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here&there... at Saratoga

BY THE NUMBERS

12: Photographers and fans lined up to take photos of Songbird schooling in the paddock before Thursday's fifth race.

23: Round trips between Saratoga and Fair Hill, Md., for van driver Keith Cooper (who actually spent the night here Thursday before heading south again Friday morning).

2: References to today's Traverse Stakes in emails to The Special writers and editors Friday. Must be the 14th race.

6:38: Time Friday evening that "New York State of Mind" started (to signal the end of the racing day) at Saratoga Race Course, with the 11th race still to come at 6:57.

HAT SLOGAN OF THE DAY

Angola State Pen.

NAMES OF THE DAY

Birdatthewire, seventh race. Forum Racing's 5-year-old mare, who runs in the Ballerina, is by Summer Bird out of My Limit.

Practical Joke, eighth race. Klaravich Stable's and Bill Lawrence's 3-year-old colt is by Into Mischief out of Halo Humor.

Profiteer, fifth race. Stuart Janney III's homebred 3-year-old is by War Front out of Hit It Rich. His full-brother Blockade is on the also-eligible list in the third.



Flower Power. Visiting English steeplechaser Casino Markets hides behind a hanging basket at the Oklahoma Annex this week.

BE STREET WISE AND SEE SENSE



No stallion standing for less than \$75,000 can match his five G1 winners on dirt since 2013.

That's also more than Speightstown, Malibu Moon, Candy Ride, Giant's Causeway.

Tiger Moth in the G₃ Groupie Doll is the latest of his **22** Group or Graded winners.

There's always something new to know...



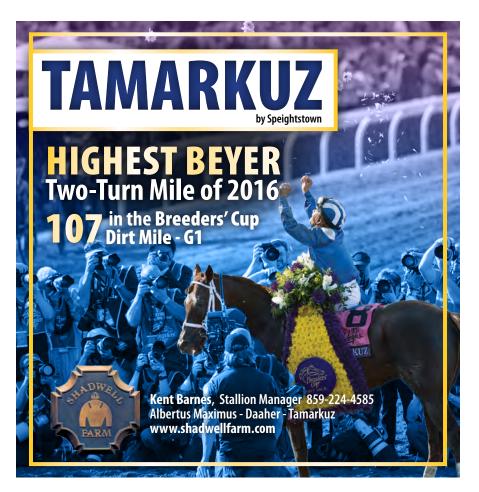


QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When you gallop for Kiaran, you learn what a good horse is. I galloped horses at home, they were nice horses and then I rode Kiaran's horses and vou're like, 'Oh my God,' "

Jump jockey Bernie Dalton, about riding for Kiaran McLaughlin





here&there... at Saratoga

WORTH REPEATING

"You know, there doesn't seem to be a whole lot of speed in there, so we're just going to go after Drefong."

Trainer Mark Casse joking about tactics for Awesome Slew in today's Forego

"I'd trade my life for his life."

Trainer David Cannizzo on his brother. New York Thoroughbred Breeders executive director Jeffrey Cannizzo

"Just trying to make a living."

Trainer David Donk, congratulated Thursday morning after winning his fifth of the meet the day before with Spectrolite. He added another Thursday with Phone Funky Munky and another Friday with Codrington

Patron to Michael Dickinson as he went to walk the Oklahoma turf course Monday: "You got identification Mr.?' Dickinson: "No."

"It was a tough decision for me, but I guess my wife spoke to you, so you made the decision." Trainer Arnaud Delacour joking (we think, hopefully) with The Special's Ben Gowans about the decision to run Divining Rod in the Forego off two weeks' rest; Gowans thinks the Polynesian Stakes winner has a shot

"Ever hear of Schaefer Beer? One f."

Longtime reader, Jim Schaefer, after The Special added an f in Friday's edition

"Geese, not ducks, at Laurel."

Trainer Katy Voss, correcting our numbers that listed 13 ducks crossing at Laurel Park in Friday's edition



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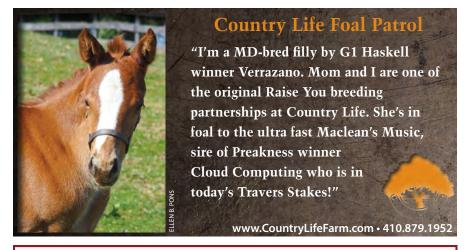
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WORTH REPEATING

"All you had to do was box the four horses with country abbreviations in a tri box. \$1,584 for \$2."

Steve Castagnola with a new way to bet the jumpers after Wednesday's opener that went Moscato (GB), Macnicholson (IRE), New Member (IRE).

"I think in a week we won four stakes. We're not winning anything else but we won two Grade 1s, a Grade 2 and an overnight. That's kind of us though. Our horses for the most part get a little better when they run some. We don't put a ton of emphasis on winning first time out."

Mark Casse, on the barn's recent success at Saratoga and beyond

"In my mind."

Jockey Kendrick Carmouche when asked if Disco Partner was a "Special" for turf works Friday morning

"Bring tears to your eyes."

Carmouche, after Disco Partner fired a bullet

"I sound like Froggy from the Little Rascals."

Trainer Pat Kelly, battling a sore throat Friday morning

"After this weekend..."

Pete Bradley, when discussing a paper route as a backup plan

"That one's got a long way to go home."

Trainer Bruce Brown, as a loose James Bond horse headed home from the Oklahoma training track

"Hey, you can use that quote."

Parting Glass Racing's Tom Gallo (and no we can't)

"You know when you get the Clancy duo, it's a big deal."

Doc Richardson, as Sean and Joe Clancy tracked the Elate team after the Alabama

"He said. 'I really need this.' I said. 'So do we.' "

Riley Mott after Dick Knapp said he needed Elate to win the Alabama

"Well, they match."

Linzay Marks, to The Special's Tom Law who had a spot on his tie and his suit

"Not the Google."

Angel Cordero Jr., after someone Googled his age

"I'm back. Did you miss me?"

The ever-quotable Erma Scott, after venturing to New Orleans for a few days

"I'll give you that. I dish it out. I can catch it."

Trainer Bruce Levine, when accused of looking for The Special after he wins a race



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Breeder: Dr. John A. Chandler





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Selfie Jerry Connie Bush

The Chief ... Day 24

"So many things happen in a lifetime of horses. One filly ran off in the morning, all around the Hialeah racetrack. I ran in to scratch her, the stewards said you can't scratch, scratches just came out and you prevented somebody from getting in. I said the filly just ran off, I didn't mean for her to run off, you can ask anybody you want. They said if a vet deems it that she shouldn't run, you can get her scratched this afternoon. She ran, she won easily. Roger Velez was on her, the bug, a maiden

against non-winners-of-two. You used to do that, it was so tough to get in the maidens, Hialeah never had any maiden claimers at their middle meet. When I had one I thought was a claimer, I ran them against winners."

- Trainer Allen Jerkens

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STABLE TOUR

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with Bill Mott

It was the day before the Travers, Bill Mott had one in the first, sixth, seventh, ninth and 11th and had something called the Red Jacket Ceremony that afternoon. Two horses waited to paddock school, a vet walked past to scope a horse, an exercise rider discussed a rank filly who's getting better, a van agent organized a trip to Belmont, a van driver asked for a Coggins test and Elliott Walden called about a horse. Mott stood in his courtyard, directing it all.

The Special's Sean Clancy asked the question anyway.

"Want to do a Stable Tour?"

Mott paused and stared, you know the look, the one where you can't decide if he's aghast you asked or glad you asked.

With a full plate getting fuller, Mott agreed and walked toward the first stall of his main barn near the Oklahoma training track. The Hall of Famer stopped at each of his 30 stalls, unsnapping the screen, slowly pushing it open and analyzing another top-shelf Thoroughbred eating a late-morning snack.

With another 20 horses bedded down with his son Riley at the harness track, 44 with Leana Willaford at Belmont Park and another 20 with Kevin McCarthy at Churchill Downs, Mott could spend all day doing a Stable Tour. We only had an hour. Enjoy.

Vigor: The bay filly tried to pick grass while standing in the courtyard waiting to paddock school. Making her fourth career start and first since May, the daughter of War Front broke her maiden sprinting on the turf Aug. 14. Mott entered her right back, she's in the seventh Monday. "I don't want to wait three months again."

Boule: Juddmonte Farm homebred filly by Exchange Rate is winless in three tries since making her debut at Keeneland in April. "She's been on the grass three times, we're going to try the dirt, I think she's a little better than what she's shown."



Overture: WinStar Farm's daughter of Congrats has yet to miss the board in six starts, clipping off two wins, two seconds and two thirds. "Won the Indiana Oaks and third in the Monmouth Oaks. Could go to Charles Town next time. She's nominated to the Cotillion."

Bernadiva: Owned by Jake Ballis, the 3-year-old daughter of Bernardini finished third in the Riskaverse Thursday. "Got a little black type, she broke her maiden at Gulfstream, won a non-two at Tampa and third in a stake at Saratoga, she's coming around, we were pleased to get the black type."

Long On Value: A graduate of the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2012 Eastern Yearling Sale, the son of Value Plus has done it all for Wachtel Stable, George Kerr and Gary Barber. The 6-year-old finished third in the Troy Aug. 6. "The world traveler. I said he was a \$1,500 yearling and the guy corrected me and said he was a \$3,000 yearling. We purchased him after he won a couple of races as a 2-year-old at some smaller tracks. He's won races from 5 furlongs to a mile-and-an-eighth, he's been a really neat horse, got beat a nose in Dubai. Took us to Royal Ascot, my first trip to Royal Ascot, we didn't do any good there, but he was good enough to get us there."

Fortune Cookie: A homebred for Irving Cowan, the son of City Zip made his debut at Belmont Park July 9, finishing fifth going 6 furlongs on the turf. "He's in Saturday, going a mile-and-a-sixteenth on the turf. He's been steady."

Elate: Wow, what a summer she's had. Owned and bred by Claiborne Farm and Adele Dilschneider, the daughter of Medaglia d'Oro came around just in time. "Second in the Coaching Club, Alabama winner. 'Get over grouchy, get over.' She has plenty of substance. She looks good. To see them with their head in the feedtub...Neil (Poznansky) recalled that last June he breezed her 3 furlongs here and he said she might be the best horse he'd ever been on, of course, he's been on some nice horses."

Harkness: A daughter of Harlan's Holiday, she joined Mott's barn from Andrew McKeever this spring, racking up a fifth, fourth, eighth, second and then a win here earlier in the meet. "I tried to stretch her out, the previous trainer told me he felt she didn't want to go too far. Naturally, I had to go against what he said and tried her at a mile-and-an-eighth, it didn't work, so I shortened her up and she won. The previous trainer was right. She actually ran well. She runs on the dirt or the turf."

Lieutenant Colonel: Mott adds blinkers for today's fifth, an optional claimer on the turf. The 5-year-old son of Colonel John won three races while based in California. He's made one start for Mott, fading to fifth in the slop here earlier in the meet. "Big gangly fellow. He's a useful horse, he's had a few miles on him."

Good Samaritan. The Jim Dandy winner returns for the Travers today. Mott takes a long, slow look and asks the 3-year-old colt to

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

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move, 'Get over, bud.' He moves gently, stares at Mott. "He looked like he was one of the best turf 2-year-olds in the country and now, he looks like he's maybe in the top group of dirt horses of his generation. We find out more with every race. Saturday is a big day."

Covenant: WinStar Farm homebred drew off with ease to break her maiden here July 24. "She ran quite impressively. She was second to Salty in her first start, Salty ran her down in the end. She's nominated to the Prioress, I'm not sure we're going to run there, she's a possibility."

Macagone: Owned and bred by Trinity Farm, the New York-bred has banged out eight wins from 29 starts. The 6-year-old finished eighth in the West Point after a tough trip Friday. "He's a nice hard-knocker, when he runs his race, he runs good."

Richmond Street: Whoa, the 4-year-old colt stares Mott down like he trespassed on his lawn. Related to Zenyatta, he has her shoulder. He's 6-1 in today's second. "What do you think of him? In Saturday. He's by Street Cry, Zenyatta's family."

Channel Maker: Ontario-bred 3-year-old son of English Channel has two wins from 10 starts. "Won the Breeders Stakes at Woodbine Sunday, he was fourth in the Queen's Plate. He's a possible for the race on October 7, the Hill Prince, maybe. That's one possibility."

Ballagh Rocks: Five-time winner doesn't raise his head from his tub as Mott walks into his stall, 'Oh, you've got all kinds of straw in your tail, you laid down and rolled...' Owned by Donegal Racing, the son of Stormy Atlantic won three straight allowance races before trying stakes. "Won the Grade 3 Poker, third in the Grade 1 Fourstardave last time. He breezed this morning, could wait, might go back to the Shadwell, I like him at a mile, he closes well going a mile."

Heavy Meddle: Chester and Mary Broman's homebred has compiled two seconds at the meet. "He's a big stout fellow, isn't he? Broke his maiden at a mile on the turf but it looks like 6 furlongs on the dirt is his best."

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

Cite: Third earlier in the meet, son of Blame is entered in a starter allowance Sunday. "Schooling."

Hofburg: Unraced Juddmonte homebred has posted seven works at Saratoga. "This is a Tapit 2-year-old, he's a half-brother to Emollient. He's breezing well, he could run the last week of Saratoga. He's got some talent. She broke her maiden on the dirt, won on the synthetic and the turf, she was a Grade 1 winner on the synthetic and the turf. He's not a real bulky horse but he seems to handle the dirt, he gets over the ground beautifully."

My Bronx Tail: Owned by Saratoga Seven Racing Partners, the bay filly finished sixth in her debut here Aug. 6. "Two-year-old Speightstown filly been out once, got some talent, she only got beat 3 lengths here the other day, she worked well this morning. We bought her privately down in Florida before she went to a 2-year-old sale."

Length: Claiborne Farm and Adele Dilschneider homebred finished ninth in her debut. "How's she look? War Front filly, out of a mare I used to train named Extent. She can run, she was green, she didn't do much as a 2-year-old, so she's real green as a 3-year-old."

Yoshida: Japanese-bred son of Heart's Cry owns two wins and two seconds from five starts on the turf. "Just breezed, went in a minute and two fifths, out in 13 and change on the turf. Second in the Hall of Fame. He's possible for the Saranac or the Super Derby."

Flipcup: A stable stalwart, she's won seven races from 31 starts, finishing third in the Yaddo Friday. "Hey, girl. A wonderful filly, a very good servant. She's won and placed in stakes on the dirt, turf and synthetic. She's really earned her way. She's a New York-bred but Ontario-sired, some of her wins are restricted but she's been a real, solid kind of horse to have in the barn."

Hail: There's nothing like a Juddmonte pedigree. "Tapit filly who's a half to Lockdown and Close Hatches. She's breezing a half mile, she won't run here, I don't think."

Kasuga: The 5-year-old Ontario-bred mare has won six races and finished second in the Royal North at Woodbine in July. She occupies the first stall next to the tack room. "She's the newest member of the stable, she's an older mare, came from Canada, the owner sent her down because there would be

more opportunities in the States, she won up there, a sprinter. I can't take credit for the dapples, unless they came in the last four days."

Forge: British-bred son of Dubawi won twice in England for Juddmonte. "He's a Dubawi, he won in Kentucky, ran here the other day, he was fourth, I don't know, he's not had the best of trips a couple of times, the last time it was a slow pace and he's last."

Commend: Another winner at the meet, the 4-year-old handled allowance foes Aug. 16. "War Front, half to Congrats and Flatter. He may go to Kentucky Downs for a stake down there, he won his last out here, ran in a minute and change. Of course, I wasted a couple of races going a mile, I try to get them to go further than they want to go sometimes. That's my natural tendency."

Harmonize: Daughter of Scat Daddy made the cover of The Special back in 2015. "'Hey, girl.' Grade 1 winner, won the Del Mar Oaks last year. I've probably mismanaged her this year, or I feel like I have, because we haven't had as good a year as we hoped. I've had it in my mind, she's been good at a mile, but we might try to keep her at a mile-and-an-eighth. Early on, she looked like a mile was going to be her thing, I don't know, sometimes horses change a little bit, she hasn't had that explosive turn of foot that she showed early on. You know, we probably could have done things a little differently."

Battlement: British-bred daughter of Dansili finished fourth here Aug. 14. "She's eligible for a one-other-than here in New York, nice filly, ran her 5 1/2 the other day, it's a little short, it looks like seven-eighths is a good trip for her, she was second at Belmont going 6. The first couple of times I ran her too far, again, I always try to run them a mile, mile-and-a-sixteenth,

she's a half to Suffused who's won going a mile and 15/16ths, her sister won going 2 miles, it's hard for me to think she'll go half that far anyway. She works really good."

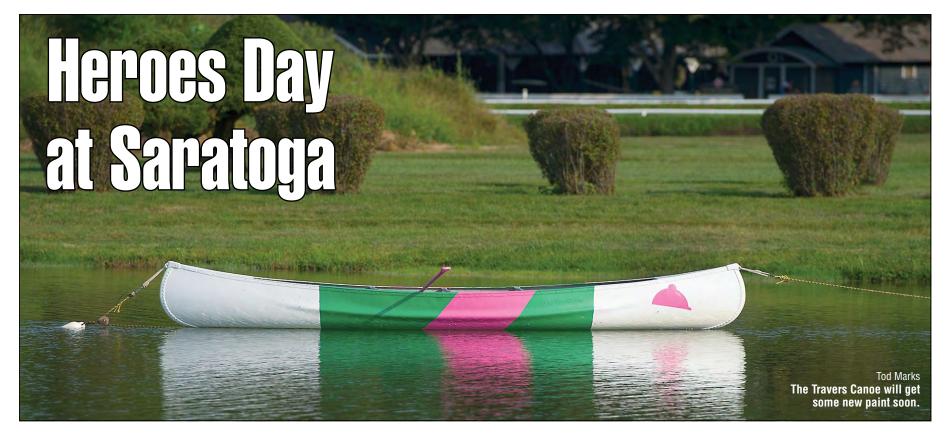
Closing Bell: Veteran pulled up in the Bowling Green. Mott rips his name off the stall door. "Last but not least, he just went to the farm, he strained something up above the knee, in the carpal canal. He's pretty sound. He's going to the farm, to the salt-water spa, Give him 60 or 90 days, rather than short cycling him, you could inject it. Even if the ultrasound doesn't show anything, he did strain something. He said he got bumped on the first turn, he must have torqued it or subluxated it. He should come back, given enough time."

And one more...

Round: In the outside stall, the lead pony walks over and pushes his nose into Mott's shoulder. "This is Round, the most important horse here. He was a New York winner, he was a sprinter, but he doesn't feel that quick to me, he laid up close in his races. I've had some quick ponies, Solenzano was pretty fast. I had a horse, we called him Halfpint, he was by Green Desert, for an eighth of a mile, he was fast, I had a horse called Bell Boy, who was actually Ralph Nicks' pony that I took away from him. They were the two fastest. For an eighth of a mile, if there was a loose one, smooth, and they were gone. Halfpint, he could run, he was a Thoroughbred, he never won, he showed speed and backed up, I guess. Mohammed Moubarak trained him. I don't know what his name was. I've got a painting of him and another one of a pony I got from (Jack) Van Berg. You could show off on them, I picked up a lot of horses with them. Now, you'd have to think about it, 'Do I really want to do this?' Round is becoming a nice ride, last year he was spooky, but now he'll lope, pony horses, he's pretty good about it. He's only 6, you don't usually get ponies that young."







Nation's oldest stakes for 3-year-olds hosts spring classic victors

The long and rich history of America's oldest 3-year-old stakes annually brings together a vast and varied collection of 3-year-olds.

More often than not the Travers Stakes, which will be run today for the 148th time at Saratoga Race Course, features a field of late-developing 3-year-olds squaring off with each other or meeting a bona fide contender for season-end honors. Other times, like going into last year's running when the race featured two winners from the Triple Crown series, it looks like a race to determine a divisional leader.

Rare is the day when it brings together three individual winners of the spring classics, either to settle a score or more importantly to further build a championship resume. Today's Travers brings three classic winners together for the first time in 35 years as Kentucky Derby winner Always Dreaming, Preakness winner Cloud Computing and Belmont winner Tapwrit headline an eclectic field of 12 vying for a \$1.25 million purse on Saratoga's biggest day.

The last time the Travers featured three American classic winners was 1982 when Gato Del Sol, Aloma's Ruler and Conquistador Cielo tasted defeat from an invader from the north in Canadian

classic winner Runaway Groom.

The Travers has featured the winner of three classics in Triple Crown winner American Pharoah, who was foiled by an overly ambitious travel schedule and an improving foe in Keen Ice in 2015.

The Travers of 1987 also brought together the winners of the Derby, Preakness and Belmont when Alysheba, the winner of the first two classics, met his spoiler from the third in Bet Twice; and it happened again in 1991 when Derby winner Strike The Gold met Preakness and Belmont winner Hansel and both lost to Corporate Report.

The presence of the big three – two of which lost in the Jim Dandy – didn't scare away the opposition as nine others entered the 1 1/4-mile Travers that anchors a stakes-filled card and goes off as the 11th of 13 races at 5:44 p.m. The mish-mash of a field features two serious California invaders, the 1-2 finishers from the Haskell Invitational, the Kentucky Derby runner-up and a graded stakes winner on turf who upset the Derby and Preakness winners in the Jim Dandy.

Seven of the 12 in the Travers ran in the Kentucky Derby – Always Dreaming, Lookin At Lee, Tapwrit (sixth), Gunnevera (seventh) McCraken (eighth), Girvin (13th) and Irap (18th).

"This is like coming into the Haskell," said Ian Wilkes, who sends out McCraken. "You look at the Jim Dandy they were talking about two horses, but down there at Monmouth they had seven horses and you could make a case for all seven. It was a really strong race. This is a strong race again. Top to bottom you can make a case for any horse in the field."

Wilkes added that so many former Derby horses in the Travers was a "testament that the trainers didn't hang them out to dry."

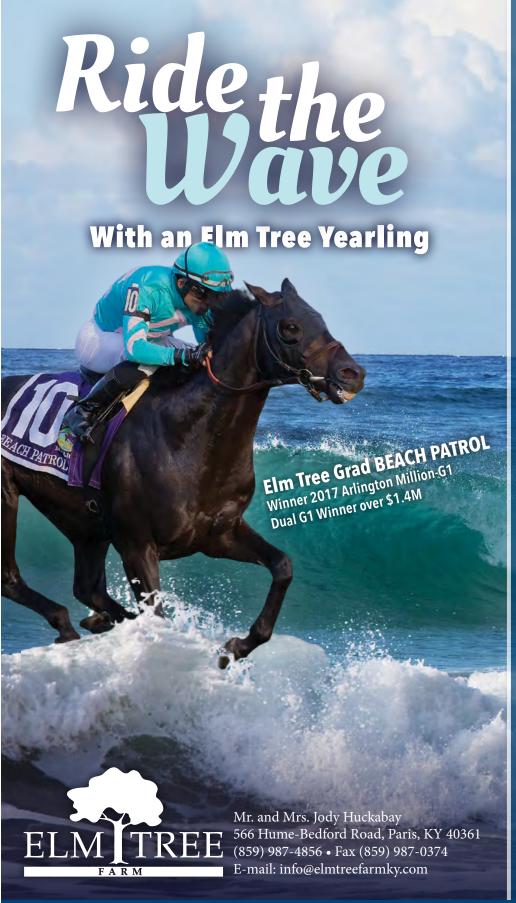
"They belonged in the Derby, they didn't just use them up to get there. It's a testament that the horses took them there because they've come out of it winning. It's good, great to see. It's a good field. Now I just need 10 scratches. And 11 wouldn't hurt my feelings either."

That situation is highly unlikely, but what is likely is a competitive race that on paper looks to lack any serious early speed beyond front-running Derby winner Always Dreaming and possibly Fayeq, a longshot half brother to Horse of the Year Rachel Alexandra who breaks from the outside post.

The Travers is one of seven competitive stakes on the card, which also features the Saratoga return of two-time champion Songbird in the \$700,000 Personal Ensign, East vs. West showdowns in the Grade 1 H. Allen Jerkens and Grade 1 Forego, European invaders in the Grade 1 Sword Dancer and one more Saratoga start for the popular mare Lady Eli in the Grade 2 Ballston Spa.

The day starts at Bloody Mary time with an early first post of 11:35 a.m. and goes through the last race at 6:54 p.m. The first stakes of the day, the Personal Ensign, is at 2:23 p.m.

The seven stakes are previewed on the following pages of a packed edition of The Saratoga Special you hold in your hands. Continuing a tradition that started the first year we produced The Special we've previewed every stakes, with a comment from someone associated with every horse for your reading pleasure. Good luck and enjoy.



Keeneland September

Book 2 Yearlings

Tuesday, 9/12 - Barn 35

180 f. SCAT DADDY - Elusive One

Filly from last crop of SCAT DADDY; 3rd foal out of SP Elusive Quality mare

Hip 426 f. MALIBU MOON - Let's Get Married

2YO 1/2 brother 2nd in debut to undefeated G2 Best Pal S. winner Run Away; 2nd foal out of SP More Than Ready mare

443 c. BERNARDINI - Lochinvar's Gold

<u>UPDATE</u>: 1/2 brother to 2YO "TDN Rising Star" Medaglia Gold and to MEI LING (\$522,383)

503 c. VERRAZANO - Miss Inclined

<u>UPDATE:</u>1/2 brother to 2YO runner-up in Gulfstream MSW debut; out of SP 1/2 sister to RUSH BAY (\$742,847) and to the dam of GSW ITSAKNOCKOUT

Wednesday, 9/13 - Barn 35

514 f. SCAT DADDY - Misty Lady (ARG)

Out of 100% producer and one of ONLY two SCAT DADDY yearlings in sale out of a G1 SW

564 c. WILL TAKE CHARGE - Oblige

<u>UPDATE:</u> 1/2 brother HUNTER O'RILEY wins G2 Bowling Green S. at Saratoga 7/29, earnings now \$361,460; out of a young Bernardini mare

650 c. PIONEEROF THE NILE - Ragtime Hope

1/2 brother to 2-time Breeders' Cup Sprint-G1 winner SECRET CIRCLE (\$3,670,790)

755 f. SUPER SAVER - Sky America

1st foal out of 2YO SP Sky America who is a sister to SW/G1P THIRD DAWN

Thursday, 9/14 - Barn 35

893 c. SPEIGHTSTOWN - Ullapool

2nd foal out of MSW ULLAPOOL (\$361,911, 7 wins in 14 starts)

901 c. CANDY RIDE (ARG) - Union Waters

1/2 brother to 2YO Smash Williams, 2nd in Belmont MSW debut

922 f. LEMON DROP KID - War Relic

1st foal out of 1/2 sister to GSW RUSH BAY (\$742,847) and to the dam of GSW ITSAKNOCKOUT

989 c. SPEIGHTSTOWN - Alternate

1/2 brother to multiple GSW/Millionaire ALTERNATION; immediate family of Champion PEAKS AND VALLEYS

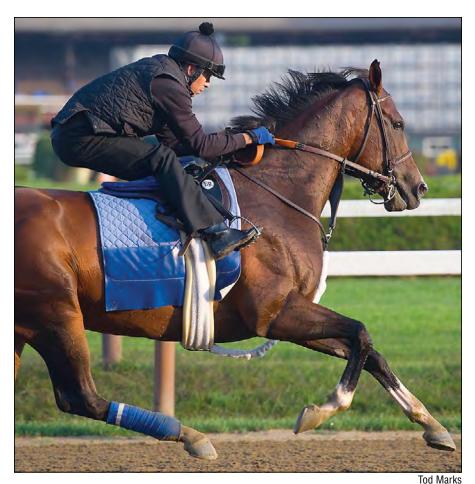
991 c. MORE THAN READY – Always Here Too

2nd foal from Eight Belles S.-G3 placed Always Here Too, 1/2 sister to the dam of a new 2017 BT winner, family of G1 SW HOME AT LAST

www.elmtreefarmky.com

The Personal Ensign

Grade 1. \$700,000. Fillies and mares. 3-year-olds & up. 1 1/8 miles. 2:23 p.m.



Songbird returns to the scene of her two Grade 1 wins last summer.

Tod Marks

Trainer Marialice Coffey leads Flora Dora and jockey Florent Geroux back from the track.

1. FLORA DORA

Coffeepot Stable's First Dude filly is no stranger to Songbird, running against the two-time champion in last year's Coaching Club American Oaks (third) and Alabama (fifth). Second in the Grade 3 Turnback The Alarm and fourth in the Grade 3 Comely to end her 3-year-old season, Flora Dora finished fourth in the Grade 3 Bed 'o Roses in her 2017 debut going 7 furlongs at Belmont June 9.

Trainer Marialice Coffey: "I love my horse. She's doing great. We're going up against the invincible Sonabird, but we've done it before. I hope we're going into this better than last year. She's older, she's put on some muscle, looks great. She loves Saratoga. I'm hoping I have that advantage. They've been working on the track, it seems better, they've gotten some of the dirt off it. She loves that. She likes a nice packed surface. I was surprised how much she took to Songbird, in a bit more restful state. Gulfstream, that was like beach sand but firm.



Tod Marks

Nice grip. It seems like that today and I hope by Saturday they have it really California'd up. We missed a race in between (the Bed o' Roses and Personal Ensign). I had a young horse get sick and then everybody got sick. It wasn't serious, just time consuming. That stunk. We were hoping to run to make the Shuvee off the seven-eighths race, I loved that race for her."

2. SONGBIRD

The champ. Fox Hill Farm's iconic filly returns to Saratoga where she dominated the Coaching Club American Oaks and Alabama last year, two of her 13 career wins (from 14 starts). Trained by Hall of Famer Jerry Hollendorfer and ridden by Hall of Famer Mike Smith, the daughter of Medaglia d'Oro is undefeated in two starts at 4, taking the Ogden Phipps at Belmont and the Delaware Handicap at 10 furlongs in her most recent start. Last year, the dark bay filly drew off and won easily, this year, she's won cozily, taking each stakes by a measured length.

Jockey Mike Smith: "She's doing great, she looks better than ever, I'm excited about her running back here. If all goes well, she's going to run big. She's a professional, she's good at what she does. I don't know how much she's changed, she's kinder, she's smarter about things, but she hasn't changed much. She's been running good, she went a mile-and-a-sixteenth at Belmont, she ran real good, the filly that she beat (Paid Up Subscriber) came back and won real impressively. She goes from that to a mile-and-a-quarter, she got pretty tired that day but she still ran really well, the filly she beat came back and finished second in a big race, she's beaten quality fillies and won them both, she hasn't drawn off, but she doesn't have to do that. Without a doubt, a mile-and-an-eighth is her best trip. There's not much pace, if she does her usual thing, she'll jump good, she'll probably be in front and she'll have to hold them off. She's up there with the best I've ridden, you don't come across horses like this, I'm just looking forward to it, without a doubt."

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



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6 The Personal Ensign

Grade 1. \$700,000. Fillies and mares. 3-year-olds & up. 1 1/8 miles. 2:23 p.m.

3. GOING FOR BROKE

Waterford Stable's homebred returned from a long break to finish second by a neck to stablemate Carina Mia in the 7-furlong Shine Again Stakes Aug. 2. The Chad Brown-trainee tried graded competition three times last year; a distant second to Songbird in the Grade 1 Alabama, a fifth to Forever Unbridled in the Grade 1 Beldame and then a third in the Grade 3 Comely before going on the shelf. She was scratched from the listed Summer Colony Stakes last Sunday where she would have been a heavy favorite.

Trainer Chad Brown: "A little more time in between races will help her. Obviously, this is a much tougher race than she was in last week. The chance to run in a big Grade 1, with a huge purse and a short field coming off a nice prep race seemed like worth the risk. I think she'll handle the mile-and-an-eighth well if she's good enough. Some nice fillies in this race obviously, Songbird speaks for herself. We have a lot of respect for her and Forever Unbridled as well. It's a tough race but she is doing well and anything can happen."

4. FOREVER UNBRIDLED

Charles Fipke's homebred daughter of Unbridled's Song was third in last year's edition of the Personal Ensign. She followed that with a win in the Beldame at Belmont in October and a third in the Breeders' Cup Distaff behind Beholder and Songbird. She won her 2017 debut in her most recent start in the Fleur de Lis Handicap at Churchill Downs June 17. The 5-year-old mare has placed in 13 of 15 starts, with \$1,711,880 in earnings. Joel Rosario has the mount for the sixth consecutive time.

Trainer Dallas Stewart: "It's going to be a great race. Champion filly, champion trainer, champion jockey. He'll be looking for her at the quarter-pole but you never know. We feel ready. We had one race that was good, really good, better than I thought. She's worked great since then, hasn't missed a beat and trained hard. She looks great, looks like she's put on weight and is healthy. She's been at Churchill working and she's only been here a week but she's galloped hard here, eating well, resting up. She did so well in (Breeders' Cup) with Beholder and Songbird. It goes to show you the quality of the race."

5. ESKENFORMONEY

Winner of the Grade 3 Rampart in December at Gulfstream Park, the 5-yearold daughter of Eskendereya rides a five-race losing streak into her toughest assignment. Hall of Famer Javier Castellano returns after finishing second in the Grade 3 Molly Pitcher at Monmouth Park July 30. A four-time winner, the hard-trying mare has banked \$527,616 in her career.

Trainer Todd Pletcher: "She's a consistent filly that's accomplished quite a bit, the one thing she doesn't have is a Grade 1 placing. She's doing well, it's going to be a short field, it will be one of those situations where winning will be difficult. Glancing at the race, Songbird is the only speed, it's one of those things you want to ride to win but you don't want to go suicidal and cost yourself any chance at third, that will be up to Javier to balance that out."



Tod Marks

Trainer Dallas Stewart and Forever Unbridled look to upset champion Songbird.



Tod Marks

Going For Broke exits a second in the Shine Again here Aug. 2.

THE SARATOGA SPECIAL SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2017

Alternation

DISTORTED HUMOR – ALTERNATE, by SEATTLE SLEW

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The Ballerina

Grade 1. \$500,000. Fillies and mares. 3-year-olds & up. 7 furlongs. 2:59 p.m.

1. BIRDATTHEWIRE

Forum Racing's daughter of Summer Bird shined at 3 with three wins and a second from seven starts and \$526,790 in earnings highlighted by a victory in the Grade 1 La Brea at Santa Anita Park. She was sidelined for nearly six months last winter, and returned with a second in an allowance at Presque Isle Downs May 29 to kick off her 5-year-old campaign. She finished fifth behind Curlin's Approval and Distinta in the Grade 2 Princess Rooney at Gulfstream Park in July, before a fifth in the Shine Again at Saratoga Aug. 2. Manny Franco takes the mount for trainer Tom Proctor.

Assistant Trainer Mel Williams: "She's a pretty aggressive filly, kind of have to make everything seem like it's her idea. She's all racehorse. When she breezes, she's on the muscle, on the bridle, she always gallops out really well. She kind of does everything right as long as you stay out of her way. That last race, even though she finished fifth, she ran hard. It took a lot out of her so we've been keeping her fresh. She's probably doing better than when we first got her in this spring. We put the outside blinker back on her because when she gets a little too high on herself, she tends to want to lug out and she's been doing well in it and we've been breezing her in it. Manny Franco came over and breezed her last week, five-eighths on the bridle, galloped out well. She's moving well, she always eats up, she's an easy keeper."

2. CURLIN'S APPROVAL

Happy Alter's third generation homebred is co-owned with Bridlewood Farm. The 4-year-old daughter of Curlin missed her 2-year-old campaign and has won six times with a second in 11 starts. She debuted as a 4-year-old with back-to-back wins in the Grade 3 Hurricane Bertie and Grade 2 Royal Delta at Gulfstream Park, followed by a fifth in the Inside Information at Gulfstream and seventh in the Grade 3 Matron at Churchill this spring. The mare won by 4 1/2 lengths in her last start in the Grade 2 Princess Rooney at Gulfstream July 1.

Trainer, Breeder and Co-Owner Happy Alter: "We thought this race would be the final step before the Breeders' Cup. The Breeders' Cup to me is like the Super Bowl in football, the prestige of races wherever you ship for big races is always special. Her home is Gulfstream and she dominated there during the winter season."

Bridlewood Farm's George Isaacs: "I personally raised her and have been watching her progression and we're trying to develop a very special group of fillies that will become broodmares and we have some real queens and she's one of them. The last race was a Breeders' Cup 'Win and You're In' race and she ran off the charts that day. She seems to be a filly that likes to be forwardly placed up in the race and she's got plenty of speed. Just let her do her thing."

3. PAULASSILVERLINING

Previously trained by Michelle Nevin, Juddmonte Farm privately purchased the daughter of Ghostzapper this winter and transferred her to trainer Chad Brown. The 5-year-old mare has 11 wins, four seconds and three thirds with \$1,491,230 in earnings from 21 starts. She finished third in last year's Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint and won the Garland of Roses in December before switching trainers. She debuted for Brown this spring and has won three straight - the Grade 1 Madison at Keeneland in April, Grade 1 Humana Distaff at Churchill Downs in May and Grade 2 Honorable Miss at Saratoga July 26.

Trainer Chad Brown: "She's been flawless since she's come over to us. Wonderful addition to our barn, we're very lucky to have her.

Jockey Jose Ortiz: "She's very game and I love her, she always gets it done. She's got the 7 furlongs now, she's won before but it's a tricky distance for her. She won here and Chad has done a tremendous job with her."



Tod Marks

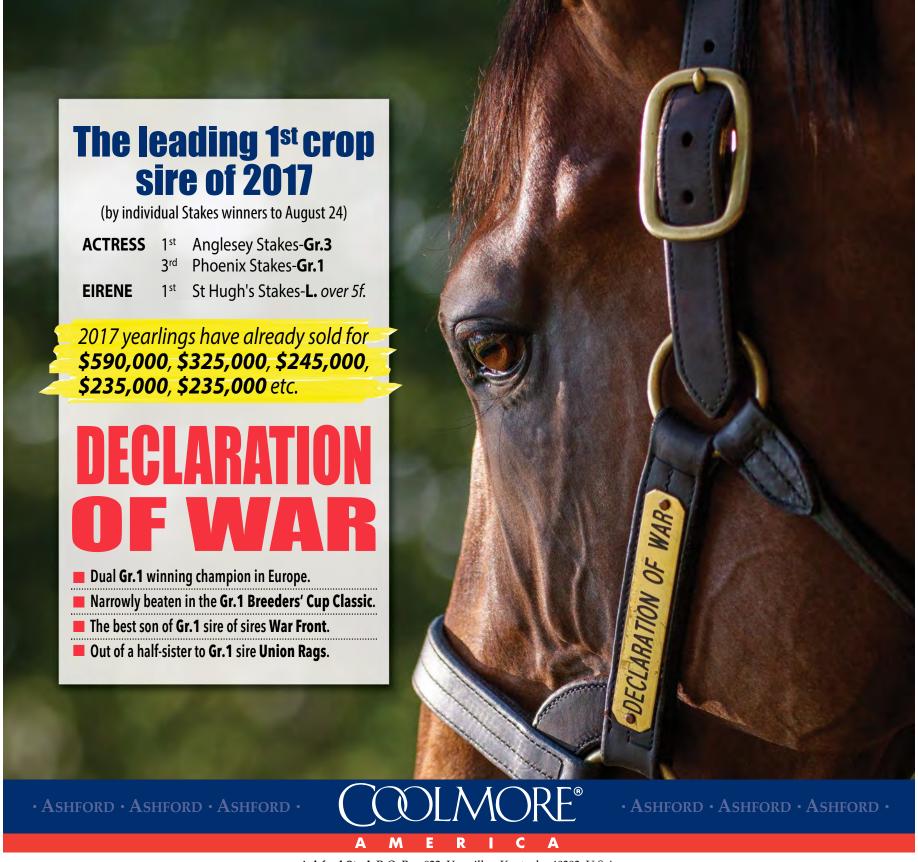
Paulassilverlining seeks her second stakes win of the meet.



Tod Marks

By The Moon aims for her third win of 2017 for trainer Michelle Nevin.

THE SARATOGA SPECIAL SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2017



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The Ballerina

Grade 1. \$500,000. Fillies and mares. 3-year-olds & up. 7 furlongs. 2:59 p.m.

4. BY THE MOON

Jay Em Ess Stable's daughter of Indian Charlie lost by a half-length in last year's Ballerina. The mare has had a strong start to her 5-year-old campaign, runner up in the Grade 2 Barbara Fritchie at Laurel Park in February, followed by back-to-back victories with Rajiv Maragh in the Grade 3 Vagrancy and Grade 3 Bed o' Roses Invitational at Belmont this spring. She finished a close third behind Paulassilverlining and Finley'sluckycharm in the Grade 2 Honorable Miss July 26.

Trainer Michelle Nevin: "She's a lovely filly, she tries every time she runs. She likes Saratoga. She likes 7 furlongs. She's training really well and I'm excited. She ran third last time and every time you go over there with her you can be confident because you know she'll try. I'm hoping for the same thing (as last year), for her to get good position and when the jock asks her to fire she's there for him."



Carina Mia.

5. CARINA MIA

Winner of the Grade 1 Acorn in 2016, Three Chimneys Farm's 4-year-old Malibu Moon filly went off as the even-money favorite in last year's Ballerina and finished third behind Haveyougoneaway and By The Moon. She started the 2017 season with a third in the Grade 1 Humana Distaff, beaten 1 length by Paulassilverlining, and a fourth to Songbird in the Grade 1 Ogden Phipps and was transferred from Bill Mott to Chad Brown. She won her first start for her new barn in the Shine Again Aug. 2. Javier Castellano rode her for the first time that day and will be back aboard

Trainer Chad Brown: "I got her in, I trained her a bit and it seemed like the right race to run her in. She ran really well first start for us and she seems to have moved forward out of the race."

Jockey Javier Castellano: "She rated beautifully with me behind the horses, she split horses, and I like the way she finished, very strong. She was always in the bridle, she relaxed for me and did all the right things."

6. DISTINTA

Purchased for \$600,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July horses of racing age sale, 5-year-old Summer Bird mare makes her first start for trainer Todd Pletcher and owners Fred Allor, JSM Equine and Medallion Racing. Winner of the Grade 2 Inside Information in March at Gulfstream for Victor Barboza Jr., she placed in two other graded stakes events in South Florida before being sold.

Tod Marks

Trainer Todd Pletcher: "This will be the first time starting for us, she's a filly who has shown quality in the past, she's trained well since we've had her, we need a good pace setup, if they



Tod Marks

Distinta makes her first start for trainer Todd Pletcher.

go real fast early, that could benefit her. She's a sweetheart, a real professional, straightforward kind of filly to be around, they just bought her, she was the sale topper based on the strength of some of her form. I read that they hadn't decided on a trainer so I reached out to Mark Taylor and said, 'Hey, keep me in mind if you're still looking.' That morning, I said, 'Ah, got nothing to lose, you never know.' "

7. HIGHWAY STAR

New York-bred Girolamo filly didn't embarrass herself last time in the Grade 1 Ogden Phipps, finishing third and 3 1/2 lengths behind Songbird. Prior to that effort, she took down open company winning the Grade 2 Ruffian and Grade 3 Distaff Handicap. The homebred for Chester and Mary Broman has never finished worse than fourth and has seven wins in 11 starts.

Trainer Rodrigo Ubillo: "Three out of three at the distance. She's already run with hard hitters, it's not like she doesn't belong there, she won a Grade 3 and a Grade 2. She matches nicely with them, it's not an easy race. I was looking for a prep, you like to have a prep before this type of race, but there wasn't much for her, races that were not her distance. She's given me my first graded stakes wins, she's special, but all the horses are special. I'm very thankful to her and the owners. I'd be lying if I said, 'Oh yeah, I knew she was going to be a champion.' When she was a 2-year-old, she was a big, leggy horse, she was traveling a little awkward, I give her the time and the owner has a lot to do with it, I had her for a year and didn't run her, when she was ready, she showed me, she worked in 48, like she turned around, she won first time out. If you read the horse, there's a success story there. The owner never complains, that helps a lot, he's been a big part of the whole equation."

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



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



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



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







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

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

Beautiful Pleasure

Personal Ensign 1999 and 2000

BY JOE CLANCY

John and Donna Ward went to the Keeneland April 2-year-old sale in 1997, and looked at a bay filly by Maudlin. The Florida-bred, part of her breeder Farnsworth Farm's consignment, made John's first short list but bounced off it the second time through.

That's when Donna spoke up.

"She watched some videos and brought me back to her," said John this week. "And that was the first inkling that Donna and Beautiful Pleasure were going to be an item throughout their lives."

Yes, that 2-year-old filly who almost got skipped turned out to be Beautiful Pleasure – multiple Grade 1 winner, champion, earner of \$2.7 million over five seasons including victories in the Personal Ensign Handicap at Saratoga in 1999 and 2000.

Owner John Oxley spent \$480,000 on the filly at Keeneland, and sent her to the Wards to train. She made her debut late in the meet here going 7 furlongs, and won by 5 lengths as the even-money favorite. She'd hinted, OK screamed, at some ability in a 5-furlong workout earlier in the meet.

"I had two nice 2-year-old fillies who needed to work out of the gate and I got Pat Day and Jerry Bailey," Ward said of the two Hall of Famers. "Jerry was on Beautiful Pleasure, Pat was on the other filly and they worked very well. The comment was, 'How did you get those riders to work two unraced 2-year-olds out of the gate together?' "

Because they were that good. Or at least one of them was. The other filly won some races, but was no Beautiful Pleasure – who teamed up with Bailey to win the Grade 1 Matron at Belmont Park in her second start before finishing third



in the Alcibiades at Keeneland and 10th in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile at Hollywood Park to close her 2-year-old campaign. Ward would still like another try at the Breeders' Cup.

"She was a big, strong, nice-training filly that you had to take your time with," he said. "She could get a little volatile with you at times. They ran the mile-and-a-sixteenth off the turn at Hollywood Park and we were in the 13 hole. If the filly hadn't already been on the plane, I'd have scratched her at the draw."

Beautiful Pleasure started just three times in 1998, a fact Ward can laugh about now. She was tricky to train, and uncooperative. Ultimately, he started over and went back to his wife.

"Donna, I don't get along with this female," Ward said. "You need to get on her and do the work on her because she and I just don't see eye

to eve."

Donna went to work, Beautiful Pleasure went to school and everyone saw much more clearly.

"There were some extremely long training sessions," John Ward said. "She did finally turn the corner and the rest was her in championship mode."

Literally. Four-year-old Beautiful Pleasure put together a sublime 1999 season – winning a Keeneland allowance in April, placing fourth in the Shuvee in May, running second in the Hempstead in June and the Go For Wand in August (each by a half-length).

Twenty days after chasing Banshee Breeze home in the Go For Wand, Beautiful Pleasure and Jorge Chavez blasted through the slop to win the

Continued On Page 21

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Beautiful Pleasure —

■ Continued from page 20

Personal Ensign. She didn't lose again that year, adding the Beldame and Breeders' Cup Distaff en route to the Eclipse Award as champion older female.

"Her 4-year-old year, she won some pretty nice races," said Ward. "She loved Belmont because of those big, sweeping turns. Allen Jerkens and P.G. Johnson and those guys would tell me, 'If she can handle Belmont she can handle anything.'"

Beautiful Pleasure even handled the handicapper.

"She always carried a lot of weight and people would call her overweight," said Ward. "I didn't think she was overweight, but I understood. She kept on picking up a couple pounds each time she raced. But she could handle it. Each time she ran she shed 15 or 20 pounds of her own weight. As she moved through the handicap division she got a little bit lighter."

Beautiful Pleasure came back at 5 and dominated the Shuvee and Hempstead at Belmont in May and June, then finished second in the Go For Wand. Back in the Personal Ensign, she ruled again – scoring by 5 lengths while carrying 124 pounds.

That would be her final victory, as she lost her next six starts including seconds in the Beldame and in an attempt at another Personal Ensign in 2001.

"I wish she could have won it the third time," Ward said. "That would have really marked her again."

Ah well, Beautiful Pleasure went on to the breeding shed where she produced (among others) Saratoga debut winner Dr. Pleasure, who finished third in the 2006 Travers, 20-time winner North Ocean, 19-time winner Strategic Decision and To Dream About, whose daughter Dream Dancing won the Grade 1 Del Mar Oaks last week for Oxley and trainer Mark Casse.

Beautiful Pleasure died in 2011 of complications from laminitis, but the memories carry on – along with her family.

"The long hard hours that were put in to keeping her on top of her game paid off," said Ward. "She always wanted to be in charge. She was a special racemare and now she's the granddam of a Grade 1 winner."



8 The H. Allen Jerkens

Grade 1. \$500,000. 3-year-olds. 7 furlongs. 3:35 p.m.

1. PRACTICAL JOKE

One of the most consistent members of the 3-year-old crop, the two-time Grade 1 winner owned by Klaravich Stables and William Lawrence cuts back to the 7-furlong distance where he won last year's Hopeful. He started 2017 with back-to-back seconds in Kentucky Derby preps, first in the Grade 2 Fountain Of Youth and then in the Grade 2 Blue Grass. After finishing fifth in the Derby, Chad Brown returned the son of Into Mischief to racing around one-turn and he won the Grade 3 Dwyer. Finished third by a half-length in the Grade 1 Haskell last time out.

Trainer Chad Brown: "He's 4-for-4 around one-turn. He's run really well in a couple of these mile-and-an-eighth races, in the Haskell and the Blue Grass, I respect him for that but he's definitely better around one turn. It looks like there's a lot of speed in there. Going to need every bit of the racetrack to get up going seven-eighths."

Jockey Joel Rosario: "He seems that he runs his best races around one turn. He was right there last time in the Haskell, he's honest and tries hard all the time. For a horse like him, I don't think (the rail post position) matters, he can be anywhere."

2. TAKAFUL

Impressed in 6-furlong allowance Opening Day with 5 1/4-length victory in 1:09.89 when the main track was notoriously slow. Shipped up from trainer Kiaran McLaughlin's barn at Belmont Park just before that race and returned shortly after. McLaughlin prepped Shadwell Farm homebred son of Bernardini the same way for the Allen Jerkens and the colt blew out 3 furlongs in :36.05 Thursday at Belmont.

Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin: "I've been doing this a long time looking at Ragozin Sheets and he ran an unbelievable number off of training at Belmont and running here. He got a 1 on the sheets. He's going to react probably and maybe can't run a 1 again. He is a little tricky to train and I didn't want to change anything. I'm glad I left him down there. He just had a little blowout there. Not what we normally do, but we do that with him three or four days out. It was raining so we did it yesterday. He gets real pumped up after you do that, and he was pumped up. We're ready to go. He's a fast horse. Nice horse, beautiful horse, by Bernardini and if we can get lucky he's a sire prospect."

3. TALE OF SILENCE

Charles Fipke's homebred has won two of 10 and comes off a second behind today's rival Practical Joke in the Grade 2 Dwyer July 8. Beaten 2 lengths at 43-1 that day, the dark bay has worked four times at Saratoga and tackles Grade 1 company at his preferred distance.

Trainer Barclay Tagg: "He likes the 7 furlongs to a mile. He's coming into it well and we're excited about him. Sometimes I like to take a shot. I used to talk to Allen Jerkens and he told me that when he beat one of those good horses, it was a surprise. He didn't get up in the morning thinking he was going to beat Secretariat. When your horses are doing really well, you should run them and he's doing really well."



Tod Marks

Practical Joke shortens up after finishing third in the Haskell.



Tod Marks

Takaful exits this win on Opening Day.

THE SARATOGA SPECIAL SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2017



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8 The H. Allen Jerkens

Grade 1. \$500,000. 3-year-olds. 7 furlongs. 3:35 p.m.

4. WILD SHOT

Calumet Farm's homebred upset the Pat Day Mile at Churchill Downs May 6, that win over a wet track looks like a beacon in a storm, as he's run hard in races like the Tampa Bay Derby, Blue Grass, Woody Stephens and Indiana Derby. The son of Trappe Shot returns to sprinting after finishing sixth in the Indiana Derby July 15.

Trainer Rusty Arnold: "He's doing well, it appears that he won't run his best race around two turns. At Belmont he just didn't fire, a little cuppier, deeper track, maybe it was my mistake, I shipped him up right before the race. He's been here a month, took him over there, he had a nice work, albeit, it was slow, he finished up really well, he's going into the race good. It's brutal. I wish it would it rain, he loves the slop. We'll lead him over there and take a shot. His Pat Day Mile was phenomenal and his race against McCraken was good, just a little bit wet. We've loved this horse, it was just finding exactly what he wants to do, we tried the Derby route, we didn't know how far he wanted to run, his two races at Tampa were solid and we took him to the Blue Grass, it just looked like he didn't want two turns, we took him back for the mile, he trained fabulous and ran well, we took him to Belmont and he just didn't show up. We took him to Indiana and we said he just probably doesn't want two turns, we put this race in the book and pointed for it. He's good to go"

5. ANN ARBOR EDDIE

Homebred California-bred son of Square Eddie for Reddam Racing. He won two Cal-bred stakes over the winter and then finished second in the Grade 3 El Camino Real Derby, but was disqualified to fourth. He was given the spring off by Doug O'Neill, won an allowance July 9 and then was second in the Real Good Deal Stakes for Cal-bred 3-year-olds going 7 furlongs last time at Del Mar. Ridden again by Mario Gutierrez, he will race with blinkers on for the first time today.

Assistant Trainer Sabas Rivera: "He looks good, I think he handles the track very well. It's his first time traveling. (Wednesday), he maybe was missing home a little bit, but not bad. We'll see what happens on Saturday. With the exercise rider, sometimes he looks around a little bit, that's why we put the blinkers on."

6. PHI BETA EXPRESS

Martin Cherry's second generation homebred made three starts this winter without breaking his maiden before he was transferred to trainer Danny Gargan's barn. He debuted for Gargan on Independence Day, blasting a field of maidens at Belmont Park by 2 1/2 lengths. The Afleet Express colt also easily took his last start in July 23 allowance at Saratoga, winning by 8 lengths.

Trainer Danny Gargan: "When I got Phi Beta, he was a real big, pretty horse. Not impressive to watch train, but after I breezed him the first time I knew he could run. He's running good right now, and Mr. Cherry has his brother in the sale so if he does well that would help. We almost had the perfect post, I wish Coal Front was inside of us. I don't think our horse has to have the lead, we're fast though. We'll keep the pace honest. If we break good and someone goes crazy he's a pretty gentle horse to ride. You can't grab at him, but you don't have to hustle him either to be in front. I'd like to be sitting second or third stalking. He should kick home, I'd love to see him hit the board because it would be so great for the family."



Tod Marks

Wild Shot gets back to sprinting for trainer Rusty Arnold.



Tod Marks

Phi Beta Express comes off an 8-length win here July 23 in allowance company.

24 The Saratoga Special Saturday, August 26, 2017

Laurel Park Fall Stakes Schedule

CLOSES RUNS	STAKE	AGE	.DISTANCE	.PURSE
Thu., Aug. 31 Sat., Sep. 9	Challedon (Non-winners of a Stakes)	3 & Up	7 Furlongs	.\$75,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Aug. 31 Sat., Sep. 9	Shine Again (Non-winners of a Stakes)	F&M 3 & Up	7 Furlongs	.\$75,000 Guaranteed
	Frank J. De Fr <mark>ancis Mem. Dash (G3)</mark>		•	
	All Along Stakes (Listed)*	-		
	Laurel Futurity	-		
	Laurel Dash (Listed)	-	<u> </u>	
	Laurel Turf Cup (Listed)			
	Selima			
Thu., Sep. 7Sat., Sep. 16	Sensible Lady Turf Dash	F&M 3 & Up	6 Furlongs (T)	.\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 21 Sat., Sep. 30	**Balt/Wash International Turf Cup (G2) .	3 & Un	1 Mile (T)	\$200,000 Guaranteed
	Commonwealth Derby (Grade 3)			
	Commonwealth Oaks (Grade 3)			
	Jamestown (Reg. VA-bred/Sired)		• • •	
	Punch Line (Reg. VA-bred/Sired)		2 . ,	
	Oakley (Reg. VA-bred/Sired)		* * * *	
Thu., Sep. 21 Sat., Sep. 30	Bert Allen (Reg. VA-bred/Sired)	3 & Up	11/16 Miles (T)	.\$60,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 21 Sat., Sep. 30	Brookmeade (Reg. VA-bred/Sired)	F&M 3 & Up	11/16 Miles (T)	.\$60,000 Guaranteed
Wednesday, October 11	- Pre-entry Deadline for Marylar	nd Million Day, S	Saturday, October 21	
2.		•	**	
Thu., Nov. 2Sat., Nov. 11	City of Laurel (Listed)	3-y-o	7Furlongs	.\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 2Sat., Nov. 11 Thu., Nov. 2Sat., Nov. 11	City of Laurel (Listed)	3-y-o Fillies 3-y-o	7 Furlongs	.\$100,000 Guaranteed .\$100,000 Guaranteed
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Thu., Nov. 2Sat., Nov. 11 Thu., Nov. 30Sat., Dec. 9	City of Laurel (Listed)	3-y-0	7 Furlongs	.\$100,000 Guaranteed .\$100,000 Guaranteed .\$100,000 Guaranteed .\$100,000 Guaranteed .\$75,000 Guaranteed
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The Maryland Jockey Club, Inc. P.O. Box 130, Laurel, Maryland 20725

*Formerly named the Lady Baltimore Stakes **Formerly named the Commonwealth Turf Cup.

800.638.1859 • 301.725.0400 • Fax 301.725.4561 Coleman "Coley" Blind, Stakes Coordinator

8 The H. Allen Jerkens

Grade 1. \$500,000. 3-year-olds. 7 furlongs. 3:35 p.m.

7. COAL FRONT

Undefeated son of Stay Thirsty for Robert LaPenta and Head of Plains Partners is 4-1 third choice behind American Anthem and Practical Joke. Trained by Todd Pletcher, he won the Grade 2 Amsterdam to run his record to 3-for-3.

Trainer Todd Pletcher: "He's done everything right so far, 3-for-3, we stepped him up in class a little bit, he handled that well, I thought the post position was important, I'm glad we drew toward the outside, it's a real class test, going seven-eighths my fear was to draw inside in a race with a lot of speed, I'm glad we drew where we did. Everything's gone smoothly since he's come back, we were originally thinking about running in the Dwyer and decided to wait for the Amsterdam, I'm glad we did, it worked out, he got a race over the track. He's a very nice horse, it was unfortunate he had a setback as a 2-year-old because he was always impressive. I think he gets a mile, we'll see after that."

8. NO DOZING

The Lael Stables' homebred disappointed in both Kentucky Derby preps at Tampa Bay Downs and was an unlucky third, beaten a neck, in the Grade 3 Lexington at Keeneland. Turned back to one turn in the Grade 3 Pat Day Mile three weeks later on Derby Day, he was a distant second to Wild Shot over a wet surface. Arnaud Delacour gave the colt some time off following that performance and the son of Union Rags returned to the races July 22 in the Concern Stakes at Laurel Park. He showed early speed with blinkers on for the first time and drew away impressively in the stretch to win by 4 lengths.

Trainer Arnaud Delacour: "The race at Laurel was perfect timing. He ran well enough to make us think it was worth taking a shot in this race. It was a good spot for him, I liked the fact that we were able to go 7 furlongs after running in routes. Seems to me that he's more efficient in a one-turn race. He's not an easy horse to ride, he likes to put himself in trouble all the time. So, we need to have a little bit of luck with the trip. He is a funny horse, sometimes he will try to pull himself up for no reason and I think the blinkers help. He's the same in the morning, needs to have a rider that drives a little bit when he breezes, then he does well."

9. AMERICAN ANTHEM

Bob Baffert ships son of Bodemeister back to the East Coast after authoritative victory over similar group in Grade 2 Woody Stephens on the Belmont Stakes undercard. The deserving 2-1 favorite, he's 3-for-3 at 6 and 7 furlongs. Baffert flirted with the Kentucky Derby trail this winter and spring, sending the colt to a second in the Grade 3 Sham then disastrous efforts in the Grade 2 Rebel (10th) and Grade 1 Santa Anita Derby (12th) before shortening him back up. Mike Smith rides for owners WinStar Farm, China Horse Club, SF Racing and Head Of Plains Partners.

Assistant Jimmy Barnes: "He drew good, one turn, he looks like he's really good at one turn right now, he handled the trip well, he's going over the track great, I look for him to reallly show up. The stretch out in Arkansas was a disaster, he got away bad, pinched at the start, lost a shoe, he got hit by a lot of dirt, he didn't like it. The Santa Anita Derby, they pushed him hard early, he was up close on a quick pace, after that we decided, 'Let's just go back to one turn.' He looks so good there, we're sticking to that plan for right now. I think he will stretch out but it's not the right time yet. I see a change in his physical appearance, he's carrying a little more weight, he looks a little brighter, maybe two turns was a bit much for him."

Jockey Mike Smith: "He's doing real well, everything I ride is doing good, they should run well, they came here for a reason. I like his post, I drew well in every race."



Tod Marks

Coal Front rides a three-race winning streak into the Jerkens.



Tod Marks

American Anthem is part of the California contingent.

26 THE SARATOGA SPECIAL SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2017



9 The Forego

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

1. STALLWALKIN' DUDE

A winner of 15 races from 40 starts since David Jacobson claimed him for \$16,000 at Gulfstream Park in September 2014, Stallwalkin' Dude has earned \$1,402,650 for Jacobson and \$1,482,852 in his career. Stallwalkin' Dude won the 6-furlong Tale Of The Cat Stakes for the third consecutive year in his last start Aug. 11 at Saratoga. This marks Stallwalkin' Dude's second try in the Grade 1 Forego Stakes after a third behind A.P. Indian and Tamarkuz last year.

Trainer and co-owner David Jacobson: "He's training very well. He's doing everything right and that's what made us take a look at this race and enter him in it. We were hoping some of these big stars from California and Dubai wouldn't show up. You'd rather not see them in the race, but they're there and Stallwalkin' Dude definitely has got the credentials to compete with them. With luck, we can do something serious here. Obviously, this is our last shot to run him this year in Saratoga and it's obvious how well he likes Saratoga, so I do think we have an edge when it comes to that. We didn't have to fly across the country. I just walk him about three-quarters of a mile from my barn and put him in the gate. That's definitely an advantage."

2. ROSS

Irish-bred son of Acclamation competed four times over dirt during Meydan's Winter Carnival in Dubai. The 5-year-old trained by Peter Schiergen was second by a neck in the Grade 2 Godolphin Mile on Dubai World Cup night, finishing three-quarters of a length in front of Smart Azteca. Given time off following that run, he won a 6 1/2-furlong allowance over Deauville's Polytrack Aug. 4 with Andrasch Starke aboard, who makes the trip to ride today.

Assistant and Exercise Rider Patrick Gibson: "A long trip (from Germany) but he managed everything fine. He had about an eight-hour flight. He was on his feet for about 20 hours to get here, but he's a hard boy. He likes it over here, he's enjoying it. He can be a little bit special, but as soon as he starts to gallop he's very professional, easy to ride. He finished second in a Group 2 in Dubai and there's not many dirt races (at home) so we're here to try it. Seven furlongs will be a little bit too short for him but we hope he can manage to get a good placing."

3. TOM'S READY

G M B Racing's 4-year-old rolled through the lane at Belmont Park to win last year's Grade 2 Woody Stephens then finished ninth in the Grade 1 King's Bishop. He started off this year's campaign with a closing third in the Grade 2 Churchill Downs on Derby Day and a seventh in the Grade 1 Metropolitan Handicap. Dallas Stewart regrouped after the Met Mile, sending the More Than Ready colt to Presque Isle Downs to win the Pennsylvania-restricted Leemat Stakes on the synthetic track.

Trainer Dallas Stewart: "He's the kind of horse that's got to have some pace and have some things happen to help him get the win. He's very healthy, he's doing well and is very honest. He's coming off a win in Pennsylvania going against state-breds. He shipped in there, ran hard, the horse collared him at the sixteenth-pole and he fought it off. It's always good to come off a win going into a big race and have some positive energy for the horse. But he's going to have to run hard to get the job done. He's always all over the track when he trains; he gallops this way, gallops that way but when he puts his mind to it he takes off. He'll be back, trying to make that one move in the stretch."



Tod Marks

Stallwalkin' Dude looks for his 20th win.



Tod Marks

Tom's Ready exits a Pennsylvania-bred stakes win at Presque Isle Downs.

28 THE SARATOGA SPECIAL SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2017

Best Owners in the World, thank you & good luck



Coal Front
Robert LaPenta,
Head of Plains
Partners



Paulassilverlining
Juddmonte Farm



Going for Broke Waterford Farm

Always Dreaming

MeB Racing, Brooklyn Boyz, Teresa Viola, St Elias, Siena Farm, West Point Thoroughbreds



CHURCHILL DOWN

Rally Cry
Paul Pompa, Jr.

Steven W. Young Racing, LLC

PHOTOS © CANDICE CHAVEZ/ECLIPSE SPORTSWIRE AND TOD MARKS

9 The Forego

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

4. DIVINING ROD

Lael Stable's homebred 5-year-old by Tapit was third in the 2015 Preakness behind eventual Triple Crown winner American Pharoah when ridden by Javier Castellano, who will ride today. He was off for more than a year before back-to-back allowance scores at Parx last September, setting up placings in the Grade 2 Fayette and Grade 1 Cigar Mile (which he lost by a head) to end the season. Off for another long gap, he won by 6 1/4 lengths two weeks ago at Laurel in the Polynesian Stakes.

Trainer Arnaud Delacour: "After the Cigar Mile, I was thinking Carter (Stakes at Aqueduct in April) because that was a perfect spot for him in order to try to win a Grade 1. Unfortunately, we couldn't do the Carter because the horse had a little bit of a soundness issue so we had to back off. Obviously, it's a much tougher race than the Carter was but I love the seven-eighths for him and he's always been a talented horse, probably one of the best horses we've trained. He tried to drop his rider yesterday morning at Fair Hill, kicked the pony and tried to bite everybody and scream at every filly he can see, so I think he's doing well. He came back very sound. Now it's a quick turnaround, running at two weeks you always worry about how much the race took out of them, but he looks great and he eats well. And also it was an easy race, I don't think we got to the bottom of him in that race. I was pleased and surprised because Javier's agent asked me for the three horses that we're running on Saturday."

5. AWESOME SLEW

Live Oak Plantation's Awesome Again colt enjoyed a productive spring with a win in the Grade 3 Commonwealth at Keeneland, a second in the Grade 2 Churchill Downs on the Kentucky Derby undercard and a fourth in Mor Spirit's Met Mile. Ran into Mind Your Biscuits last time in Grade 2 Belmont Sprint Championship and finished second, beaten 3 1/2 lengths. Looks to join Live Oak's World Approval as Grade 1 winners at the meet for trainer Mark Casse.

Trainer Mark Casse: "He seems to get over this track really well, which is important. For him it's the one thing he doesn't have, a Grade 1. He's a beautiful horse and when he's retired he deserves to stand somewhere so getting that Grade 1 will help. (The Commonwealth), they were a little different kettle of fish. I didn't say they were slouches, it was a nice race, nice for him. This track tends to be a little more difficult to close on but like I said he's run well over it, he's trained well over it. We don't have a whole lot to lose. There were some agents pushing us to run two turns, but I don't know. We may change our mind after this weekend, but I don't think so."

6. MIND YOUR BISCUITS

Star of the Chad Summers' stable and Dubai Golden Shaheen hero returned to the U.S. better than ever last time winning the Grade 2 Belmont Sprint Championship by 3 1/2 lengths July 8, defeating Awesome Slew, Tommy Macho and Stallwalkin' Dude. New York-bred won the Grade 2 Amsterdam here last year, finished third in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Sprint before being moved up to second via a DQ and capped off stellar 3-year-old season with a win in the Grade 1 Malibu at Santa Anita Park. Joel Rosario is back aboard for the sixth consecutive time.

Trainer Chad Summers: "He's doing super. We're really happy with how he's coming into the race. This is a race we've kind of targeted since the Breeders' Cup last year and you know how hard it is to get to races. We're happy to be here. He's a once-in-a-lifetime horse. To do what he's done, he's made just about \$2.3 million, taking us around the world and we don't take any of that lightly. It's a weird race because it's a sprint race and normally you have a whole lot of speed in there and there's not. We'll sit the trip. We're not going to change our style, we'll be coming late and I think we'll get them."



Tod Marks

Awesome Slew hopes to clean up in the Forego.



Tod Marks

Mind Your Biscuits aims for his third consecutive win.

30 The Saratoga Special Saturday, August 26, 2017





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9 The Forego

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

7. TOMMY MACHO

Winner of the Grade 3 Hal's Hope going 1 mile at Gulfstream Park in January, 5-year-old son of Macho Uno comes in off back-to-back thirds in Grade 1 Met Mile and Grade 2 Belmont Sprint Championship. He chased fellow Forego rivals Mind Your Biscuits and Awesome Slew in the Belmont Sprint for trainer Todd Pletcher. A multiple graded stakes winner, Tommy Macho makes his Saratoga debut for owners Paul Pompa Jr. and J Stables.

Trainer Todd Pletcher: "We need a perfect setup, trip-wise, he ran really well in the Carter, he was a little bit unlucky not to win that day, he handles the seven-eighths, he's a veteran, he's straightforward, he's got his patented running style. Just try again."

8. TALE OF S'AVALL

Charles Fipke's homebred 4-year-old comes off a powerhouse allowance score here July 28. Dark bay improved to 4-for-14 lifetime with \$337,517. Has never won a stakes, but has placed in two Grade 3 races. Sports two wins in three starts at Saratoga, the only loss coming in last year's King's Bishop on Travers Day.

Trainer Barcay Tagg: "He looks great, he's trained great, he's good and sound. We're tickled to death with the way he is. It's a 7-furlong race, it just might set up for him. Everybody in there will be shooting ducks right off the bat and he'll sit back there and it might work out for him. You want to take a shot in a race like this when they're on top of their game. We won the Cigar Mile twice, with Tale Of Ekati (Tale of S'avall's sire) and with Jersey Town, and both times we avoided some of the tough races, waited for the end and took them on when we were at our best. You still have to run, but you can win races that way."

9. VERY VERY STELLA

A \$12,500 claim for owner and trainer Jose Noda-Fernandez, the 5-yearold gelding brings his trainer to Saratoga for the first time. He finished third in the Grade 3 Smile Sprint July 1 and has made three starts since, all losses in \$50,000 stakes in South Florida. Carlos Hernandez, 11th in the rider standings by wins at the current Monmouth meet, gets the call in his Saratoga debut.

Owner and Trainer Jose Noda-Fernandez: "My son works here, so we figured we'd take a shot at it and see what happens. It's a big race with really tough horses but there's a possibility to prove himself to be enough. We changed the jockey, I figure if he was closer to the pace he'd still have a big kick at the end. I thought there was going to be three or four horses with a lot of speed and they might kill each other out and it seems like there's only one speed. The plan is to break and run the race."

10. DREFONG

Blip. Last year's Breeders' Cup Sprint winner put a blip on his record when ducking left out of the gap in the Bing Crosby July 29. The son of Gio Ponti dropped Mike Smith and ran loose during the running of the 6-furlong stakes. The bay colt posted a 4-for-4 record last year, including a dominant front-running win in the King's Bishop at Saratoga.

Jockey Mike Smith: "He got bumped just before it happened, he thought they were pushing him that way, he just went, he knew if he was going to do it, he had to do it quick or he wasn't going to make it. Going seven-eighths, I wish he had a race under his belt, I'd rather it be three quarters but in saying that, he ran seven-eighths over here last year and it was probably one of his best races, if not, the best, period. He can certainly do it. He liked it last year. He drew the outside last year."



Tod Marks

Tale Of S'avall exits a Saratoga win July 28.



Tod Marks

Drefong returns to the scene of his King's Bishop win.

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10 The Sword Dancer

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

1. FRANK CONVERSATION

One of three in from Southern California to run today for Doug O'Neill, Reddam Racing, and Mario Gutierrez. He makes his second cross-country trip this summer after he was sixth in Saratoga's Grade 2 Bowling Green July 29. Prior to that he was second by a half-length in the Grade 2 Charlie Whittingham at Santa Anita Park. He won the Grade 2 Twilight Derby last November at Santa Anita, a race after Beholder and Songbird dueled to the finish of the Breeders' Cup Distaff.

Assistant Trainer Sabas Rivera: "He came back OK, sound and everything. It was a little disappointing the last time he ran here, I don't know what happened. Mario said, 'It looked like he wanted to go and when I asked him, there was no horse left.' "

2. BIGGER PICTURE

Three Diamonds Farm claimed the Badge Of Silver gelding for \$32,000 in November 2015. Since then, the 6-year-old has become their best horse with a career highlighted by a win in the Grade 1 United Nations Stakes in July and \$718,550 in earnings. Never worse than fourth in five races this year, he finished a neck behind Hunter O'Riley in his last start in the Grade 2 Bowling Green July 29. Jose Ortiz, the meet's leading rider who rode Bigger Picture to win the Grade 3 Red Smith at Aqueduct last November and the John B. Connally at Sam Houston in January, takes the return call.

Trainer Mike Maker: "It was a kick in the crotch to lose (the Bowling Green), but he ran great. He shows up every time. He's a great addition, we'd take 20 more if we could get them. He's been doing dynamite. He can adapt to anything so pace isn't a real concern. Jose can't do anything wrong, so I hope we don't mess up his streak."



Tod Marks

Frank Conversation heads back to the barn after training this week.



Tod Marks

Hunter O'Riley aims to repeat his win in the Bowling Green.

3. SADLER'S JOY

Woodslane Farm's homebred returns to 1 1/2-mile distance where he won the Grade 2 Pan American at Gulfstream Park April 1 for trainer Tom Albertrani. He's finished third in three straight starts, two at 1 3/8 miles in the Grade 1 Man o' War at Belmont and Grade 2 Bowling Green at Saratoga and at 1 1/4 miles in the Grade 1 Manhattan. Made the lead in the Bowling Green and was caught late by Hunter O'Riley and Bigger Picture to lose by a half-length.

Trainer Tom Albertrani: "I thought we were home free. Javier did think when he did make the lead in the stretch, he felt like when he was clear he put his head up and kind of hesitated, waited on the others. He runs good every start, we just need to get the right trip. It doesn't look like there's a lot of pace this time. If we can get the right trip it might make the difference. This is the first time we're going back to a mile and a half since the Pan American. This is the distance he really prefers. We cut back in the spring, he ran a huge race in the Manhattan, which I thought was a tremendous effort going back to a mile-and-a-quarter. That day I think Mike Smith might have waited a little too long. He thought if he made his move a little sooner he would have got there, too. It's all about timing. Hopefully this time, the distance will make the difference."

4. HUNTER O'RILEY

Come-from-behind winner of the Grade 2 Bowling Green at Saratoga July 29, he's won two of his last three and owns a win at Saratoga as a 2-year-old in 2015. Trained by Jimmy Toner, Tiz Wonderful ridgling gets the services of Florent Geroux again today.

Trainer Jimmy Toner: "He tries, you know he's going to show up and give you your money's worth. It looks like there's some pace in there this time. If he picks up one or two or three, you go from there. Maybe you get fourth, maybe you get third and see what happens. The Bowling Green was neat. With him you're always into it, trying to get a piece, maybe fourth, then watching we're like, 'can we get third, come on, get third.' Then all of a sudden at the wire you're like, 'we're going to win.' "

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10 The Sword Dancer

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

5. MONEY MULTIPLIER

Second in last year's Grade 1 Man o' War and Grade 1 United Nations, the Chad Brown-trainee was runner-up to stablemate Flintshire in the 2016 running of the Sword Dancer. The 5-year-old followed that strong performance up with two lackluster tries in the Grade 1 Joe Hirsch Turf Classic at Belmont and Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Turf. Given the winter and spring off, Klaravich Stable's and Bill Lawrence's 5-year-old son of Lookin At Lucky made his 2017 debut on Haskell Day and won the Grade 2 Monmouth Stakes going 9 furlongs.

Trainer Chad Brown: "He just came out of the Breeders' Cup very sore all over. He needed plenty of time off and we gave it to him, he deserved it. He trained really, really well up to the race at Monmouth and we've been pointing to the Sword Dancer for some time now. I'm very pleased with this horse, how he is training and his schedule. We set a plan for him and often times with horses it's hard to keep them on plan A because things change, this horse stuck to the plan perfectly. He hit the race at Monmouth we wanted to prep him in and he won. He's trained super since, so he's really set up for a nice race Saturday."

6. ERUPT

Flaxman Holdings' 5-year-old homebred son of Dubawi ships in from France. He started his career with four wins from four starts, capping the streak off with a win during July of his 3-year-old year in the Group 1 Grand Prix de Paris, the same race 2015 and 2016 Sword Dancer winner Flintshire captured in 2013. Winless in seven subsequent starts in Group 1 or 2 company, he crossed the Atlantic Ocean to take the Grade 1 Canadian International at Woodbine in October. Trained by Francis-Henri Graffard, Erupt started the year with a close fourth in the Group 1 Prix Ganay at Saint-Cloud then disappointed in the Group 1 Prix de Saint-Cloud two months later. Stephane Pasquier was aboard for the win at Woodbine and rides again today

Assistant Anthony David: "Eight-hour flight from France and four hours in the truck from New York to Saratoga. He needs the ground to be very firm, and when the ground is soft his action and finish is no good. A lot of Dubawis like it when the ground is firm. He's very nice, he's very easy. He is very, very relaxed every day."

7. IDAHO

Enable. Ulysses. Idaho. That was the order of finish in the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot July 29. Well, you won't find many better in England than the two that beat the Irish raider that day. Trained by Aidan O'Brien, the son of Galileo owns three wins from 12 starts, including two wins on good to firm turf. Breaking from the outside with Ryan Moore, here's your expected favorite.

Assistant T. J. Comerford: "He traveled over lovely. He's been to England, he finished third in the King George, the horse that was second (Ulysses) won the Juddmonte, the form is there, this horse is in good order, he's in good order so he is. We have plenty of horses, Aidan tries to divide them up the best he can, you go where the races are, the turf races, the mile and a half races, the prize money is good, the traveling is the easy part, everything going right in the race is the hard part, the horse is in good order, that's the main thing. Look at him, he doesn't care. They've always liked him, he was running a good race in the St. Leger and he stumbled, he took a bad step, he was absolutely cantering, he's a good horse, a very good horse. We have a lot of good horses, he could have easily run in the Juddmonte (International), you'd like to think he's got a good chance. He's good, you know. They say there's no pace in the race, it doesn't matter, it actually doesn't matter, let him jump out there, go wire-to-wire, get the money and go home, it's as simple as that, there's no point in making it complicated."



Tod Marks

Money Multiplier looks to go one better than his second in the 2016 race.



Connie Bush

Erupt ships in from France.

36 The Saratoga Special Saturday, August 26, 2017





The Travers

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

1. CLOUD COMPUTING

Son of Mclean's Music started his career in February with a maiden win on the inner track at Aqueduct. After placing in his next two, he won the Grade 1 Preakness Stakes. Sent off at 13-1, Cloud Computing tracked down Classic Empire and won by a head. In his last start, Cloud Computing finished last of five in the Grade 2 Jim Dandy July 29.

Trainer Chad Brown: "The horse has only had one bad day in his life with me and that was the day of the Jim Dandy. All his works have always been good. All his races have always been really good. That particular track that day, he just couldn't handle it. It made him very tired, it was deep and demanding, he was wide the whole way, I'm just going to draw a line through it. The horse has breezed so well the last two times I've worked him, it's just so hard to keep him out of the race. Since the Jim Dandy, it looks like the track tightened up quite a bit and it's more to his liking."

Jockey Javier Castellano: "I didn't think he handled the track. You can see Always Dreaming, my horse struggling turning for home, they were walking and he's not used to the track like that. I'm hoping we take something positive out of that race and we move forward, he's been training so good. He's going to show up and I'm looking forward to it."

2. GIUSEPPE THE GREAT

Hall of Fame trainer Nick Zito looks to add another Travers to Birdstone's win in 2004 with Mossarosa's Lookin At Lucky colt bought as a yearling for \$100,000. Giuseppe The Great comes off second to Good Samaritan in the Jim Dandy, where he finished ahead of Always Dreaming and Cloud Computing. Unraced at 2, Zito's horse broke his maiden going 6 1/2 furlongs at Keeneland in April then finished second in the Woody Stephens and fourth in the Dwyer.

Trainer Nick Zito: It's good to be back here, like I tell the guys every day. And back with a live horse. I'm very grateful to have something like that. I've had some tough beats in the Travers over the years, Albert The Great was this big (puts fingers two inches apart), Fly Down's was this big and people forget Fast Falcon, the day of the dead heat, he got beat a neck and a horse broke down in front of him, got hurt. He might have won that race. It's a tremendous Travers, tremendous. It's who's who, which is great. You know your homework, the three winners of the Triple Crown, the Haskell, the Blue Grasses, this Derby, that Derby. When he got beat in March at Gulfstream, the day Timeline beat him, that was a tough loss but look what happened to Timeline. After the Woody Stephens I was thinking, 'what should I do?' Then it's, well, let's just try this Jim Dandy. Logical spot and lo and behold it was a good move."

3. WEST COAST

Son of Flatter is based in Southern California with trainer Bob Baffert and used to shipping to the East Coast. He broke his maiden at Santa Anita Park in March before heading to Keeneland for the Grade 3 Lexington April 15. He finished second, beaten a head by Senior Investment. Hasn't lost since, stringing three consecutive wins in an allowance at Santa Anita, Easy Goer Stakes at Belmont June 10 and the Grade 3 Los Alamitos Derby July 15. Baffert and Mike Smith teamed up to win last year's Travers with Arrogate.

Jockey Mike Smith: "I like him a lot, he's really coming around at the right time, his last three races have been really, really good. He showed last time that he should get the mile-and-a-quarter, his best part of his last race going a mile-and-an-eighth was the last part so that's a good sign. He's doing really well, he's been training sneaky good, like really, really good. I'm not without a big shot, it's a very competitive Travers this year but we're not without a big chance. There's not a lot of pace in there, I would like a little bit more pace but it is what it is, he's actually quicker than what people think he is, he might be laying in a pretty good spot going into the first turn. He wouldn't see him in front like Arrogate but I wouldn't mind him drawing off like that."



Tod Marks

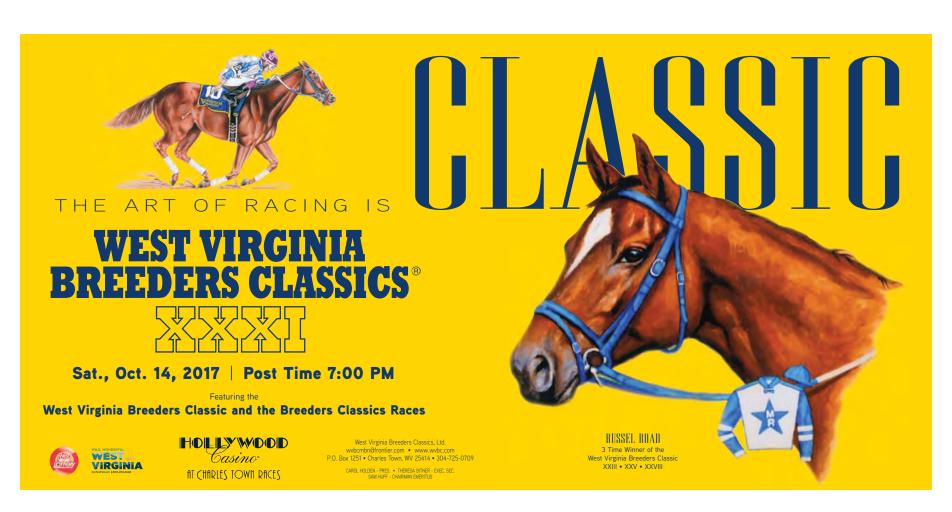
Preakness winner Cloud Computing breaks from the rail in a field of 12.



Tod Marks

Giuseppe The Great tries to give trainer Nick Zito another Travers win.

THE SARATOGA SPECIAL SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2017





the handicapper's edge

brisnet.co

The Travers

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

4. TAPWRIT

Two-time Travers winner and the meet's leading trainer Todd Pletcher sends out the Belmont Stakes winner in his first start since the June 10 classic. Tapwrit breezed five times leading up to the Travers, four over the Oklahoma Training Track and one on the main. Sixth in the Kentucky Derby and fifth in the Blue Grass, son of Tapit won the Grade 2 Tampa Bay Derby in March.

Trainer Todd Pletcher: "I'm glad we did what we did with Tapwrit and skipped one of the preps, he seems like he's coming to it the right way. He had back-to-back works where he galloped out a mile in 1:42. I think we have him fit, coming off the mile and a half race, it should be good, the key for him is he needs to break well, he's a horse that does better when he's in the battle, we want to be in a good spot going into that first turn. The way the track's playing, it should be good, hopefully it will continue to stay that way, I don't see it changing at this point."

5. GOOD SAMARITAN

Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott put the son of Harlan's Holiday on the dirt for the first time in the Jim Dandy, and Good Samaritan responded. He won the Grade 2 prep by 4 3/4 lengths after racing 12 lengths behind the field early. Before he became a leading Travers contender, Good Samaritan was an accomplished turf runner for WinStar Farm, Head of Plains Partners, China Horse Club and SF Racing Group. He won the Grade 2 Summer Stakes at Woodbine in his second start last September and finished third in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf. He placed in two other turf stakes – the Grade 2 American Turf and the Grade 3 Pennine Ridge. Good Samaritan logged two workouts since the Jim Dandy. Most recently, he breezed 5 furlongs at Oklahoma in 1:01.65.

Trainer Bill Mott: "I'd have to admit that seeing him win a race on the dirt gives you a boost, I don't care what anybody says, you don't know until they've done it. Wasn't it Harvey Pack that said, 'don't bet on a horse to do something he's never done before.' He's doing well, good energy, moving well, eating well, doing all that stuff the right way. We're extending it another eighth-of-a-mile. He's been that far on the turf, which is two different things, but the way he ran the other day you wouldn't think it would put him at a disadvantage. We paddock school him with a rider, because I was just worried, coming home he was going to be too hard to handle. He's much less apt to go up in the air with a rider. Sometimes when you take them over there and disappoint them, bring them home, they'll be tough to get home. I was a little worried about it, you just don't want to get them hurt. Saturday is a big day. A big day."

6. GIRVIN

Joe Sharp's most successful horse since getting a trainer's license in 2014 is fresh off a win in the Grade 1 Haskell at Monmouth Park July 30. Brad Grady's \$130,000 Tale Of Ekati yearling broke his maiden first time out and hopped on the Derby Trail, winning the Grade 2 Risen Star and Grade 2 Louisiana Derby at Fair Grounds. He finished 13th in the Kentucky Derby before losing by a nose to Irap in the Grade 3 Ohio Derby at Thistledown in June. The Haskell victory brought his earnings to \$1,574,000.

Trainer Joe Sharp: "He was training great going into the Haskell. Post-Haskell, the work he had here was the best I've ever seen Girvin have. He's just gotten a lot more confident, growing up both mentally and physically. He's matured and filled out, and just his overall presence has become more of a man, little more stoic, little more class and a bit of a quiet confidence about him. He's got a great shot, he's getting good at the right time of the year with this race. I feel confident with Robby (Albarado) and him having a win together already and going into the race fantastic. There's not as much pace as I'd like, but Girvin has a lot of good tactical speed if you need it. Robby's good in big races and he's a pretty strong finisher and Girvin likes a good dog fight and needs a strong rider down the lane. I don't think Robby will let him get as far back as he did last time, he knows the horse a lot better now."



Tod Marks

Tapwrit makes his first start since winning the Belmont Stakes in June.



Tod Marks

Good Samaritan rumbles into the Travers off a win in the Jim Dandy.

40 The Saratoga Special Saturday, August 26, 2017



2017 September Meet **Stakes Schedule**

September 15 - October 1

POCAHONTAS (GII)

2017 "Win and You're In Juvenile Fillies Division" 2018 Kentucky Oaks Points Race

Runs Sat., Sept. 16 \$200,000 Fillies, Two Years Old Closes Sept. 2 (\$200 nomination fee)

1 1/16 Miles

IROQUOIS (GIII)

2017 "Win and You're In Juvenile Division" 2018 Kentucky Derby Points Race

Runs Sat., Sept. 16 \$150,000

Closes Sept. 2 (\$150 nomination fee)

Two Year Olds 1 1/16 Miles

LOCUST GROVE (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 16 \$100,000

Closes Sept. 2 (\$100 nomination fee)

Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up

1 1/16 Miles

OPEN MIND

Runs Sat., Sept. 16

\$100,000

Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up

Closes Sept. 2 (\$100 nomination fee) 6 Furlongs

DOGWOOD (Listed)

Runs Sat., Sept. 23 \$100.000

Closes Sept. 9

Fillies, Three Years Old 7 Furlongs

(\$100 nomination fee)

ACK ACK (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 30 \$100,000

Closes Sept. 16 (\$100 nomination fee)

Three Year Olds & Up 1 Mile

LUKAS CLASSIC (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 30 \$200,000

Closes Sept. 16 (\$200 nomination fee)

Three Year Olds & Up

11/8 Mile

JEFFERSON CUP (Listed)

Runs Sat., Sept. 30 \$100.000 Three Year Olds

Closes Sept. 16 (\$100 nomination fee) 11/8 Miles Turf

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

Fax: 502.636.4479







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The Travers

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

7. ALWAYS DREAMING

After placing in a pair of maiden races last summer for trainer Dominick Schettino, Always Dreaming was transferred to Todd Pletcher. He didn't resurface until late January when he won by 11 1/2 lengths at first asking for his new connections before an allowance win in his next start. Always Dreaming won the Grade 1 Florida Derby April 1 and followed it with a win in the Kentucky Derby as the race's favorite on the first Saturday in May under John Velazquez. Always Dreaming finished eighth in the Preakness and third, beaten 5 1/4 lengths in the Jim Dandy, in his latest start. Pletcher breezed Always Dreaming twice over the Oklahoma track since the Jim Dandy, logging half miles in :48.83 and :49.60, Aug. 11 and 18, respectively.

Trainer Todd Pletcher: "Both horses are doing well, the race over the track will help Always Dreaming and the couple of works he's had since then, the way the track should play versus how it played in the Jim Dandy should also help. I was a little disappointed, any time you have the Derby winner, you don't want to get beat. I thought he ran OK, he was courageous from the top of the stretch, you could tell he was tired but he kept fighting, I was happy to see that. The more time that we've had to analyze it, to see how the track was playing then versus now, it kind of makes sense that he probably needed that one with only four works in between the Preakness and that. I don't know that I could have done anything differently and I don't know if we would be in the position we are in Saturday if we hadn't, you don't get any do-overs in this game, you try to learn from what you did, in retrospect, I don't really know if I could have done anything differently unless I would have known that the track was going to be the slowest Saratoga track in a long time, maybe you would have done more with him or looked at other options, but we didn't have that information on Opening Weekend. I thought he was on cruise control, but the one thing Johnny said was, even thought he was there, he wasn't relaxed, it looked good, but he was pulling him, I knew when Johnny didn't spread the race out going to the three-eighths pole. He kept fighting and when Johnny stood up on him at the wire, he kind of galloped back out with those other horses. For a moment, you thought it was going to be the Preakness all over again."

8. LOOKIN AT LEE

Second in the Kentucky Derby, fourth in the Preakness and seventh in the Belmont Stakes, Lookin At Lee comes in with the most starts in the field with 13. He's won twice – back-to-back starts at Ellis Park last summer – with three seconds and three thirds for Steve Asmussen and L and N Racing. He's placed in six graded stakes and comes in off a third in the Grade 3 West Virginia Derby. Ricardo Santana Jr. will ride Lookin At Lee, who figures to be closing from the back of the field.

Trainer Steve Asmussen: "He's extremely blue-collar. That's just who he is physically in his approach. He never gives up. He's raced some very nice horses on the big stage. He's caught most of them, but not all of them. The sense of pride on (winning the Travers) would be enormous. Just the fact that he has such a workman-like approach to how he trains, how he travels, and in everything that he's done for us. How he shows up. He's the first horse since Risen Star to run 1-2-3 in the Kentucky Derby from the 1 hole. What he doesn't excel at, he has other areas that are his strengths. I think that if he were to be fortunate enough to win a race of the magnitude of the Travers, everybody would feel about him the way we always have and always will. The three weeks from the West Virginia Derby to the Travers is exactly the three weeks from the Arkansas Derby to the Kentucky Derby that he fired off his best shot this year in."



Tod Marks

Kentucky Derby winner Always Dreaming was third in the Jim Dandy.

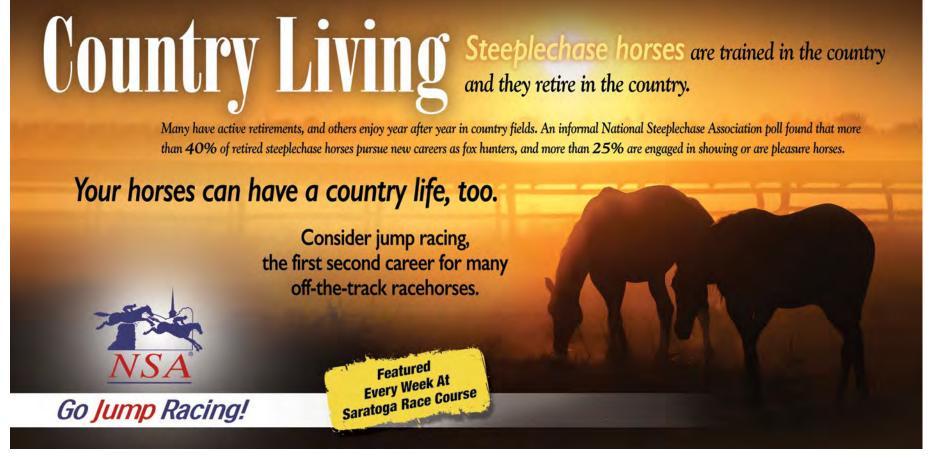


Tod Marks

Lookin At Lee makes his 14th start for trainer Steve Asmussen.

42 The Saratoga Special Saturday, August 26, 2017





The Travers

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

9. McCRAKEN

The one-time early favorite for the Kentucky Derby finished eighth in Louisville and trainer Ian Wilkes skipped the Preakness and Belmont to prepare for the Travers. He prepped for his return to 10 furlongs with a victory in the Grade 3 Matt Winn at Churchill and a runner-up finish in the Grade 1 Haskell Invitational at Monmouth Park July 30. He lost the Haskell by a nose to Girvin after leading in the stretch. A homebred for Janice Whitham's Whitham Thoroughbreds, son of Ghostzapper is 5-for-8 lifetime with three graded stakes victories.

Trainer lan Wilkes: "I've got a spot in the starting gate that means I've got a shot. After the Derby I talked to Mrs. Whitham and the plan was we'd look at the Matt Winn then after that race the Haskell or Jim Dandy, leaning toward the Haskell because it's a Grade 1. As long as he didn't disappoint me in the Haskell, then I wouldn't know what I would have done. But he didn't and I had the confidence he wouldn't. I had the van lined up to come here. He's good since, can't fault him. Right on key. This is like coming into the Haskell. If you look at the Jim Dandy, they were talking about two horses and down there they had seven horses and you could make a case for all seven. It was a really strong race. This is a strong race again. Top to bottom you can make a case for any horse in the field."

10. IRAP

The Doug O'Neill-trainee shook up the road to the Kentucky Derby when he broke his maiden in his eighth start, taking down the Grade 2 Blue Grass Stakes at 31-1, defeating McCraken and Tapwrit. Following a disappointing performance in the Kentucky Derby, the son of Tiznow defeated Girvin by a nose in the Grade 3 Ohio Derby and then scored again in the Grade 3 Indiana Derby three weeks later in his last start July 15. Mario Gutierrez rides the colt for Reddam Racing.

Trainer Doug O'Neill: "He's always been a real physically imposing horse. He's been a big, strong mature physical horse but mentally he's been a little bit immature. The last few races he's matured so much mentally and we're just so excited. He's doing really well. He showed in the Ohio Derby he can come inside of horses and win. It's a wide-open race, but if he brings his race he's got a really good chance. I love the 10 (post), he's going to be up in the top three or four early. He's a horse that doesn't get tired in the mornings, I know that doesn't mean a lot, but he's got a lot of stamina and a lot of heart, he's got the body and he's got a little win streak going in his favor so I think he's got a big chance."

11. GUNNEVERA

A second in the Grade 2 Holy Bull and a victory in the Grade 2 Fountain of Youth at Gulfstream Park made Gunnevera a 10-1 chance in the Kentucky Derby. He finished seventh and 13 1/4 lengths behind Always Dreaming in the Derby and fifth in the Preakness before trainer Antonio Sano gave the multiple graded stakes winner time off. Gunnevera returned in the Tangelo Stakes at Gulfstream Aug. 6 and won by 5 lengths under Edgar Zayas, who will get a leg up again in the Travers. In his last Saratoga appearance, Gunnevera won last summer's Grade 2 Saratoga Special.

Trainer Antonio Sano: "Beautiful weather here, it's good for my horse, for all horses it's good. After the Preakness (where he bled), I wanted to come back to the track very slow for the first start after the Preakness, (so I ran him) in the Tangelo Stakes at Gulfstream, he won easy. The plan was the Tangelo and then a run in the Travers. I know the horse is so fresh, his mind is very different. He's stronger, he's filled out."



Tod Marks

McCraken comes off a second to Girvin in the Haskell.

12. FAYEQ

Shadwell Stable's half brother to Horse of the Year Rachel Alexandra steps up to Grade 1 company after victory in 1 1/8-mile allowance the first Wednesday of the meet for Kiaran McLaughlin. Connections hope issues in the starting gate are behind the son of Malibu Moon, who won a 1 1/16-mile maiden race at Belmont before his Saratoga victory. An \$800,000 buy at Keeneland September in 2015, Fayeq is 30-1 on the morning line and one of three in the field with a win at Saratoga.

Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin: "The race shape I thought was going to be more speed, it looks like Todd's Always Dreaming is on his own again and we might be as close as second to fourth depending on how wide we get. If we break and get over we might be laying second and save ground. We don't want to be asking him though or we won't finish. It's a tough Travers. You could say after the race any one of 10 horses, 'oh I could see that one winning.' Fayeq had some gate issues in the past, Trish (McLaughlin, one of his assistants and brother Neil's wife) really worked on him and did a great job. We stay with the Monty Roberts blanket but I think he's over all of those issues. Luckily he didn't injure himself the first time we took him to the gate. He was kicking, kicking, kicking, kicking, She did a lot of schooling with him."

Trish McLaughlin: "He didn't like anything above his head. As soon as you lifted your knee he'd fly backward. He wasn't spooky just genuinely afraid. We never really noticed it until Neil went to the gate with him. The first time we went he almost killed himself. I did a lot of working the stall with him with a bucket. Up and down, up and down, up and down. If he tried to get up he'd try to flip over. It took a lot of time putting my hands all over his head, getting up and down, throwing the bucket in the air, letting it land. All kinds of things and letting him get used to it. When we were in Florida I did not think we'd get him started, that's how bad he was. As soon as he got it in the stall it just transformed outside. He was good in the gate. He's perfect now. He still wears the blanket just because, it's comfort for him. This is one of the classiest horses I've ever been around. I love him. He would have been our Derby horse if we got him started, but the gate got in the way. Just scared, scared, scared, but as soon as he got it he got it."

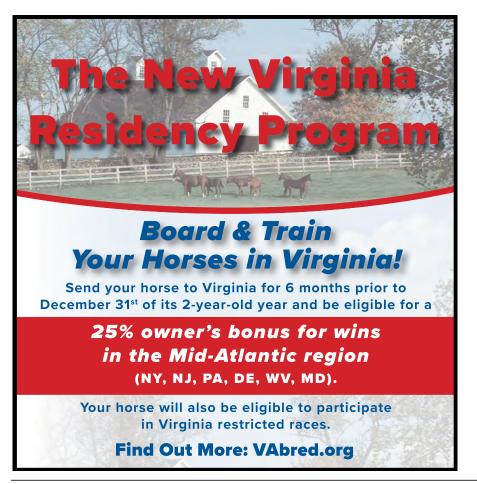
THE SARATOGA SPECIAL SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2017

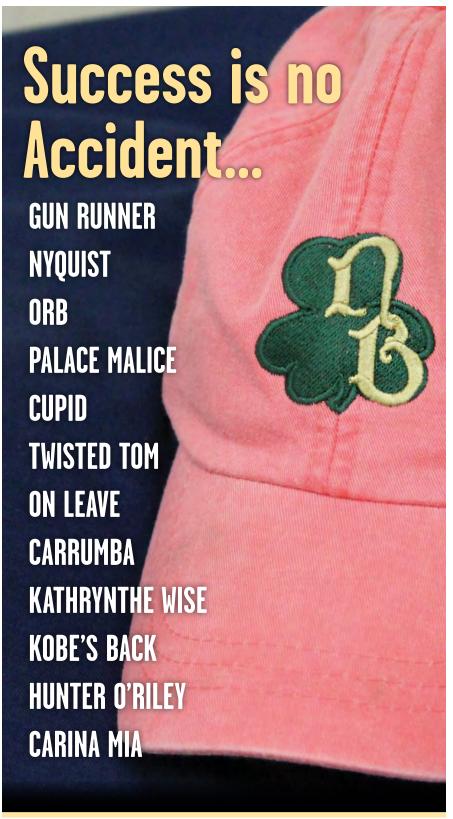


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SARATOGA MEMORIES

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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 look back, re-connect and dig up some memories. Enjoy.

Arrogate

Travers 2016

BY JOE CLANCY

Every foal brings high hopes, but nobody would dare even dream of a Thoroughbred like Arrogate. This time last year, if you were reading in the morning, you might not have even heard of the gray colt with three non-stakes wins in four starts in California.

By the end of Travers Day 2016, however, everybody knew Arrogate. Juddmonte Farms' gray demon ran 1 1/4 miles faster than any horse – ever – at Saratoga Race Course in dominating the Travers Stakes. He won by 13 1/2 lengths in 1:59.36, laying waste to a dozen other 3-year-olds, and made everybody a believer.

"How about that?" his trainer Bob Baffert said after watching the race with his wife Jill. "Jill said, 'They're going too fast,' I said, 'This is a running son of a...'"

That's one way to describe him.

Jockey Mike Smith, on board for the historic win, agreed with that assessment and tried to explain it afterward.

"That was freaky," he said in an understatement. "He took off when I asked him. I thought, 'All right, all right,' then I asked him one more time, 'Oh, that's good enough,' but you've got (Preakness winner) Exaggerator and all those closers, man, you just never know when one's going to come down the middle of the track, but I said, 'If they catch him, they've got to be unbelievable.'

They weren't. He was.

Arrogate stayed freaky, adding a Breeders' Cup Classic score over California Chrome in November. The champion 3-year-old lost the Horse of the Year vote to his older rival, beat him again in Gulfstream Park's Pegasus World Cup in January and then added the Dubai World Cup in March.



Back-to-back losses at Del Mar this summer, in the San Diego Handicap and Pacific Classic, added some question marks but did little to diminish Arrogate's reputation. Bred in Kentucky by Clearsky Farms, he's won seven of 10 starts and earned \$17.3 million.

People dream of such things, right? Not quite. "We didn't expect that, didn't expect any of

this," said Barry Robinette, the Clearsky farm manager, in February. "You'd be greedy if you expected all this. Congratulations to Juddmonte and the whole team."

Arrogate grew up like the other foals on the Cleary family's 267-acre farm along Russell Cave Road in Lexington. Founded in 2009 by Irishman Eamon Cleary, Clearsky breeds for the sales market. In 2010, Cleary spent \$170,000 to buy the stakes-winning Distorted Humor filly Bubbler as

a broodmare prospect. In 2012, Bubbler went to Unbridled's Song. She delivered a colt the following April.

Cleary, whose business success took him to New Zealand, Australia and South America among other nations, died of cancer in 2012 and didn't get to see the best horse bred by Clearsky. His sons Bernard and Eamonn have continued the mission along with Robinette.

Arrogate went to Keeneland September as part of the farm's consignment.

"He was one of those types that always made you pay attention," said Robinette. "Like a lot of the good ones, he had a lot of class and manners. They never really get into much trouble. It's the hard heads you can probably worry about."

Continued On Page 47

Arrogate —

■ Continued from page 46

As part of a plan to relaunch a division in California, and take a step toward producing a Kentucky Derby horse, Juddmonte hired Baffert who (along with agent Donato Lanni) scouted yearlings for the farm at Keeneland September in 2012. They bought four the first year and three the next. The 2014 class included eight. One cost \$560,000 – and became a horse of the world even though he didn't debut until April of his 3-year-old season.

"He was always a classy horse who really started to come together toward the end of September before the sale," said Robinette. "You could tell he was going to do well when he got there."

But not this well.

"We love to watch him run," said Robinette. "He has such a stride. That's the first thing I noticed when I saw him run. The way he stretches his legs and pushes himself off his hind end. He was athletic but as he gets older he just keeps getting better and better."





2 The Ballston Spa

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

1. LADY ELI

Audible. After taking the Diana Opening Weekend, Chad Brown has decided to treat Saratoga fans to another Lady Eli appearance. The gutty mare defeated stablemate Antonoe and Dickinson last time. The 5-year-old was second in last year's Ballston Spa, her first run in more than a year, much of which was spent battling laminitis. After losing a photo in her 2017 debut to Dickinson in the Grade 1 Jenny Wiley, she ventured to the West Coast to win the Grade 1 Gamely. Irad Ortiz Jr., the only jockey to have ridden Lady Eli, gets back aboard today.

Owner Sol Kumin: "Chad made the decision. The horse breezed great last weekend and he looked at us and said, 'we might have to run this horse.' We had another horse in the race, still do, Roca Rojo, and had no expectations she was going to run. He called me yesterday in the morning and said, 'I'm going to enter, she's doing too well.' She likes the firm, so he was worried about catching a soft track at Belmont in the Flower Bowl. Selfishly you're super excited she's running, especially on a day like that. We'll have a lot of friends here, it's a fun day, it's the race after the Travers. So, from that standpoint I couldn't be happier. But you get nervous every time she runs. We have a bunch of horses running that day and I don't really feel a lot of pressure with most of them and now all of the sudden the day turns into kind of a stressful day so it changes it a little bit."

2. ROCA ROJO

Irish-bred mare won the Grade 3 Athenia last fall at Belmont and then lost by a nose in the Grade 1 Matriarch at Del Mar. Raced for the first time this year on Kentucky Derby Day, winning the Grade 2 Distaff Turf Mile by a head at Churchill Downs. She never fired in the Grade 1 Just A Game, finishing behind Antonoe and Dickinson in her most recent start. Joel Rosario gets aboard for the first time today.

Trainer Chad Brown: "Uncharacteristically bad run for her (last time). She's been training well recently. We're just trying to get her started in this race, and point toward the First Lady at Keeneland."

3. TIME AND MOTION

Phillips Racing Partnership's Grade 1 winner looks to end four-race losing streak dating back to the Matriarch in early December at Del Mar. Daughter of Tapit finished third in back-to-back starts, the most recent a 2 3/4-length loss July 8 at Arlington Park in the Grade 3 Modesty. She won the Grade 2 Lake Placid on the inner turf last summer, setting up victory in the Grade 1 Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup Stakes at Keeneland.

Trainer Jimmy Toner: "This was the target all along, timing wise it fit in good and she's training good. I knew the other filly was going to be in there, Antonoe, and I knew she'd be tough, but I didn't know Lady Eli would be in there, too. The division this year, whew, it's strong. You can't get away from anybody. She's doing super, I couldn't ask for more. If I don't run here what am I going to do? Wait a few weeks and then have to ship someplace? Here we'll just run out of her stall. Hopefully we get a piece of it. We just can't get into a rhythm that we tried to get into this year. Not through any fault of hers it's just trying to pick our way through the trees here. It's not easy."



Tod Marks

Lady Eli aims for her 10th win in her 13th start today.



Tod Marks

On Leave seeks her second win on the Saratoga turf for trainer Shug McGaughey.

THE SARATOGA SPECIAL SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2017

2 The Ballston Spa

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

4. ON LEAVE

Leading rider Jose Ortiz rides the daughter of War Front for the 11th time. Trained by Shug McGaughey and bred and owned by Stuart Janney, she's won five of 10 starts including a stretch of four straight last year. She won the Riskaverse at Saratoga last summer and just missed in the De La Rose here Aug. 5.

Trainer Shug McGaughey: "It's a pretty adventurous spot, but it's been on the radar, it's only a six-horse field, she came out of her last race very well and has trained well. I didn't change anything, she's easy, easy to train, she does what you want with her, you don't have to do anything out of line. I was disappointed in her last race, but I'm blaming it a little bit on the turf having a little give in it, she likes it really hard, which she'll get. Jose Ortiz is a winning machine, that helps. I'm looking forward to running her, I wish it wasn't the race after the Travers."

5. ANTONOE

A Group 3 winner for Pascal Bary in France, Juddmonte Farm's First Defence filly was sent to Chad Brown for her 4-year-old campaign. She won a Keeneland allowance in her North American debut and then scorched the Belmont turf in taking the Grade 1 Just A Game two months later. Encountered traffic trouble in the stretch when finishing third behind stablemate and regular workout partner Lady Eli in the Grade 1 Diana.

Trainer Chad Brown: "She was a little crowded late and it definitely hindered her. She ran well, she's run well every time she's run for us, and I expect her to run well again Saturday."

Jockey Javier Castellano: "Didn't have a lot of luck last time. I tried to do the right thing with her, I saved all the ground, I rode the same way I rode in (the Just A Game). Even the first time in the country when I rode her at Keeneland, she came through the inside up the rail. Last time, those two horses kept getting close and put her in tight and she didn't like it much, she was intimidated a little bit. I don't blame her, I blame the situation the way it unfolded in the last part of the race, it was bad luck."



Tod Marks

Time And Motion comes in off a third in the Modesty at Arlington Park in July.

6. DICKINSON

Godolphin Racing's Grade 1 winner looks to rebound from a fifth behind Lady Eli, Quidura, Antonoe and Harmonize in the Diana the first Saturday of the meet. Daughter of Medaglia d'Oro chased Antonoe in Grade 1 Just A Game two starts back and beat Lady Eli in the Grade 1 Jenny Wiley at Keeneland three back for trainer Kiaran McLaughlin. The victory at Keeneland was her third straight to that point along with a pair of graded stakes in Florida.

Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin: "She didn't have a real good day in the Diana. The funny thing is on the Ragozin Sheets she still ran very well. It looked worse to us, when you're fifth beaten 4, you feel like you're last. We walked away discouraged. We thought last time we might be the pace, we laid close, thought it was a good spot, but there's not much pace. We might have to go from the six path and go, take the lead. We'll have to see. They're all tough in here."



Tod Marks

Antonoe tries to oust stablemate Lady Eli after finishing third in the Diana.



SARATOGA ENTRIES

lanesend.com

Saturday, Au	ugust 26.					M). \$700,000, THE PERS		S & UP, F & M , 1 1/8M	
19T /11·25A	AM). \$83,000, MSW, 2 YC) 6 1/2E				cta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Da Flora Dora		M Coffey	20-1
	cta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic					Songbird			
1 1	Victory Lane	M Franco	C. McGaughey III	6-1		Going for Broke			
2 2	Hazit	Velazquez	T Pletcher	3-1	4 4	Forever Unbridled	J. Rosario	D. Stewart	7-2
3 3	Belle Tapisserie	T Gaffalione	I. Meija	20-1		Eskenformoney			
4 4	Glass Bridge	P. Lopez	K Breen	5-1	0	Eokoinioinionoy	0. Odotonano	1. 1 10101101	12 1
5 5	Road to Meath	.I Ortiz	C Brown	7-2	7TH (2:59PI	M). \$500,000, THE KETE	ONE BALLERINA. 3 Y	/O'S & UP. F & M . 7F	
	High North					cta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic		,	
7 7	Fscaranela	R. Santana, Jr	J. Meiia	30-1	1 1	Birdatthewire	M. Franco	T. Proctor	20-1
8 8	Good Magic	J. Castellano	C Brown	5-2		Curlin's Approval			
0	dood Magio	o. ouotonano	O. DIOWII	0 2	3 3	Paulassilverlining	L. Oddz	C. Brown	2-1
2ND (12:08F	PM). \$85,000, ALW, 3 YO	'S & UP. 1 3/16M (TURF)			4 4			M. Nevin	
Exacta Quin	nella, Trifecta, Superfecta, I	Pic 3 Pic 4 Daily Double			5 5	Carina Mia	J. Castellano	C. Brown	7-2
1 1	War Bond	T. Gaffalione	M. Maker	8-1		Distinta			
2 2	Memories of Peter	.I Alvarado	J Rverson	5-1		Highway Star			
	Surprise Twist								
4 MTO	Uncle Mojo	Rider TRA	T Pletcher	5-2	8TH (3:35PI	M). \$500,000, THE H. AL	I EN JERKENS 3 YO	7F	
5 5	Kahang	J. Lezcano	M Trombetta	15-1		cta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic		••	
	Marshall Eddy					Practical Joke		C Brown	5-2
7 7	Richmond Street	J. Rosario	W Mott	6-1		Takaful			
8 8	Holiday Bonus	I Ortiz Ir	H Motion	7-9		Tale of Silence			
a a	Focus Group	J. Ortiz	C Brown	≀ ∠ ე_1	Δ Λ	Wild Shot	I l ezcano	G Arnold II	30-1
10 10	Son of a Caint	J. Velazquez	O. DIOWII T Platchar	ט⁻ ו ה_1	7 1	Ann Arbor Eddie	U. LUZUANU	G. Arriola, II D. O'Naill	15₋1
10	5011 01 & 5&1111	J. Velazquez	1. 1 16101161	0-1		Phi Beta Express			
2DD /42-/41	PM). \$83,000, MSW, 2 Y(1 1/16M (INNED TUDE)			77	Cool Front	N. Gaillioudile	T. Pletcher	30-1 4 1
						No Dozing	J. Velazyuez	1. FIELUIIEI	10 1
	cta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Dai		C. Magyar	0.1	o o 9 9				
	Paradise Island				99	American Anthem	IVI. 51111111	B. Baffert	2-1
2 2	Chirping	F. Geroux	I. Procior	12-1	OTIL /4.40DE	#\	00 0 00:0 0 110 75		
3 3	Sidewinder	E. Cancel	D. Schettino	20-1		M). \$600,000, THE FORE			
4 4	Magnanimus Man	K. Moore	vv. vvard	6-1	Exacta, Irite	cta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic	5, Daily Double	D. Jasakaan	0.4
5 5	He Takes Charge	J. Leparoux	M. Casse	12-1		Stallwalkin' Dude			
	Fortune Cookie					Ross (IRE)			
	Empirically				3 3	Tom's Ready	B. Hernandez, Jr	D. Stewart	20-1
	Strike Me Down					Divining Rod			
	Another				5 5	Awesome Slew	J. Velazquez	M. Casse	6-1
10 10	<u>N</u> eepawa	J. Castellano	M. Casse	5-2	66	Mind Your Biscuits	J. Rosario	C. Summers	3-1
11 AŁ	The Best Candy	I. Gattalione	J. Mejia	30-1		Tommy Macho			
12 AŁ	Blockade	J. Ortiz	C. McGaughey III	9-2	8 8	Tale of S'avall	M. Franco	B. lagg	12-1
					9 9	Very Very Stella	C. Hernandez	J. Noda-Fernande:	z 30-1
	M). \$93,000, AOC \$80,00				10 10	Drefong	M. Smith	B. Baffert	5-2
	iella, Trifecta, Superfecta, I	, ,							
11	Aquamarine					PM). \$1,000,000, THE SV		S & UP, 1 1/2M (INNER	TURF)
2 2		J. Bravo			Exacta, Trife	cta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic		-	
3 3	Lex Vegas	J. Leparoux			11			D. O'Neill	20-1
4 4				5-2	2 2			<u>M</u> . Maker	
5 5		K. Carmouche				Sadler's Joy			
6 6		P. Lopez			44			J. Toner	
77	Spartiatis				5 5			C. Brown	
8 8		J. Lezcano			6 6			F. Graffard	
9 9	Sticksstatelydude	J. Rosario	K. McLaughlin	3-1	7 7	Idaho (IRE)	R. Moore	A. O'Brien	2-1
5TH (1·//2DN	M). \$90,000, AOC \$62,50	N 2 VN'S & IID 1 1/16M	/TIIRE\		11TH (5:44F	PM). \$1,250,000, THE TF	RAVERS PRESENTED R	EV NVRA RETS 3 VN 11	1/4M
	cta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Dai		(. Jiii)			cta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Da			.,
1 1	Profiteer		C. McGaughey III	15-1	1 1	Cloud Computing	J Castellano	C. Brown	8-1
2 2		•			2 2			N. Zito	
3 3	Lieutenant Colonel	J. Lezcano J. Alvarado		o- i 15-1		West Coast			
4 4		J. Ortiz				Tapwrit Good Samaritan		1. Pletcher W. Mott	
J J		C. DeCarlo			5 5				
6 6		P. Lopez	D. Cannizzo		6 6		n. Aibarauo	J. Sharp	IU-I
77	Tathqeef				77			T. Pletcher	
ğğ		J. Castellano			8 8			S. Asmussen	
9 9	Royal Son				9 9			I. Wilkes	
10 10	Cerise's Prince	I. Ortiz, Jr		9-2		Irap			
11 11		J. Rosario				Gunnevera			
12 MTO	BOURS HOINTS	Rider TBA	I. Pletcher	5-2	12 12	Fayeq	L. 5aez	k. ivicLaugniin	30-1



SARATOGA ENTRIES

12TH (6:20PM). \$400,000, the woodford reserve Ballston SPA, 3&UP, F&M , 1.1/16M (turf)

Double		
I. Ortiz, Jr	C. Brown	4-5
J. Velazquez	J. Toner	10-1
J. Castellano	C. Brown	3-1
P. Lopez	K. McLaughlin	6-1
	I. Ortiz, Jr	DoubleI. Ortiz, Jr

13TH (6:54PM). \$45,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

10111 (0.041 III). \$40,000, IIIOL \$40	,000, 0 10 0 4 01	, 1 1/10111 (11111L11 10111 <i>)</i>	
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta			
1 1Summer Causeway	T. Gaffalione	J. Mejia	30-1
2 2Admirals Cove	M. Franco	D. Donk	12-1
3 3Street Review	K. Carmouche	J. Kimmel	20-1
4 4Prognostication	J. Ortiz	C. Brown	3-1
5 5Champagne Papi	A. Arroyo	J. Terranova, II	12-1
6 6Mohican	J. Rosario	W. Mott	8-1
7 7Romanologist	M. Luzzi	J. Toscano, Jr	30-1
8 8All About Voodoo	I. Ortiz, Jr	T. Pletcher	7-2
9 9Praise the Moon	S. Russell	N. Saville	20-1
10 10Nile Prince	R. Santana, Jr.	J. Kimmel	8-1
11 11Herecomesyourman.	P. Lopez	A. Dutrow	5-1
12 12Wingman			
13 AE-MTO.Battle Ready			
,			

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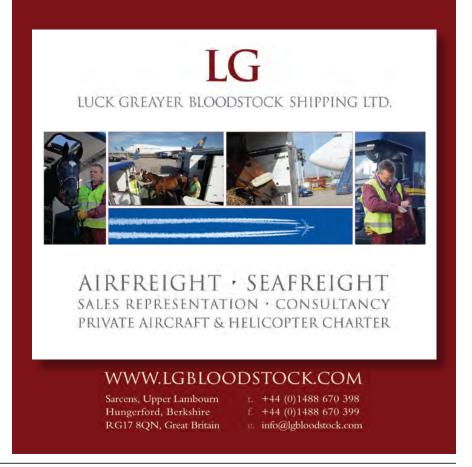
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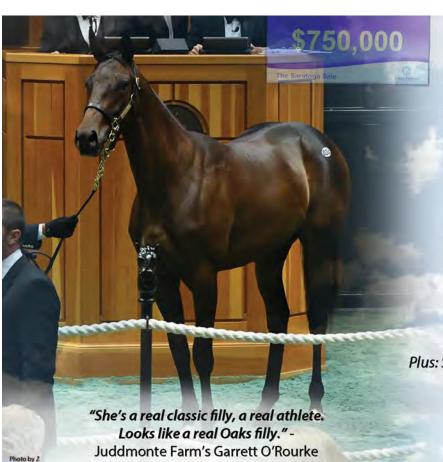






the Power gric		Gaile Fitzgerald	Tom Law	Charles Bedard	Ray Arsenault
1	Hazit Good Magic Glass Bridge	Hazit Good Magic Victory Lane	Hazit Victory Lane Good Magic	Road To Meath Hazit Victory Lane	High North Good Magic Hazit
2	Surprise Twist Focus Group War Bond	Kabang Memories of Peter Uncle Mojo	Surprise Twist Holiday Bonus Richmond Street	Uncle Mojo War Bond Focus Group	Son Of A Saint Focus Group Surprise Twist
3	Neepawa Another Paradise Island	Neepawa Strike Me Down Another	Neepawa Fortune Cookie Strike Me Down	Neepawa The Best Candy Magnanimus Man	Chirping Neepawa Paradise Island
4	Sticksstatelydude Ostrolenka Threefiveindia Cloontia	Sticksstatelydude Threefiveindia Ostrolenka	Sticksstatelydude Threefiveindia Ostrolenka Sycamore Lane	Threefiveindia Shaft Of Light Lex Vegas Cloontia	Angry Moon Lex Vegas Threefiveindia Ray's The Bar
5	Tathqeef Ray's The Bar Songbird	Tathqeef Cloontia Bonus Points Songbird	Profiteer Cloontia Songbird	Ray's The Bar Cerise's Prince Songbird	Cloontia Derby Champagne Songbird
6	Forever Unbridled Going For Broke Paulassilverlining	Forever Unbridled Going For Broke By The Moon	Forever Unbridled Going For Broke Paulassilverlining	Forever Unbridled Eskenformoney Paulassilverlining	Forever Unbridled Going For Broke By The Moon
7	Carina Mia Curlin's Approval American Anthem	Curlin's Approval Distinta American Anthem	By The Moon Carina Mia American Anthem	Carna Mia Curlin's Approval American Anthem	Paulassilverlining Carina Mia American Anthem
8	Takaful Coal Front Drefong	Practical Joke Coal Front Mind Your Biscuits	Coal Front Practical Joke Mind Your Biscuits	Coal Front Practical Joke Mind Your Biscuits	Takaful Practical Joke Signal Divining Rod Mind Your Biscuits
9	Mind Your Biscuits Stallwalkin' Dude Idaho	Drefong Divining Rod Erupt	Drefong Awesome Slew Idaho	Stallwalkin' Dude Divining Rod Bigger Picture	L.
10	Money Multiplier Hunter O'Riley Fayeq	Idaho Hunter O'Riley Good Samaritan	Money Multiplier Erupt McCraken	Money Multiplier Idaho Girvin	Sadler's Joy Money Multiplier Good Samaritan
11	West Coast Irap Lady Eli	Tapwrit West Coast Lady Eli	Tapwrit West Coast Lady Eli	McCraken Always Dreaming Lady Eli	Giuseppe The Great
12	Antonoe Roca Rojo Prognostication	Antonoe Dickinson Herecomesyourman	Antonoe Dickinson Admirals Cove	Antonoe Time And Motion Prognostication	Dickinson Lady Eli Antonoe Champagne Papi Prognostication Mohican
13	All About Voodoo Admirals Cove	All About Voodoo Prognostication	All About Voodoo Prognostication	Nile Prince Mohican	Prognostication Mohican
2017 Records	s 96/309	82/309	76/309	92/309	42/237*

Today's guest handicapper is Ray Arsenault, winner of the 2017 Daily Racing Form/NTRA National Handicapping Championship in Las Vegas. A resident of Thornhill, Ontario, Arsenault earned \$800,000 for winning and the Eclipse Award as Horseplayer of the Year when he topped 653 other entries in the contest. Friday, Jane Hill picked four winners. * The guest win total does not include Monday or Wednesday, when only The Special's regular handicappers picks appear at thisishorseracing.com.



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Treasured Victory

Broman homebred Bar Of Gold wins Yaddo for Kimmel

The last time John Kimmel stepped into the winner's circle at Saratoga Race Course before Bar Of Gold's victory in Friday's \$150,000 Yaddo Stakes during the Saratoga Showcase Day card was August 26, 2015.

Kimmel descended the clubhouse steps with a grin, making his way to the main track. He stood smiling at the big screen in the infield as Chester and Mary Broman's homebred mare appeared, charging down the stretch without another horse in sight.

"Look at her on the gallop out, there isn't anybody even close to her," said Kimmel. "Look at that!"

Irad Ortiz Jr. trotted up to the winner's circle atop Bar Of Gold, beaming and high-fiving Kimmel.

"I knew it, I knew it," said Ortiz. "When she cut the corner I knew it."

Bar Of Gold, a 5-year-old mare by Medaglia d'Oro who is Kimmel's second highest earner now



Tod Marks

Irad Ortiz explains how it went to Chester and Mary Broman.



Tod Marks

Bar Of Gold streaks home in Friday's Yaddo, part of the New York-bred Showcase Day at Saratoga.

with a bankroll of \$918,500 from 22 starts, successfully campaigned on the dirt through her 4-year-old season. Multiple times she placed in graded stakes at distances spanning from 6 furlongs to 1 1/16 miles.

Kimmel decided to try the turf as Bar Of Gold started her 5-year-old campaign this spring. She finished fourth in the Plenty of Grace at Aqueduct, going 1 mile on the grass for the first time.

"We had experimented a little bit with the grass stuff last summer, worked her a couple times at the Oklahoma track," said Kimmel. "(Joel) Rosario worked her twice over there and said, 'You've got to try this filly on the grass.'

The Bromans bred and raced Bar Of Gold's dam, the graded stakes-winning Lemon Drop Kid mare Khancord Kid.

"Her mother was a graded stakes winner on the grass, never won on the dirt," said Kimmel. "By Medaglia d'Oro, who's had his compliment of grass horses. When this year came around, we thought we'd give it a go."

She made her next three starts on three different surfaces – second on a sloppy sealed track in the Grade 2 Ruffian in May, seventh on a fast dirt track in the Grade 1 Ogden Phipps in June and back on the turf for a second in an allowance in July.

"We came back in the Ogden Phipps and I didn't know what to think," said Kimmel. "She got

banged around a little bit, and in close quarters. She just got discouraged and didn't run her 'A' race at all. So we went back to the grass and she ran a really good race, ran her last quarter in 22 and 3 and got beat."

Bar Of Gold finished third in her last start in the Fasig-Tipton De La Rose Stakes at Saratoga Aug. 5, going 1 mile on the grass.

"This horse has had some really difficult trips and I thought there were some races she should've won and she's been banging heads with some of the best," said Kimmel. "I thought I picked a soft spot here and forgot about Fourstar Crook. She showed she can handle top class horses when she's on her game. She really likes the firm ground. She likes to hear her feet rattle."

Ortiz took the mount for the third consecutive time in the 1 1/16-mile stakes, chasing just behind the pace until the turn entering the stretch. Ortiz shoved his hands and body over to the right for a split second, before ducking into a hole along the rail, taking the lead and prevailing by 1 1/4 lengths. Heavy favorite Fourstar Crook was runner-up, breaking her eight-race winning streak.

"Irad's really getting to know her now because she gives you a really quick turn of foot and the thing about it last time is the ground had a little

Continued On Page 56



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Sunset Ridge romps in the Fleet Indian.

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Multiple

G1 winner Curalina

Friday —

■ Continued from page 54

give to it and he had to ask early and ran out of gas a little bit going wide and had to make a big move," said Kimmel. "Today he waited and waited. It wasn't that she got bumped at the top of the stretch, he kind of faked that he was going to go to the outside and then dropped in and she shot in there like a cannon. He's really getting to know her and is very confident with her now."

After going winless for nearly two full Saratoga meets, Kimmel could not stop smiling in the clubhouse with a mark in the win column.

"Oh my God, just frustration with Saratoga in general," said Kimmel. "It's been horrible. Next thing you look you're not winning any races, you think you have a good shot in one and something out of your control happens. That's horses I guess."

With a win on his side, Kimmel optimistically looks forward to Bar Of Gold's next step.

"She's come out of these grass races in really good form, the dirt races took a little more toll on her," said Kimmel. "These grass races are easy on her. She's just a class act, stayed healthy and maybe we can have some fun with her for the rest of the year. Maybe get out of the New York-bred conditions and win a graded stake with her.

"She showed a new dimension today and she's never really won around two turns. That was a big thing I actually think she can go in open company, too. She liked the firm ground, it made a big difference, too."

- Shayna Tiller

• Sunset Ridge kicked off the Saratoga Showcase stakes when she won the 9-furlong Fleet Indian Stakes by 6 1/4 lengths. After stalking Somekindasexy, Sunset Ridge took the lead past the half and increased her margin at every pole. She stopped the clock in 1:51.28, winning as the 1-9 favorite.

Sunset Ridge's victory in the Fleet Indian is her fourth in as many starts. She began her career in a maiden special, won an allowance by 8 1/4 lengths next time out and took an allowance optional by 16 3/4 in her most recent start. In all cases, she beat New York-breds. The Alpha

Delta Stables homebred has earned \$242,400. Alpha Delta's Jon Clay was excited to be in the winner's circle at Saratoga with the filly.

"It's the greatest place to win a stakes race," Clay said. "I've been fortunate to win stakes races before, but it's very special to do it with a New York-bred. The other ones I've had have been Kentucky-breds, but to have a New York-bred win in Saratoga is very special."

Clay purchased Sunset Ridge's dam Cades Bay for \$90,000 at the 2007 Keeneland September yearling sale. She raced eight times and won twice, but suffered an injury while pointing to a stakes race. Clay decided to breed her and she's been a reliable producer. Cades Bay's 2012 foal R Y Squadron won two of three starts and made \$84,600 and her 2013 foal Nevisian Sky is 2-for-7 with earnings of \$104,680. The gelding has a pair of seconds in allowance company at the current meet. Clay sold Cades Bay at the 2016 Keeneland November breeding stock for \$17,000.

"She won a few times and we were going to look for a stakes race and she got injured," Clay said of Cades Bay. "It ended her career and I thought I might as well breed out of her and the New York program is great, so I kept her at Berkshire Stud.

"I sold the mare last November. I knew that I had a talented horse right here, so I decided to sell the mare and I'm going to keep (Sunset Ridge) for a long time. Sunset Ridge is very special."

After another romp against statebreds, Clay and trainer Chad Brown are eyeing open company for Sunset Ridge's next start, but aren't sure which race they will target.

"It's always exciting to have a horse that's undefeated," Clay said. "Chad and I have been fairly slow and conservative. She's shown a lot of ability and we just don't want to jump ahead of ourselves. Now after this performance she deserves to meet open company and get out of the restricted races and see what happens in the fall. She's definitely earned it."

– Brandon Valvo

• The crowd outside the winner's circle took on a playful mood after the fourth edition of the \$200,000 Funny Cide Stakes for 2-year-olds.

Continued On Page 57

AmericasBestRacing.net

Friday —

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They cheered as Gold Square's Al Gold, owner of winner Aveenu Malcainu, made his way into the winner's circle.

"Al Gold! Al Gold! Al Gold," the crowd shouted. They were friends and supporters and their rooting made Gold's already big smile grow even larger. "You couldn't have worn pants," Gold taunted them, referring to the rule against shorts in the winner's circle.

"Al, you gonna lead him in?" NYRA photographer Adam Coglianese asked. Gold answered with a definitive, "no." The crowd wasn't impressed.

"Bring 'em in Al! Bring 'em in," they coaxed. Gold obliged, walking alongside the son of Into Mischief as he entered the enclosure, but left the handling to the professionals.

"We just took a shot, we bought a few horses, and this is the best one so far," Gold said. "It was very exciting. My heart was pounding."

Gold purchased Aveenu Malcainu out of the OBS April 2-year-olds in training sale for \$150,000 on the recommendation of trainer Jeremiah Englehart and agent Travis Durr. Durr saw something special in the bay colt out of the Trippi mare Island Time, who was a 7-time winner, including a victory in the Desert Vixen Stakes, and earned \$238,354.

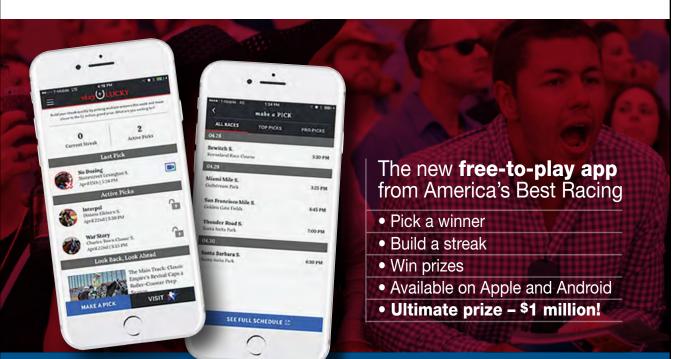
"I actually owe a lot to Travis because he broke Goldencents and he kind of told me, 'this horse is just like Goldencents,' and from there I wanted to buy him because Travis has a pretty sharp eye," Englehart said. "I can't thank him and Webb Carroll for all the help that they give my program."

Aveenu Malcainu entered the Funny Cide off a maiden win at Saratoga in his first start July 28. He won by three-quarters of a length that day and put in two workouts over the main track since. Englehart noticed a change in Aveenu Malcainu's demeanor after his racing experience.

"After his first race, he's gotten a little bit more aggressive," the trainer said. "Horses, when they get into competition, you want to see them be competitive. He was never really competitive before his first race, he just did what we asked him to do. Now he's

Continued On Page 58





America's Best Racing's weekly national **radio show** and **podcast** on SB Nation Radio

- Saturdays at 10am ET
- Podcasts available at podcastarena.com/winners-circle



Friday —

■ Continued from page 57

getting more competitive and figuring it out. Hopefully he keeps progressing."

Aveenu Malcainu stalked pacesetter Morning Breeze in the early stages of the 6 1/2-furlong Funny Cide. He raced 3 1/2 lengths behind a :22.36 quarter and closed within 3 lengths after a :45.72 half. At the furlong pole, Morning Breeze tired and Aveenu Malcainu drew alongside What A Catch under right-handed Luis Saez urging. He powered away in the final sixteenth to win by 2 1/2 lengths in 1:17.69.

"He's very athletic," Englehart said. "He doesn't look like he's going that fast, but he has a big, long stride and he can keep on continuing that over distance."

"This is pretty cool. Winning for Al and there's a lot of drama that goes along with owning a racehorse. You can wake up one morning and you can have the worst news," he continued. "When we get kicked in the gut, we've got to remember these times when life is good."

- Brandon Valvo

• Fresh off a plane ride from Del Mar, Reddam Racing's Cause We Are Loyal romped around the main track to win the \$200,000 Seeking The Ante for 2-year-old fillies.

Touching down at Saratoga Tuesday afternoon, the Creative Cause filly was greeted by her trainer Doug O'Neill Friday. She was indifferent with the change of scenery on the other side of the country and went about her week in perfect form.

"She's been great, the guys said she hasn't missed an oat," said O'Neill. "It was a big leap from the Los Alamitos to here but she handled herself so well.

O'Neill's brother Dennis selected the filly for \$120,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream 2-year-olds in training sale in March.

"His thing was he loved her size, he loved her balance and we've kind of become big fans of Creative Cause," said O'Neill, who sent the Creative Cause colt Pavel to Saratoga to finish fourth in the July 29 Jim Dandy. "A lot of picking out good horses is such a go-with-your-gut kind of thing, no

real rhyme or reason. He just called Paul (Reddam) and dissected it and he liked her as well and Paul was ready to write the check and here we are.

"We didn't really look at her as a New York-bred, Kentucky-bred or Cal-bred, we just looked at her as an individual. The fact that she is a New York-bred is just a bonus. When we actually looked at the card it was way harder than we were thinking a statebred restricted race would be. We're so happy she held her form and tried hard."

The filly debuted third in a 4 1/2-furlong maiden at Santa Anita Park in May, followed by an 8 1/2-length maiden-breaking victory in her last start going 5 1/2 furlongs at Los Alamitos July 15.

"We thought she was a big time filly," said O'Neill. "In her debut she broke on the inside and she kind of had to shove and ran a bit of a lack-luster race and we were all kind of like, 'whoa, what?' She came out of it great and we decided she deserved another chance and a better post and she ran huge in her second race."

With Mario Gutierrez aboard for the second time since her debut, the pair chased from mid-pack before making a move at the top of the stretch. Gutierrez gave a few hard pops left handed and the filly responded to win the 6 1/2 furlong stakes by a three-quarters of a length over fellow California shipper Newport Breeze.

"She did super well in the paddock," said O'Neill. "She kind of let us know she was going to run good, but I didn't know that good."

– Shayna Tiller

• Get Jets lived up to his name, taking off under John Velazquez in the stretch of the \$150,000 West Point Stakes for trainer Tony Dutrow and his Team D partnership.

"When Richard Gere in 'An Officer and a Gentleman' was going for his wings and they were at the jukebox together saying goodbye, she said to him, 'get jets,' and that's where I got it," said Dutrow, describing how he named the colt from a scene in the 1982 romantic drama.

Get Jets raced on the hedge toward the rear of the field early in the 1 1/16-mile turf stakes, far off Black Tide's strong early pace.

"Johnny did a great job, he obviously knew the pace of the race," Dutrow said as he left the winner's



Tod Marks

Get Jets kicks in late to win the West Point.

circle. "I had to be concerned at the top of the stretch because our horse had a lot of work to do but he finished up fantastic. He did explode today and I saw him do that at Belmont one time."

Explode he did. Velazquez spun the 4-year-old Scat Daddy colt off cover and into the clear turning for home and out-finished Offering Plan to his outside to win by a half-length, rushing home to stop the clock in 1:39.49.

Dutrow purchased Get Jets at the 2015 OBS April 2-year-olds in training sale for \$300,000.

"When I bought him, I knew there was a lot of turf in the pedigree and I like turf horses but I'd rather have a dirt horse than a turf horse," Dutrow said. "He was handling the dirt, he broke his maiden up here very impressively. But when he got beat one day and I wasn't liking the way he lost that day I said, 'that's it, I'm putting him on the turf,' and that's what the horse wants."

Dutrow put Get Jets on turf for the first time Oct. 8 at Belmont, which resulted in a win going 1 1/16 miles. Given the winter off, he came back in an open-company allowance May 7 at Belmont, and showed that powerful stretch punch but came up a neck short going 7 furlongs. He won at the same level and distance four weeks later. Get Jets tried stakes company for the first time since a win in the 2015 Sleepy Hollow in his next start. He was boxed in for much of the race

but still finished second, 3 1/4 lengths behind Disco Partner.

"What an awesome horse he is, when you stand there and look at him he's just so awesome," Dutrow said. "He didn't go fast in his breeze show, as a matter of fact he went very slow but his gallop out was tremendous and he brought a lot of money, but he's turned out really good."

– Ben Gowans

• After winning the \$250,000 Albany Stakes, Twisted Tom was led into the winner's circle by co-owner Sol Kumin and his family.

"This is what it's all about, the kids have been up here for five or six days and we got a couple of wins in," said Kumin, who owns the 3-year-old with Cobra Farm and R R Partners.

The winner of last month's New York Derby at Finger Lakes was sent off as the even-money favorite in the six-horse stakes at 1 1/8 miles.

Javier Castellano positioned the gelding several paths off the rail while racing toward the rear of the compact field going down the backstretch. Castellano put his mount to pressure around the turn, popping him right-handed seven times before turning for home.

"I was worried, I felt like he was kind of asking him early and there wasn't a lot pace," Kumin said.

Once straightened for home, the

Continued On Page 59

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son of Creative Cause drew away from his competition and crossed the wire 4 1/2 lengths in front.

Known for acquiring horses privately, Kumin's Head of Plain Partners purchased a percentage of Twisted Tom with advice from trainer Chad Brown before a sixth in the Belmont Stakes.

"This was Chad, he told me he liked the horse before the Belmont and we ended up buying a third of the horse and partnered with these guys," Kumin said. "And this was our third race together and the horse has won two. Knock on wood, if he can stay sound, this is the kind of horse you can earn with. And the two partners are great guys, it's awesome."

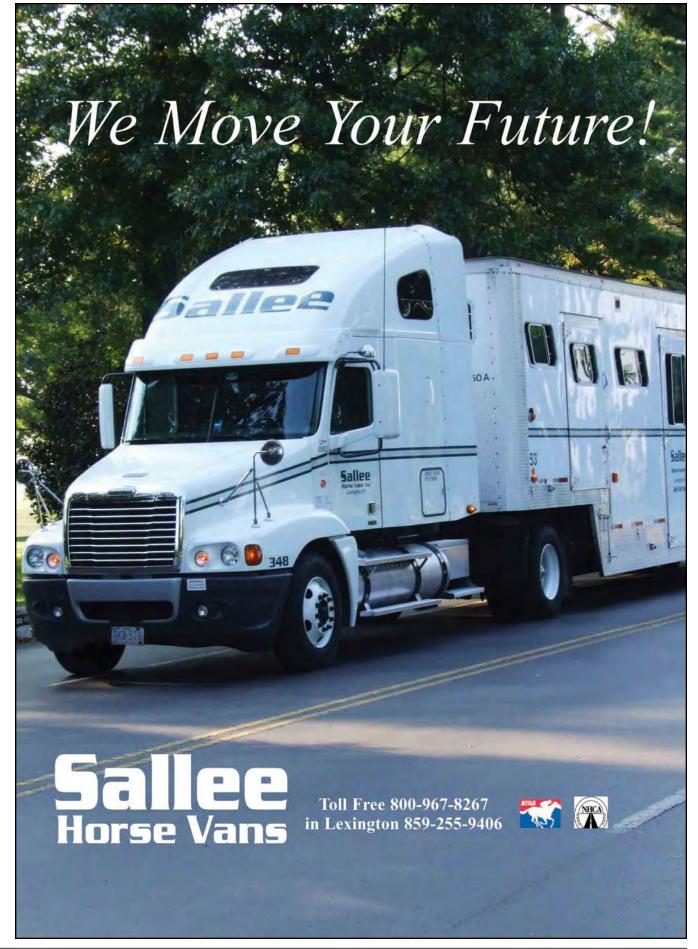
Twisted Tom's win was a thrill for Kumin, but he looks forward to competing in the graded races of Travers Day.

"It's all really about the big races," Kumin said. "We've had a good meet. We've gotten super lucky, started with Eli in the Diana and then we had a good weekend with Good Samaritan and Coal Front winning two Grade 2s the same day. These horses obviously will run back (Saturday), so we'll see how they do. They're both in pretty good positions."

- Ben Gowans

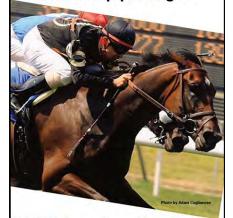
Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS	1ST
Todd Pletcher	30
Chad Brown	29
Linda Rice	12
Kiaran McLaughlin	11
Bill Mott	9
Rudy Rodriguez	8
Jason Servis	8
George Weaver	8
JOCKEYS	1ST
Jose OrtizIrad Ortiz Jr.	49
Jose OrtizIrad Ortiz Jr.	49 43
Jose Ortiz	49 43 32
Jose Ortiz	49 43 32 25
Jose Ortiz Irad Ortiz Jr John Velazquez	49 32 25 20
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Jose Ortiz	49 32 25 20 20





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SARATOGA RESULTS

Friday August 25.

FIRST \$73,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN SPECIAL WT, 2 YO, 1 1/16M

\$2.10 Codrington M. Franco \$3.80 \$2.20 J. Castellano \$2.40 Purely Lucky \$2.70 Big Expense K. Carmouche \$3.50 B F 2015, by Courageous Cat - Notacharlie's angel, Fappie's Notebook Owner: Engel, Charles, Trainer: David Donk, Breeder: Charles Engel (NY). Late Scratches: Berning Rose, Sunblock, Jody's Song, Time: 1:44.62 Exacta (2-1), \$7.40; Superfecta (2-1-4-7), \$82.50; Trifecta (2-1-4), \$31.40

SECOND \$78,000, NY-BRED AOC \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

Build to Suit I. Ortiz, Jr. \$4.00 \$3.00 \$2.40 Samadi Sky J. Velazquez \$6.10 \$11.80 3 Eve Luv Lulu J. Ortiz \$3.50 Ch Ridgling 2014, by Dominus - Aspen Mountain by Chief Seattle Owner: Klaravich Stables, Inc. and Lawrence, William H... Trainer: Chad Brown. Breeder: Spendthrift Farm, LLC (NY). Time: 1:23.95 Daily Double (2-2), \$8.60; Exacta (2-7), \$56.00; Quinella (2-7), \$37.60;

Superfecta (2-7-3-5), \$1,079.00; Trifecta (2-7-3), \$301.00

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

Sunset Ridge J. Ortiz \$2.10 \$2.10 5 Bonita Bianca I. Ortiz, Jr. \$2.50 Somekindasexy R. Maragh Ch Filly 2014, by Algorithms - Cades Bay by Fusaichi Pegasus Owner: Alpha Delta Stables. Trainer: Chad Brown. Breeder: Alpha Detla Stables, LLC (NY). Time: 1:51.28 Daily Double (2-2), \$5.00; Exacta (2-5), \$3.80; Superfecta (2-5-4-3),

FOURTH \$73,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN SPECIAL WT, 2 YO, 5 1/2F

\$48.40; Trifecta (2-5-4), \$16.60; Pic 3 (2-2-2), \$7.90

6 Battle Station K. Carmouche \$12.00 \$5.50 \$3.90 J. Castellano \$3.00 3 Barbarossa \$4.20 Throw the Deuce J. Rosario \$10.60 Dk B/ Br Colt 2015, by Warrior's Reward - Uriel by Unbridled Owner: Kenneth L. and Sarah K. Ramsey. Trainer: Wesley Ward. Breeder: Lansdowne Thoroughbreds (NY). Time: 1:01.92 Late Scratches: Violent Delights, Disco Outlaw, Five Star Bunt, Engineers Report, Bit the Bullet, Scoopsie Patato Daily Double (2-6), \$13.80; Exacta (6-3), \$51.00; Quinella (3-6), \$25.40; Superfecta (6-3-1-5), \$2,493.00; Trifecta (6-3-1), \$546.00; Pic 3 (2-2-6), \$28.80

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

3 Aveenu Malcainu L. Saez \$6.70 \$4.60 \$3.10 Inalienable Rights J. Alvarado \$12.00 \$5.50 What a Catch J. Velazquez \$2.90 B Colt 2015, by Into Mischief - Island Time by Trippi Owner: Gold Square LLC. Trainer: Jeremiah Englehart. Time: 1:17.69 Breeder: Taylor Brothers Properties, George E. Saufley & Brian B (NY). Daily Double (6-3), \$47.00; Exacta (3-7), \$83.00; Superfecta (3-7-8-2), \$2,505.00; Trifecta (3-7-8), \$372.50; Pic 3 (2-6-3), \$38.40; Pic 4

SIXTH \$45,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN CLAIMING \$40,000, 3 & UP, 1M

(2-2-6-3), \$140.00; Pic 5 (2/3/6/9-2-2-6-3), \$241.50

9	Hope's Roar	L. Saez	\$12.20	\$6.40	\$4.00
7	Havana Affair	T. Gaffalione		\$31.20	\$17.80
1	Corey Q	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$5.50
Ch	M 2012, by Roarir	ng Fever - Try Your Be	est (TUR) b	y Royal A	cademy
0w	ner: NY Final Furl	ong Racing Stable an	d Maspéth	Stable.	-
Tra	iner: Jorge Abreu.	Breeder: Selcuk Tam	igac Racin	g, LLC (N	Y).
Lat	e Scratches: Rec	consider It, Kat O N	/line, Halo	yon, Cat	ch Your
Dre	eams. Claimed: Ha	ardly Mate claimed by	y Three Di	amonds I	arm for
\$40	0,000. Time: 1:37.	23			

Daily Double (3-9), \$56.00; Exacta (9-7), \$711.00; Superfecta (9-7-1-4), \$20,568.00; Trifecta (9-7-1), \$5,046.00; Pic 3 (6-3-9), \$314.50

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

2 Bar of Gold I. Ortiz, Jr. \$13.00 \$4.50 \$3.50 8 Fourstar Crook J. Castellano \$2.40 \$2.10 3 Flipcup J. Velazguez \$4.70 Dk B/ Br M 2012, by Medaglia d'Oro - Khancord Kid, Lemon Drop Kid Owner: Chester and Mary Broman, Sr.. Trainer: John Kimmel. Breeder: Chester Broman & Mary R. Broman (NY). Late Scratches: Barrel of Dreams, First Charmer, Literata Time: 1:40.12

Daily Double (9-2), \$88.00; Exacta (2-8), \$29.80; Superfecta (2-8-3-7), \$495.50; Trifecta (2-8-3), \$214.00; Pic 3 (3-9-2), \$379.00

8TH \$200,000, NY-BRED S. - SEEKING THE ANTE, 2 YO, 6 1/2F

Cause We Are Loval

Newport Breeze J. Ortiz \$8.20 \$5.50 Miss Mystique R. Maragh \$10.60 Gr/ro Filly 2015, by Creative Cause - Rock 'n Wolin by Not For Love Owner: Reddam Racing LLC. Trainer: Doug O'Neill. Breeder: Jorge Wagner (NY). Time: 1:20.21 Daily Double (2-5), \$238.50; Exacta (5-7), \$148.50; Superfecta (5-7-

M. Gutierrez \$24.40 \$10.20

\$7.10

4-3), \$6,829.00; Trifecta (5-7-4), \$1,441.00; Pic 3 (9-2-5), \$1,106.00

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

Get Jets \$6.10 \$3.40 \$2.50 3 J. Velazquez 9 Offering Plan J. Castellano \$3.50 \$2.50 5 Kharafa J. Bravo \$2.90 Ch Colt 2013, by Scat Daddy - Sunny by Dixieland Band Owner: Team D. Trainer: Anthony Dutrow. Breeder: Pat Pavlish (NY). Late Scratches: Fox Rules, Royal Posse. Time: 1:39.49 Daily Double (5-3), \$92.50; Exacta (3-9), \$20.20; Superfecta (3-9-5-8), \$510.00; Trifecta (3-9-5), \$58.50; Pic 3 (2-5-3), \$703.00

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

4 Twisted Tom J. Castellano \$4.30 \$2.80 \$2.30 Can You Diggit J. Ortiz \$4.10 \$2.70 Pat On the Back D. Davis \$3.50 Ch Gelding 2014, by Creative Cause - Tiffany Twisted by Thunder Gulch Owner: Cobra Farm, Inc., R R Partners and Head of Plains Partners. Trainer: Chad Brown. Breeder: Dr. William B. Wilmot & Dr. Joan M. Taylor (NY).

Late Scratches: Minsky Moment, Time: 1:50.25

Daily Double (3-4), \$12.20; Exacta (4-3), \$16.20; Superfecta (4-3-6-5), \$88.00; Trifecta (4-3-6), \$47.40; Pic 3 (5-3-4), \$214.50; Grand Slam (2/3/7-4/5/7-3/5/9-4), \$47.00

ELEVENTH \$45,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN CL \$40,000, 3 & UP, 5 1/2F

Mr. Cat J. Ortiz \$11.60 \$7.20 \$5.10 Tiz Wicked D. Davis \$14.80 \$8.50 R. Maragh 9 Frost Proof \$9.30 B Colt 2014, by Courageous Cat - Eyes of Love by Put It Back Owner: Hoppel, Patrick, H., Trainer: Linda Rice. Breeder: Barry R. Ostrager (NY). Late Scratches: Shades of Brown, Quai Voltaire, Grand Valour, Playwright. Time: 1:02.39 Daily Double (4-1), \$30.60; Exacta (1-3), \$176.00; Superfecta (1-3-9-6), \$10,302.00; Trifecta (1-3-9), \$2,430.00; Pic 3 (3-4-1), \$82.00; Pic 4 (5-1/3/10-4/7-1), \$1,652.00; Pic 5 (2-5-1/3/10-4/7-1), \$9,863.00; Pic 6 (9-2-5-1/3/10-4/7-1), \$616.00; Pic 6 (9-2-5-1/3/10-4/7-1),

Attendance: 27,569. On Track Handle: 4,999,265. Inter-State Handle: 13,960,930 Copyright 2017 EQUIBASE Company LLC. All Rights Reserved.

\$96.165.00























cupofcoffee

BY SEAN CLANCY

Quint Kessenich coined the phrase back in 2002 when we would send the all-American-lacrosse-goalie-turned-cub-reporter loose on Saratoga.

"Do you know what you're doing?" we asked.

"Root for obscurity," Kessenich said, as he ran out the door, waving folded-up paper and a pen (he refused to use a tape recorder).

Yes, root for obscurity, yearn for chaos, cheer for the underdog, wish for the story. That's how The Special rolls.

Nothing against the behemoths, but we're looking for the horses and horsemen who hitchhiked here, not the ones who were anointed with free the first year, we could probably borrow his notes if passes at birth.

Nothing wrong with the chosen ones, but we're looking for the ones we don't know. I remember a little guy winning a race and running in the office the next day, "You guys cover the rest of the races. Nobody covers the rest of the races."

"Root for obscurity, brother, root for obscurity," we told him.

With that in mind, this is what we're rooting for on Travers Day.

First Race. This is a no-brainer. Jamie Mejia. The silks are listed as white, red Saratoga emblem and cap. That's obscurity. The stable is 0-for-the-meet, but they're still swinging every day. Belle Tapissiere is 20-1 after a fade-to-ninth debut just three days ago. Yes, three days ago. Imagine the questions we can ask, the story that we can unearth. Come on, Belle Tapisserie, one time. Actually, we just turned the page and now have a tie. Escarapela makes his debut for, you guessed it, Jaime Mejia. The longshot duo take on \$1 million yearling Good Magic for e colt for Lane's End and Shug McGaughey and a \$430,000 son of War Front for Eclipse and Todd Pletcher. Sorry, we've told those stories, come on Jaime Mejia, miracle me.

Obscurity

Second Race. Easy. Memories Of Peter for Jimmy Ryerson, Cool horse, Good guy, Ryerson needs a lift As Rusty Arnold put it, "It's brutal." Practical Joke, after losing some nice horses and being blanked at the meet.

Schettino. See reason for the second.

Fourth Race. Oh, hell once a year you've got to talk to Blue. Leon Blusiewicz drops Spartiatis from the Vanderbilt to an optional claimer. Kessenich spent as much time with Blue as he did in the office RN-to-G1 story has been told, so we'll be yelling for Blue wins this one.

Fifth Race. The stories get more scarce as the races get better, this one is deep with Shug, Mott, Jerkens, Kiaran, Chad Brown, Casse . . . we'll root for Poshsky. He made his debut for a \$20,000 maiden claiming tag in 2013, climbed the ladder to win the Grade 3 Berkley Handicap in 2015, only to go back down the ladder and get claimed four times this year. Dave Cannizzo trains him, he's always good

Sixth Race. The Personal Ensign. We'll admit, it's hard to root against the once-beaten Songbird, story would be Flora Dora who chased her in vain twice last summer and rides a 10-race losing streak for Coffepot Stable and Marialice Coffey. No doubt, tries to oust a three-prong Chad Brown arsenal. we'll weave her barnvard flowers into the story.

Seventh Race. The Ballerina. Anybody know Five Racing and Chad Brown, a \$675,000 Tiznow Happy Alter? Now, there's a story. How about Ro- Travers light. Sheldon Russell makes the trip for drigo Ubillo and Highway Star? The big horse in a small stable, the New York-bred has a Grade 3 win and a Grade 2 win this year. A Grade 1, now that's

Eighth Race. The H. Allen Jerkens King's Bishop. Takaful, Coal Front and American Anthem lead the brutality in a 7-furlong war. I guess the story is what did Danny Gargan do from 1997 when he Third Race. Easy. Sidewinder for Dominick was 0-for-5 as a trainer to 2013 when he returned with a 13-for-105 record that has grown from there. If Phi Beta Express shocks this one, we'll ask that question.

> Ninth Race. The Forego. The Chad Summers HR-Ross, an Irish-bred, German-based 5-year-old and Very Very Stella for Jose Noda-Fernandez or Jose Fernandez-Noda. Guess that's our first question.

> 10th Race. The Sword Dancer. The story is to see how many words we can get from Ryan Moore when Idaho wins the \$1 million stakes. Not exactly obscurity, but a challenge nonetheless.

> 11th Race. The Travers. There isn't a lot of obscurity in the Travers. Right or wrong, we haven't told Nick Zito's story for a while, why not, come on Giuseppe The Great.

12th Race. The Ballston Spa. When Hunter O'Rior no story. If she stumbles, the story of the year ley upset the Bowling Green, we started screaming for Jimmy Toner as the field hit the quarter pole. We'll be on Time And Motion even quicker as she

> 13th Race. Back to major obscurity with a \$40,000 maiden claimer on the turf in the fading 20-1 Praise The Moon, Wingman tries to give Phil Serpe another win at the meet and, whoa, look who's back, Jaime Mejia with another 30-1 shot. Come on, Summer Causeway. Come on, obscurity.





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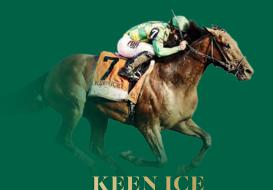
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2013: WILL TAKE CHARGE
2012: GOLDEN TICKET
2011: STAY THIRSTY

2010: AFLEET EXPRESS



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