the whole organization. It's awesome."

Although Handal felt confident in English Soul in the Fleet Indian and her fight in the stretch left him impressed.

"She had to wear the front runners down and hold off the closers coming," Handal said. "She's got so much tenacity. There's a warning sign out front of her stall. She's just a fighter. She's snappy. She fights with everything. If you get too close to her, she'll take a bite at you. She's just got that feistiness and tenacity that you need to be a good horse."

"She's still kind of learning at the same time. She does just enough. She knows her competition and she runs to her competition. She got the job done and Manny did a great job and the horse came and performed. It was pretty cool to have it all come full circle and to win a stakes with her."

— Brandon Valvo

Sea Foam wins Albany for Leahy

Richard Leahy was preparing to sell Sea Foam, a Medaglia d'Oro son out of his graded stakes-winning mare Strike It Rich, at the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale when the colt suffered a freak accident. He tripped and cut his leg. Although the gash was only skin deep, the blemish made the horse unsuitable to sell.

"Our thing is to breed as well as race and we love Medaglia d'Oro," Leahy said. "A week before the sale, he cut himself on the leg and it just looked ugly for the sale, so we decided just to retain him."

After three straight runner-up finishes to start his career, Sea Foam broke his maiden at Aqueduct last



Tod Marks

Sea Foam (right) scores in the Albany.

winter and immediately doubled up in the Notebook Stakes. After a fourth and fifth in the Mike Lee and Manilla, respectively, to start his 3-year-old campaign, Sea Foam won the New York Derby at Finger Lakes July 21 and took Friday's \$250,000 Albany Stakes. He's now 4-for-9 and earned \$373,570 for Leahy.

"It worked out nice," Leahy said. "We liked him. We like dirt horses and the New York State program is a nice way to bring them along. He's done well, he's adapted quite well."

Leahy bought his first horse around 1990 and started breeding in New York five years later. He breeds seven to eight mares each year under the name Waterville Lake Stable and loves seeing the foals mature at Berkshire Stud.

"It's great, great fun. It's great to see them develop from when they are babies," Leahy said. "We raise them on Doug Koch's farm, so we get up there and get to see them, so it's great fun."

Sea Foam led the Albany field gate-to-wire for rider Joel Rosario and trainer Christophe Clement, winning by three-quarters of a length over Evaluator and finishing the 9 furlongs in 1:50.24.

— Brandon Valvo

Celebration in Seeking The Ante

Party Like Grandma let out a long whinny as she entered the paddock for the \$200,000 Seeking The Ante. She was silent after that, loosening her back and cooperating with Jeremiah Englehart's team as they tacked her up for the 6 1/2-furlong stakes. The other fillies did not all take to the environment as well.

Time Warp bucked and struck at the air as her connections attempted to saddle her, Icy Lady

bounded around on her toes and Maiden Beauty spooked away from her jockey as he attempted to mount. Once in the gate, Collegeville Girl erupted and was a late scratch, Time Warp burst through the gate and the jockeys were dismounted due to a delay. While madness ensued around her, Party Like Grandma remained calm and focused.

Englehart purchased the daughter of Desert Party for \$8,000 as a weanling from the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga fall mixed sale in 2016. He liked what he saw from the young filly.

"You just stood next to her and even though she was a weanling she just gave you that presence that she was a racehorse," said Englehart. "I didn't notice it again from her until I saw it in the paddock. When a lot of those horses were acting up, she was kind of walking forward and on the bridle in the paddock. She gave me that good impression."

Englehart eventually brought on partners Flower City Racing and Chris Meyer in the filly.

"He sent me a quick text and said, 'Do you want to buy a leg or two?' I said sure," Meyer said. "Honorable Rose I brought in the same text (for \$5,500), she came in third earlier at the Spa. Now Party Like Grandma wins in a stakes race for \$200,000. Both with Jeremiah Englehart, it's amazing. I'm on another plane right now."

Party Like Grandma won her first start in a 5-furlong maiden at Finger Lakes July 12. Andre Worrie rode her to an 11 1/2-length win and got the return call on the filly in the Seeking The Ante. Party Like Grandma broke sharp and won in the same front-running fashion as her debut by 1 1/4

Continued On Page 68

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Showcase —

■ Continued from page 66

lengths. Based at Finger Lakes, the victory earned Worrie his first Saratoga stakes win.

“It’s amazing. My first win at Saratoga this year and my first stakes,” said Worrie. “The original plan was that (Collegeville Girl) was a little faster and we were going to let her go and get outside, but that horse scratched. I thought, ‘I’m the speed,’ so I just went on with it. She got brave and just kept going.”

Englehart walked through the clubhouse after the race, glancing at the replay with a look of content astonishment.

“My brother’s his agent and I probably don’t use him enough,” said Englehart. “It was a pleasant surprise. I didn’t even think with the four scratching that she could get the lead, but she did. Andre gave her a really smart ride.”

— Shayna Tiller

Dugout goes deep in Funny Cide

The 2-year-old came out on top of a duel with runner-up Bankit in the \$200,000 stakes at 6 1/2 furlongs. The two New York-breds ran neck-



Tod Marks

Dugout (right) wins the Funny Cide, his second win of the meet.

and-neck from the start and battled through the stretch. Bankit on the inside, Dugout on the outside. The official margin was a nose.

“I had a lot of confidence and I knew he’d run well but it was a pretty good race and that was a hell of a battle,” winning trainer Larry Rivelli said by phone after the race.

Dugout was bred by Rivelli and Richard Ravin. Patricia’s Hope LLC joined those two as owners for the son of Adios Charlie’s racing career. He started that career July 23 at Saratoga when he won an off-the-turf maiden by 7 1/4 lengths under Javier Castellano, who rode the colt again Friday. Known to be a bit difficult after acting up prior to his debut, Dugout was allowed to leave the paddock early Friday.

“Today he was good. He’s a little studdish so he just doesn’t like to be around ponies and stuff like that,” Rivelli said. “They did us a favor and let us go out first, so he didn’t have to follow anyone. It’s just a little quirk

to him, that’s it.”

The win was Rivelli’s first stakes score at Saratoga, fitting that it came in a 2-year-old race since the Chicago-based conditioner is known for success with juveniles.

“I have a great team. It’s probably more to do with them than it is to do with me,” Rivelli said. “Dr. Jean White in Ocala handles all our mares, all our yearlings, all our 2-year-olds. She gets them to where they need to be. Caroline Webster breaks all of our 2-year-olds. Her and Jean work hand-in-hand together. They do all the hard stuff, they get them going good for me and I take it from there.”

The leading trainer at Arlington Park by a margin of 37 wins as of Friday is new to the New York-bred scene.

“It’s funny, this is our first that we’ve ever dropped in New York. Purses are good, so we said let’s take a mare,” Rivelli said. “I said ‘Jean, you pick whichever mare you want.’ She said, ‘I’m going to pick Rooney Doo-

dle because she’d the easiest mare.’ You know, the mare has to go to New York to be with somebody she’s never been with. Jean said, ‘she’s easy, she’s a good doer, she won’t be a problem.’ ”

— Ben Gowans

• Analyzethisandthat shipped to Saratoga Thursday from Monmouth. It was the gelding’s first time traveling for a race and trainer Russell Cash found the 2-year-old sprawled out in his stall in the receiving barn Friday morning sound asleep. Cash wasn’t sure if it was a good sign or a bad omen.

Soon after, jockey Wilmer Garcia called the trainer. Programmed to ride his first race in Saratoga since 2012, the rider was injured and couldn’t make the trip. Cash called Kendrick Carmouche and landed a replacement.

The jockey sent Analyzethisandthat straight to the front in Friday’s opener on the Saratoga Showcase card, a \$75,000 maiden special weight going 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf. The Freud son held off a late run from Wicked Grin to score a neck win in 1:03.12.

Bred by Joe Birnbaum, Analyzethisandthat is out of Peppy Candy, a mare Cash trained. The chestnut had two prior starts at Monmouth, finishing third going 5 furlongs on the turf July 14 and third again going 5 1/2 on the dirt July 28.

“That’s what we were looking for,” Cash said of the win. “We ran him twice at Monmouth. He was so green, he’s real spooky. We were afraid to come up. This time, I guess it was the right time.

“The race on the dirt was just to get another race into him, a little more experience. He likes the grass better. Each time, he’s much better. He’s improved. This is going to help him. He’s much better.”

Cash has trained for Birnbaum for more than 20 years and together have raised horses like multiple stakes winner Old Harbor and stakes placed Dark Roast and Adduce. Analyzethisandthat gave Cash his first win at the meet from just four starts.

“It’s a little tough and (Joe) knows it because we’re always developing the young horses and that makes it a little tough,” Cash said. “You get a lot of satisfaction out of what just happened.”

— Brandon Valvo

Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS	1ST
Chad Brown	33
Todd Pletcher	16
Steve Asmussen	12
Bill Mott	11
Jeremiah Englehart	9
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	32
Jose Ortiz	29
Manny Franco	26
Luis Saez	24
Joel Rosario	20
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Ricardo Santana Jr.	19
John Velazquez	19

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27	28	29	30	31		

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY

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MAY

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SARATOGA RESULTS

Friday August 24.

FIRST \$75,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 5 1/2F

7	Analyzethisandthat	K. Carmouche	\$11.00	\$5.50	\$3.20
8	Wicked Grin	D. Cohen		\$7.00	\$4.30
3	Pipes	J. Rosario			\$2.60

Ch Gelding 2016, by Freud - Peppy Candy by Candy Stripes

Owner: Birnbaum, Joseph. Trainer: Russell Cash.

Breeder: Joseph Birnbaum (NY).

Late Scratches: Mister Muy Bien, Sounds Good

Time: 1:03.12

Exacta (7-8), \$36.75; Superfecta (7-8-3-1), \$37.80; Trifecta (7-8-3), \$66.75

SECOND \$77,000, NY-BRED ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

2	Bluegrass Express	K. Carmouche	\$14.00	\$7.30	\$4.80
6	Samay	D. Davis		\$10.40	\$5.90
3	Freud's Affair	J. Rohena			\$4.60

B Colt 2014, by Bluegrass Cat - Back to Daddy by Tiznow

Owner: Wire To Wire Stable, Inc. and Brittingham, Robert.

Trainer: Richard Vega. Breeder: HTR Racing LLC & Bluegrass Cat Syndicate (NY).

Time: 1:10.19

Daily Double (7-2), \$47.00; Exacta (2-6), \$78.50; Quinella (2-6), \$45.25; Superfecta (2-6-3-4), \$91.75; Trifecta (2-6-3), \$175.75

THIRD \$250,000, NY-BRED STAKES - ALBANY S., 3 YO, 1 1/8M

7	Sea Foam	J. Rosario	\$5.60	\$3.10	\$2.50
1	Evaluator	M. Franco		\$2.90	\$2.40
2	Singapore Trader	J. Velazquez			\$3.10

B Colt 2015, by Medaglia d'Oro - Strike It Rich by Unbridled's Song

Owner: Waterville Lake Stable. Trainer: Christophe Clement.

Breeder: Waterville Lake Stables LTD LLC (NY).

Late Scratches: Speke

Time: 1:50.24

Daily Double (2-7), \$21.20; Exacta (7-1), \$6.90; Superfecta (7-1-2-6), \$4.17; Trifecta (7-1-2), \$13.75; Pic 3 (7-2-7), \$148.25

FOURTH \$75,000, NY-BRED MDN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 1 1/16M

10	Shady Shady Shady	J. Velazquez	\$6.90	\$3.50	\$2.70
7	Mensa Member	J. Ortiz		\$4.60	\$3.20
3	Shak's Hidden Gem	J. Rosario			\$3.10

B Filly 2016, by Hat Trick (JPN) - Shea Darby by Street Sense

Owner: Goichman, Lawrence. Trainer: Michelle Nevin.

Breeder: Larry Goichman (NY).

Late Scratches: Mary's Girl, Alreadycelebrating

Time: 1:43.78

Daily Double (7-10), \$9.50; Exacta (10-7), \$15.30; Quinella (7-10), \$6.60; Superfecta (10-7-3-6), \$34.65; Trifecta (10-7-3), \$20.87; Pic 3 (2-7-10), \$73.75

FIFTH \$200,000, NY-BRED STAKES - FUNNY CIDE S., 2 YO, 6 1/2F

6	Dugout	J. Castellano	\$8.00	\$3.90	\$3.00
5	Bankit	R. Santana, Jr.		\$4.10	\$3.20
4	Bustin to Be Loved	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$3.40

Gr/ro Colt 2016, by Adios Charlie - Rooney Doodle by Lit de Justice

Owner: Ravin, Richard, Patricia's Hope LLC and Rivelli, Larry.

Trainer: Larry Rivelli. Breeder: Larry Rivelli & Richard Ravin (NY).

Late Scratches: Woodbury, Red Zinger

Time: 1:16.43

Daily Double (10-6), \$17.20; Exacta (6-5), \$15.00; Superfecta (6-5-4-2), \$15.15; Trifecta (6-5-4), \$17.62; Pic 3 (7-10-6), \$42.75; Pic 4 (2-4-7-10/11/12-6), \$136.25; Pic 5 (7-2-4-7-10/11/12-6), \$1,477.75

SIXTH \$80,000, NY-BRED AOC \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

1	Colonel Tom	D. Davis	\$10.80	\$7.30	\$5.50
7	Discretionary Marq	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$6.90	\$5.10
8	The Crocheron Kid	E. Cancel			\$10.40

B Colt 2015, by Colonel John - Lemme by Lemon Drop Kid

Owner: Brockley, Thomas. Trainer: George Weaver.

Breeder: McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds, LLC (NY).

Late Scratches: Stoney Bennett, Samadi Sky, The Caretaker

Time: 1:01.47

Daily Double (6-1), \$23.20; Exacta (1-7), \$42.00; Superfecta (1-7-8-4), \$391.50; Trifecta (1-7-8), \$253.25; Pic 3 (10-6-1), \$91.75

SEVENTH \$200,000, NY-BRED - SEEKING THE ANTE S., 2 YO F, 6 1/2F

1	Party Like Grandma	A. Worrie	\$7.90	\$4.00	\$2.70
3	Maiden Beauty	J. Rosario		\$3.80	\$2.40
7	She's Trouble	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$2.40

B Filly 2016, by Desert Party - Grandma Lu by Salt Lake

Owner: Flower City Racing, LLC, Meyer, Christopher J. and Englehart, Jeremiah C.. Trainer: Jeremiah Englehart.

Breeder: Patricia Calandro & Susan Georgas (NY).

Late Scratches: Collegeville Girl, Awesome Debate

Time: 1:17.59

Daily Double (1-1), \$22.70; Exacta (1-3), \$16.20; Superfecta (1-3-7-8), \$19.02; Trifecta (1-3-7), \$16.75; Consolation Double (1-4), \$5.20; Pic 3 (6-1-1), \$107.50; (6-1-4), \$27.50

EIGHTH \$150,000, NY-BRED STAKES - YADDO S., 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M

2	La Moneda	J. Alvarado	\$7.60	\$4.80	\$2.70
8	Lady Joan	L. Saéz		\$7.60	\$3.90
7	Fifty Five	J. Castellano			\$2.20

B Mare 2013, by Freud - Jade Palace by Jade Hunter

Owner: Moseley, Patricia, L.. Trainer: Thomas Morley.

Breeder: Patricia L. Moseley (NY).

Late Scratches: Munchkin Money. Time: 1:40.49

Daily Double (1-2), \$12.30; Exacta (2-8), \$33.25; Superfecta (2-8-7-5), \$30.55; Trifecta (2-8-7), \$33.75; Pic 3 (1-1-2), \$94.25; (1-4-2), \$23.10

NINTH \$200,000, NY-BRED STAKES - FLEET INDIAN, 3 YO, 1 1/8M

11	English Soul	M. Franco	\$10.00	\$4.70	\$3.30
2	Take Charge Aubrey	J. Ortiz		\$4.20	\$3.00
3	Split Time	J. Alvarado			\$2.60

Ch Filly 2015, by English Channel - Soul Possession by Belong to Me

Owner: Zilla Racing Stables. Trainer: Raymond Handal.

Breeder: Mia Gallo, Dave Stack & Arlene Wilkins (NY).

Time: 1:51.49

Daily Double (2-11), \$20.20; Exacta (11-2), \$18.50; Superfecta (11-2-3-9), \$28.85; Trifecta (11-2-3), \$28.25; Pic 3 (1-2-11), \$74.50

TENTH \$150,000, NY-BRED STAKES - WEST POINT S. PRESENTED BY TRUSTCO BANK, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M

10	Kharafa	D. Davis	\$37.40	\$10.80	\$5.60
6	Offering Plan	J. Castellano		\$2.80	\$2.20
11	Rapt	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$3.50

B Gelding 2009, by Kitalpha - Exquisite Cassie by King of Kings (IRE)

Owner: Braverman, Paul and Pinch, Timothy. Trainer: Timothy Hills.

Breeder: High Meadow Farm (NY).

Late Scratches: J J's Dreaming, Clutch Cargo

Time: 1:40.44

Daily Double (11-10), \$85.00; Exacta (10-6), \$43.00; Superfecta (10-6-11-1), \$118.80; Trifecta (10-6-11), \$80.75; Pic 3 (2-11-10), \$519.00; Place Pix Nine (1,3,4,5,7/2,7,8,9/2,3,11/10), \$21.20

11th race not available - sorry.

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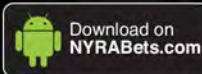

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King's Bishop (Allen Jerkens) 2015

BY JOE CLANCY

At Kentucky's Ashview Farm, claiming potential broodmares is – while not quite a can't-miss business strategy – at least a concept. Pedigree, conformation, something oddly familiar, the reason doesn't really matter but the claims get made and the mares (sometimes fillies) stick to the plan.

"I claim a lot of broodmare prospects," said Ashview's Gray Lyster Friday morning. "We breed them, and sell them. If I've claimed 20 mares, I've kept only one or two to see a foal."

And boy did he keep the right mare.

In 2010, Lyster had trainer Louis Albertrani claim Bella Jolie for \$5,000 at Delaware Park. She'd won twice that year, but jumped out at Lyster for more reasons than her race record.

"I had seen her as a yearling or something and I thought she was in really cheap," he said. "She was from a modest blacktype family. I'm a sicko for Empire Maker, Broken Vow, Unbridled's Song mares and she was by Broken Vow so we claimed her."

Bred to Super Saver in 2011, she foaled a bay colt who sold for \$200,000 at Keeneland September in 2013. Her next foal (by Curlin) sold for \$60,000 in 2014. The one after that (by Lookin At Lucky) went for \$255,000 in 2015. One more (by Exchange Rate) brought \$475,000 in 2016. Along the way, Lyster sold Bella Jolie (in foal to Cairo Prince) for \$1.66 million at Keeneland November in 2015.

"She was just one where we thought, 'Let's keep her,'" Lyster said. "It turned out to be a great decision for some reason or another. If they all happened like that . . . man."

All of that success traces back to Bella Jolie's first foal, the Super Saver colt who turned out to be champion, millionaire, sire and 2018 Travers sponsor Runhappy. The bay colt, purchased by



Tod Marks
Runhappy rolls home
at Saratoga in 2015.

Jim McIngvale at that 2013 sale, won his debut at Turfway Park in 2014 and became a sensation as a 3-year-old – winning six in a row including the Grade 1 King's Bishop (now Allen Jerkens) on the Travers Day undercard.

Coming in off wins at Ellis Park and Indiana Grand, Runhappy was dismissed at 11-1 behind favorites Holy Boss, Watershed and Competitive Edge. Once he left the outside post in a field of 11, he looked like a 1-9 shot – setting fractions of :22.43, :44.54 and 1:08.17 en route to a 7-furlong performance of 1:20.54.

The final time just missed Darby Creek Road's track record, and warmed up Saratoga three races before Keen Ice upset Triple Crown winner American Pharoah in the Travers.

The thrills continued through the Phoenix Stakes at Keeneland in early October, then the

Breeders' Cup Sprint on the same track at the end of the month and finally the Malibu at Santa Anita. At year's end, Runhappy won an Eclipse Award as champion sprinter.

Back at Ashview, the team remembered a stylish yearling who overcame growing pains and veterinary opinions.

"He was always a really nice looking horse," said Lyster. "From the first day, frankly, he was one of the most athletic horses we've ever raised. I'd love to say I knew he was going to be a star or some other nonsense, but nobody knows whether some foal or weanling or yearling is destined to be a great racehorse. That's just impossible. He was really attractive, really athletic and he was really, really smooth when he walked."

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Runhappy —

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Entered in Keeneland November as a weanling, the colt was withdrawn when his pasterns outgrew the rest of his body – at least for a while.

“We were really worried and I remember thinking, ‘If he doesn’t grow into these pasterns, we’ll be lucky to get \$5,000 for him and he’ll never be any kind of racehorse,’ ” Lyster said. “Well, he grew into those pasterns every month until the September sale.”

Of course, an X-ray issue poured cold water on Ashview’s expectations. Because the colt did everything right, the reserve was set at \$199,000 and buyers worked to find positive veterinary opinions.

“He had a blemish on an ankle,” said Lyster. “It was a old and we had been aware of it, but all the vets were failing him completely because of it. In my experience, it’s understandable because everyone wants to be sure. I had the luxury of knowing he had the issue for six months. It never bothered him, never changed in appearance, never did anything.”

“People wanted him. One buyer sent three different vets over to try to get somebody to say it was OK.”

It was OK with McIngvale and Laura Wohlers, who bought a future star for \$200,000.

“They deserve a lot of credit,” said Lyster. “They said, ‘We want to buy him anyway.’ If we didn’t put that reserve on him, he might have brought 30 or 40.”

Runhappy ran twice as a 4-year-old in 2016, and was retired to Claiborne Farm. He bred 127 mares in 2017.

The end result makes Lyster smile, and not just because – this time – the planned work.

“He was a cool horse to work with, kind of a proud colt,” he said. “He wasn’t mean or stupid, just on his toes and aggressive in the right ways. Bringing him up there as a yearling, I can’t remember any better-looking, smoother-walking yearlings we’ve ever had.”

And it all started with a \$5,000 claim at Delaware Park.

“As a consignor you love those stories,” Lyster said. “Hey man, anything can happen.”



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Danny Warrington started talking about a horse of Jonathan Sheppard's, a claimer who had just finished third as the beaten favorite at Saratoga. It was 1991. The fledgling jump jockey wasn't disappointed in the horse, not nearly as much as bettors who had hammered him down to 8-5. The chestnut gelding led early but weakened. Warrington still bragged about the white-faced horse.

Three beers in at the Parting Glass, we slammed Warrington and the horse, who was 3-for-15 and underachieving. Warrington put his hand in the air and wouldn't hear of it.

"He's a good horse. He's really talented. He just doesn't know it," Warrington said. "You know there's some good in him, you just can't figure out how to get it out of him or if it will ever come out of him. But, you still like him. You know there's some good in there somewhere."

The horse's name was Dum Crambo.

"That sounds like our friend Tim Keefe," I said. "He won't go out, he won't go racing, he won't laugh, he barely talks to us but you know there's some good in there somewhere. He's miserable, but for some reason, we still like him."

Keith O'Brien, Geoff Brutscher, Chip Miller, Andy Wilson and a few others standing at the bar chimed in at the same time.

"Tim Crambo. That's what we'll call him."

Quickly, we shortened it to Crambo. We've never called him anything else since.

Working for Janet Elliot, who could make a grown man cry, Keefe struggled that summer. He wanted to be a jump jockey but couldn't get a ride at the spring and fall steeplechase meets, much less Saratoga. Elliot liked to feed her horses eight times a day, or so it seemed, and Keefe was in charge of it. As we were going out, he was going to feed. As we were coming in, he was going to feed. Diligent and dedicated, he was never a minute late and no horse missed an oat. But it did make him miserable. Well, that was part of it. He had somehow lost the shake when it came to bedrooms in our flophouse. He



slept on the dining room floor for the entire meet, that probably didn't help. He was making \$325 a week, working seven days a week, about 18 hours a day, that didn't help. On top of that, he was in love with a girl we had never heard of and we had no interest in listening to him pine about her.

Keefe had the good sense to get out of steeplechasing soon after that summer at Saratoga. And he had the good sense to go after the girl.

The following summer he came to Saratoga to see us, well, he said came to see us. We might have even given him a couch for a night or two. He was better, but he was still preoccupied, distracted, distant. Quietly, he left our house in the middle of the night to meet a horse trailer on the side of the Northway. Rumsey Gilbert, the girl, was driving her horses home from a three-day event in Canada. Keefe hopped in, helped her drive the rest of the way. They've been together ever since. Years later, Keefe asked me to be his best man at their wedding, I've never been so honored.

Four kids, a farm, a career and a life later, Keefe returns to Saratoga. The Maryland-based trainer brings Still Having Fun, a 6-1 shot in the Grade 1 H. Allen Jerkens to start today's stakes extravaganza. Co-bred by Keefe, the son of Old Fashioned is fresh off winning the Grade 2 Woody Stephens at

Belmont Park for Keefe's first graded stakes win in his 26th full season as a trainer. He won his 500th race this year. He's trained one millionaire, Maryland stalwart Eighttofasttocatch. If you think those numbers aren't impressive, don't worry about it, Keefe has never been about numbers.

He works hard at training horses but he's also a dedicated father of two girls and two boys. He's won more races and seen more of his kid's games, recitals and graduations than any trainer I know. I've tried to get him to move to Fair Hill Training Center, bring a string to Saratoga, he thinks about it and thinks about uprooting his family, it doesn't go any further. He volunteered to serve as the president of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, fighting the good fight while others who didn't volunteer sling arrows his way. He finished an Ironman triathlon, raising money for some of his favorite racing related charities. Oh, and the best one, I called him this summer. He said he was driving to have lunch with his mother-in-law. I asked why, he said he was just thinking about her, thinking she might enjoy lunch.

So, yeah, all the way back in the early 1990s, we knew there was some good in Keefe, er, Crambo, we just didn't know where.

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