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Saratoga Sunshine. A Chad Brown trainee catches the rays early Friday.

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LICENSE PLATE OF THE DAY

(we've given up trying to weed out repeats) TRAVERS, New Jersey.

BY THE NUMBERS

44: Cars parallel parked on East Avenue between Union and Fifth at 2:47 Travers morning – the precise time Sean and Tom said goodbye to Joe still at his desk in The Special's office.

53: Cars parallel parked on East Avenue between Union and Fifth at 3:05 Travers morning – the precise time Joe left his desk in The Special office.

3:06: Time the water truck rumbled around the far turn of the Oklahoma training track Travers morning.

8,774: Steps it took Jennifer Stevens, our distribution specialist, and staffer Catherine Galbraith to deliver The Special Saturday morning.

52,129,344: Dollars wagered on the Travers Day card, an all-sources record.

NAMES OF THE DAY

Sea Of Blue, first race. Godolphin's homebred 2-year-old filly is by Midshipman out of Surf Club.

Bulletin, eighth race. The 3-year-old colt owned by WinStar Farm, China Horse Club and SF Racing, is by City Zip out of Sue's Good News.

And Seek, ninth race. West Point Thoroughbreds' 3-year-old colt is by Run Away And Hide.





QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I passed out internally like three times.
Outwardly, it might not have looked like it, but . . ."
Owner Jeff Bloom, on watching his Midnight Bisou
catch Elate by a nose in the Personal Ensign Saturday



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here&there...at Saratoga

WORTH REPEATING

"Don't say anything yet about the Breeders' Cup."

John McCarthy to brother Anthony after his Belle Of The Spa upset Friday's Yaddo at 31-1

"No pace. No whip. No problem."

Daily Racing Form's Dave Grening after Frontier Market won the Travers Day opener under adverse circumstances

"I'm glad you breed small horses."

Trainer Chad Brown to Dr. John Chandler, after his homebred Dabinett squeezed through on the hedge to win Saturday's third

"I wouldn't wear that shirt to bed."

NYRA's Andy Serling, sharing his thoughts on co-star Jonathon Kinchen's Travers Day outfit

"There's no doubt about that."

Trainer Carlos Martin, on whether Ballerina winner Come Dancing will train into the Breeders' Cup

A LITTLE FUN WITH FRIDAY'S 10TH RACE

The Happy Giant, who is known as Millie's Party Boy, had a pocket full of Icey Cash, and was a Determined One to head out on a Saratoga night with his Wacky Pal Mr. Vincent carrying a wallet full of Moo Lah. Our friends stumbled up Caroline Street to the Curlin's Legacy pub where they were swept up in a game of high stakes darts against an Awesome Adversary, Ridolfo. It was Big Wonder our pair ended up Sobersick N Sorry followed by the bailiff's call of Herecomestheiudge.

- Sallyellen Hurst



Editors/Publishers

Sean Clancy: (302) 545-7713. sean@thisishorseracing.com **Joe Clancy:** (302) 545-4424. joe@thisishorseracing.com

Managing Editor

Tom Law: (859) 396-9407. tom@thisishorseracing.com

Writers: Catherine Galbraith, Ben Gowans, Paul Halloran, Terry Hill, Brandon Valvo.

Handicappers: Charles Bedard, John Shapazian, Rob Whitlock,

Design: Todd Koch.

Photographers: Tod Marks, Dave Harmon, Connie Bush.

Distribution & More: Madeline Ellsworth.



259 East Avenue Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 (the old feed store)

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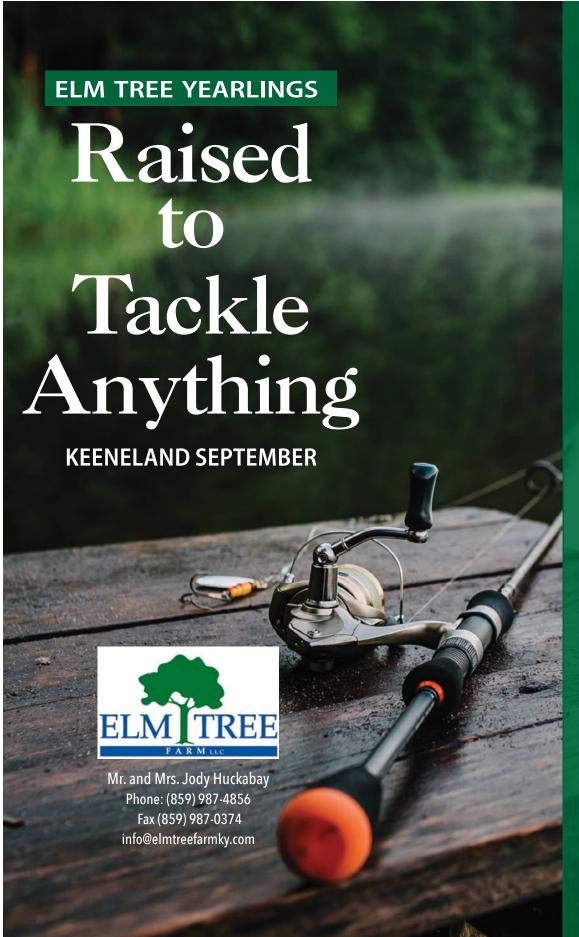
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Home Office: 364 Fair Hill Drive, Suite F, Elkton, MD 21921 (410) 392-5867 • Fax (410) 392-0170



BOOK ONE • Barn 20

Monday, 9/9

11 c. MEDAGLIA D'ORO – Overheard

2nd foal out of multiple GSW OVERHEARD (\$548,656); family of Champion CHRIS EVERT and G1 SW CONFESSIONAL

Tuesday, 9/10

250 c. FLATTER - Bashful Bertie

1/2 brother to 3-time G1 SW BEACH PATROL (\$2,532,945); out of full sister to GSW/stakes producer ALLAMERICAN BERTIE

366 f. HONOR CODE – Doubled

Out of a juvenile SW Exchange Rate mare, 1/2 sister to two Graded horses, including Pocahontas S.-G2 SW DANCINGINHERDREAMS

Wednesday, 9/11

516 c. SPEIGHTSTOWN – Maggy's Melody

Out of a young Unbridled's Song 1/2 sister to Champion/multiple Classic winner and champion-siring AFLEET ALEX (\$2,765,800)

545 f. NYQUIST - Miss Inclined

From the first crop of Champion/Classic winner NYQUIST out of SP 1/2 sister to GSW RUSH BAY and Graded stakes producer Stormy B.

BOOK TWO • Barn 35

Friday, 9/13

634 c. NOT THIS TIME - Soho Star

643 c. GHOSTZAPPER – Spring Party

707 c. BROKEN VOW – Winning Saga

780 c. FROSTED – Dashing Debby

783 f. PIONEEROF THE NILE – Devious Intent

932 c. LIAM'S MAP – Mystic Mama

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Saratoga Moments . . .

"Holy Bull was absolutely my favorite Travers. He came in as a horse we didn't know we were going to love. He beat Dehere, who was unbeatable. Then he continued to just win, win, win. He came to the Travers and never should have gone that distance. The pedigree said no. And at the eighth pole a horse that should go that distance (Concern) came up to him and he just put his head down and kept going. He refused to let him get past. That show of heart was incredible to me. I love that heart in a horse."

- Eclipse Award-winning photographer Barbara Livingston



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Connie Bush

Inside Post. A Travers Morning fan cuts the corner in pursuit of a picnic table, while a rival comes a cropper behind her.

here&there...at Saratoga

JUMP JOCKEY LOGIC

Aboard Winston C, Tom Garner won Thursday's New York Turf Writers Cup with a left collarbone injury suffered in a fall at Colonial Downs five days earlier. Cleared to ride, he still dealt with some pain and went through various therapy options to improve the situation.

He even called the master, Tony McCoy, for advice. The Irishman rode a record 4,358 winners and was champion jockey a record 20 consecutive times in England.

"I've been racing with him so many times and he's broken ribs, broken collarbones," Garner said. "He said, 'Take some painkillers, get on the Equicizer, push it out, if it hurts, take some painkillers, get back on the Equicizer, push it out, if it still hurts, take some more painkillers and then you should be all right. Just don't pass out.' He did that to Ruby Walsh one day and Ruby came back in and said 'Don't ever do that to me again.'

GRAB A PAPER

We're in the final two weeks of publishing for the 2019 season - remember we go digital-only the last week of the meet – so this is our final print edition of the season. Thanks, it's been real. You can still read The Special online next week (Thursday-Sunday) for four online PDFs. Go to thisishorseracing.com/print to download your free copy. As always, thanks for reading.

The TOP 10 performances of the meet sponsored by OSCAR PERFORMANCE

At 2: Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1)

Standing at Mill Ridge Farm

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

- 1 Got Stormy: Even Fourstardave didn't do what she did.

 Bred by Mt. Joy Stables, Pope McLean, Marc McLean & Pope McLean Jr.
- **2.** Midnight Bisou: Now that's a proper horse race. Elate is 2B.
- 3. Code Of Honor: Answered any doubts in Travers triumph.
- **4. Covfefe:** Because that Test slugfest was as good as it gets.
- 5. Imperial Hint: Move over Speightstown and Spanish Riddle.
- **McKinzie:** He can do it all, giving Baffert his first Whitney win.
- **Shancelot:** After the Amsterdam, make that Sir Shancelot.
- **8. Guarana:** Unbeaten filly was perfect again in CCA Oaks.
- **Sistercharlie:** Make that TWO Dianas for the champ.
- 10. Dunbar Road: Loved the mud in Alabama romp.

And the Oscar goes to...

The breeder of the horse with the Top Performance of 2019 receives a FREE 2020 breeding season to Oscar Performance. Good luck to all, and thanks for a great first season at stud.

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The Chief ... Day 29

"I had this little scrapbook I made when I was 7 years old and that. It was in my old house, I don't know how I lost it. If I showed you that little scrapbook, you would laugh. When I first became a horse bug, I would put every, everything I could see and cut

out and paste in that book, even the advertisements for the harnesses on the Sears Roebuck catalogue. The first racehorse was Omaha and I remember ripping it slightly while I was pasting it in, so then, I had to push it back in there, you could see it.

It was so funny to see it later on."

- Trainer Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015



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STABLE TOUR

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NOMINATE

with Jimmy Jerkens

Pick a dark day, that's what we've learned. It's the best time to ask Jimmy Jerkens for a Stable Tour. Hands-on like his Hall of Fame father, Allen, Jerkens will take his time if there is time, that goes for the tour and for his training.

Jerkens walked his shedrow with The Special's Sean Clancy last week.

Centurion: Long-time client Centennial Farm owns the 2-year-old son of Pioneerof The Nile. "Got up to a half-mile and got a little sick like most of them did here, in my barn anyway. He acts OK. He's got a lot of action, but it's funny, he jacks his hocks up kind of high but it doesn't seem to stop him any. He's out of a Langfuhr Two-year-old stakes winner Green Light Go gets some attention in the Jerkens barn.

Plan of Attack: Joe Allen bred the son of War Front who has breezed eight times at Saratoga this summer. "I've worked him on the dirt and turf. He has pretty good and not so good works on both surfaces, so I don't know. He looks more like turf to me. His grand dam is Volga, she was a good turf mare. His mother is by Street Cry. I can really see some Street Cry in him with his length. He just got OK'd from the gate, I'll probably run him at the end of the meet here on the turf or the beginning of Belmont, I'm not quite sure yet."

Mihos: Centennial Farm's runner won the Mucho Macho Man at Gulfstream Park in January before finishing fifth in the Fasig-Tipton Holy Bull. Freshened after that, the son of Cairo Prince returned to finish fourth in the Dwyer and sixth in the Jim Dandy. "He started reacting negatively to the kickback, he ran up against it the first time fine but for some reason ever since then he hasn't dealt with it. Some horses will stick their head out and get away from it but keep running but he loses 3 or 4 lengths every time. I worked him on the turf last week and I thought he worked nice. I was going to work him again but they canceled, but I kind of said, to hell with it, I'm not going to run him up here dirt or turf, we'll wait for Belmont. I would like to try him seven-eighths or a mile on the Widener Turf to get him back going. Not only that but he started to run down, you don't see that much any more, his last two races he ran down pretty good, that's another reason to try the turf. It's worth a try. I thought his race in the Dwyer was a decent effort, his Jim Dandy wasn't any good."

Rocketry: Centennial's veteran makes another appearance in the Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour. "This is our old marathoner. Watch him, he'll bite (standing behind cone). He's very easy to train, but he is a biter. He's been good, he ran really, really hard in the Brooklyn and just got beat. I ran him back in the



Suburban which probably wasn't a good idea, I think as a re sult, he was a little flat in the Birdstone, we'll freshen him up a little bit and take a shot in the Temperence Hill, I don't know if they even call it that any more. It's a logical spot. That or the race at Parx, the Greenwood. He was so slow early in his career, his only shot was turf. I ran him a mile at Gulfstream, I couldn't believe how good he ran, he didn't hit the board, but he was flying at the end. He broke his maiden, he won an a other than, a two other than, but in the better races, when he got stopped, he doesn't have the acceleration to get back into the thick of things, it was hurting him. Johnny (Velazquez) said, 'It doesn't pay to save ground with this guy because once you get stopped, you can't get him going again.' I said, 'we can't afford to run in these better races and be five wide all the way.' This was up here last year. But he started finally breezing nice on the dirt and I said, 'What the hell, we might as well try him on the dirt.' And he galloped, then he won in Kentucky, just as easy. We've kept him on it ever since."

Somes Sound: Son of Ghostzapper finished 10th in debut here for Shortleaf Stable. "I thought he would come out of there running and he showed good speed in his only start on Whitney Day but he backed up pretty good. I'm going to try him again in the next 6-furlong maiden race here. He's heavy. He had a real good work since then, maybe he'll run a little better."

Hard Sting: Stronach Stable's homebred son of Hard Spun has made two starts in his career. "First time he ran very green going 6 on the turf, finished up a little bit but got beat a long way. The last time, he ended up on the lead, which I didn't think he would, and got a little tired just inside the sixteenth pole, looked like he was going to hang in there for third. He got sick since then. He's doing good now. He had a good work, he'll probably run at the end of the meet."

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

Candygram: Centennial's 4-year-old owns three wins from 11 starts. Finished second in State Dinner at Belmont Park in July before finishing ninth in the Alydar. "He was running really well for me and ran bad in the Alydar and got real sick. He's back on his feet now but I think we're going to send him down to Middleburg and pick up before we go to Florida. We still might keep him here and crank him back up because he's doing so well again. We'll decide on that."

Klickitat: Shortleaf purchased the son of First Samurai at Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred Sale in 2017. "He's in Friday (finished fifth). He ran earlier in the meet and got beat a head, he ran every direction but straight. He broke from a bad post and ended up between horses and got sulky and dropped back, but then Junior (Alvarado) got him back going again and he just missed."

Preservationist: Aptly named, Centennial has preserved the son of Arch through five wins and probably as many layoffs. The 6-year-old won the Grade 2 Suburban at Belmont Park in July before fading to fourth in the Whitney earlier this meet. He's aiming at the Woodward next weekend. "That was a big thrill for him to win the Suburban. I didn't agree with Junior's tactics last time, he took a shot, he rode to beat one horse (McKinzie) but that never seems to work. Breaking from the outside and getting the lead, they don't settle after that. When he won the Suburban, he fell out of the gate in front and let the other horse have the lead, there was a lot more rhythm to that race. He got a little upset before the race, he will get hot, but there's so many more people, it just worked him up a little bit. He probably wasn't at his very best."

Ethos: A rare 2-year-old sales horse for Centennial, the son of Ghostzapper graduated from the Fasig-Tipton Florida Select 2-year-old sale. The gray colt will catch your eye walking the stable area. "He's out of a daughter of Meghan's Joy, Happy Now. He was racy from being at the sale so he went to the farm. They said he lost a little bit of conditioning but he got it back and when he was getting his act together he came up to us here. He's up to a half-mile."

Green Light Go: The big horse. Stronach's 2-year-old colt is 2-for-2 with a win in The Saratoga Special. Perhaps, his groom Junior McFarlane said it best, "He is everything. Trust me." As for Jerkens, "We were going to skip the Hopeful, but I don't know. It seems like a long time to sit on a horse and wait for the Champagne. The Hopeful is a Grade 1 again. We'll probably run him in the Hopeful rather than the Champagne.

Continued On Page 9

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

He was impressive in a quiet way, you weren't expecting it, he showed a lot more lick in his works than we thought he would, being by Hard Spun and he looks a little clunky, but he's anything but. He's got the real strong gaskin, he's got great leverage."

Magic Mojo: Centennial purchased the son of Uncle Mo at Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Select Sale. The 2-year-old colt has breezed four times here. "He shows pretty good ability. He got a little puncture wound in his ankle, we lost a little bit of time but he was starting to lighten up a little too quick so it was probably a blessing. He was getting a little racy. He's not OK'd from the gate, but it shouldn't take long."

Shelley Ann: Phil Birsh's homebred owned in partnership with Philip Levine stands across her stall and chews on a vertical board like she's working in a sawmill. "New York-bred filly who was running well, but her last race was bad in a stakes so we stopped with her and sent her home. She's doing really good now. She's a two-other than. (Wife) Shirley's been getting on her every day, she's doing a great job with her. And she's going to chew her way through to the next stall."

Meet Me In L A: Stronach homebred 3-year-old has a win from three starts and is the favorite in today's ninth race. "He's been a pleasant surprise. He had a lot of problems as a 2-year-old, they sent him to me in Florida. He was fourth first time out, ran really good, got into a lot of trouble. Then he was second to Highest Honors. Then he didn't run quite as good, he hung just slightly and got beat a neck but was rewarded the win, the horse came into him a little bit. He popped a little splint on the outside of the right cannon bone, it looked like it was bothering him a little bit, we settled that down."

Life On Top: Another Centennial 2-year-old purchase, the chestnut colt has breezed five times at the meet. "He's at the same stage as

Mojo and Centurion. He's by Carpe Diem. He looked a little softer than the other two when he got here, but he's starting to get some tone to him now. He's been a little slow learner at the gate but he's starting to get the hang of it."

Advanced Strategy: Gainesway Farm, who owned one of Jerkens' Travers winners, Afleet Express, sent the New York-bred son of Karakontie to Jerkens. "He's a hardy little guy, he's been a very slow learner at the gate. We broke him the other day and he broke really slow with a horse of Tony Dutrow's. We gal-

loped him out the other day, he almost ran the guy over, I would imagine the next time he breaks, he'll get his card."

Overland: A \$150,000 purchase at Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred sale, the son of Flatter has run three times, finishing fourth, third and second. "He was second off the turf. His mother was turf, we'll eventually try the turf, probably when we get home. He had a little reputation, Brad Cox used to have him, he would refuse to train. They sent him to Ocala, they got him going, he was fine for us, no problem, until after he ran. But we have him on the right track now. Seems like backing him up and turning him around doesn't work, you pretty much have to go straight off. He did pull himself up working by himself one day, but he will work in company."

Striking Beauty: Stronach-bred 2-year-old filly by Curlin finished fifth in her debut Sunday. "She didn't run too badly. She looked like she was making a little move and the dirt pounded her pretty good, she got a little discouraged. We like her. She's OK."

Four Ten: You can't look at this gelding without thinking about Jerkens' father, the Hall of Famer, The Chief. "This is a horse who has been a little bit of a disappointment. By Curlin out of a good mare my father had for Mr. Shields, Any Limit. The first time, he ran awful, never got involved, almost was eased. Then he ran a decent third going 7, to a horse who everybody thinks his good, then I stretched him out and he went way faster than he should have, stopped all over the place."

Lord Of The Nile: Stronach homebred by Pioneerof The Nile out of Lady Dyna, a daughter of Tapit, is readying for his debut. "He wasn't showing much at all on the dirt. He worked very well on the turf."

Gloriously: Daughter of Mucho Macho Man has run twice at the meet, finishing seventh in her debut and fourth behind highly-regarded Sharing in a maiden taken off the turf. "She disappointed a little bit. She looked like she was in business in the middle of the turn. The winner slipped inside her and took her out a little bit, she gave up the ghost after that. We might give her a go on the turf."





Farish, McGaughey, Velazquez team up on signature triumph

Shug McGaughey walked straight to his pole, the one that offers a view and an escape. Second row, back right corner of the finish-line box, on the edge of the steps. Will Farish and his family settled into the first row boxes. Alison McGaughey stood in a third-row box over her husband's right shoulder. The Fox TV crew, holding cameras and microphones, wedged into gaps, fans with beers and wine glasses filled in the steps, a waiter ran a ticket for a lunch order.

As Larry Collmus announced that the Travers field was at the gate, McGaughey turned and smiled, almost smirked, raising his eyebrows to his wife.

If looks had words, it was 'Well, this is it." After that McGaughey stood silently like he was being read his rights, shifting from the right side of the pole to the left side, that's it, for 2:01.05 of the Travers Stakes. McGaughey didn't utter a word, didn't pump his fist, didn't react as Alison screamed,



"Come on Code. Come on Code. Come on Code."
And, yeah, Code came on.

Code Of Honor and jockey John Velazquez rallied from ninth to win the \$1.25 million stakes by 3 lengths over favorite Tacitus and third-choice Mucho Gusto. As Code Of Honor streaked past McGaughey, the Hall of Famer turned away from

the pandemonium, walking down the back steps like he was heading home instead of the winner's circle. That direction offers a moment of solitude, a moment of reflection.

"That was fun to watch," McGaughey said. For all the reasons.

Continued On Page 11



Travers —

■ Continued from page 10

Code Of Honor, a horse Mc-Gaughey had believed in since breaking his maiden here last summer, gave the trainer his fourth Travers victory and first since Coronado's Quest in 1989.

Making his eighth career start, Code Of Honor earned his first Grade 1 victory. A victory that had confirmed McGaughey's confidence in the chestnut homebred who had never finished worse than fourth in his career but had never won the big one. Tantalizingly close in the past, Code Of Honor had arrived.

"That's the horse we always expected. That's him," McGaughey said, as he turned past the old binocular stand. "It looked to me at the three-eighths pole, he wasn't going anywhere but I knew he couldn't get in this race with a long, dueling run. He was going to have to do it and I think Johnny knew it too."

Oh, Johnny knew it.

Two days before the Travers, Velazquez was asked about a horse he had ridden in six of his seven starts, a horse that made the Hall of Fame jockey eschew any other options when the money was down, staying the course from a debut maiden win going 6 furlongs to a rough-and-tumble second via DQ in the Kentucky Derby to a Dwyer romp in July.

"The big horse. I love this horse, we've been very patient with him," Velazquez said before the Travers. "I loved him for the Derby. I've always loved him. That's why I'm still on him. He's got a really good chance brother."

After the Travers, Velazquez remembered that first conversation.

"I told you I loved this horse," Velazquez said. "It's very gratifying when you know you like your horse and he gives you everything he can. That's why I stick with him, man. I stick with him from way back. And, now, he's paid me back."

Code Of Honor broke professionally from stall 2 and Velazquez perched quietly, allowing Owendale to clear from his inside and Highest Honors, Tacitus and Laughing Fox to clear to his immediate outside. Farther outside, Mucho Gusto, Tax, Scars Are Cool and Looking At Bi-



Tod Mark

Trainer Shug McGaughey.

kinis, who recovered from a bobble, formed another forward cluster.

Favorite Tacitus, equipped with blinkers for the first time, won the pace chores by default, leading Mucho Gusto by a half-length after a quarter-mile in :23.11. Owendale, Highest Honors and Tax formed a line. Looking At Bikinis set up outside them. Everfast and Scars Are Cool filed in the next tier. Velazquez settled Code Of Honor along the rail around the first turn, clear of Chess Chief, Laughing Fox and Endorsed.

Jose Ortiz tapped the brakes on Tacitus and Joe Talamo let out the gas on Mucho Gusto to take over through a half-mile in :47.26. Jim Dandy winner Tax loped outside in third, in front of a five-horse cluster. Velazquez began to slide Code Of Honor outside, at least 10 lanes off the inside rail and enough to be ready for the passing lane when needed.

Continuing the hot-potato pace, Tacitus jumped back to the lead from the inside as the field rolled past the half-mile pole, opening up a half-length on Mucho Gusto. Tax traveled well in third while Highest Honors and Owendale began to feel the pinch. Scars Are Cool, Looking At Bikinis and Everfast were nothing but pylons in front of a swinging Code Of Honor while Endorse began to rev up from down town.

Passing the quarter pole, Tacitus and Mucho Gusto galloped away from Tax, Highest Honors and Owendale but that was it, they were just galloping, a daunting 2 furlongs still to go. While they were simply trying to keep peddling, Code Of Honor was rolling from the outside. Velazquez

Continued On Page 12



Travers —

■ Continued from page 11

flicked his unturned whip once, turned it over and smacked twice, and pulled down a pair of goggles as he reached even terms with Mucho Gusto and Tacitus. Even terms didn't last long as Code Of Honor poured it on with every stride, swapping to his left lead a few strides before the wire.

"He showed up," Velazquez said. "That's what we were expecting out of him. He broke good, he got a good position, I was very confident in the way he was doing things and he responded right away."

Just like McGaughey knew he would. Yes, knew.

McGaughey recognized something this week that doesn't always come around to a trainer who has engineered the best and endured the worst: Excitement.

Excitement at how Code Of Honor had developed since the Kentucky Derby, excitement about how he won the Dwyer, excitement about how he had trained into the Travers, especially a Monday morning drill that filled the final chamber for a long-sought target.

"When I see what I've been seeing. When I saw what I saw Monday morning, I was

excited. I'm sure I've been excited before but not that much. Not that much. I was really excited about today," McGaughey said. "My confidence, being older and being through this stuff is a lot more than maybe it was 30 years ago. When you were a kid and you thought all of them were supposed to win. You figure out that that's not the case. You've got to figure the horse, you've got to be able to understand that if something doesn't go right that maybe it will go right the next time."

Things hadn't gone right in four out of seven previous starts for Code Of Honor. Sure, there was the impressive debut win, the breakout win in the Fountain of Youth and the facile score in the Dwyer.

But in between, well, there were blips. Second behind Complexity in the Champagne, scratched with a fever before the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, a dull fourth in the Mucho Macho Man, a third behind runaway Maximum Security in the Florida Derby and a third, moved up to second, in the Derby.

Sometimes blips can be blessings.

"That's what I told Mr. Farish," Mc-Gaughey said. "We've had a couple of bumps in the road but we might not have been here without them. And I want to be here"

Code Of Honor made sure of it.



Tod Marks

Assistant trainer Robbie Medina (left) greets owner/breeder Will Farish after the Travers.



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Striking 12

Midnight Bisou catches Elate in last stride of Gr. 1

BY JOE CLANCY

Seated in a corner box in the back row next to the steps in the Saratoga Race Course clubhouse, Jeff Bloom was just another guy at the races as the horses loaded into the gate for the Personal Ensign Stakes Saturday. Composed and comfortable in a blue suit, he held binoculars and a program and waited for the race to start. Only a camera crew one box over hinted at something big.

Then the race happened. Bloom's Midnight Bisou hooked up with Elate in the stretch of the \$700,000 Grade 1 and they traded punches like two old-school hockey players with a grudge to settle. Midnight Bisou threw a haymaker. Elate shook it off and landed a right cross. Midnight Bisou reached back. Elate did not duck.

Upstairs, Bloom's composure was gone like Saratoga hu-Continued On Page 16



Tod Marks

Midnight Bisou (left) and Elate battle to the finish of the Personal Ensign.



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Three Year Olds / One Mile and One Half (Turf)





Personal Ensign —

■ Continued from page 14

midity. He stepped out of the box to the aisle, slapped the rolled program into his left hand at the top of the stretch . . . took a couple steps to his left, then a few to his right, went back to the program - slap - at the eighth pole . . . then three more times . . . slap, slap, slap . . . and finished with a leaning, twisting grimace of uncertainty.

"Is it us? Is it us?" he asked himself, nobody, anybody.

Like everyone at Saratoga for a blockbuster Travers Day card, Bloom couldn't tell who won. Not for sure.

"I dunno," he said. "I dunno. I dunno."

When the slow-motion replay came up on the infield screen, he rooted for his horse as if he might help her get to the finish line first.

"Come on mama, come on," he said with another lean, another grimace.

Bloom and most of the other participants were out on the track by the time the photo-finish result came. Midnight Bisou ran her record to 6-for-6 this year with wins in the Houston Ladies Classic, Azeri, Apple Blossom, Ogden Phipps, Molly Pitcher and now Personal Ensign in a campaign that began in January. The streak might guarantee an Eclipse Award as champion older female, not that details like that mattered much Saturday.

"It's a dream ride she's taken us on," said Bloom. "I've been around a lot of good horses, but there's something so unique and special about this filly, just her personality, her demeanor, her ability to just take care of herself, her will to win. At the end of the day, if they don't have that will to win they're not going to win these kinds of races."

Not even close.

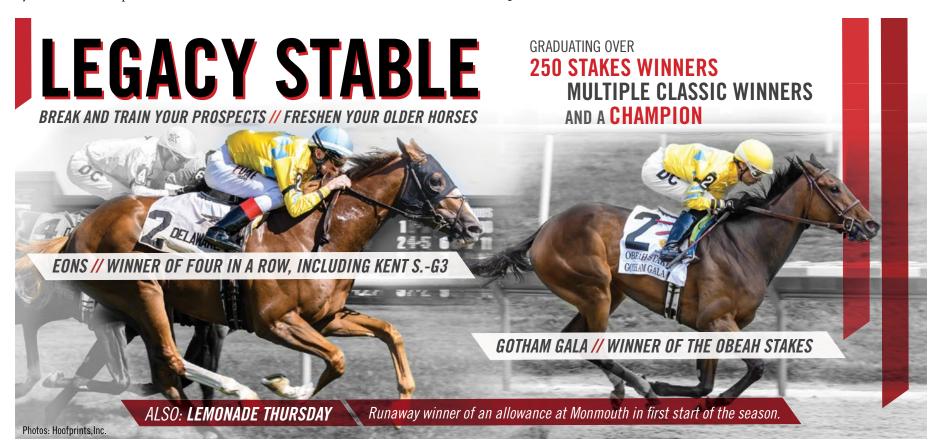
From the inside post in a field of six, 8-5 second choice Midnight Bisou and Mike Smith broke a step behind the others and let them go into the first turn. Coach Rocks made the lead, followed by She's A Julie and 4-5 favorite Elate third to the outside. Golden Award and Wow Cat raced together in fourth and fifth, with Midnight

Continued On Page 18



Tod Marks

Midnight Bisou leaves the winner's circle after her sixth win of 2019.



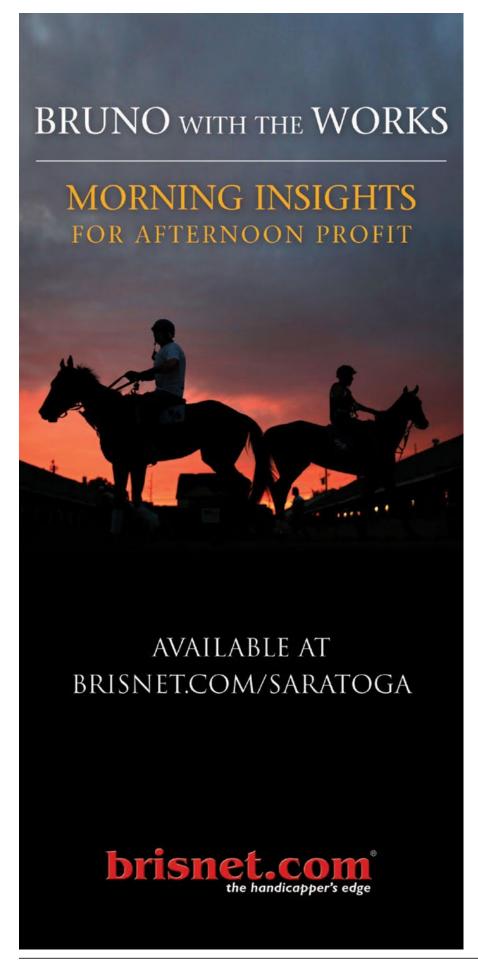
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Personal Ensign —

■ Continued from page 16

Bisou still last but off the rail and in touch after a first quarter-mile in :23.46. The order didn't change as the half-mile went up in :47.88, though Midnight Bisou was soon on the move three wide. Elate advanced to second after three-quarters in 1:11.58. Wow Cat tried to keep pace, but came up empty. Fourth with work to do, Midnight Bisou revved up.

With a glance through his legs for competition, Jose Ortiz let Elate roll off the turn as Midnight Bisou swept wide past Coach Rocks into second. Elate, beaten a neck in last year's Personal Ensign while trying to catch Abel Tasman, lengthened stride and got a few yards on Midnight Bisou, who responded to Smith and matched the move. She drew even – finally – inside the sixteenth pole and they finished seven synchronized strides.

Bloom saw the match-up develop. So did Steve Asmussen.

"When I saw them coming around the turn, I thought 'All right, the fans are going to get what they thought they were going to get,' " said the owner. "I just really wanted to end up on the right side of that equation . . . Our filly showed them what she's made of. What a great matchup between those two. It's great for the game and it ended up in a good way for us."

"I love to watch races, especially like this, up the stretch and they both came into the stretch with a lot of horse," said the trainer, who typically watches from up the stretch near the eighth pole. "You could tell how con-

fident Jose was when he came into the stretch and Mike is Mike, you knew it was going to lock up and it was so exciting from there."

Midnight Bisou collected her first win at 1 1/8 miles (in 1:47.92) and pushed her career earnings to \$3,245,000 while winning for the 11th time in 17 starts. Behind the top two came the Asmussen-trained She's A Julie, 8 3/4 lengths back in third.

Bred in Kentucky by Woodford Thoroughbreds, Midnight Bisou failed to sell as a yearling at Keeneland September in 2016. Bloom spent \$80,000 to buy the daughter of Midnight Lute and the Repent mare Diva Delite at the OBS April 2-year-old sale in 2017. Trained by Bill Spawr, she finished second in two starts for Bloom and Allen Racing that year and opened 2018 with three graded wins. Third in the Kentucky Oaks, she moved to Asmussen's care - and added Madaket Stable to the ownership grouping - and won the Mother Goose. She capped last year with a third in the Alabama here, a win via disqualification in the Cotillion and a third in the Breeders' Cup Distaff.

She's done nothing but win in 2019, and Smith notices a difference in more than the results.

"She's stronger than last year, a little more to her, I don't know if she grew up height wise but she's filled out in her neck," said the jockey. "Last year, she struggled over this track a lot. Last year, she bobbled and I like to lost the reins a couple times. She just couldn't get over it for whatever reason, well she couldn't get over it like she did today. She's about 75 to 100 pounds more mare than she was last year."

She needed to be.

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Winning Comeback

Annals Of Time completes recovery with Gr. 1 triumph

BY TOM LAW

Nick de Meric and the teams at his Eclipse Training Center and the adjacent Manuden Farm in Ocala, Fla. know Annals Of Time well. How well? Just about every inch of the 6-year-old son of Temple City thanks to three trips for multiple months – and in the latest case nearly two years – at a time.

De Meric, who buys, preps and rehabs many of Seth Klarman's Klaravich Stables runners, calls Annals Of Time a "very cool horse." The riders who



Tod Marks

Annals Of Time (left) and Sadler's Joy head for home in the stretch of the Sword Dancer.

worked with the horse during his breaking and training in late 2014 and early 2015, during a rehab stint in 2016 and for a 22-month stretch from the fall of 2017 to this spring go even further.

"A rider will tell you that he's just pure class to ride," de Meric said by phone early Saturday night, a few hours after watching Annals Of Time win the \$850,000 Sword Dancer Invitational by a neck

over Sadler's Joy in one of six stakes on the Travers Day undercard. "When he's breezing you can rate him and make him go the exact speed you want him to go. Without any kind of hard urging, he'll do it. He's just pushbutton. The riders love to ride him and the jocks say the same."

Javier Castellano rode Saturday for trainer Chad

Continued On Page 21

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Sword Dancer —

■ Continued from page 20

Brown, guiding Annals Of Time to the second Grade 1 win of the horse's career after the first in the Hollywood Derby at Del Mar in December 2016.

Castellano kept Annals Of Time on the inside for the early portion of the 1 1/2-mile Sword Dancer, content to ride the hedge while his stablemate Ya Primo and Channel Maker sparred on the lead just ahead of outsider Tiz Morning and Bowling Green winner Channel Cat. Annals Of Time only had Pillar Mountain and Proven Reserves, another stablemate and the expected pacesetter who never got close to the front after a poor break, through the opening mile.

Annals Of Time came wide around the far turn the final time, racing at least five paths off the fence and collared Sadler's Joy just in time to win by a neck. Channel Cat finished 2 lengths back in third with Channel Maker fourth. Annals Of Time won in 2:27.50 to improve to 5-for-8 and boost his earnings to \$860,300.

Watching the race on his computer, de Meric clicked back and forth between TVG and NYRA Live to catch other Klaravich runners compete Saturday like first-race winner Frontier Market and Grade 1 Ballerina Stakes fourth Separationofpowers. They all spent time in de Meric's program, but nothing like Annals Of Time's most recent stay.

He went to the sidelines after his Hollywood Derby victory, going to de Meric for a second round of rehab that started that winter and stretched into the spring of 2017. He went back to Brown's barn at Belmont Park in the summer of 2017, finished the serious training for his comeback there and won a 1-mile turf optional claimer in good enough order for his trainer to think big things.

"He did have an injury, he was breezing up to the Breeders' Cup at Del Mar, thinking the Breeders' Cup Mile," de Meric said. "Chad said he was working brilliantly and in his final work he came up with a ligament



Tod Marks Annals Of Time leaves the winner's circle.

injury in a forelimb, particularly his left forelimb, his XYZ ligaments. Those things can be a booger and if you try to cut corners or take too little time they'll never go away."

Klarman and Bill Lawrence, who bought Annals Of Time for \$80,000 through de Meric at the 2014 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale, didn't cut corners and gave the then 4-year-old all the time need-

The rehab stay stretched 22 months and featured a myriad of techniques to bring him back.

"I'd say my assistant Sandy Scott spent an enormous amount of time with this guy," de Meric said. "He was a personal project of hers. I'd say everybody involved had a hand in his rehab. He spent a lot of time on a TheraPlate, a lot of time hand walking and a lot of time with routine legwork and TLC. My crew can take a ton of credit for it. And I would be remiss not to say we have a wonderful owner who is so good to allow us the time we needed to rehabilitate the horse properly."

Annals Of Time returned to Brown's string in late winter at Payson Park fairly far along, up to 3-furlong breezes and with a gate work under his belt at Eclipse Training Center. Brown breezed him three times at Payson, four times at Monmouth I'm just so grateful to have him back Park and three times at Belmont - all on the dirt - before his comeback race the day before the Belmont Stakes.

Annals Of Time finished second going 1 mile that day, three-quarters of a length behind multiple stakes winner Gidu and 1 1/2 lengths ahead of 2018 Louisiana Derby winner Noble Indy. He ran in the same condition at Saratoga July 24, stretched out to 1 3/16 miles and won by 4 1/2.

Pleased with the horse's uninterrupted training schedule and brief 6-year-old campaign, Brown targeted the Sword Dancer and breezed the horse twice on the Oklahoma Training Track's turf course to sharpen the blade. He went to the post as the 5-2 favorite for the Sword Dancer despite facing the 1-2 finishers from the Grade 2 Bowling Green in Channel Cat and Ya Primo, 2017 winner and multiple graded stakes winner Sadler's Joy and multiple Grade 1 winner Channel Maker.

"Nick de Meric . . . he and his team sent him back to us now as a 6-yearold in fine shape," Brown said. "He's back to his old form, which he won the Hollywood Derby when he was a 3-year-old. He's probably better now. healthy."

Annals Of Time's victory, worth \$450,000, also earned an all-expenses paid berth to the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Turf at Santa Anita Park Nov. 2 as part of the Win And You're In Challenge Series.

Klaravich also owns another possible contender for that race in Bricks And Mortar, another multiple Grade 1 winner who spent significant time recovering from an injury in rehab from the fall of 2017 into a significant stretch of 2018. He didn't spend that time with de Meric. Annals Of Time did and de Meric hopes he doesn't re-

"Not many owners would be that patient," de Meric said of Klarman. 'We were swimming him and hand walking him a lot, just spending a lot of time with him. Those kinds of injuries if you try to come back too quick they'll nag at you for life. We decided to take the conservative route, I did a lot of therapy with him, a lot of slow work and it seems to be paying off. Fingers crossed that he bounces out of this one OK and hopefully he can make it to the next one."

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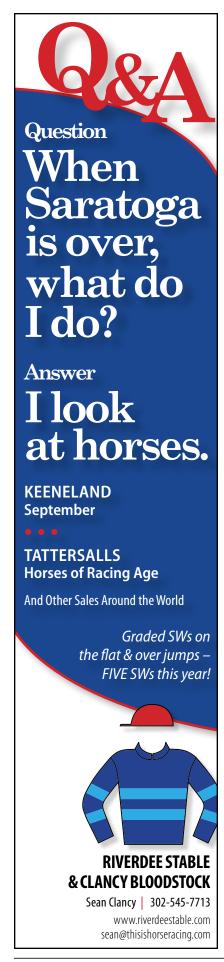
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Tod Marks

Mind Control (left) catches favorite (right) Shancelot near the end of the Allen Jerkens Stakes.

Brain Wave

Mind Control upsets Grade 1 sprint for Sacco barn

BY BRANDON VALVO

Steve Brunetti spent most of his time at the track at Hialeah Park, understandable since the South Florida course has been in his family for more than four decades. He still managed frequent trips to Saratoga growing up, giving the place a special spot in Brunetti's heart. He avoided the commotion of big days like the Travers.

"I didn't do a lot of Travers, I always tried to stay away from the busy days," Brunetti said. "I would always try to come up maybe for the Alabama or something like that. I would come up with my friends just to have a good time, but we didn't necessarily come for the big days, just to get away and hang out with my buddies."

Brunetti's visits to Saratoga started him dreaming. He wished to compete in stakes at the historic venue, and if lucky, to win one.

Now he seeks out the big days as a breeder and the owner at Red Oak Stable. Brunetti, co-owner Madaket Stable and trainer Greg Sacco brought Mind Control to Saratoga on Travers Day to compete in the H. Allen Jerkens. Brunetti found himself in the winner's circle after the \$500,000 stakes.

H. ALLEN JERKENS STAKES RECAP

"It was always my dream to do it," Brunetti said. "I didn't know if I was ever going to be good enough and you have to be lucky. You keep working hard, we've put together a great program, and we're reaping the rewards right now.

"I've probably come to Saratoga and had more great days here than anywhere. It's very fun to be up here. It's the greatest racing in the country and I couldn't be more glad to be here with my family and to win a race like this on a day like this with a homebred. Especially because I breed the horses myself. It's surreal."

Mind Control's path to the Allen Jerkens began when Brunetti bought Ubetwereven, a French Deputy daughter out of the Private Account mare Raysor Lake. Although she never raced, Ubetwereven produced Feel That Fire when Brunetti crossed her with stallion Lightnin N Thunder.

Brunetti and Sacco campaigned Feel That Fire to three victories in eight starts, including the Blue Sparkler Stakes

Continued On Page 23

Jerkens —

■ Continued from page 22

at Monmouth Park in 2011. Although Feel That Fire had talent, she lacked durability, so Brunetti retired her to his broodmare band, which is now about 10-strong. Mind Control, by 2011 Travers winner Stay Thirsty, is Feel That Fire's fourth foal.

"I do a lot of things with biomechanics. I have my own little strategy that I do in breeding," Brunetti said. "I just got lucky. That's how you have to be in horse racing. Knock on wood, I did it.

"(Feel That Fire) was very honest. She had a couple knee issues. She was a runner and she throws runners. She had the exact same head (as Mind Control), just he has a little white on him. You can see her foals in the field, you're like, that's a Feel That Fire. There's 10 others and you know hers. It would be dark chocolate. There's no chestnuts. There's no blaze. They all look like her."

Like his dam, Mind Control went to Sacco.

The colt won by 3 lengths in his second start at Monmouth Aug. 12, 2018, after which Sol Kumin's Madaket bought in. Mind Control made his first trip to Saratoga next and won the Grade 1 Hopeful.

Mind Control was seventh in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, but rebounded in his 3-year-old debut to take the Jerome and ignite Kentucky Derby



od Marks

Winning trainer Greg Sacco.

dreams. Mind Control finished second in the Grade 3 Gotham, his connections sensed distance limitations and turned back for a win in the Grade 3 Bay Shore going 7 furlongs April 6.

"He's just become bigger and stronger," Brunetti said. "He hasn't become much taller, which is one of the reasons we kept him one turn. He's a powerful horse, not real tall, but he's strong and he's put together right and he just seems like he loves that 7 furlongs to a mile distance."

Although Mind Control entered the Allen Jerkens off an eighth in the Grade 1 Woody Stephens on Belmont Day and a third as the beaten favorite in the listed Concern Stakes at Laurel July 14, Brunetti felt confident after seeing the colt train at Monmouth. He worked four times between the Concern and the Jerkens, including a bullet 5 furlongs in :59.80 Aug. 17.

"I spent the entire summer in New Jersey, so I watched Mind Control train. I saw his last two races where he got beat," Brunetti said. "Coming into this race, for some reason, he was training better, he was looking better. I don't know if he just peaks in August or September like he did last year, but he just looked so good and Greg was as confident as he could have been. He said, 'Steve, he's really going to run awesome.'

"Just the way his coat was, his intensity, his energy level. He was blossoming. His weight, his coat, everything about him. He came into this perfect."

Mind Control stalked in third, 2 lengths behind a :23.15 quarter run by 1-5 favorite Shancelot, who entered the Jerkens off a 12 1/2-length romp in the Grade 2 Amsterdam here July 28. Mind Control lost ground entering the far turn as Shancelot and pressing Call Paul picked up the pace.

Hall of Fame rider John Velazquez smacked Mind Control's shoulder and shook up the reins at the midway point of the turn. As Rowayton advanced to his outside and The Big S to his inside, Mind Control accelerated, drawing within 3 lengths as the favorite sped through a :45.58 half-mile.

Although Shancelot shrugged off Call Paul and kicked away to a 2 1/2-length lead in midstretch, he showed signs of weakness as



Tod Marks

Mind Control heads back to the barn with a Grade 1 win.

Emisael Jaramillo put him to a drive. Velazquez went left-handed and convinced Mind Control to run through a narrow opening between Call Paul and Rowayton.

Shancelot tired while Mind Control, Rowayton and Hog Creek Hustle took aim. Mind Control won by a nose over Hog Creek Hustle and Shancelot, completing the 7-furlong stakes in 1:21.43.

"I knew we were in a perfect spot when the running started," Sacco said. "I wanted to see if we were good enough. He showed true grit in the stretch. Horses inside, outside. It was just amazing, amazing.

"I wasn't sure (if we won). I was praying, I was praying."

Sacco took one phone call in the winner's circle after Mind Control's win, accepting congratulations from his mother who watched from Florida.

"That was pretty exciting. They were watching on TVG," Sacco said.

"Everybody, everyone in my family is watching. My phone is blowing up."

Sacco has started 5,458 horses since 1989 and has 702 victories. Two are Grade 1s – Mind Control's pair at Saratoga. Now 5-for-10 after his 10-1 upset in the Jerkens, Mind Control is the richest horse Sacco has trained with earnings of \$805,000.

"That was remarkable. To come back and win another Grade 1 is really special," Sacco said. "Some horses don't improve from 2 to 3, but he has. It was special for myself, the Brunetti family, Sol Kumin. Unbelievable day for everybody.

"It's a special place, Saratoga. New York racing is the crème de la crème and we're just fortunate and blessed to have Mind Control and very fortunate to win this. I'm just happy. I've got a great staff that works for me. They prepared Mind Control terrific. It was a team effort and we're really just fortunate and blessed."

Dancing Queen

Come Dancing waltzes in Gr. 1

BY BEN GOWANS

Marc Holliday gathered his family and friends in the Saratoga Room and gave a toast to Grade 1 Ballerina winner Come Dancing and trainer Carlos Martin, putting into words what the moment meant to the New York City real estate investor.

A moment filled with elation, and emotion.

"One month ago, my father passed away. This win is dedicated to him," Holliday said after the toast. "He got me into this business. He owned Standardbreds back in the 70s and 80s and raced on the New York circuit and at the Meadowlands. Back in the day there would be 25- or 30,000 people on Saturday night and I wouldn't miss a race. The most exciting thing in the world to me was to be there for those races in the winner's circle with

BALLERINA STAKES RECAP

him. It wasn't only the excitement of racing but that bond we had that was all about horses."

A fan of racing from the start after experiencing it with his father Morton, Holliday started Blue Devil Racing in 2007.

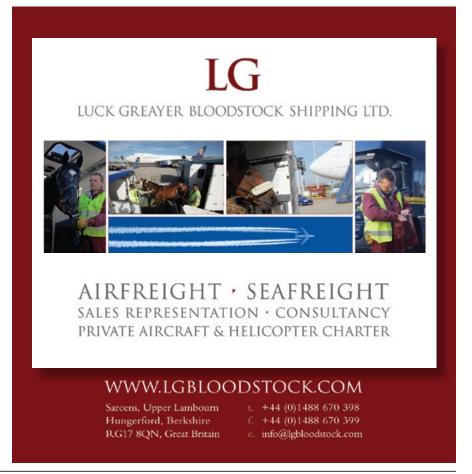
"When I got to a point in life where I was able to get into the business myself with my partner James O'Reilly, I did it. In part, I did it for my love of racing but in part I did it for my father," he said. "From that time forward, he was an avid supporter, nothing made him happier than watching this horse race. I was comforted knowing he was watching down on this race today. "

Continued On Page 25



Come Dancing charges home in the Ballerina.





Ballerina —

■ Continued from page 24

Watching down on Blue Devil's homebred Come Dancing win the \$500,000 Ballerina and earn a spot in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint.

"That was fun. Nothing before, maybe nothing ever going forward could equal what she just accomplished," Holliday said as he departed the winner's circle with Come Dancing's saddlecloth and a Breeders' Cup hat. "I got this hat and I'm looking forward to that, but for me as a New Yorker and a lifetime fan of NYRA racetracks, winning a Grade 1 here in Saratoga doesn't get better."

The Grade 1 victory was Blue Devil Racing's first. Holliday was joined by wife Sheree, daughter Danielle and many other family members in the winner's circle. Come Dancing's owners always thought she was capable of achieving horse racing's pinnacle.

"I looked back recently at all of the notes I got from the farm and my notes from seeing her," Holliday said. "It was always the same; big, gorgeous filly with a lot of leg and a lot of hip. She looked then like she looks now. A tremendous physical specimen who just had to overcome a couple of conformational flaws to express her greatness."

Those flaws are quite possibly what led to the filly fracturing her pastern after a debut win in November of her 2-year-old year.

"As a young horse, she had some challenges and setbacks. She's a little bit off on the front right conformationally," Holliday said. "We always had to be very patient with how we brought her along. She had a pretty significant injury at 2. We had to give her over a year off. If we give her the spacing

between races, she rises to the occasion like you saw today."

Come Dancing's win in the Grade 3 Distaff at Aqueduct in April was trainer Carlos Martin's first graded stakes score since 2003. The Ballerina was the trainer's second Grade 1. He won the Grade 1 Top Flight with Buy The Firm in 1991.



Carlos Martin.

Holliday's nephew Andrew Wolff interned with Dr. Michael Galvin eight years ago and worked with Martin's horses. He introduced his uncle to the trainer.

"I'm just excited. Happy for everyone, Mark, Danielle, Sheree, all of the Holliday family," Martin said. "They have all supported me so much after my main client Mr. Lizza passed away. Eight years ago they gave me horses and it helped me so much. So, to win a big race in Saratoga for them, it's special because they have meant a lot to me."

Come Dancing broke a step slowly in the Ballerina and was relegated to last after rival Special Relativity came out and bumped the eventual winner. Last, not



Tod Marks

Come Dancing leads the field late in the Ballerina.

her usual position in front. Javier Castellano, riding the filly for the first time, immediately guided her to race outside of the four others in the field.

"She had not done that. She did it a little when she got her head sideways in the Ruffian and then last time she broke really fast," Martin said. "Today, I thought she broke with the field but Special Relativity came over on her really quickly and knocked her off stride. Javier said the way it turned out, with him being able to watch the pace develop, maybe it was a blessing."

Second choice Separationofpowers and third choice Mia Mischief were not going nearly fast enough for Come Dancing to remain in last. Just before the opening quarter mile was posted in :23.31, Come Dancing pulled at Castellano. He pulled back but allowed the 5-year-old mare to join the leaders, leaving the second flight of Dawn The Destroyer and Special Relativity behind.

Come Dancing settled into rhythm after that while perched outside of the two fillies pegged as her main competition in the betting. Separationof-powers had enough before the field turned for home and Mia Mischief assumed command just before Come Dancing said goodbye.

Castellano asked his mount to do away with her foes and she responded. Come Dancing drifted down to the rail through the stretch and won the Ballerina by 3 1/2 lengths in a final time of 1:21.48 for the 7 furlongs.

On horseback just outside the winner's circle, Juan "Bam Bam" Galvez was proud of Come

Dancing's accomplishment. The pony rider showed it, saying "my filly" as the Ballerina winner exited the winner's circle.

"Bam Bam has spent every day with her for the last three years. He's gotten her to settle," Martin said. "He and the pony have been her companion. She's just gotten into that routine where she knows her job and little by little mentally she's gotten more relaxed.

"She just has always done things so easily. Big, beautiful filly, you can't even tell she's running. She'll go :47, :46 and you think she's not even breezing. She's just a special horse."

Second to Personal Ensign winner Midnight Bisou last out in the Grade 1 Ogden Phipps June 8, Come Dancing won her seventh race in 12 starts, upping her career earnings to \$881,700. A career that started in November 2016 but didn't resume until December 2017.

"She's had issues but she's been sound for the last few years, just circumstance is why she hasn't run more. Nothing major," Martin said. "She thrived here last year when she won, she thrived here this year. When she's right, she thrives anywhere but Saratoga doesn't seem to hurt, that's for sure.

"We had that setback as a 2-year-old where she fractured her pastern. It's been a bumpy road but thank God we have some owners that are patient and that all made the difference. Every time she had a hiccup, Mark and James would say give her time, give her more time, more time. As a 5-year-old, we're seeing all of this pay off."

Speed Zone

Mitole bounces back to form with stakes-record in Grade 1

BY PAUL HALLORAN

Bill Heiligbrodt didn't consider Mitole's convincing win in Saturday's Grade 1 Forego Stakes vindication. He instead chose time after Mitole's win in the first of seven stakes on Travers Day to explain everything that went wrong in his last start when third behind the record-setting Imperial Hint in the Grade 1 Alfred G. Vanderbilt.

His wife Corrine, however, was a different story.

"That put away all the doubters," she said of the Forego triumph.

No matter how one looks at it, Mitole bounced back big from the Vanderbilt defeat, cruising to a 3-length win over Firenze Fire and logging his ninth win in 13 starts while setting a

FOREGO STAKES RECAP

stakes record 1:20.80 for the 7 furlongs. The \$320,000 winner's share made Mitole a \$2 million earner (\$2,004,910).

"Lady Tak owns the stakes record in the Ballerina and the Test and I wanted to beat that," Bill Heiligbrodt said of his 4-year-old son of Eskendereya. "His time did it. This is the fastest horse I've ever had."

Breaking from the rail in the Vanderbilt, Mitole hit the gate at the start and was forced to rush into fast early splits. He wound up with little left for the stretch drive and was picked up for second by Diamond Oops while Imperial Hint ran off by 4 lengths.

Continued On Page 27



Tod Marks

Mitole streaks home in the Grade 1 Forego.





Forego —

■ Continued from page 26

"We were at a disadvantage with the weight (125 pounds to Imperial Hint's 123)," Heiligbrodt said. "He had the 1-hole and it rained two days before the race and the inside was 4 inches deep. He hit the side of the gate on the way out, he had to hurry and they went five-eighths in (:55.82). He just didn't make it."

There was also the issue of Imperial Hint running a race for the ages.

"It was an incredible performance by the winner, give him credit," Mitole's trainer Steve Asmussen said of Imperial Hint. "Today was an 'A' race for Mitole. He's got elite ability."

That was on display Saturday as jockey Ricardo Santana Jr. put Mitole just off a moderate :23.05 pace set by Promises Fulfilled, took the lead turning for home and ensured that those who bet him down to 4-5 could get a head start to the windows. Firenze Fire outlasted Killybegs Captain for second, while Promises Fulfilled faded to last.

"He put himself in the position he wanted to be in," said Santana, who has ridden Mitole in his last 11 races. "He's a really nice horse and he does everything right."

"He was in the middle of the track and he got out of the gate," Heiligbrodt said. "The other horse (Promises Fulfilled) tried to go with him and that killed him. Santana said when he hit the turn he just let him run. He had so much horse. He's a great horse; there won't be many like him."

Asmussen attributed the perfect trip to Mitole's tactical speed and overall ability.

"Fast horses put themselves where they want to be," he said. "You don't have to do more than they make you."

Mitole, a \$140,000 purchase at the 2017 OBS April 2-year-olds in training sale who heads to stud next year at Spendthrift Farm, was the one in charge of the Forego. Just like two races back when he won another salty version of the Grade 1 Met Mile at Belmont Park. Heiligbrodt thinks that race played a role in the Vanderbilt loss and Forego success.

"He was coming off a tough Met Mile going back to 6 furlongs (in the Vanderbilt)," Heiligbrodt said. "That really helped him today."

With the Met Mile being a Win and You're In for the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile, Mitole's connections have a decision to make: that race or the Breeders' Cup Sprint.

"I'll talk to Steve and we'll see," Heiligbrodt said. "I don't think this horse has distance limitations. He ran so well (at a mile)."

Heiligbrodt, who is from Houston, liquidated his mostly broodmare stock in 2010 and has gotten back in the game in recent years with about 15 horses in training.

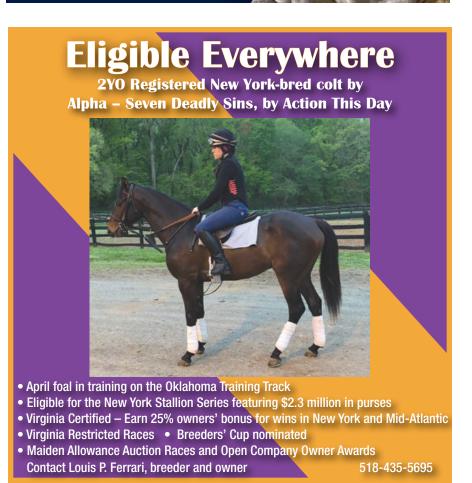
"We like fast horses," he said. "They're not all as fast as this one."



Tod Marks

Corinne and Bill Heiligbrodt (right) lead in Mitole, along with assistant Scott Blasi (center).





Better Spot

Significant Form wins in return to longer trip

Leaving the winner's circle and heading back to the paddock after the Ballston Spa Stakes Saturday at Saratoga Race Course, Peter Brant received a congratulatory shout from D. Wayne Lukas in the box seats.

"The right one won," Brant yelled back to a smiling Lukas.

Brant was not talking about his charge Fifty Five, but rather Significant Form, his wife Stephanie Seymour Brant's filly who came out on top of a

Continued On Page 29



Tod Marks

Significant Form (4) takes down the Ballston Spa Stakes.



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Ballston **S**pa —

■ Continued from page 28

close finish in the \$400,000 stakes on the grass. The 4-year-old filly won the Ballston Spa by a neck, with the first five finishers all within three-quarters of a length.

"Chad (Brown) and I decided to put her in this race," Seymour Brant said. "It seemed like a perfect spot. She loves the track here and it was the perfect distance (1 1/16 miles). It was a perfect race for her."

It was a great plan until ...

"A few days later, Peter said he wanted to put Fifty Five in," she said. "I said, 'go ahead. We'll root for each other.'

Brown scratched Fifty Five out of Friday's \$150,000 Yaddo Stakes for New York-breds in favor of the Ballston Spa, and she ended up going off as the 7-2 third choice and finishing fourth.

The Ballston Spa marked the third start of the year for Significant Form, who opened the campaign with a win in the Grade 3 Intercontinental at Belmont Park June 6 before finishing off the board in the Caress, a turf sprint here July 21.

"I screwed up by running her 5 1/2 furlongs," Brown said. "That was poor judgement on my part. Peter and Stephanie really wanted to go in this race. I didn't have her scheduled to run. I'm glad we put her in."

One of three Brown trainees in the race, along with Fifty Five and the French import Mascha, who went off as the 5-2 favorite and finished last, Significant Form was never far from the lead. She raced third down the backstretch after saving ground on the clubhouse turn. John Velazquez had her second on the stretch turn and asked her to go at just the right time, taking the lead late and winning the photo with two horses on her inside and two on her outside. Indian Blessing finished second, a neck in front of Starship Jubilee and Fifty Five with Conquest Hardcandy fifth.

said Velazquez, who picked up the mount when Irad Ortiz Ir. opted to stay on Mascha.

"I didn't want to make a premature move. It worked out good," said Velazquez, who won the Grade 1 Travers aboard Code Of Honor and the Grade 1 H. Allen Jerkens on Mind Control.

The Ballston Spa was officially the first Saratoga win for Significant Form, a \$575,000 purchase at the 2017 OBS April 2-year-old sale who was disqualified from a maiden score in her debut on the day after the 2017 Travers. She went on to win the Miss Grillo and finished fourth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf at Del Mar.

After going 0-3 in graded stakes last year, Brown gave her the winter

"There were no physical issues, she just needed some time off," he said.

Significant Form ran like a fresh horse Saturday in bringing her career earnings to \$694,865.

"She had great position the whole way," Seymour Brant said. "He held her back just enough and made his move at just the right time. My heart is beating out of my chest."

And her husband was never happier to earn a fourth-place check.



"We had a perfect trip," Stephanie Seymour Brant leads in Significant Form.



2019 Fall Meet **Stakes Schedule**

OCTOBER 27 - DECEMBER 1

STARS OF TOMORROW I

*STREET SENSE OVERNIGHT STAKES

*RAGS TO RICHES OVERNIGHT STAKES

Runs Sun., Oct. 27 \$120,000 Two Year Olds

Closes Oct. 19 (no nomination fee)

\$120,000 Fillies, Two Years Old

(no nomination fee) 1 Mile

*DREAM SUPREME OVERNIGHT STAKES

Runs Fri., Nov. 1 Closes Oct. 26 \$120,000 (no nomination fee) Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up 6 Furlongs

CHILUKKI (GIII)

Runs Sat., Nov. 2 Closes Oct. 19 \$200,000 (\$200 nomination fee) Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up

*BET ON SUNSHINE OVERNIGHT STAKES

Runs Sat Nov 2 Closes Oct 26 \$120,000 (no nomination fee) Three Years Old & Up 6 Furlongs

COMMONWEALTH TURF (GIII)

Runs Sat., Nov. 9 Closes Oct. 26 \$125,000 Three Year Olds 1 1/16 Miles Turf

RIVER CITY (GIII)

Runs Sat., Nov. 16 (\$125 nomination fee) 1 1/8 Miles Turf \$125,000 Three Year Olds & Up

CARDINAL (GIII)

Runs Thurs., Nov. 28 Closes Nov. 16 \$125,000 (\$125 nomination fee) Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up

FALLS CITY (GII)

Runs Thurs., Nov. 28 Closes Nov. 16 (\$250 nomination fee) Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up 1 1/8 Mile

MRS. REVERE (GII)

Runs Fri., Nov. 29 Closes Nov. 16 \$300,000 (\$300 nomination fee) 1 1/16 Miles Turf Fillies. Three Years Old

CLARK (GI)

presented by Norton Healthcare

Runs Fri., Nov. 29 Three Year Olds & Up Closes Nov. 16 (\$300 nomination fee) 1 1/8 Mile

STARS OF TOMORROW II

GOLDEN ROD (GII) 2020 Kentucky Oaks Points Race

\$250,000

Fillies, Two Years Old

Runs Sat., Nov. 30

Closes Nov. 16 (\$250 nomination fee) 1 1/16 Miles

2020 Kentucky Derby Points Race

Runs Sat., Nov. 30 Closes Nov. 16 \$250,000 (\$250 nomination fee) Two Year Olds 1 1/16 Miles

KENTUCKY JOCKEY CLUB (GII)

29

*Pending Approval and Includes KTDF monies

Just Win

Live Oak homebred rolls to maiden win

When Tap It To Win worked 5-furlongs in :59.45 from the gate Aug. 15, Mark Casse decided to reconsider sending the colt back to the turf for his second start.

Casse made the right decision, confirmed when Tap It To Win broke his maiden in the second race on Saturday's Travers Day card at Saratoga Race Course.

"I worked him out of the gate the other day and said 'OK, we're going to run on the dirt,' " said Casse, watching the replay on the clubhouse screen with the Tapit colt's owner and breeder Charlotte Weber.

Carrying Weber's Live Oak Plantation colors, Tap It To Win finished second in his debut going 6 furlongs on the turf at Woodbine July 21. He won

Continued On Page 32



Tod Marks

Tap It To Win draws off to capture Saturday's second race for Live Oak Plantation.

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Final Week Races

Wed., August 28 Allowance hurdle

Thur., August 29 Michael G. Walsh Novice S.

And Belmont Park, too

Wed., September 18 Entenmann Novice S.

Thur., September 19 Lonesome Glory H. (Gr. 1)

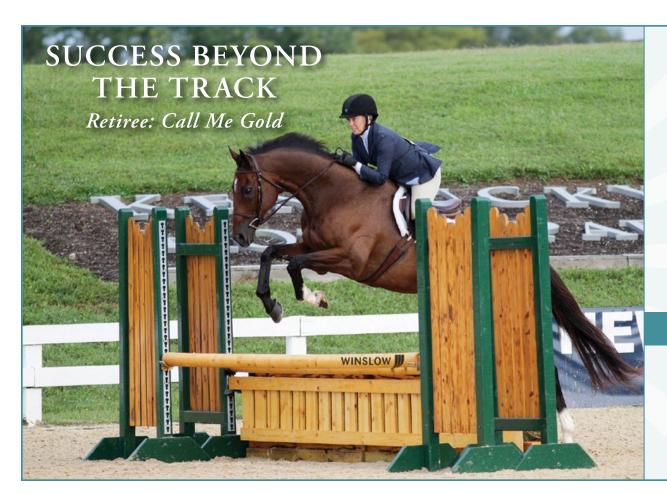
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Dave Harmon

Performer sweeps to victory in Saturday's fourth race.

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Also closing September 14, 2019 is The DTHA Governor's Day Stake and The George Rosenberger Memorial. Both stakes are restricted to horses which have started at Delaware Park in 2018 (stake races excluded). A \$50,000 purse bonus will be added to these two stakes for Delaware Certified eligible horses that run and finish 1st thru 5th. Purse total will be \$125,000 for DCTP horses.



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Saturday —

■ Continued from page 30

going 6 furlongs Saturday by 3 1/2 lengths in 1:09.60.

"We really liked him when we had him at Woodbine and we thought he might be something special," Casse said. "We brought him here so Mrs. Weber could watch him run."

The trainer used the second as a test run to see if the 2-year-old colt out of the Medaglia d'Oro mare Onepointhreekarats had a preference for

Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS Chad Brown Todd Pletcher Steve Asmussen Christophe Clement Jeremiah Englehart Jason Servis Mark Casse Danny Gargan Bill Mott Linda Rice Graham Motion	33 13 11 10 10 9 9
JOCKEYS	
Jose Ortiz	49 42 33 29 27 19 14

dirt. Confirmed after his win, Casse now will see if added distance suits Tap It To Win.

"Beautiful, he's a classy horse," Casse said. "I wanted to confirm that he could run on the dirt. I haven't even really thought about it but we'll look for something a little farther."

- Catherine Galbraith

• Ande Phipps sees bits of the A.P. Indy mare Protesting in Phipps Stable homebred Performer in performance and personality.

"Protesting was great," Phipps said of the said the three-time winner and Grade 2-placed mare. "The personalities are similar, they both try hard, work hard."

Performer improved to 2-for-3 after his win in the fourth, a 6 1/2-furlong allowance on the main track. Performer won by a length from Payne in 1:15 under Joel Rosario.

"He's a little bit late blooming and he is fabulous," said Phipps. "Very excited to see him run well. It's his third start. The first one he ran well, he was third. He won his last time out, so it's nice to see him improving and going strong. We have late-bloomers."

Performer's win was the start of a good day for trainer Shug Mc-Gaughey, who saddled Will Farish's Code Of Honor to victory in the Grade 1 Travers.

– Catherine Galbraith

• Two starts back in an off-the-turf optional at Belmont Park April 27, Dowse's Beach finished last by 39 3/4 lengths. Freshened for Saratoga, the 8-year-old Disco Rico gelding made it 2-for-2 in Saratoga this season with a victory in the 12th going 5 1/2 fur-

Continued On Page 33



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32 The Saratoga Special Sunday, August 25, 2019



Tod Marks

Dowse's Beach (right) sets sail in Saturday's 12th race.

Saturday —

■ Continued from page 32

longs for a \$40,000 tag on the grass.

"Not really a turnaround," said winning trainer Jason Servis. "He just doesn't like running on dirt. He's a pure turf horse."

The April drubbing was Dowse's Beach's lone race on dirt in his 38-race career. He's now won 12 times and raised his earnings to \$721,084.

Ridden by Irad Ortiz, who rode three winners on the card. Dowse's Beach held off charges by Shiraz and Royal Asset to win by a nose for owner Michael Dubb.

Dubb, no stranger to the winner's circle at Saratoga with owner titles and stakes success last year with eventual champion Monomoy Girl, soaked up his latest win.

"Saratoga, Travers Day, what else is there to say?" Dubb said. "I don't think I'd even own horses if I couldn't run them at Saratoga."

- Terry Hill

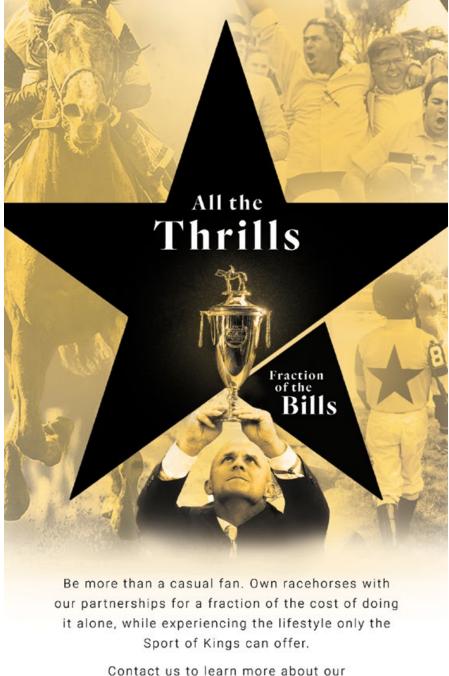
• Chad Brown padded his lead in the trainer standings Saturday with five wins, improving his season total to 33 on a day highlighted by Annals Of Time's victory in the Grade 1 Sword Dancer and Significant Form's score in the Grade 2 Ballston Spa. Brown also won the first with Frontier Market, third with Dabinett and finale with Magic Star.

Irad Ortiz Jr. rode three winners – Frontier Market and Dabinett for Brown and Dowse's Beach for Jason Servis in the 12th. Irad Ortiz is seven back of his brother Jose Ortiz in the rider standings heading into today's card.

John Velazquez also rode three – all stakes – with Code Of Honor in the Grade 1 Travers, Mind Control in the Grade 1 Forego and Grade 2 Significant Form.

NYRA announced a crowd of 48,213 for the Travers card, which featured a record all-sources handle of \$52,129,344. The previous record of \$52,086,597 was set last year. Ontrack handle of \$11,657,493 also set a record.

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Saturday August 24.

FIRST \$95,000, AOC \$62,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

Frontier Market I. Ortiz, Jr. \$3.30 \$2.10 \$2.10 5 Keep Quiet (FR) R. Santana. Jr. \$4.10 \$3.00 6 Gemonteer E. Jaramillo \$7.90 B Gelding 2013, by Lemon Drop Kid - Sedley by El Prado (IRE) Owner: Klaravich Stables, Inc. and Lawrence, William H. Trainer: Chad Brown. Breeder: Scott & Debbie Pierce (KY).

Late Scratches: Frammento, Achilles Warrior, Own Agenda, Identity Politics, Majestic Affair. Time: 1:37.48

Exacta (1-5), \$5.50; Superfecta (1-5-6-4), \$38.95; Trifecta (1-5-6), \$42.

SECOND \$90,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 6F

1	Tap It to Win	T. Gaffalione	\$9.30	\$4.30	\$3.30
3	Complexifier	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$3.70	\$2.50
6	O'Trouble	J. Velazquez			\$3.30
В (Colt 2017, by Tapit -	Onepointhreekarats	by Medag	lia d'Oro	
O۷	vner: Live Oak Plant	ation. Trainer: Mark C	asse. Tim	ne: 1:09.6	0
Br	eeder: Live Oak Stud	d (FL). Late Scratches	: African	Heritage.	
Da	ily Double (1-1), \$7	.70; Éxacta (1-3), \$17	7.70; Quin	iella (1-3)	, \$9.40;
		\$28.50; Trifecta (1-			
	uble (1-5), \$1.65		• •		

THIRD \$90,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M

	. , ,				• .
9	Dabinett	I. Ortiz, Jr.	\$12.80	\$5.50	\$4.70
7	Balon Rose	J. Ortiz		\$5.30	\$4.20
6	Ocean Fire	J. Alvarado			\$6.70
ΒF	illy 2015, by Blame - S	Sharp Apple by D	Diesis (GB)		
0w	ner: Chandler, Dr. Joh	n, A Trainer: Ch	nad Bròwn.		
Bre	eder: Dr. John A. Char	ndler (KY).			
Lat	e Scratches: Magical 1	ime, Funny Flov	vers. Time:	1:43.02	
Dai	ly Double (1-9), \$31.7	75; Exacta (9-7)	, \$28.75; Si	uperfecta	(9-7-6-
11)	, \$283.60; Trifecta (9-	7-6), \$116.25; 1	Pic 3 (1-1-9	9), \$49.00); (1-5-
	\$10.70	•	`	•	•

FOURTH \$92.000. ALLOWANCE. 3 YO'S & UP. 6 1/2F \$7.00

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
11 Performer	J. Rosario	\$7.00	\$3.70	\$3.00		
7 Payne	J. Ortiz		\$3.70	\$2.70		
8 T Loves a Fight	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$3.90		
Ch Colt 2016, by Speig	htstown - Protestir	ng by A.P. Ii	ndy			
Owner: Phipps Stable.	Trainer: Claude Mc	Gaughev III				
Breeder: Phipps Stable		0 ,				
Daily Double (9-11), \$27.75; Exacta (11-7), \$11.50; Quinella (7-11),						
\$6.40; Superfecta (11-7-8-6), \$31.45; Trifecta (11-7-8), \$20.87; Pic 3						
(1-9-11), \$122.75	,, . ,	`	,, .	,		
, , ,						

FIFTH \$600,000, STAKES - FOREGO S. PRESENTED BY ENCORE ROSTON HARROR 3 VO'S & IIP 7F

DUSTUN HANDUN, STU	3 α υ Γ, <i>Ι</i> Γ			
3 Mitole	R. Santana, Jr.	\$3.80	\$2.80	\$2.10
6 Firenze Fire	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$4.10	\$3.10
4 Killybegs Captain	E. Cancel			\$6.00
B Colt 2015, by Eskender	reya - Indian Miss b	y Indian	Charlie	
Owner: Heiligbrodt, L. W	'illiam & Corinne. T	rainer: S	teven Asn	nussen.
Breeder: Edward A. Cox	Jr. (KY). Time: 1:20	.80		
Daily Double (11-3), \$7.2	20; Exacta (3-6), \$8	.70; Sup	erfecta (3	-6-4-2),
\$28.30; Trifecta (3-6-4), \$	\$34.50; Pic 3 (9-11-	3), \$54.0	00; Pic À (1-9-11-
3), \$147.50; Pic 5 (1/2/3)	/9/11-1-9-11-3), \$2	241.50	•	

SIXTH \$500,000, STAKES - KETEL ONE BALLERINA S., 3 & UP, 7F

2	Come Dancing	J. Castellano	\$3.50	\$2.80	\$2.30
7	Dawn the Destroyer	J. Velazquez		\$6.10	\$3.70
1	Special Relativity	D. Cohen			\$4.20
D١	B/ Br Mare 2014, by M	lalibu Moon - Tiza	ahit by Tiz	now	
0٧	vner: Blue Devil Racing	Stable (Holliday).			
Tra	ainer: Carlos Martin. Bro	eeder: Blue Devil	Racing Sta	able (KY).	
La	te Scratches: Pacific Ga	ale, Minit to Stard	om. Time:	: 1:21.48	
Da	ily Double (3-2), \$3.65	; Exacta (2-7), \$1°	1.80; Sup	erfecta (2	-7-1-4)
\$1	0.15; Trifecta (2-7-1), \$	326.87; Pic 3 (11-	3-2), \$12.	.60	

SEVENTH \$500,000, STAKES - H. ALLEN JERKENS S., 3 YO, 7F

6	Mind Control	J. Velazquez	\$22.80	\$8.60	\$3.80
9	Hog Creek Hustle	C. Lanerie		\$8.40	\$3.40
1	Shancelot	E. Jaramillo			\$2.10
ВС	Colt 2016, by Stay Thir	sty - Feel That Fir	e by Lighti	nin N Thu	nder
Ow	ner: Red Oak Stable (I	Brunetti) and Mad	daket Stabl	es, LLC.	
Tra	iner: Gregory Sacco. E	Breeder: Red Oak	Stable (KY	') Time:	1:21.43
Dai	ily Double (2-6), \$33.0	00; Exacta (6-9),	\$82.50; S	úperfecta	(6-9-1-
8),	\$119.10; Trifecta (6-9	-1), \$88.75; Pic 3	3 (3-2-6), \$	377.75	

EIGHTH \$400,000, STAKES - WOODFORD RESERVE BALLSTON SPA S., 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M TURF

4	Significant Form	J. Velazquez	\$16.60	\$8.00	\$5.90		
5	Indian Blessing (GB)	F. Geroux		\$9.90	\$7.60		
8	Starship Jubilee	J. Lezcano			\$5.20		
Gr/	Gr/ro Filly 2015, by Creative Cause - Church by the Sea by Harlan's Holiday						
	Owner: Seymour Brant, Stephanie. Trainer: Chad Brown.						
Bre	eeder: Brereton C. Jone	s (KY).					
Tie	20.1.11.20	,					

Time: 1:41.39

2 Code of Honor

\$3,991.10

Daily Double (6-4), \$100.00; Exacta (4-5), \$93.00; Superfecta (4-5-8-2), \$221.40; Trifecta (4-5-8), \$336.50; Pic 3 (2-6-4), \$207.75

NINTH \$700,000, STAKES - PERSONAL ENSIGN S. PRESENTED BY LIA INFINITI, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

1	Midnight Bisou	M. Smith	\$5.40	\$2.90	\$2.70		
4	Elate	J. Ortiz		\$2.50	\$2.20		
3	She's a Julie	R. Santana, Jr			\$3.90		
D	Dk B/ Br Filly 2015, by Midnight Lute - Diva Delite by Repent						
C	Owner: Bloom Racing Stable, Madaket Stables and Allen Racing.						
Τ	Trainer: Steven Asmussen. Breeder: Woodford Thoroughbreds (KY).						
т	ima: 1:47 02			•	` ,		

Daily Double (4-1), \$35.75; Exacta (1-4), \$5.70; Superfecta (1-4-3-5), \$5.87; Trifecta (1-4-3), \$16.12; Pic 3 (6-4-1), \$408.50

10TH \$850,000, SWORD DANCER STAKES, 4 & UP, 1 1/2M TURF

7	Annals of Time	J. Castellano	\$7.10	\$4.20	\$3.20
9	Sadler's Joy	J. Lezcano		\$5.10	\$3.20
4	Channel Cat	L. Saez			\$4.00
ΒH	lorse 2013, by Temple	e City - Lemon Haz	e by Dista	ant View	
Ow	ner: Klaravich Stables	s, Inc. and Lawrence	ce, Willian	n H.	
Tra	iner: Chad Brown. Bre	eder: Monticule (k	(Y). Time:	2:27.50	
Dai	ily Double (1-7), \$10.	80; Exacta (7-9), S	\$21.50; S	uperfecta	(7-9-4-
	\$28.95: Trifecta (7-9-				•

11TH \$1,250,000, RUNHAPPY TRAVERS STAKES, 3YO, 1 1/4M

О	Tacitus	J. UTUZ	Ф 3.70	ΦΖ. δU			
7	Mucho Gusto	J. Talamo		\$3.80			
	Ch Colt 2016, by Noble Mission (GB) - Reunited by Dixie Union						
O۷	Owner: Farish, W.S Trainer: Claude McGaughey III.						
Bre	eeder: W. S. Faris	h (KY). Time: 2:01.05					
		\$21.50; Exacta (2-6), \$18.5					
11), \$117.65; Trifed	cta (2-6-7), \$35.87; Pic 3	(1-7-2), \$63.50	; Pic 4			

(4-1-7-2), \$398.25; Pic 5 (6-4-1-7-2), \$6,362.00; (2/3/6-6-4-1-7-2),

J. Velazquez \$10.80

12TH \$83,000, NY-BRED AOC \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

13 Dowse's Beach	I. Ortiz, Jr.	\$6.70	\$4.10	\$3.90		
1 Shiraz	L. Saez		\$13.40	\$8.80		
10 Royal Asset	T. Gaffalione			\$9.50		
Gr/ro Gelding 2011, by Disco Rico - Mary Lou's Magic by Concorde's Tune						
Owner: Dubb, Michael. Trainer: Jason Servis.						
Donaldson Databala Osman	!- /NN/\ L -+- O-		0 la a	D-		

Breeder: Patricia Generazio (NY). Late Scratches: Show Prince, Banana Thief, Colonel Tom, Sudden Surprise, Light the Posse. Time: 1:02.50

Daily Double (2-13), \$20.30; Exacta (13-1), \$45.75; Superfecta (13-1-10-11), \$281.90; Trifecta (13-1-10), \$320.25; Pic 3 (7-2-13), \$97.75; Place Pix Nine (1/3/4-4/7/9-2/6/7-13), \$9.20



















SARATOGA RESULTS

THIRTEENTH \$90,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M

 5
 Magic Star
 J. Ortiz
 \$5.00
 \$3.70
 \$3.10

 8
 Kelleycanrun
 J. Alvarado
 \$26.00
 \$13.80

 12
 Macabre
 T. Gaffalione
 \$10.00

 Ch Filly 2016, by Scat Daddy - Meadow Breeze by Meadowlake

Owner: Don Alberto Stable. Trainer: Chad Brown.

Breeder: Betz, D. J. Stables, CoCo, Burns & Magers (KY). Late Scratches: Quasar, Cairo Cutie

Time: 1:42.12

Daily Double (13-5), \$9.40; Exacta (5-8), \$63.25; Superfecta (5-8-12-11), \$625.30; Trifecta (5-8-12), \$459.25; Pic 3 (2-13-5), \$62.25; Pic 4 (7-2-13-5/13/14), \$126.50

Attendance: 48,213. On Track Handle: \$11,657,494. All Sources Handle: \$52,129,344.41.

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SARATOGA MEMORIES

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

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

Practical Joke

H. Allen Jerkens 2017

BY JOE CLANCY

Keith Crupper will talk about horses all day long – especially multiple graded stakes winner Practical Joke, how he came to be and what he meant to the Crupper family's Whispering Oaks Farm in Paris, Ky.

"If I've got a racecar business, and you call me up and ask me, I can put the right parts on it and it'll go fast," Crupper said last week. "The horse business doesn't work like that."

No, it doesn't. It works in about a million other ways and blends nature, good or bad fortune, time and every other variable. Practical Joke, born at Whispering Oaks in 2014, got it done and then some – selling for \$135,000 as a short yearling at Keeneland January, winning two Grade 1 stakes as a 2-year-old in 2016 and landing Saratoga's Grade 1 H. Allen Jerkens on Travers Day 2017.

The success came after Whispering Oaks sold the colt, but did plenty for the farm including a private sale of Practical Joke's dam Halo Humor. The daughter of Distorted Humor belongs to SF Bloodstock now, produced a Bodemeister foal this year and was bred to Into Mischief. Crupper misses the mare, but he is in the breeding business. Emphasize that last word.

"Being able to sell the mare for the money she became worth after him straightens up problems for a farm our size," Crupper said. "It seems like we just play from home run to home run and all the base hits just keep you going. I try to play money ball. We try for base hits and every now and then you catch a home run, a horse gets one over the fence for you. Practical Joke, when I sold him as a yearling, I really needed him to bring that kind of money and the mare was icing on the cake. We went and bought a tractor . . . new bush hog (mower), got some stuff done around here."

And that's the impact of a good horse.



Pinhooked to Keeneland September as part of the Gainesway consignment, Practical Joke brought \$240,000 to race for Klaravich Stable and Bill Lawrence and trainer Chad Brown.

"He was a very mature, very impressive physical," said agent Mike Ryan, who made the purchase, after the Jerkens win. "Had a boldness about him, masculine head, a very stoic horse. You watch him now and his mental constitution is extraordinary, and his physical. He really has a constitution that is mental and physical. And he's a fighter."

Practical Joke won his debut by 5 lengths, then prevailed in a three-way photo in the Hopeful. He had to battle again in the Grade 1 Champagne at Belmont, fighting off Syndergaard by a nose. Third in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, Practical Joke finished second in two Kentucky Derby preps and wound up fifth in the Derby itself. He then won the Dwyer in July, and finished third

when beaten a half-length in the Grade 1 Haskell. Shortened up to 7 furlongs in the Jerkens, he rallied from seventh to win.

"I was just the passenger, he did the job," said Joel Rosario, after riding the winner. "He's very special, a very good horse. It seems like the one turn is what he likes to do. He's just a good horse, probably his best races are when he goes one turn, but he always tries hard. I have a lot of confidence in him. He makes my job easy."

Practical Joke made two more starts, a fourth in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile and a third in the Cigar Mile, and was retired to Coolmore's Ashford Stud in Kentucky. His first foals are yearlings.

"We've got a Practical Joke filly here on the farm that's a standout," said Crupper. "I believe he's going to stamp them. He had a big crease

Continued On Page 37

Practical Joke —

■ Continued from page 36

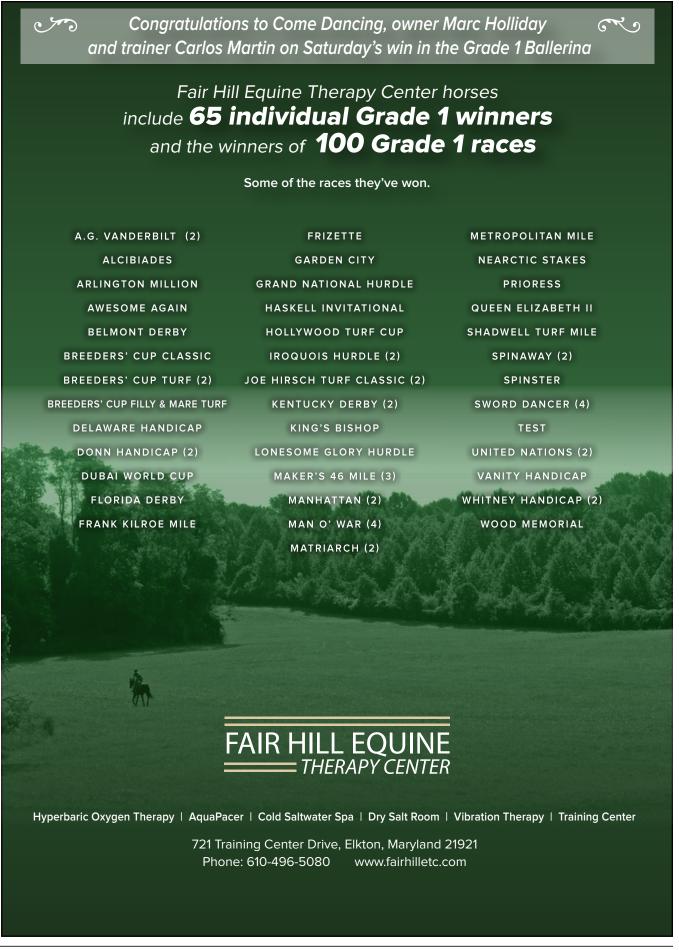
from the top of his hip down, a muscle crease, and from this filly and the pictures I've seen he's throwing that."

Crupper isn't quite finished with Practical Joke's family. He spent \$12,000 to re-purchase Oops Times Two, a half-sister by Badge Of Silver as a broodmare this winter. He'd sold her for \$75,000 about a year earlier, but couldn't resist.

"I don't have the mare anymore, and wanted to stay in the family," Crupper said. "I have a breeding right to Mor Spirit and that's a good cross. I sent her to him and she came up open. That's how it works sometimes. We'll try again."

And that's the horse business, too. "You can stack the deck a little bit, but everything has to go right too," Crupper said. "One bad moment or whatever and they get hurt, you'll never know what they might have been. A horse like Practical Joke, a lot went right along the way to get him to where he was."







SARATOGA ENTRIES

lanesend.com

Sunday, August 25.

ounday, August 25.			
1ST (1:00PM). \$90,000, MSW, 2 YO). F . 6F		
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pi			
1 5		A Quartarolo	10-1
1a 8Wedontbelieveher			
2 1Wicked Whisper	R Santana .lr	S Asmussen	8-5
3 2Strike Magic	.I Ortiz	M Hennia	6-1
4 3Sea of Blue	I Rosario	K Mcl aughlin	0 1 3-1
5 4Highland Glory			
6 6Foreign Exchange			
7 7Stop Shoppin Tammy	E Cancol	D Dauar	12 ⁻ 1
T T	E. Galicei	F. Dauel	0-1
2ND (1:34PM). \$90,000, MSW, 3 YO	7'C & IID 5 1/2E (TIIDE)		
Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta,		0	
1 1Readyforprimetime	I Ortiz Ir	I Dico	Q_1
2 2Point of Humor	I. OHIZ, JI	L. NIUT E. Davie	19_1
3 3Real Money			
4 4Oroscopo			
5 5Tench	N. Janiana, Ji	I. Dusii T Llamm	13-1
6 6 English Humor	C Landaras	I. Hallilli	1-0
6 6English Humor 7 7Ahead of Plan	U. Lailuelus	IVI. Hellilly	10-1
8 8Vehement	J. Alvarado	vv. ivioti	0-1
2DD (2.0CDM) 602 000 AOC 625 0	00 2 VO'C 8 HD 4 2/0N	I /INNED TUDE\	
3RD (2:06PM). \$92,000, AOC \$25,0		I (INNEK TUKF)	
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Da	ally Double	D. Dibaarda	
1 1Carom			
2 2Krewe Chief			
3 3Catcho En Die (ARG).	J. Martinez	N. Chatterpaul	3-1
4 4Tide of the Sea`	J. Rosario	W. Mott	8-5
5 5Proquestor			
6 6No Mans Land	IVI. Franco	R. Valentine	8-1
4TH (0.00088) A4T 000 OLBS 40T 0	00 0 VO:0 0 UD F 0 M	7-	
4TH (2:38PM). \$45,000, CLM \$25,0		, /F	
Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta,	Pic 3, Daily Double		
1 Excess Capacity	R. Santana, Jr	S. Asmussen	3-1
2 2Dovey Lovey			
3 3Queendom			
4 4Dazzling Speed	D. Davis	E. Davis	12-1
5 5Wisconsin Night	J. Ortiz	L. Rice	7-2
6 6Ramblin' Ma'am			
7 7Ragtime Suzy	L. Saez	T. Bush	5-1
8 8Solitary Gem	R. Maragh	L. Gyarmati	9-2
5TH (3:10PM). \$95,000, AOC \$62,5		, 5 1/2F (TURF)	
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Da	aily Double		
1 1Eye On Berlin	M. Franco	R. Sanchez-Salom	on 10-1
2 2Enthusiastic Gal			
3 3Posse Needed			
4 4Miss Mystique	K. Carmouche	L. Gyarmati	15-1
5 MTOLeah's Dream	Rider TBA	C. Englehart	9-5
6 6Violent Times	J. Velazquez	R. Nicks	5-2
7 MTOLezendary	Rider TBA	R. Rodriguez	6-1
8 8Originator	C. Landeros	I. Wilkes	2-1
9 9Really Proud			
·			
6TH (3:42PM). \$34,000, CLM \$12,5	00, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F		
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pi			
1 1Soul P Say	K. Carmouche	L. Gyarmati	10-1
2 2Noneedtoflatterme			
3 3Lord Simba			
4 4Professor Snape			
5 5Gypsum Johnny			
6 6Pretentious			
7 7Love That Jazz			
8 8Scarf It Down			
9 9Indian Guide			
10 10Sir Ballantine			

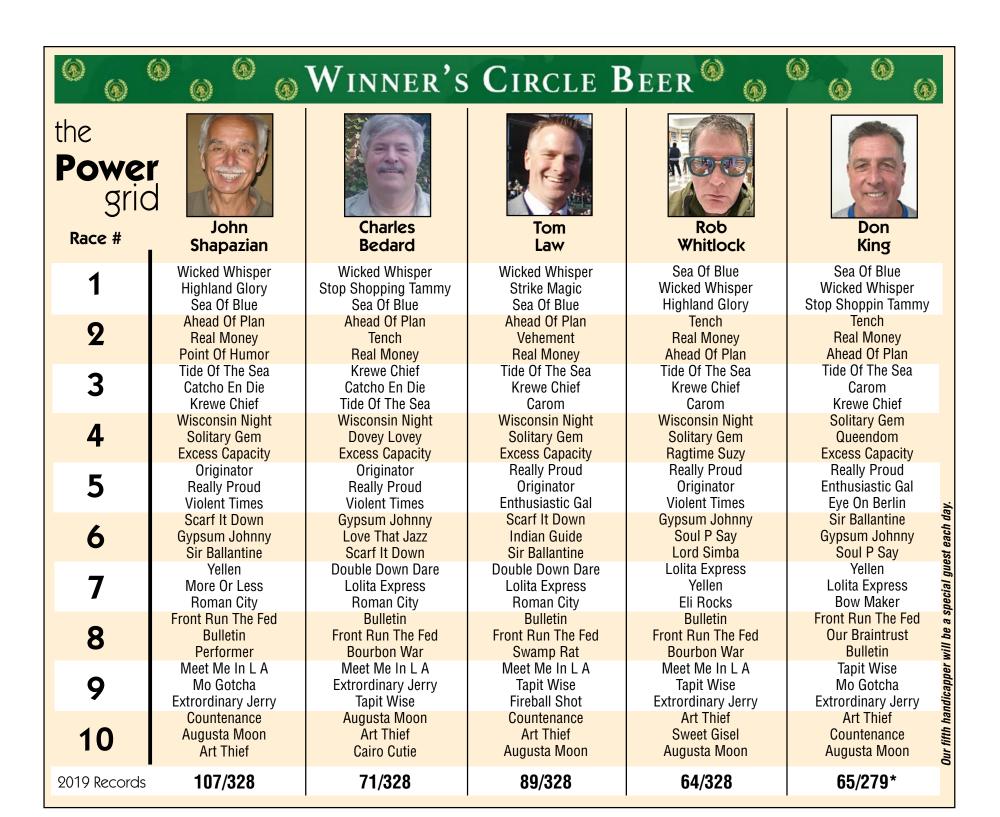
lanesend.com				
7TH (4:14PM). \$60,000, MCL \$75,000, 2 YO, F , 5 1/2F (TURF)				
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double				
1 1	4-1			
2 2				
33Double Down DareM. Franco S. Klesaris 44Larry's Baby L. Saez D. Lukas				
5 5Bow Maker				
6Lolita Express				
7 7Eli Rocks	12-1			
8 8 Darken a Day E. Cancel G. Contessa				
9 9	5-1			
10 10	10-1			
11 AE More Or Less S. Russell P. Schoenthal				
12 AE Crack of Dawn E. Cancel P. Serpe	8-1			
13 AE Blessingsofliberty T. Gaffalione M. Trombetta	12-1			
14 AE W. Ward	6-1			
8TH (4:46PM). \$100,000, STK - THE BETTER TALK NOW, 3 YO, 1M (INNER TURF)				
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double				
1 1 C. Brown	2-1			
2 2 M. Casse T. Gaffalione M. Casse				
3 3 Bourbon War L. Saez M. Hennig				
4 4				
5 5				
6 6Regally Irish				
8 MTOAchilles Warrior Rider TBA	5-2 5-1			
O WTOAdmines Warrior Fluct TDA				
9TH (5:18PM). \$92,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M				
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double				
1 1				
2 2				
3 3And Seek				
4 4 Extrordinary Jerry J. Velazquez T. Pletcher 5 5 Fireball Shot E. Cancel P. Bauer				
6 6Felix in Fabula J. Rosario				
7				
	0 2			
10TH (5:50PM). \$48,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1M (INNER TURF)				
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta 1 1 S. Asmussen	1 1			
2 Art Thief				
3 3Going to Temple C. Landeros B. Lynch	0-1 2_1			
5 5				
6 6Sweet Gisel				
7 7 J. Hertler B. Hernandez J. Hertler				
8 8				
9 9 K. McPeek K. McPeek	10-1			
10 MTOCairo Cutie J. Velazquez				
11 11Ask Siri	20-1			
12 12 D. Cannizzo				
13 MTO Margie Music Rider TBA P. Reynolds	20-1			

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GUEST HANDICAPPER

Don King, a former public handicapper for the New York Post in the 1990s. No relation to the boxing promoter, King splits his time between Long Island and Saratoga Springs. Saturday, Scott Coles picked five winners.

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

Top Guest Handicappers of 2019: Joe Burke and Scott Coles with five wins.

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BY TOM LAW

Two years and you're on your way.

That's the mantra here at The Special when it comes to members of the team. Not Sean and Joe, of course, they're lifers, and I'm in for as long as they'll tolerate the bad jokes, discussion of everything from the Cincinnati Reds to the latest hazy IPA from Vermont and other quirks ranging from yelling at horn blowers, obsessing over the parking cones at the office and forgetting to save stories correctly on the server.

The edict applies to our writers, called interns by some, "the cubs" by others and "the kids" by us.

We make exceptions, rarely. One exception is our man Brandon Valvo, who came to us in 2015 and continues to churn out copy today. He doesn't quite fit the rule though, since he graduated college, passed the CPA exam and works full time in Albany. The Special satisfies his appetite for racing and we're thankful for his contributions.

Shayna Tiller is another exception. She finished her third year in 2018, after graduating from Delaware Valley University that spring, working for Mc-Mahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds in early summer and for The Special in late summer. On the way to an internship at Fasig-Tipton in the fall and the Irish National Stud's breeding course in the winter and spring, she needed a bridge and again we were happy to provide it and thankful for the experienced hand on the team.

The latest exception is Ben Gowans, who heads back to the University of Kentucky today after wrapping Year Three late into the night Saturday. Year Three might not even be totally accurate since Ben started at the end of the 2016 meet, working Travers and Woodward weekends and pinch-hitting when the cupboard nearly emptied out when other members of the team went back to school.

Ben came on board almost exactly like Tiller, applying after we'd already assembled the squad. He was a little young, too, not far removed from high Benny Boy



Tod Marks

Special staffers Ben Gowans and Shayna Tiller.

school and still thinking about college and what he wanted to do with his life. We suggested he stay in touch – hint to aspiring interns: that's a key test - and maybe we could fit him in down the road. When he stayed in touch throughout the summer, even making the trip from downstate for a day at the races to talk about the job, we took things a step further.

"How about the last two weekends you come Allen Jerkens' shedrow pirate ship. out, see how we do things, write a few recaps and we'll see how it goes?" my email said.

He's been on board since.

I've called him Benny Boy for the most part -Shayna coined that one – but also Benny The Boy, Benny The Dip or just Gowans. Trusted in my loosely defined "No. 2 spot," previously occupied by into something bigger so the likes of Ryan Martin, Kristin Brennan, Annise got class at UK Monday. Montplaisir and Tiller, Ben did what was asked. He wrote stakes previews, race recaps, stakes recaps, gram, what Sean sometimes calls the flying start be-Stable Tours, always volunteered to make runs to fore the Flying Start. Best of luck Benny Boy. Keep Spring Street, D'Andrea's or Augie's, and brought working hard, stay positive, don't go off the rails. passion with a growing knowledge of the game not Associate with the right people and doors will open.

often seen by a new team member. That's no slight to the others, just a fact.

A column used to appear annually (almost) in this space about the team we assembled and in 2018 it outlined Ben's past and present.

Ben Gowans, 21, is in the midst of his second full season after pitching in a bit in 2016 when we gave him a "tryout" late in the meet. He'll enroll at the University of Kentucky next month and before that he'll serve up some strong stakes previews – did you see the Diana or Coaching Club American Oaks pieces last week? - and cover the races inside and out. A native of Seattle who has lived in seven states, "Benny Boy" graduated from Greencastle-Antrim High in Greencastle, Pa. We even hustled him to write some stuff for Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred and he does that and everything else in an efficient and thorough manner with his head down.

We joked about how that description made him sound like a robot - well, he sort of joked - but it was meant as a compliment. Ben did more than work efficiently with his head down, he brought a unique personality to our own version of the late

Ben showed up for Year Three-plus after a full year at Kentucky under his belt and on a quasi-sabbatical from his job as bloodstock assistant at Mill Ridge Farm in Lexington. He's got the business cards (and Mill Ridge hats) to prove that title and it's no stretch to think he'll graduate from that role into something bigger soon enough. For now, he's

Congrats to Ben on graduating from our pro-



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cupotcoffee i

BY SEAN CLANCY

It's that time of year. The Travers has come and gone, the downward slide has begun. To celebrate our final print edition (the final four Specials will be digital only), I bring you the annual "I'll miss. I won't miss" column.

I'll miss neighbors like Peter Tenbeau who couldn't make Carolina's lemonade stand but cord. dropped off a donation to the Racetrack Chaplaincy. I won't miss neighbors who get louder with every beer and leave the cans behind.

emails, blasting us.

I'll miss Rusty and Sarah Arnold's cats. I won't miss the office fruit flies.

I'll miss the kids riding their bikes on the sidewalks, enjoying the world around them. I won't Monday night runs. I won't miss fading behind Tom and Mott. miss the kids staring at their screens, oblivious to the world around them.

I'll miss being in a racing town. I won't miss be- be. I won't miss the want-to-be people. ing in a racing vacuum.

I'll miss the first piece of pizza. I won't miss the miss the horses needing a break. third piece of pizza.

open and slam, another reader on their way. I won't miss hearing Tom Law's front door open and slam, another morning past its due.

I'll miss handing out winners. I won't miss handing out losers.

I'll miss talking horses at the rail. I won't miss talking layout at the office.

I'll miss asking questions. I won't miss stumbling over my questions.

I'll miss the readers who flag us down for today's paper. I won't miss the few who burrow their heads to their chests like we're trying to wash their windshield at a red light.

I'll miss betting. I won't miss fretting.

I'll miss Carmen Barrera. I won't miss walking past her office knowing she's gone.

Missing It

I'll miss Joe, Tom and the rest of The Special team. I won't miss missing Annie, Miles and our

I'll miss Tom's tomatoes and basil from his garden. I won't miss eating dinner from a plastic con-

I'll miss on the record. I won't miss off the re-

I'll miss the photo of the day. I won't miss trying to find the photo of the day.

I'll miss the phone books written on the tack-I'll miss the emails, thanking us. I won't miss the room walls. I won't miss the phone calls in the middle of the night.

miss the need for Tums on my desk.

at the Saratoga Stryders Monday night runs.

I'll miss being somewhere where people want to won't miss the to-do list of The Special.

I'll miss the horses who walk into the winner's I'll miss hearing the door of the office paper box circle like they accomplished the impossible. I won't miss the owners who yank and pull on horse's shank like they won a teddy bear at the local fair.

> I'll miss the potential of a dry track. I won't miss the enormity of the dry-cleaner bill.

> I'll miss the yellow Labrador Retriever who just walked past our office. I won't miss the yellow Post-It notes reminding me of all the reasons I won't go for a walk today.

I'll miss the back stories. I won't miss the over- ning in the dark. told stories.

don't call us back because they're special.

I'll miss the interviews that feel like conversations. I won't miss the interviews that feel like ar- an old timer. raignments.

I'll miss Joe saying "Here & There" is finished. I won't miss Joe saying, "Here & There" is light.

I'll miss Elate in the morning. I won't miss late at the office.

I'll miss day trips to Cooperstown and the Boilermaker. I won't miss morning trips to backstretch bathrooms without soap or paper towels.

I'll miss the enthusiastic interns, their futures ahead of them. I won't miss the jaded veterans, their irrelevance grinding away at them.

I'll miss gathering quotes. I won't miss transcribing notes.

I'll miss doing Fasig-Tipton Stable Tours with I'll miss the bottle of Tums on my desk. I won't Shug, Jimmy and Mott. I won't miss being turned down by trainers who would learn a lot if they read I'll miss tracking Tom at the Saratoga Stryders the Fasig-Tipton Stable Tours with Shug, Jimmy

I'll miss the beer list at Henry Street Taproom. I

I'll miss the fans bounding into the track each I'll miss the ponies enjoying their work. I won't day, talking about jockeys, trainers and horses. I won't miss the protestors clogging the way.

I'll miss the subtle brilliance of Jose Ortiz and the other soft-handed jockeys. I won't miss the bullying force of some of the whip-happy others.

I'll miss drifting on the golf cart through the stable area in the afternoon. I won't miss the cutters driving too fast on Circular Street.

I'll miss gliding past porches and gardens on my bike ride from the office to the house. I won't miss slowing and waiting for the traffic on Lake Avenue.

I'll miss the feature. I won't miss the feature run-

I'll miss the conversations that start, "I'm glad I'll miss the trainers who call us back because you guys wrote about..." I won't miss the conversawe're The Special. I won't miss the trainers who tions that start, "You know what you guys should write about...'

I'll miss these old days. I won't miss feeling like

I'll miss Saratoga.





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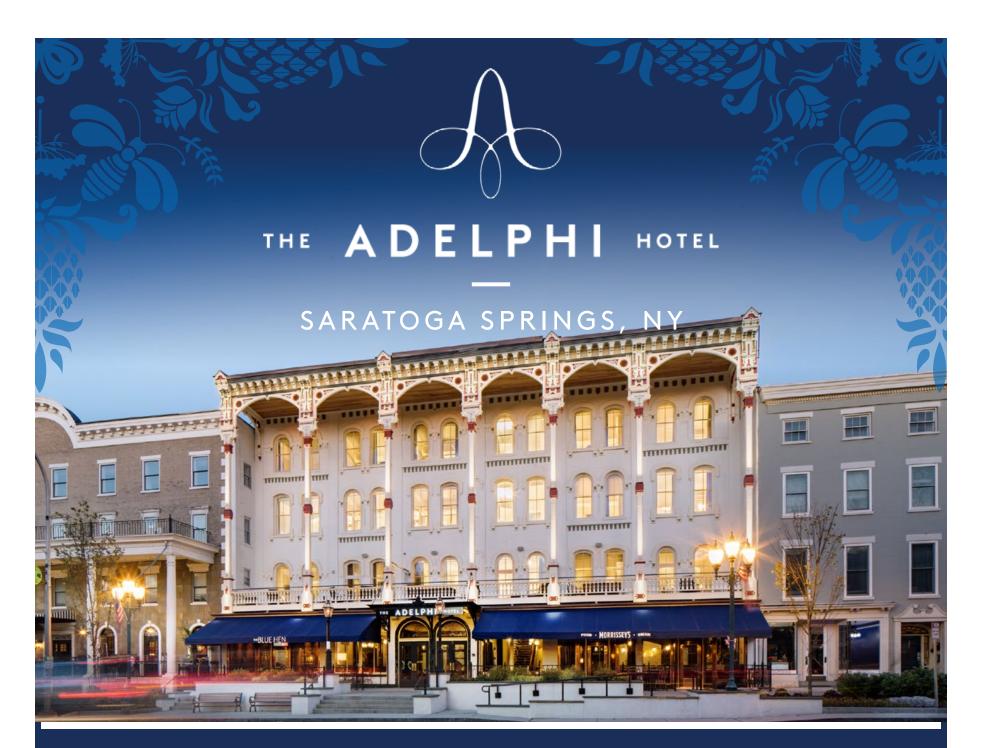
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