

Year 18 • No. 25

Sunday, August 26, 2018

The *Saratoga*

Special

Saratoga's Daily Racing Newspaper since 2001



Saturday School

Catholic Boy aces Travers test

Tod Marks

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Keeneland September Book 1 & 2

SELLING MON. 9/10

- HIP 122 • C. War Front - Let's Misbehave (IRE)
- HIP 220 • F. War Front - Moyne Abbey
- HIP 241 • C. Medaglia d'Oro - Nebraska

SELLING TUES. 9/11

- HIP 267 • F. War Front - Orate
- HIP 274 • F. Pioneerof the Nile - Paddle Board
- HIP 312 • C. American Pharoah - Profess

SELLING WED. 9/12

- HIP 499 • C. Lea - Terrific Treasure
- HIP 524 • C. Flatter - Treasure
- HIP 526 • C. War Front - Treasure Trail
- HIP 532 • F. More Than Ready - Trophy Wife
- HIP 598 • C. Curlin - Worshipper
- HIP 628 • F. Flatter - A Little Bit Sassy
- HIP 694 • C. Medaglia d'Oro - Bend
- HIP 719 • F. Pioneerof the Nile - Bride to Be

SELLING THURS. 9/13

- HIP 801 • C. War Front - Courtesan
- HIP 806 • F. War Front - Cross
- HIP 824 • C. Curlin - Daydreaming

SELLING SAT. 9/15

- HIP 1035 • C. First Samurai - Juke
- HIP 1047 • F. Summer Front - Lauren Byrd
- HIP 1077 • F. Flatter - Maxinkuckee Miss
- HIP 1102 • F. Ghostzapper - Native One
- HIP 1150 • F. Blame - Satirical
- HIP 1153 • C. Flatter - Scanning
- HIP 1176 • C. Blame - Sky Garden (GB)
- HIP 1197 • F. Blame - Streaker
- HIP 1319 • F. Orb - Charming N Lovable
- HIP 1321 • C. Blame - Check

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LICENSE PLATE OF THE DAY

RIDERUP, New York.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 26: Remote cameras set up on the ground past the finish line for Saturday's Ballerina.
- 6: People playing flipcup (three outside the fence, three inside) near the racetrack exit gate Saturday evening.

NAMES OF THE DAY

Can'tweallgetalong, first race. The 3-year-old colt is by Violence.

Maho Bay, fourth race. The 3-year-old filly's name really isn't all that creative, but at this point we'd like to be at Maho Bay (St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands). If you've never been, go.

FUTURE MOTHER OF THE DAY

Amapola, who runs in today's Smart N Fancy Stakes, has won three of her last four for Lael Stable and trainer Arnaud Delacour. She's also running with a little something extra – a foal by Divining Rod.


WORTH REPEATING

"Take me to church."
Co-owner Bob LaPenta after Catholic Boy won Saturday's Travers Stakes

"If the oracle didn't know..."
Drew Mollica, when told that Doc Richardson didn't know something



Susie Raisher
Stable Tour. Punchline checks out what trainer Jimmy Jerkens had to say in Saturday's record-setting edition of The Special.



Medaglia d'Oro sired three of the five million-dollar yearlings at Fasig-Tipton Saratoga this year, including the top colt and the top filly.

He's now had four Saratoga sale-toppers and seven million-dollar yearlings at Saratoga in the past decade, *more than any other sire.*

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WORTH REPEATING

"Tourist."

A Special reader as a person declined a Special Thursday morning

"Ignorance."

Another Special reader as a person declined a Special Thursday morning

"Thankfully."

Owner Everett Dobson, when told that his name wasn't in the top buyer's sheet from the recent Arqana Sale

"That's not our granddaughter, don't go there . . . She was conceived in Arkansas, born in Louisville. I'm sure you'll mess that up."

Ken McPeek, introducing his wife Sherri and daughter Ann Franklin to The Special's Tom Law Friday morning.
(Ask Law or McPeek about Arkansas; it's a long-running joke between the two)

"I felt like the tree fell in the forest and somebody heard it. I was worried nothing was going to happen up here."

Country Life Farm's Mike Pons, still flying high Friday morning after Monte Crista won Thursday's Riskaverse

"Yes and Sean reminded me of how long it had been."

Kip Elser, when asked if he used to ride steeplechase races (his 1976 New York Turf Writers Cup win was mentioned the day before)

"Man, you're like getting behind a school bus."

Golf cart driver who got stuck behind The Special's Sean Clancy's golf cart



Portfolio Management

Lee Thomas ©

Mating that produced Kentucky Derby G1 and Travers G1 winner,

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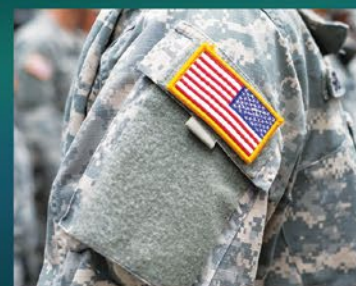
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

“When’s our race? We’re dreaming, right?”
**Trainer Chuck Lawrence, to owner Matt Schera,
while watching Glorious Empire’s Sword Dancer win on replay**



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Photo: Ellen Pons

REMEMBER ME? DIVINING ROD?

I’m by Tapit out four-time Grade 1 winner Precious Kitten. I just wrapped up my first season at stud at Country Life. I had 102 girlfriends come by my pad. I’m owned 20 percent by Country Life, 30 percent by my breeders Gretchen and Roy Jackson, and 50 percent by Gainesway Farm. I missed winning the Grade 1 Cigar Mile by a head-bob, but I still earned \$882,604. Look for my babies when they turn yearlings and show up at the Saratoga sale in 2020.



Josh Pons 443-807-0644 ♦ Mike Pons 410-459-8517
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410-879-1952 ♦ info@countrylifefarm.com ♦ countrylifefarm.com

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WORTH REPEATING

“Seven people doing an 80-page newspaper? How many pages is the New York Post going to be tomorrow?”

The Special’s Tom Law, while banging out Saturday’s paper

“Where do these seagulls come from? I want answers.”

The Special’s Shayna Tiller, as the seagulls made their daily appearance

“Almost time for another meal.”

The Special’s Todd Koch going for a bag of snack mix at 11:14 p.m. Friday night

“We need nose extensions.”

Trainer Michelle Nevin, who’s had a bunch of close seconds this meet

“Yeah.”

Trainer Rodolph Brissett, when asked if he was borrowing equipment while standing in Bill Mott’s office at 5:30 Friday morning

“These bibs are still hot from the dryer. Feel them.”

Clerk of scales Tim Kelly, while holding a pile of number bibs at 5:50 Friday morning

“Much love, always.”

The one and only Tuba

“I think it’s if I play my cards wrong.”

Nolan Clancy, 17, when told if he plays his cards right The Saratoga Special empire will be his some day

“I read it at 4:30 this morning.”

British trainer Ed Walker, when offered The Special at 6 Friday morning

“It’s like the bible.”

Gary Murray, when handed the 80-page Special Friday morning

“Every member of my family wants a copy.”

Trainer John Hertler, after The Special featured him in a column

“If they’re four-legged and furry, I like them.”

Trainer Michelle Nevin

“Not yet.”

Trainer Tim Keefe, when asked if the world was yelling “CRAAAAAAMBO” Friday morning

“Golf carts, highly flammable today.”

Reeve McGaughey, assistant to father Shug McGaughey, as The Special’s paper-filled golf carts rolled past the Oklahoma just after 5:30 a.m. Saturday

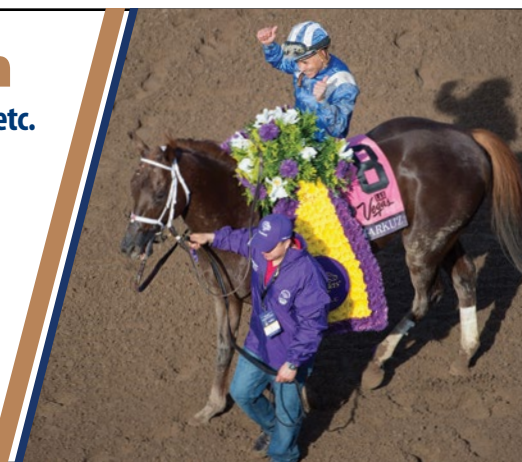


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The Top 10

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

- 1 Imperial Hint. Vanderbilt July 28. Special, small sprinter won Grade 1 with speed, style, simplicity. And we wrote about him 18 months ago.
- 2 Diversify. Whitney Aug. 4. Best older horse on grounds breaks on top and rips it up – winning in hand and stretching streak to three.
- 3 **Abel Tasman-Elate II. Personal Ensign Aug. 25. The 2018 tilt was as good as 2017 slugfest. Cant wait for Round Three.**
- 4 **Catholic Boy. Travers Aug. 25. He's a Grade 1 winner on turf and dirt. As a fan said on the way out, who's 3YO champ if he wins 2 or 3 more?**
- 5 Voodoo Song. Fourstardave Aug. 11. Turf star finally earned a Special cover with a Grade 1 triumph and a 5-for-5 mark at the track.
- 6 **Glorious Empire. Ex-claimer captures 2 graded turf stakes for Matt Schera & trainer Chuck Lawrence. Breeders' Cup Turf here he comes.**
- 7 **Promises Fulfilled. 3YO sprinter won Amsterdam and Jerkens sprint stakes to establish himself as the division leader for Dale Romans.**
- 8 Monomoy Girl. C.C.A. Oaks July 22. Queen of the meet back in Kentucky. Her lady in waiting Eskimo Kisses steamrolled Alabama field.
- 9 **Whitmore. Forego Aug. 25. The 5YO sprint star gets 11th win of career in Travers Day G1 for trainer Ron Moquett.**
- 10 Weekend Hideaway. John Morrissey July 26. Who you callin' old? He won the N.Y.-bred stakes for the second time – four years after the first one.

On the bubble: Cape Angel, Farrell, Mucho, CatherintheGreat, Arch Kingsley winning two over jumps, the 145 Beyer put up by the rain, Barclay Tagg's double, Jeremiah Englehart, Dave Donk and Phil Serpe climbing the leaderboard, New York-breds in open stakes, Sandy's Slew (Happy Retirement), Endorsed and Code Of Honor, Rushing Fall, Ricky Hendriks and Ross Geraghty sweeping the jumps Aug. 22-23, Sistercharlie, John Hertler, Kharafa, Tricky Escape, **Mike Smith and Bob Baffert winning two on Travers Day.**

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The Chief... Day 25

"They all had a nickname, damn near everyone of them, Jimmy Harris didn't, Duck Butter, Paycheck, the best one was Train Robber. His mother came one day, she said, 'Is Willy Capers here?' I said, 'We ain't got any Willy Capers here.' She said, 'You know the boy they call Train Robber.' I said to him one day, 'Train, how did you ever get the name Train Robber?' He said, 'I got it when I was a little boy.' I said, 'How come?' He said, 'The coach was making the lines for the baseball field and he ran out of lime to make the base lines. He gave us 35 cents to run to the store to get some, we knew there was a freight car on the sidelines that had it in there, so we were going to keep the 35 cents.' They caught them with the bag. That's how he got the name Train Robber."

– Trainer Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015



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with Michelle Nevin

Michelle Nevin leaned on a board inside her shedrow of Barn 73 on the Oklahoma Training Track Thursday morning as training hours wound down. The native of Tipperary, Ireland, grew up in racing and took out her license in America in 2013.

"I grew up surrounded by horses, my grandfather was a trainer, my dad was a jock," said Nevin. "When I first came here I worked for Leo O'Brien, it was a great job and I had a lot of fun. I worked for a couple different people here, I worked for Rick Dutrow for a long time."

Nevin earned her first Grade 1 victory with By The Moon in the 2014 Frizette, and trained Paulsilverlining to a third in the 2016 Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint. She won eight races at Saratoga last summer, including a score in the Grade 1 Ballerina with By The Moon. The daughter of Indian Charlie retired at the end of last year with \$1,552,940 in earnings.

"My best filly was By The Moon, she's just so awesome," said Nevin. "It was so great to see her win another Grade 1, we were so happy. That was special. From the very beginning she just went right to work. The first time I ever started her was up here and she won first time out. She got bred to Arrogate."

Nevin's 2018 Saratoga string consists of 18 horses, with 30 more back at Belmont Park. She's won five from 40 starts at the meet with 12 seconds and four thirds.

"We could do with a little bit of racing luck," said Nevin. "They've been running really, really well so I'm not going to complain but we've had a lot of seconds. These horses, they think they're pets. They're all very sweet. They get candy every five minutes, cost me a fortune."

A bag of peppermints in hand, Nevin walked down the shedrow last week with The Special's Shayna Tiller to talk about the string.

Shady Shady Shady: The bay filly stood at the back of her stall, gazing out the window. Larry Goichman's homebred 2-year-old daughter of Hat Trick broke her maiden by 4 3/4 lengths Friday. "She's trying to spy and see what Jimmy Jerkens does. She's a pretty chilled out filly, she's pretty easy. She did great in her first start. She was very professional, closed really well."



Tod Marks

Trainer Michelle Nevin has won five at the meet.

Hannah's Smile: Sunny Jim Fitzsimmons Racing's 3-year-old daughter of Perfect Soul finished second in an allowance at Belmont June 21. The dark bay tilted her head and stretched her neck towards her trainer. "Oh my god, are you pretty? She says, 'Oh, I am.' Hannah is an absolute barn favorite for everybody. She's just the sweetest, kindest horse. She loves people, loves attention. She's so straightforward. She could just train herself. She doesn't need us. Unfortunately, she's been very unlucky up here. Both times we tried to run her it has rained off the grass."

Bel Cuore: William Schettine's 2-year-old homebred daughter of Alpha finished second in a \$50,000 maiden claimer Aug. 22. The bay filly stood at the front of her stall, politely accepting peppermints from Nevin. "This is Bel Cuore, who did a great job. We're very proud of her. She ran great, we're coming to the end of the meet so we'll just freshen her back up and get her ready to fire at Belmont. She's not huge but she's not a munchkin either. She carries her weight well."

Ascender: Goichman's big bay daughter of Giant's Causeway repeatedly bit at the jolly ball hanging from the outside of her stall. She broke her maiden in her second start at Belmont July 15. "The rain is ruining her life. We ran her at the end of Belmont. Johnny (Velazquez) rode her and gave her a great ride. She did really well. We were hoping to get a run in her up here but unfortunately the grass is not working out. She's the boss of everything. She does whatever she wants, it is her way or the highway. She's very spoiled. She's a character, a very feisty girl."

She's A Black Belt: The 2-year-old bay daughter of Jimmy Creed stood in the middle of the stall, peering through the window separating her stall from Ascender. Jay Em Ess Stable's filly was second in an Aug. 5 maiden. "Are you looking for Ascender? She's not paying attention to you? She's very sweet. Very straightforward, very easy to ride, easy to be around."

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

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She'll run back hopefully we'll get her on the grass. We tried to get on the grass already here and she ended up having to run on the dirt, she was second. It'll be really nice to get her out on the turf and see what she can do."

Mizzen Max: The grey dappled out filly towers over Nevin, nuzzling into her shoulder as the trainer kisses her nose. Owned and bred by Galen Ho'o, 4-year-old daughter of Mizzen Mast finished second in Aug. 2 allowance. "This is another barn favorite. She's so beautiful, everybody loves her. She is just the nicest filly to be around ever. I don't think I've ever met a filly as sweet or as easy to train. She literally could go out and train herself, saddle herself. When she goes to the races she doesn't put a foot out of place. She just stands, you saddle her. If you look up her form she's there every single time. She finished second up here recently and she really, really ran hard. She did great, she got beat by Kieran McLaughlin's nice filly, which was a shame because she tried so hard. That filly didn't even give you a chance to see her coming, did she girl? She put in such a big effort. We'll freshen her up and run her back at Belmont. She's so lovely. She doesn't look like a filly, she's built like a big tank."

Chantry Flats: Jay Em Ess Stable purchased the son of The Factor for \$180,000 at the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July yearling sale. He finished fifth in a maiden Aug. 2 in first start since November. "He's affectionately known as 'Big Head.' He hadn't run in a really long time so I was really pleased. Just the last part he weakened, got a little tired. He put in a big effort to make such a big run off such a long layoff."

Semper Paratus: The dark bay poked his head over the stall guard, begging for a treat. Reagan Jack Racing's 2-year-old son of Flatter finished eighth in a turf maiden Friday. "This guy's so cute. How cute is that face? He's been unlucky, we tried to get him on the grass a couple times and the rain hasn't cooperated. He's so cute. He's like a little chubster. He's a chubby little guy but he's been trying to do the right thing. He's just really looking for the grass so hopefully we get lucky and he shows us he's a turf horse. He's all body, he should've been a wrestler."

Bret's Legacy: Jim Reichenberg's and Bruno De Julio's 2-year-old gelding was third in a maiden July 27 and is entered in Monday's first race. The dark bay has a unique star and snip on his face. "It was his first start, I thought he ran really well. He's a cool little guy. He's by Boys At Tosconova and he looks just like his daddy. He's getting ready to run back here soon. Hopefully he'll do better this time around. He's a little bit of a punk, just like his dad. He's a little bit of a busy body. He wants to look at everything and play and give the riders a hard time."

Continued On Page 9

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

He'll see a bee from a mile away. It's all playfulness, there's no badness to him."

Fast Track Kathern: The bay filly playfully bit at a bee buzzing around her stall. Nevin and Paradise Farms claimed the daughter of Bullet Train off Ken and Sarah Ramsey for \$35,000 July 29. "Mind your face Kathern, that bee's going to get you. We claimed her here this meet. She ran like we were hoping so hopefully we got the right claim. We wanted to run her back here but unfortunately it rained, and she didn't get to run. Poor Kathern. She said, 'Oh and I was ready too.' "

Forever Liesl: Kallenberg Farms' 3-year-old Mineshaft filly was third in the Summer Colony Aug. 19. She's already back at Belmont. "She did great. She kind of got a little bit of a wide trip, but she was really digging in at the end. The pace was a little bit on the slow side and she ran a little wide but I thought she did a good job to dig in running to the wire. Liesl is an absolute sweetheart to be around in the barn, but on the track she's all business. She likes her pony and she just wants to be with him. Once she's got her pony, she's fine."

Macagone: Mike Dubb's and Little Red Feather Racing's 7-year-old Artie Schiller gelding was second in an allowance Aug. 17. He's won \$551,561 in his career, including a win in the Danger's Hour at Aqueduct in 2017. "He's come out of his race in good shape. He's another cool old guy. I thought he ran huge the other day, just another second. They're running well and that's all you can hope for."

My Boy Tate: Nevin bred the 4-year-old son of Boys At Tosconova and races him in partnership with Little Red Feather Racing. He won five straight until finishing second in the Tale Of The Cat Aug. 10. "He's a hard-working guy. He's done really well this year. We gave him a little break, couldn't really find a spot that I wanted to bring him back in so we ended up going in the deep end in an open stake. I thought he did really, really well. Another horse coming in off the layoff running with some nice horses. He put out a huge effort to get the second."

Spectator: The daughter of Jimmy Creed won last year's Grade 2 Sorrento at Del Mar for Phil D'Amato and entered training with Nevin this spring. She was sixth in the Grade 3 Victory Ride at Belmont and eighth in the Grade 1 Test Aug. 4. "We've decided to just back off on her and freshen her up. There's a race in California for her so we sent her back for that. I've only had her for a month. She's a nice filly. Unfortunately when she came from California she'd gotten sick so then it was just trying to regroup her."

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Prayers Answered

Catholic Boy adds
dirt Gr. 1 to his list

BY SEAN CLANCY

Jonathan Thomas shook hands with Javier Castellano in the paddock before the Travers Stakes.

"Like we discussed," Thomas said. "No instructions."

Castellano nodded and smiled. That was it.

Minutes later, Castellano placed the "push-button" Catholic Boy in a stalking spot in second behind Mendelssohn in the \$1.25 million stakes. There were no instructions needed. Catholic Boy used his speed to angle from the outside stall and

Continued On Page 12



Catholic Boy heads for home in the Travers.

Tod Marks

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Jim McKay

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Bowman's Band	Hunters Bay	Polish Payola
Buffum	Java Royal	Precious Marque
Bullsbay	Jazz Club	Pulverizing
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Diamond	Medallist	Standing Room
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E Dubai	Mr. Shoplifter	Tomahawk Lake
Elusive Charlie	Nicanor	Touch 'n' Fly (IRE)
Etched	No Armistice	Trial Prep
Eternal Star	Not Abroad	Two Punch
Fantasticat	Not For Love	Unbridled Jet
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Freedom Child	Oratory	Waquoit
Friesan Fire	Orienteate	Wayne County (IRE)
Gators N Bears	Outflanker	Who's Your Daddy
Giacomo	Parker's Storm Cat	Yarrow Brae
Go for Gin	Partner's Hero	

This list shows nominated stallions with horses of racing age. ONLY horses by the stallions listed, who were conceived in Maryland and fully nominated/certified to the Maryland Million program, are eligible to run in Maryland Million races with the following exception:

If the race does not have six (6) Maryland Million eligible horses entered, not including cross-entered horses, the race will be opened up to registered Maryland-breds that were pre-entered. All Maryland Million eligible and Maryland-Bred (not Md-Sired) horses must pre-enter by Wednesday, October 11th, and pay the pre-entry fee. If a Maryland-Bred (not Md-Sired) horse does not get the opportunity to enter in a race, the pre-entry fee will be refunded.

PRE-ENTRY DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2018

\$150K Maryland Million Classic Three-year-olds & up, 1¼ mi.

\$125K Maryland Million Turf Three-year-olds & up, 1 mi., turf

\$125K Maryland Million Ladies Fillies & mares, 3-year-olds & up, 1¼ mi., turf

\$100K Maryland Million Distaff A handicap for fillies & mares, 3-year-olds & up, 7 fur.

\$100K Maryland Million Sprint A handicap for 3-year-olds & up, 6 fur.

\$100K Maryland Million Lassie Fillies, 2-year-olds, 6 fur.

\$100K Maryland Million Nursery Two-year-olds, 6 fur.

\$60K Maryland Million and/or Registered Maryland-Bred Turf Starter Handicap 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of \$11,000 or less since October 22, 2017, 1¼ mi., turf. First preference to Maryland Million-eligible horses. This is a starter/stake.

\$60K Maryland Million and/or Registered Maryland-Bred Turf Distaff Starter Handicap Fillies and mares, 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of \$11,000 or less since October 22, 2017, 1¼ mi., turf. First preference to Maryland Million-eligible horses. This is a starter/stake.

\$50K Maryland Million and/or Registered Maryland-Bred Starter Handicap 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of \$7,500 or less since October 22, 2017, 7f. First preference to Maryland Million-eligible horses. This is a starter/stake.

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Travers —

■ Continued from page 10

used his stamina to gallop nine rivals into submission over the 10 furlongs. Owned by Robert LaPenta, Madaket Stable, Siena Farm and Twin Creeks Racing Stable, Catholic Boy strolled to an easy win over Mendelssohn and Bravazo, finishing in 2:01.94.

“That was a Hall of Fame ride,” Thomas said. “That was an authoritative, confident, I’ve-got-the-horse ride.”

Castellano knew he had the horse after winning two graded turf stakes aboard Catholic Boy this summer and breezing the son of More Than Ready three times on the dirt at Saratoga this month. After the first one, a bullet 5-furlong drill, Castellano had seen what he needed to see.

“You think I can win my sixth Travers?” Castellano said, it was more statement than question.

“Yeah, win it with me,” Thomas said.

“I like this horse,” Castellano said. “Nobody is going to beat this horse.” And 19 days later, nobody did.

Catholic Boy broke quickly from the outside post and Castellano had one thing in mind, get there and get over. Castellano dangled his whip in his right hand for three strides, looked twice to his left while angling Catho-

lic Boy toward the rail. In a matter of strides, Catholic Boy established the stalking spot just off Mendelssohn, who had been hustled to the lead by Ryan Moore.

Those two won the race to the first turn and both jockeys knew it, raising their shoulders and slowing the tempo they had asked for just strides earlier. Behind them, the filly Wonder Gadot found a sweet spot on the rail in third while Preakness runner-up Bravazo, Jim Dandy winner Tenfold and favorite Good Magic tried to funnel into the next tier, Good Magic taking the worst of it on the outside. Thistledown shipper Trigger Warning stayed on the rail in sixth with Jim Dandy-third Vino Rosso outside him. Belmont runner-up Gronkowski had one horse behind him and that was 28-1 King Zachary.

Mendelssohn led Catholic Boy by a half length through the first quarter mile in :23.30 and the half in :47.81. Wonder Gadot, on the inside, and Tenfold, on the outside, tracked them, both comfortable. Trigger Warning moved up a place on the rail, Bravazo and Good Magic waited. Gronkowski pulled his way onto the back of heels and had to check. John Velazquez was already prodding Vino Rosso and King Zachary lagged. The order barely changed through three quarters of a mile in 1:11.97.

Continued On Page 14



Catholic Boy pulls away late.

Tod Marks



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Travers —

■ Continued from page 12

Midway on the turn, Moore began to nudge Mendelssohn who lowered down but didn't increase his half-length margin on Catholic Boy, Castellano still sitting like a Catholic boy before communion. In a matter of strides, Mendelssohn and Catholic Boy opened up on a faltering Wonder Gadot, a paddling Tenfold and six others who should have been hurrying but weren't.

Passing the quarter pole, Catholic Boy drew even with Mendelssohn. It wasn't even for long as Catholic Boy loomed like a dog over a ball. Castellano chilling, Moore rousting and the others praying from another parish, the Travers was over. Castellano flipped his whip and hit Catholic Boy once right-handed, Catholic Boy pounced to his right lead and opened up at will, widening with every stride as Mendelssohn slid back to the others. Catholic Boy drew away to win by 4 lengths from a game Mendelssohn. Bravazo picked up the pieces for third.

"The way he warmed up, I said to myself, 'Nobody can beat this horse.' He's such an amazing horse, he's push button. You ask him, he's there. You rate him, he rates. He's a special animal," Castellano said. "Those kinds of moves, we hooked up from the beginning of the race, we went pretty quick, it wasn't like we went in 24, 48, they came out running. I could have gone past Mendelssohn any time I wanted. He's got that dimension. The speed. The stamina. The full package."

At the wire, Castellano turned his whip down, pumped his right fist once to the crowd and five times to the sky. That makes one pump for every Travers win in his storied career.

"When I won my first, I said, 'Well, if I retire, at least I won the Travers.' I wound up with six," Castellano said. "I remember when I won my first, on Bernardini, I was so happy, I called my mom and told her I won the Travers. She said, 'What's that?' I said, 'Mom, it's one of the best races in the country for 3-year-olds, they come from the Derby, the Belmont, the Preakness, it's when the best 3-year-olds hook up in the summertime.'"

Well, usually.



Tod Marks

Catholic Boy (left) sets up just outside of Mendelssohn early in the Travers.

This year, the Travers was missing Triple Crown winner Justify, who retired this summer. His departure left the door wide open for another 3-year-old to step up. And that's exactly what Catholic Boy did, erasing any doubt about a dirt career while registering his fifth stakes win and second consecutive Grade 1 stakes score.

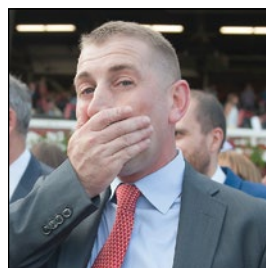
Bred by Fred Hertrich III and John Fielding, the bay ridgling won his first two starts as a 2-year-old, taking a maiden on the turf at Gulfstream Park and the Grade 3 With Anticipation here. Fourth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf in November, Catholic Boy stayed on the go, making his dirt debut in the Remsen in December. He won that day and began Kentucky Derby dialogue. In February, he finished second in the Grade 3 Sam Davis before suffering his only real blemish when fourth in the Florida Derby. He bled that day and Thomas regrouped, scrapped any spring plans and aimed at a summer scourge.

"These guys are the best, I said, 'Look, this is what we're going to have to do.' They said OK. They didn't ask a thing, nothing," Thomas said of the ownership group. "It's nice to be rewarded, it's nice to employ horsemanship and have it pay off, because no matter how many breakthroughs we have, taking care of your horses is always the right thing to do."

Catholic Boy regrouped at Thomas' main base, Bridlewood Farm in Ocala, Fla., and Thomas circled the Pennine Ridge and the Belmont Derby as summer targets. Catholic Boy returned to the work tab seven weeks after the Florida Derby and arrived at

Belmont Park for the Pennine Ridge a fresh horse. He upset Analyze It that day and came back and nailed him again in the Grade 1 Belmont Derby. With a Grade 1 stakes score on the turf, Catholic Boy needed a Grade 1 dirt score. Thomas circled the Travers.

"We had the discussion the week before the Belmont Derby that if he won, we would go to the Travers," Thomas said. "It doesn't do him any



Tod Marks

Trainer Jonathan Thomas, Travers winner.

good to win two Grade 1s on the turf. If he didn't win the Belmont Derby, we would have probably run in the Secretariat."

Instead, Thomas aimed his first horse at the Travers. A former steeplechase jockey and an assistant on the flat for several high-profile trainers, including Todd Pletcher, Thomas used a bits and pieces of knowledge he gained over the years to get Catholic Boy to the Travers.

"I've taken away a lot from everybody," Thomas said. "Everybody's got their strengths and there's a lot of good horsemen out there, horses like these help you execute what you've learned. All that you've learned is no use if you can't employ it."

Catholic Boy let Thomas employ it, working three times like a soldier and showing every day that the Travers was in his wheelhouse.

"Javier helped us get this horse to this point, he's such a good horseman. We breezed 49 and 4, out in 1:03 the week before, just taking it easy, leaving a little bit of something in the tank," Thomas said. "I came back and was like, 'Are we OK?' He said, 'Don't worry, I reached up to grab him and he was right there.' You've got Gronkowski going in a minute, Good Magic going in a minute, I'm not going to lie, I questioned myself a lot, if I had done enough with him."

Questioning but not wavering, Thomas lightened up on Catholic Boy during the week before the Travers. He jogged a lot, cantered a little and barely galloped. Thomas wanted him to be sharp so he would break and get an early position. Catholic Boy did exactly that, showing dirt speed for the first time.

"Maybe that's a weapon he's had all along and we now have the confidence to start unleashing it," Thomas said. "It might have been my conservatism, we've always been a little turf with him, get the trip, tipping out and making a run. He showed today that he's got actual speed and he can carry it over a route of ground, that's what we all look for."

LaPenta has been looking for it since he came to Saratoga for the first time as an 18-year-old kid.

"It was always a goal, always a goal," LaPenta said. "I'd come here and stand in the grandstand and I'd look up at the people in the boxes and say, 'Wow. They must be royalty. Who are they? Who are they?' I was having my clam chowder, a couple of clams, my corn on the cob and looking up there and saying, 'One day.' And that day came."



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Round 2

Abel Tasman wins another tight battle with Elate at Saratoga

BY BEN GOWANS

In an era of racing where rivalries aren't common, Abel Tasman and Elate might have something brewing. The 4-year-old fillies certainly have a flair for the dramatic when they meet at Saratoga Race Course and hooked up again Saturday in the \$700,000 Personal Ensign.

"This is big-time racing. This is the centerstage and that's why we come here," said Bob Baffert, trainer of Abel Tasman. "That's why we waited, to come out and run her here. If Elate runs and wins by herself, they'd be calling her the best. We didn't duck, we came."

Continued On Page 18

Abel Tasman (right) denies Elate in the final stages of the Personal Ensign.



Tod Marks



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Personal Ensign —

■ Continued from page 16

She didn't duck Elate, but she did bump her. Or, they bumped each other. Or, Jose Ortiz drifted in on Elate and that's what caused the contact. Or, Mike Smith aboard Abel Tasman sensed Elate and Ortiz had the momentum and felt the need to drift out. Depends on who you ask, it is the racetrack after all.

"There was room for about three of us in there," Smith said referring to the gap between Abel Tasman and Elate before they made contact at the sixteenth pole. "I was coming out so that she would engage and then all of a sudden he came in too at the same time. When we made a little bit of contact, we touched. If anything, I kind of took the worst of it because he turned me in. We straightened out and were both fine, and the judges felt the same way."

Ortiz motioned for an objection only strides after the wire and held a different opinion.

"I think (Abel Tasman) should have come down, 100 percent," Ortiz said.

The circumstances were eerily similar to last year's Coaching Club American Oaks where Abel Tasman bested Elate by a head . . . after some bumping in the stretch and a stewards' inquiry.

The stewards reached the same conclusion Saturday as they did 13 months earlier. Abel Tasman remained the winner. Last year's champion 3-year-old filly won by a neck over Elate, last year's Alabama winner.

There was another similarity when comparing the running of last year's CCA Oaks and this year's Grade 1 Personal Ensign: Abel Tasman's early move when she turned down the backstretch. Smith knew breaking from the inside post may make things difficult aboard Abel Tasman.

"Being down in there, we'll get away and see how she jumps. She got away good the last time and took me right up there early," Smith said Friday. "I'm not going to take anything that comes easy to her, I'm going to just try to get her in a nice, happy, comfortable rhythm where I feel she's happy, I know when she's happy she's going to run big. It could be last and it could be in front. She'll leave there



Tod Marks

Jose Ortiz signals his intentions to claim foul just past the finish line.

completely off the bridle but if you pick at her, man, she'll go from 0 to 50, like, now."

Smith didn't pick at her, but Abel Tasman certainly picked up her pace. The Kentucky Oaks winner started to get eager after making her way around the clubhouse turn and bulled her way into rival Farrell off the rail into the two-path. Abel Tasman kept

moving forward to take the lead away from 55-1 rabbit She Takes Heart.

Abel Tasman took the lead just outside the 5-furlong pole and the real fun began. Elate followed Abel Tasman's every move down the backstretch and ranged up to her rival's flank at the top of the stretch.

Baffert admitted he wasn't overly

Continued On Page 19



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Personal Ensign —

■ Continued from page 18

confident when Elate approached his filly.

"No, not really," he said when asked if he thought Abel Tasman was going to hold off Elate at the top of the stretch. "Because I know that's a really good filly. Those are the two best fillies in the country right now. It's one of those things where, the champions show that grit and make it happen. They make a trainer look really good.

"I thought she was going to get by us, but you could tell by the way Mike was riding he wasn't really worried. Mike said as soon as she saw her, she took off. She's an incredible mare and one of the best I've ever trained."

Smith sat still on Abel Tasman as Ortiz got after Elate. The two were even at the eighth pole, made contact a sixteenth of a mile later and Abel Tasman edged clear in the final strides.

"She's such a fighter, she doesn't give up. We would've went around again, she wasn't going to let that horse by," Smith said in the jockey's room after winning the Grade 1 Ballerina aboard the Baffert-trained Marley's Freedom. "I was still kind of waiting, because my mare actually does wait. I'd rather them come to me early than late."

The fractions of the Personal Ensign were faster than average and so was the final time of 1:47.19, a new stakes record for the 9-furlong trip.

When Baffert, Smith and Abel Tasman were announced as winners while posing for their picture in the winner's circle, boos rang from the crowd.

"Well, you know what, it's New York man," Baffert said as he made his way out of the paddock before the Ballerina. "You lose your \$2 and she's a hometown filly. That's just part of it. You can't worry about that. That's

not negative, that's New York."

John Sikura of Hill 'n Dale Farm ribbed Baffert right after he said that.

"You got the New York cheer," he said to Baffert as the trainer made his way through the box seat area.

"See? It's called the New York cheer," Baffert said.

While Smith and Baffert heard boos in the winner's circle, they heard a lot of "can you please sign this" and "can you take a picture with me?" when among fans in the clubhouse and backyard. Boos included, they were treated like rock stars Saturday at Saratoga.

"I'm so blessed in my life but that's what great horses do for you," said Smith, the Triple Crown-winning jockey. "Horses do so much for all of us in here and everyone who works with them and the owners and trainers. The reason I drive the car I drive back home, the house I have, the clothes I have on my back, the food that I put it in my mouth is because of the horses.

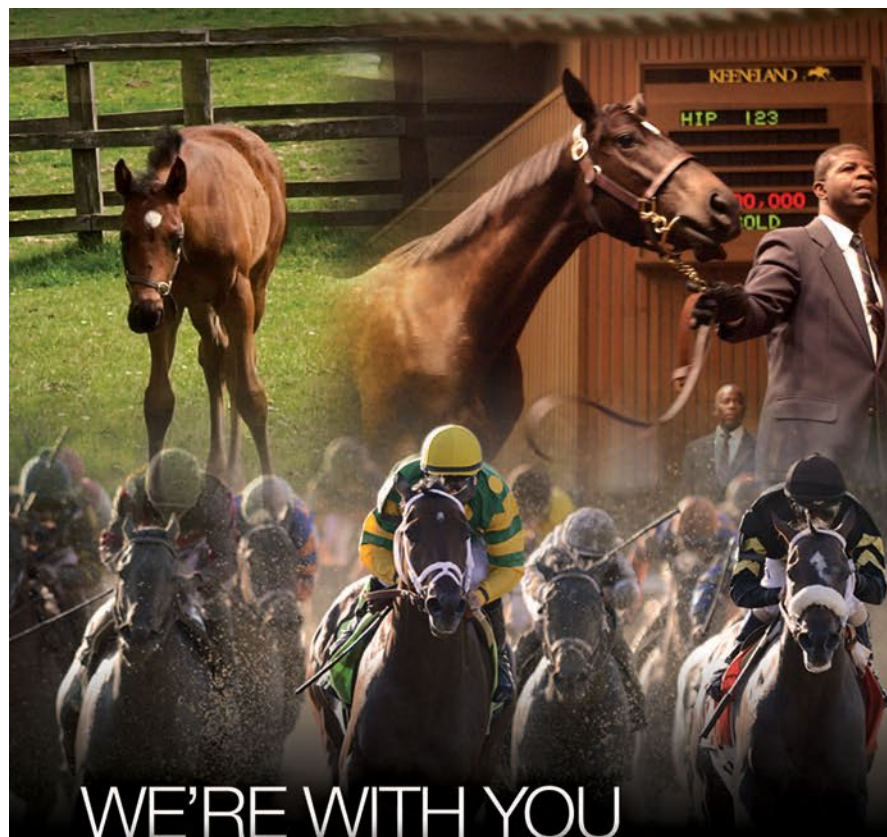
"That's what they do to you, they bring you fans. Believe me, it ain't me, it's the horses that I'm riding. If they could walk and talk and sign, they'd be around them and I'd be over there standing by myself."

Smith won't be standing by himself anytime soon.



Tod Marks

Abel Tasman walks in the winner's circle after the Grade 1.



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Front Runner

Glorious Empire wires solid group in Grade 1

BY JOE CLANCY

Chuck Lawrence heard all about Glorious Empire. Nervous in the paddock, difficult to saddle, edgy on race day, stressed out, all of those things and more, the Irish-bred turf horse possessed plenty of talent. The rest, including a chronic bleeding problem, got in the way.

So Lawrence came up with something new, well something old.

"I took him to the races at least 10 times," said the trainer, who compared himself to old-school steeplechase guy Mikey Smithwick for the move. "I took him to the races and brought him home. They got tired of me going down there to Laurel. The girl in the receiving barn, Terry (Overmeier), she wasn't too happy with me."

Everybody's happy now.

Glorious Empire put some of his bad habits behind him, learned to relax and has won three in a row for Lawrence and owner Matt Schera. The streak started in an optional claimer at Delaware Park June 28. Glorious Empire won by 4 lengths going 1 1/8 miles. Stretched out to 1 3/8 miles at Saratoga July 28, the 7-year-old gelding upset the Grade 2 Bowling Green in a dead heat with Channel Maker. Saturday, the son of Holy Roman Emperor became a Grade 1 winner, wiring nine others



Tod Marks

Glorious Empire stays clear of the field in the Sword Dancer.

in the 1 1/2-mile Sword Dancer.

The winner set every fraction, shrugged off Channel Maker's challenge at the top of the stretch and won by 1 3/4 lengths in 2:24.41. Worth \$1 million, plus an automatic entry in the Breeders' Cup Turf, the score was the first in a Grade 1 for the trainer and the owner.

"I can't believe it, I can't believe it," said Schera while walking (barely) to the winner's circle. "He's not supposed to do that. I feel like I lost something. What the hell? What's he doing? He's not supposed to do that. I've lost my voice, I've lost my mind, I've lost..."

Well, nothing. Schera won a million-dollar race with a horse he claimed for \$62,500 in May 2017.

Glorious Empire bled in that race, but returned with trainer Carlos Martin to win a \$50,000 claimer and finish seventh in the Grade 2 Bernard Baruch here last summer. Glorious Empire bled again when eased in the Baltimore-Washington International at Laurel in late September and might have been headed to a second career.

Schera called an audible, gave Glorious Empire an extended break and sent him to Lawrence at Fair Hill Training Center in Maryland.

"I always wondered since I got into this, can you just put any horse with a top trainer and let it happen or can you put certain horses with certain trainers and do better?" Schera said. "This horse

Continued On Page 21

"This thing could cure a broken heart."

— New Castle Farm's James "J. J." Crupi

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Sword Dancer —

■ Continued from page 20

and Chuck just fit each other. They get along great.”

Lawrence, a former steeplechase jockey who worked for Hall of Fame trainer Burley Cocks, took it slow with Glorious Empire. The plan included those van rides to Laurel, lots of cross-country gallops in the fields, time in Fair Hill Equine Therapy Center’s hyperbaric chamber and – finally – a switch to longer races. The gelding impressed his new trainer from the start.

“Matt, this is one of the best horses – if not the best horse – I’ve ever had,” went one early conversation with Schera. When it came time to get back to the races this spring, owner and trainer thought small at first. Ever the handicapper, Schera figured they could make the horse starter eligible. Lawrence thought about a turf sprint at Penn National.

Eventually, the thinking changed. Glorious Empire returned in the 1-mile Henry Clark at Laurel in April and finished sixth. It’s been nothing

but longer races, tougher competition and wins since. The Bowling Green, on soft turf and hanging on like a mouse in a cat factory, might have been a fluke. The Sword Dancer, it was for real. The field included last year’s winner Sadler’s Joy, Grade 1 winners Bigger Picture, Hi Happy, Funtastic and Spring Quality, plus the returning Channel Maker. Glorious Empire broke from the rail, like a sprinter, and was soon joined by Channel Maker through a quarter-mile in :23.16. From there, the winner came back to Leparoux and started dealing out quieter quarter-mile splits. Ears pricked and head low, Glorious Empire passed a half-mile in :48.18 and three-quarters in 1:13.88. Channel Maker was a length behind, followed by Funtastic, Hi Happy and Spring Quality as Sadler’s Joy dropped back to 10th.

“I was worried that (Channel Maker) was pressing, but Julien had the idea to get out there and bring him back,” said Lawrence. “The horse had his ears pricked. He was having fun. They went :23 and they went :25 the next quarter. That helps a horse keep going.”

Off the final turn, Leparoux asked

for more and Glorious Empire delivered. He put 2 lengths on Channel Maker in a hurry as Spring Quality came off the rail for a run, Hi Happy flattened out, Funtastic backed up and Sadler’s Joy never really unfurled his late charge. The winner ran the final half-mile in :45.59.

“The first quarter was a little fast but then after that he just came back to me and we kind of slowed it down from there,” said Leparoux. “When I asked him at the quarter pole, he just flew home. Horses like that are very difficult to catch.”

Upstairs in the box seats past the finish line, Lawrences and Scheras of all ages spilled out in the aisle as Glorious Empire galloped out. There were hugs, high-fives, fist bumps, maybe some tears – and talk of a shopping spree at Target (they’ll be the ones buying toys).

“We were sitting around some really big owners up there and I thought, ‘You know, some of these people are not going to like it if we win,’ ” Schera said. “You shouldn’t claim a horse for \$62,500 and win a Grade 1. They want to make stallions, do all that other stuff. We’re just trying to win races. I feel so good about this.

It’s phenomenal.”

Lawrence, whose first Grade 2 win came in the Bowling Green, added a Grade 1 to his training record – and paid full credit to his horse.

“You got to have the horse, no question,” he said. “He’s the right horse, but he really fits me and I’m fortunate. I have to change a lot of things for a horse that goes three-quarters or five-eighths. A horse like this, it’s just the way I do things or have done things forever. I can’t take a whole lot of credit. He’s a nice horse.”



Tod Marks
Trainer Chuck Lawrence (right) greets his first Grade 1 winner.

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BY BRANDON VALVO

H. ALLEN JERKENS STAKES RECAP

The day before the Travers, Dale Romans sat in a golf cart around the three-eighths pole of the main track near his barn on the far turn at Saratoga Race Course. The golf cart was motionless and Romans quiet, but still the trainer was surrounded by cameras under the late-morning sun. The team of filmmakers were busy in the production of a horse racing documentary, and Romans was the star.

"All right, enough of this for now. Cut," Romans said after several minutes of idle filming. He called over a reporter waiting to ask about his entrants in Saturday's Grade 1 H. Allen Jerkens and directed one of the cameras to move closer.

"This is what a real morning is like on the racetrack," Romans said as he dictated his plan for Promises Fulfilled and Seven Trumpets, his two runners in the \$500,000 stakes.

"He looks like the only speed in the race, so hopefully we just keep right on going," he said of Promises Fulfilled. "I love the spot. The 1-hole, I'd rather have 2 or 3, but we're all right. He's fast enough that it doesn't matter."

As for Seven Trumpets, "he's a horse that's drastically

improved since his last race. I don't know what got into him, it's like the switch went on," Romans said.

While Romans' short-term plan was to send Promises Fulfilled to the lead, his long-term strategy was set more than two months ago after Promises Fulfilled ran third in the Grade 2 Woody Stephens on Belmont Stakes Day. Romans turned to owner Bob Baron and laid out a simple but definitive roadmap.

"Amsterdam, Allen Jerkens," Romans said.

Promises Fulfilled completed Phase 1 when he captured the Grade 3 Amsterdam by 3 1/4 lengths July 28. Travers Day, the Shackleford son delivered on Phase 2, taking home the Allen Jerkens in gate-to-wire style and giving the local owner his first Saratoga Grade 1. Romans captured the exacta as Seven Trumpets finished second 1 1/4 lengths behind his stablemate.

"That was a big effort, a big, big effort," Romans said. "The horse ran just like we thought. When the plan comes

Continued On Page 23

Jerkins —

■ Continued from page 22

together like that, it makes for a special game. That's the first time I've run one-two in a Grade 1. One-two in any race is big, but in a Grade 1 like this, it's really special."

Romans also said he was honored to win the race named in the memory of one of his idols and the late Hall of Fame trainer. Previously run as the King's Bishop, the race was renamed last year to memorialize the beloved trainer who passed away in 2015.

"Of course, most people in the game know that Allen (Jerkins) and I were very close," Romans said. "He was a good friend and mentor in life. Everybody knows what a great horse trainer he was, and he was a better person. It's an honor to win this race and I think to get up for second we might have had a little divine intervention."

With an inside draw in the 7-furlong dirt stakes, rider Luis Saez knew the break was critical. Saez rode the 3-year-old in his prior two starts, setting the pace in the Woody Stephens and stalking the leader in the Amsterdam. The experience helped the rider to prepare for Saturday.

"I learned he just wants to run, so I let him run. Let him do what he wants to do," Saez said. "I just stayed with the pony, normal warmup. He has natural speed. He's very fast."

Promises Fulfilled left the stall like an arrow leaving the bow of a skilled archer. He streaked past Engage and Gidu to take the lead and ran through an opening quarter of :22.66. Meanwhile, Seven Trumpets raced along the rail 4 lengths behind.

Promises Fulfilled extended his advantage to a length past a :44.34 half-mile and left Gidu behind. Engage circled that tiring rival at the midway point of the turn and Robby Albarado guided Seven Trumpets up the rail to race in the pocket 2 1/2 lengths behind his stablemate.

"He broke pretty Dale Romans and Luis Saez celebrate the win.

good. He was very comfortable. He's fast," Saez said. "I felt like he was very comfortable, so I just stayed there."

Saez tugged on the left rein as his mount drifted into the three-path turning for home and Seven Trumpets capitalized, gaining within a half-length of his barn mate. Promises Fulfilled effortlessly changed leads and Saez slapped him on his right shoulder. Engage bore down on the outside just a half-length away.

Saez twirled the stick into his right hand and smacked the chestnut colt with a furlong to run. After two quick hits, he tucked the stick and pumped away on Promises Fulfilled. He went back to the whip with a sixteenth to run and Promises Fulfilled opened 1 1/4 lengths on his rivals. Ridden out to the line, he breezed home to stop the clock in 1:21.44.

Seven Trumpets beat late-closing Firenze Fire for second while Engage settled for fourth.

"When he came to the stretch, he switched leads and he took off again," Saez said. "I saw somebody was coming, but I didn't know it was (Seven Trumpets). When we passed the wire, I realized it was him. I was surprised. That other horse ran big."

For Saez, a Travers Day Grade 1 win is the pinnacle of a successful summer. The rider has 25 wins at the meet through Saturday and figures to surpass his 2017 total when he finished seventh in the standings with 28 victories.


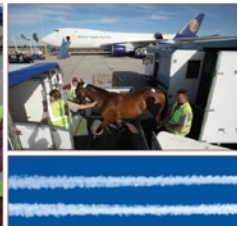


"Man, this is amazing. This day is special, this day is a big day," Saez said. "Everybody wants to win and to win is very special."



Tod Marks

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Check It Off

Whitmore delivers Grade 1 for Moquett

BY TOM LAW

Ron Moquett keeps a list of stakes races on a door in his office back home in Arkansas. The list is part motivating factor, part personal archive and part wish list, and it reads like a who's who of some of globe's top events.

The races on the list aren't always the most obvious or lucrative, although rich prizes like the Arkansas Derby and Breeders' Cup Sprint are prominent. They're the races Moquett covets the most and he checks them off when he wins one and keeps dreaming.

"I've never been asked if I won a title," Moquett said a few weeks ago. "But people ask what races you've won. They say, 'have you won this, have you won that?' That's what I focus on, winning races with names."

Two names Moquett added years ago were Forego and Vanderbilt, Saratoga's top two sprints for older horses, and on his next trip home to Hot Springs he'll add another checkmark. Whitmore earned his trainer and co-owner that right with his latest victory in Saturday's 39th edition of the Grade 1 Forego on the Travers Day undercard.

Whitmore, a 5-year-old gelding Moquett likens to the bully from school you'd prefer on your side, won his first Grade 1 in the 7-furlong Forego when he topped a deep field led by Southern Califor-



Tod Marks

Whitmore and Ricardo Santana Jr. reach the finish line of the Forego.

nia-based runner-up City Of Light by 1 1/2 lengths. Limousine Liberal, who beat Whitmore by a neck last time in the Grade 2 Belmont Sprint Championship, finished a nose back in third. Ricardo Santana Jr. rode Whitmore, who won for the 11th time in 22 starts and finished in 1:21.46.

"We love sprint races and they're on there," Moquett said, walking to the test barn to check on Whitmore after skipping the champagne toast in the Saratoga Room. "But the Travers is on there, too. I'm a student of the game so I started with the oldest races. No offense to some of the other races, but I wanted ones that I always watched. The ones people who I thought were good trainers were winning with good, fast horses."

"The races are scattered out all over the world. The Vosburgh is on there, the De Francis, Met Mile, Forego, the Vanderbilt is one of the big ones. The Arkansas Derby, because it's where I'm from. I've always wanted to win the Apple Blossom. We've won the Stephen Foster."

Whitmore's victory in the Forego, which came after a huge hole opened on the inside turning for home, also provided a bit of redemption for Moquett and his team.

Whitmore figured to be favored for last year's Grade 1 Alfred G. Vanderbilt early in the 2017 Saratoga meet. He flew from Moquett's main sum-

Continued On Page 25

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Forego —

■ Continued from page 24

mer base at Churchill Downs before the race but missed a chance to run when he suffered an injury on the short van ride from the Albany airport to Saratoga.

“He was the favorite, not even 5-2 but probably like 4-5, and he kicked the wall in the trailer ride from the airport to here,” Moquett said. “He kicked it over and over. He was dead-lame. I still have a video of it where he wouldn’t put weight behind.”

Those antics were nothing new to Moquett and his wife Laura, who rides the son of Pleasantly Perfect in the morning. The troublesome behavior goes back to his juvenile year, when he refused to breeze at a 2-year-old sale. Moquett bought Whitmore privately when he was withdrawn from the sale and he again refused to train. He was gelded before his first start in early November 2015.

“He’s fun to be around, but he’s a challenge,” Moquett said. “He’s not a kid’s pony. He brings that same tenacity to the track.”

Whitmore, a classics contender and Kentucky Derby starter who

eventually found more success sprinting, showed more of that attitude in his return to Saratoga this summer. Vanned from Kentucky a few weeks ago, he joined Moquett’s string in the stakes barn and couldn’t be missed poking his head out of his corner stall sporting two raw spots on his forehead.

“He got that rubbing his head against the bars the whole way up,” said Moquett, who trains Whitmore for a partnership that also includes the Travers winning connections Robert LaPenta and the Sol Kumin-led Head of Plains Partners.

The wounds healed in time for the Forego, but Whitmore couldn’t be missed in the paddock Saturday.

“He’s got such thin skin, he’s like a mole rat,” Moquett joked at the test barn. “You don’t know if he has hair it’s so thin. He shines and he’s pretty, but it looks like he has no hair.”

City Of Light, winner of last year’s Grade 1 Malibu and this year’s Grade 1 Triple Bend at Santa Anita Park, also cut a dash in the paddock. Bettors hammered him down to 3-5 early and he drifted up a bit, only to a shade above 4-5 at post time.

“That’s a grand looking son of a gun,” Moquett said of the Forego favorite, winner of the Grade 2 Oaklawn Handicap over leading older horse Accelerate and third to that foe in the Grade 1 Gold Cup at Santa Anita going 10 furlongs in late May. “I told my owner when we were saddling, ‘we’ll cheer for this one but we’ll breed to that one.’ I’m going to let Whitmore stand as a stallion. He’s a gelding but I’ll see if anyone calls. Maybe a \$500 stud fee.”

Whitmore stepped squarely on Moquett’s foot during saddling, leaving his trainer to figure he’d need a new pair of brown shoes, to wonder “how many toes are detached,” and whether it was such a good sign that “we have to let him step on me every time before a race.”



Tod Marks

Trainer Ron Moquett and his stable star.

Superstitions aside, Whitmore packed a similar come-from-behind run in the Forego that also produced victories in such races from Moquett’s list as the Grade 3 Count Fleet Sprint (2017 and 2018) and Grade 2 Phoenix (2017).

Whitmore raced in sixth behind Heartwood, C Z Rocket, Warrior’s Club, City Of Light and No Dozing through the opening quarter in :22.48 before inching up a spot after a half in :44.84. He and Santana made steady progress around the far turn. Heartwood eventually felt the effects of his early efforts and came several paths off the fence turning for home. Santana sent Whitmore through on the inside just as City Of Light and Irad Ortiz Jr. started to range up while running six wide.

Whitmore cut the corner perfectly and opened up fast. He led City Of Light by a length at the eighth pole, held the margin for much of the final furlong before edging out a bit at the finish.

“He’s as consistent as they come and he tries every time,” Moquett said. “He’s made a career out of out-running his trainer. I just hope he

keeps doing it.”

Moquett’s phone blew up walking through the grandstand to the test barn – to the tune of 159 text messages and multiple missed and answered calls in about 30 minutes. He received congratulations from fellow horsemen and fans along the way, too, all the while praising his horse and his team.

He watched members of his team, including his wife, give Whitmore a bath before they embraced and chatted again about the latest horse to check a big race off the list.

“Bully. He’s a bully. An absolute bully,” Laura Moquett said. “We agree to just find a middle ground. I think we have the same personality. I’m a more patient bully than he is, so that helps.”

“But he deserves it. What an emotional roller coaster. I was thinking, ‘Oh my God, he didn’t make the lead, Oh my God, nothing is coming from off the pace today, Oh my God, my God, he’s on the inside, nothing is going to open up because they all know what he’ll do. Then a hole opened up that you could drive a truck through. I’m like, ‘God, thank you so much.’ ”



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Special Delivery

Marley's Freedom scores Grade 1 win for Cicero Farms

BY SHAYNA TILLER

Barbara Ranck-Perry stepped onto Saratoga's main track after the running of the \$500,000 Grade 1 Ballerina. Dressed in a flowing pink and white floral dress and tan heels that sunk into the dirt, she grasped the shank attached to Marley's Freedom as they headed into the winner's circle. Properly holding the leather with one hand beneath the filly's chin and the rest neatly folded in her opposite hand, she could have been confused for Marley's Freedom's groom rather than her owner.

"My dad used to have a string and I grew up riding horses when I was a kid," she said. "I've been around horses my whole life."

Barbara Ranck-Perry and her husband Ron Perry dove into ownership in 2012, starting their Cicero Farms. Barbara selected and purchased the daughter of Blame for \$35,000 from the 2015 Keeneland September yearling sale.

"I liked her presence," said Barbara. "When she came out of the stall she had a big presence about herself. She's a very fluid mover. She just swings her legs and is very energy efficient. She was a little bit on the small side but she was a late foal. I didn't think she'd be a good 2-year-old, I thought she'd be



Tod Marks

Marley's Freedom wins the Ballerina.

better at 3 and 4. There were two Blame fillies that we looked at, the other one sold for (\$310,000) so we got a deal."

Cicero started Marley's Freedom with Richard Baltas in 2016. She was off the board in two starts at Santa Anita Park before being sidelined for nearly 10 months.

"Richie did a great job with her, but she was young and she was lumpy and still growing," Ron Perry said. "We had to turn her out. When we brought her back, we were on this program with one trainer at a time so he inherited her."

Marley's Freedom began her 3-year-old campaign with Bob Hess Jr. She won her first race last September, capturing a maiden at Del Mar by

three-quarters of a length at 29-1.

"She popped out of nowhere to win that first race," said Ron. "She won that first race less than a 365 days ago. She was going along great."

Marley's Freedom continued steadily for Hess, finishing first or second in four of six starts – including a fourth in the Grade 1 La Brea at Santa Anita and sixth in the Grade 3 Hurricane Bertie at Gulfstream before being second in the Grade 2 Santa Monica stakes at Santa Anita in March. She won one more allowance at Santa Anita April 20 before transferring to Bob Baffert's stable.

"If you had a child that could go to Harvard and

Continued On Page 27

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Ballerina —

■ Continued from page 26

handle the rigors of going to Harvard, you would send them there. If you thought it would break them, you wouldn't," said Ron. "We thought that she could handle the toughest, best trainer in the world. No disrespect to Bob Hess but she needed to go to Harvard. We sent her to Harvard and she just graduated."

Marley's Freedom excelled in her first two starts for Baffert with Drayden Van Dyke aboard. She won by 7 1/4 lengths in the Grade 3 Desert Stormer at Santa Anita May 27 and again by 1 1/2 lengths in the Grade 2 Great Lady M at Los Alamitos July 7.

"I got her and she was in great shape," said Baffert. "She had just come off a big win, a very impressive win so I can't take a lot of credit for it. She was in great shape, running really well. I just kept her in that form."

After three straight wins with Van Dyke aboard, Mike Smith got the call for the first time since January. With Smith aboard in the Ballerina, Marley's Freedom broke sharply and then Smith took her back, chasing just off the pace in the field of eight older females. She maintained position over the backside, Finley'sluckycharm leading the field through a :45.44 half-mile. Smith swung wide through the turn, using a right-handed whip

into the stretch. His filly responded, kicking into the stretch and winning by 3 1/4 lengths.

"Definitely the toughest field (she's faced) but she handled it well," said Baffert. "They asked me before, Barbara and Ron, 'What do you think?' I said we're going to find out what she's made of because this is what she's going to run against in the Breeders' Cup."

"Mike had her and they weren't going that fast early. Usually she's further back but I just told him to ride her how the race plays out. When I saw her at the top on the outside I felt pretty good. She had another gear and that's the way she's been working."

The win earns Marley's Freedom and her owners their first Grade 1 victory and Baffert his first score in the Ballerina.

"It's absolutely amazing," said Barbara. "I can't put it into words. As soon as it sinks in I'm pretty sure I'll be crying like a baby."

Marley's Freedom is now six for 12 with \$628,435 in earnings and is headed to the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint.

"She's just a super comfortable, confident filly that's very sweet," said Barbara. "She's a cuddle monkey. She loves to have you come up and scratch her neck. She's in love with my grandson, she just puts her head down on his chest and he wraps his arms around her. You're going, 'This is a racehorse?' She's amazing."



Tod Marks

Barbara Ranck-Perry and assistant Jimmy Barnes accompany Marley's Freedom.

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Clear Sailing

Quidura wires field in Grade 2 turf stakes

BY BRANDON VALVO

The rain-softened ground that became customary of the turf races early at the 2018 Saratoga Race Course meeting hardened to a firm course Travers Day as a dry streak allowed the course to recover. Along with the firm course, the removal of the temporary rails this week tilted the races toward speed and Quidura loved it.

The 5-year-old Dubawi mare broke on top in Saturday's Ballston Spa and stayed on to win the \$400,000 Grade 2 by 1 3/4 lengths under Jose Ortiz for trainer Chad Brown. She completed the 1 1/16-mile stakes in 1:39.67.

Hawksmoor finished second 1 1/4 lengths ahead of Indian Blessing. Brown's two other Ballston Spa entrants, A Raving Beauty and Off Limits, were fourth and fifth, respectively.

"A win is a win. It's a nice race to win and we're grateful for that," Brown said. "I still had two other horses in the race who are really nice and didn't hit the board, so I have to examine that. I have a feeling it's due to the turf course for them."

Peter Brant bought Quidura out of the 2017 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky November mixed sale for \$3.6 million. The British-bred mare began her career in Germany before shipping across the Atlantic Ocean in her 3-year-old season. She won the Grade 3 Pin Oak Valley View Stakes at Keeneland and



Tod Marks

Quidura runs away with the Ballston Spa.

Grade 2 Canadian Stakes at Woodbine and was second in the Grade 1 Diana for Graham Motion before going through the ring.

"She was a really nice prospect, not only for racing this year but for his elite broodmare band that he's building," Brown said. "She had an extremely strong pedigree, looks and race record."

Quidura made her debut for Brown in a Belmont optional claimer July 15 and finished second in the mile race after setting the tempo on a yielding course. Her debut proved a perfect steppingstone for the Ballston Spa.

"Beautiful horse, solid work horse, really a consummate professional," Brown said. "Got her started a little later in the year than I would have

liked, she had a few setbacks here and there, which I was really disappointed about because I know she's a real top-class mare."

"She needed her last start I think," Brown said. "It was on really soft turf, which she doesn't like. She still almost won. Coming out of that race, she trained strong and got the firmer ground that she likes."

Quidura's victory improves her record to 5-for-11 with another four seconds and thirds. She's earned \$740,788 and Brown thinks her biggest efforts are ahead of her.

"Now that she's in form and has two races under her belt, we'll be looking for something big next time."



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2018 September Meet Stakes Schedule

September 14 - September 30

POCAHONTAS (GII)

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

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

IROQUOIS (GIII)

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

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

LOCUST GROVE (GIII)

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

OPEN MIND

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

DOGWOOD (Listed)

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

ACK ACK (GIII)

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

LUKAS CLASSIC (GIII)

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

JEFFERSON CUP (Listed)

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

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Dan Bork Asst. Racing Secretary, Stakes Coordinator: 502.638.3806 • dan.bork@kyderby.com
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Sun Fun

Crowd of 49,000-plus, record all-sources handle mark big Travers Day

The sun was shining, plenty of skin was showing and drinks were flowing on Travers Day at Saratoga Race Course.

A paid-crowd of 49,418 took in the 13-race card on the biggest day of the meet, up from last year's crowd of 47,725. The New York Racing Association reported gains in all-sources handle, which came in at \$52,086,597 for the Travers Day card topped by Catholic Boy's 4-length victory over Mendelssohn in the Midsummer Derby. Saturday's handle figure rose 8.8 percent from last year and topped the previous record of \$49,668,754 set in 2015 when Triple Crown winner American Pharoah showed up for the Travers.

The Travers went off at 5:44 p.m. under clear and sunny skies and deep into a day mixed with food and drink, questionable and conservative fashion choices and a monster undercard of rich stakes, allowance and maiden races.

The day started with an upset by Dallas Stewart's Classy John in the first of two 2-year-old races on the card.

Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS	1ST
Chad Brown	34
Todd Pletcher	16
Steve Asmussen	12
Bill Mott	12
Jeremiah Englehart	10
Rudy Rodriguez	8
Jason Servis	8
Shug McGaughey	7
Kiaran McLaughlin	7
Dave Donk	6
Joe Sharp	6
JOCKEYS	1ST
Irad Ortiz Jr.	40
Javier Castellano	33
Jose Ortiz	30
Manny Franco	28
Luis Saez	25
Joel Rosario	21
Junior Alvarado	20
Ricardo Santana Jr.	20
John Velazquez	19

Through Saturday

Jeremiah Englehart's Forty Under won the second, a 1 1/16-mile turf maiden special weight run as the fourth. The Uncle Mo colt owned by Hall of Fame football coach Bill Parcells' August Dawn Farm was sent off at 20-1 and raced in second for most of the journey. He surged late in the stretch to win by 1 1/2 lengths. Jockey Manny Franco rode Forty Under, picking up



Tod Marks

Classy John eyes up the finish line in Saturday's first race.

his second win after taking the second aboard Way Early for George Weaver.

Before finishing second in two Grade 1s later on the card, Bill Mott finished 1-2 in the fifth. Red Knight defeated stablemate Classic Covey by a neck in the 1 3/16-mile allowance-optional on turf.

Junior Alvarado worked out a perfect trip, riding along the hedge aboard the winner while the runner-up was forced to rally wide under Irad Ortiz Jr. New York-bred Red Knight improved his record to 5-for-7 with the victory. The 4-year-old son of Pure Prize is owned by Trinity Farm.

— Ben Gowans

- Valene Farm's Louisiana-bred Classy John, fresh into town from Dallas Stewart's main base in Louisville, broke his maiden in the opener going 6 furlongs on the main track.

Brian Hernandez Jr. rode the 2-year-old son of Songandaprayer to a 6-length victory as the 12-1 fifth choice in the field of seven.

"This horse has only been here two days, came in on Wednesday, galloped him Thursday and Friday," Stewart said. "You know, Wayne Lukas style, off the plane. Take him over there and run him, don't ever be afraid. The horse really handled everything great, handled the crowd. I started to not bring it but I said let's give it a shot, so we did and he handled it great and it was very impressive."

Classy John, a \$12,000 purchase at the Equine Sales of Louisiana 2-year-old sale, breezed 5 fur-

longs from the gate in :58.60 at Trackside Louisville training center Aug. 17 before shipping to Saratoga.

Stewart wasn't worried about the short time Classy John spent in Saratoga before his debut.

"You got to hope that they adapt. They don't always adapt, but he did very well," he said. "We're thankful that he handled it well and thankful for Murray Valene to give us the opportunity."

Hernandez, in town to ride Finley's lucky-charm in the Grade 1 Ballerina, won again in the third aboard Honorable Treasure for trainer Ken McPeck.

Stewart picked up his first win of the meet, taking a bit of pressure off in the process.

"It feels good, I was wondering, 'I'm in the fourth quarter now, I have to do something,' but it worked out well," he said.

Valene said the win meant more than just another race.

"This is special for us today, my father passed away on Tuesday," he said. "I named this horse after him and he was a 100 years old. He went to races all the time, he was up there watching us here so this was a very special race for us.

"You want to know how I got this horse? I was buying a horse over the phone, and I was bidding on the wrong horse, so I ended up with him. How about that for life? It was one of those destiny things, you know?"

— David Woods

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SARATOGA RESULTS

Saturday August 25.

FIRST \$85,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 6F

3	Classy John	B. Hernandez, Jr.	\$26.40	\$9.40	\$5.00
5	Puttheglassdown	L. Saez		\$4.30	\$2.80
6	Starting Point	J. Ortiz			\$3.30

Dk B/ Br C 2016, Songandaprayer - Kitty's Got Class by Old Forester
Owner: Valene Farms LLC. Trainer: Dallas Stewart. Breeder: Tom Curtis & Wayne Simpson (LA). Time: 1:10.16. Exacta (3-5), \$47.50; Superfecta (3-5-6-1), \$37.10; Trifecta (3-5-6), \$108.87

SECOND \$77,000, NY-BRED ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M

4	Way Early	M. Franco	\$4.10	\$3.20	\$2.50
10	Appealing Briefs	D. Cohen		\$11.60	\$6.60
5	Collective Effort	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$3.20

Dk B/ Br G 2015, by Tizway - Jill Robin L by Precocity
Owner: Jim & Susan Hill. Trainer: George Weaver.
Breeder: Mares Rule III (NY). Time: 1:40.35. Late Scratches: Chic N Wilbur, Jupiter Rising, Masterkey, Dynamax Prime
Daily Double (3-4), \$34.50; Exacta (4-10), \$25.00; Quinella (4-10), \$17.80; Superfecta (4-10-5-1), \$165.45; Trifecta (4-10-5), \$66.87

THIRD \$87,000, ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

3	Honorable Treasure	B. Hernandez, Jr.	\$12.00	\$7.10	\$4.20
2	Fixedincome Larry	D. Cohen		\$11.60	\$5.20
7	Cerretalto	D. Davis			\$3.90

B C 2015, To Honor and Serve - Tempest Treasure by Dixie Union
Owner: Harold Lerner LLC, AWC Stables, Akman, Scott K. and Nehoc Stables. Trainer: Kenneth McPeck. Breeder: Gainesway Thoroughbreds Ltd. (KY). Late Scratches: Tommy T, Silver Dust Time: 1:15.10
Daily Double (4-3), \$15.80; Exacta (3-2), \$68.00; Superfecta (3-2-7-5), \$111.30; Trifecta (3-2-7), \$162.75; Consolation Double (4-8), \$1.95; Pic 3 (3-4-3), \$184.25; (3-4-8), \$28.50

FOURTH \$85,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 1 1/16M TURF

6	Forty Under	M. Franco	\$42.00	\$18.40	\$12.20
7	Social Paranoia	J. Velazquez		\$4.70	\$3.50
2	Skychief	R. Santana, Jr.			\$13.80

Gr/ro Colt 2016, by Uncle Mo - Argent Affair by Black Tie Affair (IRE)
Owner: August Dawn Farm. Trainer: Jeremiah Englehart.
Breeder: Cedar Hill LLC (KY). Late Scratches: Coast, Cotton House, Noble Nebraskan, Medina Ridge, Gunslinger (IRE)
Time: 1:41.95 Daily Double (3-6), \$174.25; Exacta (6-7), \$103.50; Quinella (6-7), \$41.50; Superfecta (6-7-2-9), \$973.20; Trifecta (6-7-2), \$736.00; Pic 3 (4-3-6), \$338.50; (4-8-6), \$49.00

FIFTH \$92,000, AOC \$62,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 3/16M TURF

4	Red Knight	J. Alvarado	\$7.70	\$4.40	\$3.40
5	Classic Covey	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$5.00	\$3.80
7	Scholar Athlete	E. Prado			\$5.90

Ch Gelding 2014, by Pure Prize - Isabel Away by Skip Away
Owner: Trinity Farm. Trainer: William Mott. Breeder: Trinity Farm (NY). Late Scratches: Team Colors Time: 1:53.81 Daily Double (6-4), \$97.25; Exacta (4-5), \$17.80; Superfecta (4-5-7-6), \$94.25; Trifecta (4-5-7), \$79.00; Pic 3 (3-6-4), \$998.50; Pic 4 (4/13/14/15/16-3-6-4/9), \$1,819.75; Pic 5 (3-4/13/14/15/16-3-6-4/9), \$24,955.00

SIXTH \$500,000, H. ALLEN JERKENS S. 3 YO, 7F

PRESENTED BY RUNHAPPY,

1	Promises Fulfilled	L. Saez	\$4.50	\$3.50	\$2.50
5	Seven Trumpets	R. Albarado		\$17.00	\$7.20
8	Firenze Fire	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$3.30

Ch Colt 2015, by Shackleford - Marquee Delivery by Marquetry Owner: Baron, Robert, J.. Trainer: Dale Romans. Breeder: David Jacobs (KY). Time: 1:21.44
Daily Double (4-1), \$10.00; Exacta (1-5), \$41.00; Superfecta (1-5-8-3), \$37.40; Trifecta (1-5-8), \$61.62; Pic 3 (6-4-1), \$223.75

SEVENTH \$700,000, - PERSONAL ENSIGN S., 3&UP, F&M, 1 1/8M

1	Abel Tasman	M. Smith	\$3.50	\$2.30	\$2.10
6	Elate	J. Ortiz		\$2.80	\$2.10
4	Wow Cat (CHI)	J. Velazquez			\$2.40

B Filly 2014, by Quality Road - Vargas Girl by Deputy Minister
Owner: China Horse Club International Ltd. and Clearsky Farms.
Trainer: Bob Baffert. Breeder: Clearsky Farms (KY). Time: 1:47.19 D
aily Double (1-1), \$4.00; Exacta (1-6), \$3.00; Superfecta (1-6-4-3), \$2.07; Trifecta (1-6-4), \$2.95; Pic 3 (4-1-1), \$21.70

EIGHTH \$500,000, KETEL ONE BALLERINA S., 3&UP, F&M, 7F

7	Marley's Freedom	M. Smith	\$5.80	\$4.30	\$2.90
3	Still There	D. Cohen		\$7.40	\$5.00
6	Lewis Bay	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$3.00

B Filly 2014, by Blame - Relaxing Green by Formal Gold
Owner: Cicero Farms. Trainer: Bob Baffert. Breeder: Jack Swain III (KY). Late Scratches: Highway Star. Time: 1:21.39
Daily Double (1-7), \$5.40; Exacta (7-3), \$25.50; Superfecta (7-3-6-8), \$74.55; Trifecta (7-3-6), \$54.37; Pic 3 (1-1-7), \$13.80

NINTH \$600,000, STAKES - FOREGO S., 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

3	Whitmore	R. Santana, Jr.	\$19.60	\$5.70	\$3.70
8	City of Light	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$2.80	\$2.40
1	Limousine Liberal	J. Ortiz			\$3.00

Ch Gelding 2013, by Pleasantly Perfect - Melody's Spirit by Scat Daddy
Owner: LaPenta, Robert V., Moquett, Ron and Head of Plains Partners LLC. Trainer: Ron Moquett. Breeder: John Liviakis (KY). Time: 1:21.46
Daily Double (7-3), \$41.50; Exacta (3-8), \$24.70; Superfecta (3-8-1-6), \$26.60; Trifecta (3-8-1), \$31.25; Pic 3 (1-7-3), \$71.25

TENTH \$1,000,000, SWORD DANCER S., 3 & UP, 1 1/2M TURF

1	Glorious Empire (IRE)	J. Leparoux	\$33.40	\$14.40	\$9.80
7	Channel Maker	J. Rosario		\$8.20	\$5.30
2	Spring Quality	E. Prado			\$4.70

Br G 2011, by Holy Roman Emperor (IRE) - Humble And Proud (IRE) by Pivotal (GB)
Owner: Schera, Matthew. Trainer: James Lawrence, II.
Breeder: Patrick Grogan (IRE).
Time: 2:24.41 Daily Double (3-1), \$182.25; Exacta (1-7), \$127.75; Superfecta (1-7-2-4), \$334.10; Trifecta (1-7-2), \$305.25; Pic 3 (7-3-1), \$697.00

ELEVENTH \$1,250,000, STAKES - RUNHAPPY TRAVERS S.

PRESENTED BY NYRA BETS, 3 YO, 1 1/4M

11	Catholic Boy	J. Castellano	\$16.20	\$8.20	\$5.80
8	Mendelssohn	R. Moore		\$12.00	\$8.70
4	Bravazo	L. Saez			\$6.60

B Ridgling 2015, by More Than Ready - Song of Bernadette by Bernardini
Owner: LaPenta, Robert V., Madaket Stables LLC, Siena Farm LLC, and Twin Creeks Racing Stables, LLC. Trainer: Jonathan Thomas. Breeder: Fred W. Hertrich III & John D. Fielding (KY). Late Scratches: Meistermind Time: 2:01.94 Daily Double (1-11), \$144.50; Exacta (11-8), \$145.25; Superfecta (11-8-4-7), \$1,796.75; Trifecta (11-8-4), \$744.25; Pic 3 (3-1-11), \$1,485.00; Pic 4 (7/9-3-1-11), \$2,741.50; Pic 5 (1-7/9-3-1-11), \$6,507.00; Pic 6 (1-1-7/9-3-1-11), \$398.00; Pic 6 (1-1-7/9-3-1-11), \$55,027.00

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

5	Quidura (GB)	J. Ortiz	\$9.50	\$5.20	\$3.60
4	Hawksmoor (IRE)	J. Castellano		\$7.40	\$5.40
2	Indian Blessing (GB)	J. Leparoux			\$5.90

B Mare 2013, by Dubawi (IRE) - Quetena (GER) by Acatenango (GER)
Owner: Brant, Peter, M.. Trainer: Chad Brown. Breeder: Stiftung Gestut Fahrhof (GB). Time: 1:39.67 Daily Double (11-5), \$43.75; Exacta (5-4), \$38.75; Superfecta (5-4-2-1), \$73.75; Trifecta (5-4-2), \$149.00; Pic 3 (1-11-5), \$979.00; Place Pix Nine (1/3/8-1/2/7-4/8/11-5), \$169.50

SARATOGA RESULTS PHOTOS

BY TOD MARKS AND DAVE HARMON



SARATOGA RESULTS

THIRTEENTH \$45,000, MDN CLM \$40,000, 3& UP, 1M

11	Spring On Curlin	J. Rosario	\$17.00	\$8.60	\$5.20
4	A I Initiative	D. Cohen	\$29.20	\$15.60	
9	Victor Lounge (IRE)	L. Saez		\$4.00	

Ch Gelding 2013, by Curlin - Spring Unbridled by Unbridled's Song
Owner: Fried, Jr., Albert. Trainer: Charlton Baker. Breeder: Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC (KY).

Late Scratches: Local Edition, American Rule

Claimed: Azzedine (FR) claimed by T and S Racing for \$40,000 Time: 1:36.07

Daily Double (5-11), \$76.75; Exacta (11-4), \$285.50; Superfecta (11-4-9-5), \$670.75; Trifecta (11-4-9), \$761.50; Pic 3 (11-5-11), \$430.00; Pic 4 (1-11-5-11), \$4,435.75

On Track Handle: \$11,466,264. All-Sources Handle: \$52,086,597.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2018

THE SARATOGA SPECIAL



Sunday, August 26.

1ST (1:00PM). \$32,000, CLM \$16,000, 3 YO, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double			
1	.....1.....	Hokulea.....	J. Rosario..... G. Contessa..... 10-1
2	.....2.....	Flatexcel.....	R. Santana, Jr..... J. Toscano, Jr..... 8-1
3	.....3.....	Mr. Fixit.....	I. Ortiz, Jr..... L. Rice..... 3-1
4	.....4.....	Can Go.....	L. Reyes..... N. Zito..... 15-1
5	.....5.....	Can'tweallgetalong.....	J. Alvarado..... G. Contessa..... 9-2
6	.....6.....	Niko Strong.....	K. Carmouche..... J. Englehart..... 2-1
7	.....7.....	Engineers Report.....	M. Franco..... R. Rodriguez..... 8-1
8	.....8.....	Espresso Caliente.....	D. Cohen..... G. Gullo..... 6-1

2ND (1:33PM). \$85,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double			
1	.....1.....	Blahnik.....	J. Velazquez..... T. Pletcher..... 6-1
2	.....2.....	Trish the Dish.....	L. Saez..... B. Lynch..... 8-1
3	.....3.....	Royal Angel.....	J. Lezcano..... J. Kimmel..... 20-1
4	.....4.....	Speedy Solution.....	I. Ortiz, Jr..... W. Ward..... 7-2
5	.....5.....	Madding Crowd.....	J. Castellano..... W. Mott..... 5-1
6	.....6.....	Rotate.....	J. Alvarado..... W. Mott..... 12-1
7	.....7.....	Irish Intuition.....	D. Davis..... K. McPeck..... 10-1
8	.....8.....	Miss Rombauer.....	J. Ortiz..... C. Brown..... 5-2
9	.....9.....	Hidden Facts.....	J. Leparoux..... B. Lynch..... 15-1
10	.....10.....	Choate Bridge.....	M. Franco..... B. Walsh..... 12-1
11	.....AE.....	Varenka.....	M. Franco..... H. Motion..... 8-1
12	.....AE.....	Black Dynamite.....	J. Castellano..... C. Brown..... 3-1
13	.....MTO.....	Positive Spirit.....	Rider TBA..... R. Brisset..... 6-1
14	.....MTO.....	Dovey Lovey.....	J. Alvarado..... G. Contessa..... 3-1

3RD (2:07PM). \$47,000, CLM \$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double			
1	.....1.....	Acoustic.....	I. Ortiz, Jr..... J. Servis..... 7-2
2	.....2.....	Alive.....	E. Cancel..... M. Trombetta..... 20-1
3	.....3.....	Zorzor.....	F. Geroux..... B. Cox..... 5-2
4	.....4.....	Parauari (FR).....	J. Ortiz..... C. Brown..... 6-5
5	.....5.....	River of Dreams.....	D. Davis..... L. Gyarmati..... 15-1
6	.....6.....	Wingman.....	L. Saez..... P. Serpe..... 8-1
7	.....7.....	Tricked Up.....	M. Franco..... R. Rodriguez..... 8-1

4TH (2:41PM). \$57,000, STR \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 6F

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double			
1	.....1.....	Nocturnal Mission.....	J. Castellano..... B. Walsh..... 3-1
2	.....2.....	Elizabeth Nicole.....	D. Davis..... G. Contessa..... 15-1
3	.....3.....	Curiousncuriouser.....	I. Ortiz, Jr..... C. Englehart..... 7-2
4	.....4.....	Hexameter.....	R. Santana, Jr..... J. Terranova II..... 5-1
5	.....5.....	Criminal Mischief.....	J. Rosario..... D. Lukas..... 8-1
6	.....6.....	Leah's Dream.....	M. Franco..... C. Englehart..... 6-1
7	.....7.....	Maho Bay.....	L. Saez..... J. Sharp..... 2-1

5TH (3:15PM). \$85,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 6, Daily Double			
1	.....1.....	Marina View.....	J. Lezcano..... M. Lerman..... 20-1
2	.....2.....	Malibu Mischief.....	J. Alvarado..... G. Contessa..... 12-1
3	.....3.....	Angelia.....	J. Velazquez..... T. Pletcher..... 5-2
4	.....4.....	Vomba.....	D. Davis..... A. Stall, Jr..... 6-1
5	.....5.....	Into the South.....	J. Leparoux..... I. Correas, IV..... 9-2
6	.....6.....	Wheedle.....	F. Geroux..... R. Brisset..... 12-1
7	.....7.....	Carolina Beach.....	R. Santana, Jr..... H. DePaz..... 6-1
8	.....8.....	Enliven.....	J. Bravo..... K. McLaughlin..... 2-1

6TH (3:49PM). \$87,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double			
1	.....1.....	Holiday Bonus.....	I. Ortiz, Jr..... H. Motion..... 8-1
2	.....MTO.....	Tres Equis.....	Rider TBA..... R. Brisset..... 3-1
3	.....3.....	Dr. Edgar.....	D. Davis..... B. Tagg..... 2-1
4	.....4.....	Harlan's Hunch.....	K. Carmouche..... D. Gargan..... 5-1
5	.....5.....	Via Egnatia.....	J. Velazquez..... W. Mott..... 3-1

6	.....6.....	Abatement (GB).....	M. Luzzi..... E. Voss..... 15-1
7	.....7.....	Clutch Cargo.....	J. Lezcano..... P. Serpe..... 20-1
8	.....8.....	Three Perfections.....	L. Saez..... J. Jerkens..... 9-2
9	.....9.....	Lunaire.....	J. Ortiz..... T. Albertrani..... 6-1

7TH (4:25PM). \$77,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double			
1	.....1.....	Peaches and Spice.....	L. Reyes..... J. Quiles..... 50-1
2	.....2.....	Codrington.....	K. Carmouche..... M. Maker..... 15-1
3	.....3.....	Jody's Song.....	M. Franco..... J. Abreu..... 9-2
4	.....4.....	Miss Jen.....	J. Lezcano..... J. Ryerson..... 10-1
5	.....5.....	Under Suspicion.....	L. Saez..... P. Serpe..... 20-1
6	.....6.....	Seeking the Blue.....	J. Rosario..... C. Clement..... 15-1
7	.....7.....	Myhartblongstoday.....	J. Ortiz..... C. Brown..... 5-2
8	.....8.....	Way Smart.....	J. Bravo..... H. Bond..... 6-1
9	.....9.....	Hope's Roar.....	J. Castellano..... J. Abreu..... 10-1
10	.....10.....	Unbridledadventure.....	J. Alvarado..... B. Levine..... 15-1
11	.....11.....	Chestnut Street.....	I. Ortiz, Jr..... C. Brown..... 4-1
12	.....12.....	Classic Lady.....	D. Cohen..... K. Rubley..... 30-1
13	.....AE.....	Spring Folly.....	I. Ortiz, Jr..... M. Dickinson..... 5-1
14	.....AE.....	Cha Cha Heels.....	M. Franco..... R. Rodriguez..... 12-1

8TH (5:02PM). \$92,000, AOC \$62,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double			
1	.....1.....	Carlino.....	J. Lezcano..... M. Hennig..... 4-1
2	.....2.....	Krewe Chief.....	K. Carmouche..... M. Maker..... 8-1
3	.....3.....	Souper Tapit.....	J. Ortiz..... M. Casse..... 7-2
4	.....4.....	Papa Zulu.....	D. Cohen..... K. Rubley..... 12-1
5	.....5.....	Secret House.....	R. Santana, Jr..... T. Amoss..... 6-1
6	.....6.....	Proven Reserves.....	I. Ortiz, Jr..... C. Brown..... 6-5
7	.....7.....	Calculated Risker.....	M. Franco..... R. Handal..... 12-1

9TH (5:40PM). \$100,000, STK - THE SMART N FANCY, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double			
1	.....1.....	Battle Joined.....	J. Bravo..... M. Hennig..... 15-1
2	.....2.....	Amapola.....	D. Cohen..... A. Delacour..... 30-1
3	.....3.....	Chanteline.....	R. Santana, Jr..... S. Asmussen..... 5-1
4	.....4.....	Fire Key.....	J. Velazquez..... P. Kelly..... 20-1
5	.....5.....	Tillie's Lily.....	J. Castellano..... J. Thomas..... 5-1
6	.....6.....	Just Talkin.....	I. Ortiz, Jr..... J. Servis..... 6-1
7	.....7.....	Girls Know Best.....	J. Ortiz..... E. Kenneally..... 8-1
8	.....8.....	Morticia.....	J. Lezcano..... G. Arnold, II..... 4-1
9	.....9.....	Faypien.....	L. Saez..... B. Baffert..... 12-1
10	.....10.....	Bowie.....	J. Leparoux..... W. Calhoun..... 30-1
11	.....11.....	Jc's Shooting Star.....	M. Franco..... D. Donk..... 12-1
12	.....12.....	Epping Forest.....	J. Rosario..... C. Clement..... 9-2
13	.....AE.....	Conquest Tizfire.....	K. Carmouche..... J. Lawrence, II..... 30-1
14	.....MTO.....	Vertical Oak.....	R. Santana, Jr..... S. Asmussen..... 2-1
15	.....MTO.....	Kirby's Penny.....	J. Velazquez..... W. Ward..... 7-2
16	.....MTO.....	Play Unified.....	L. Saez..... G. Weaver..... 10-1

10TH (6:18PM). \$45,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta			
1	.....1.....	Last Chant.....	L. Reyes..... E. Barker..... 20-1
2	.....2.....	Spa Jazz.....	D. Cohen..... B. Tagg..... 5-1
3	.....3.....	American Ninja.....	J. Lezcano..... P. Reynolds..... 8-1
4	.....4.....	La Manche.....	I. Ortiz, Jr..... M. Maker..... 10-1
5	.....5.....	Tommy the Cat.....	J. Alvarado..... J. Englehart..... 15-1
6	.....6.....	Powerstroke.....	L. Saez..... P. Serpe..... 4-1
7	.....7.....	Thefinalcrazydude.....	M. Luzzi..... B. Brown..... 30-1
8	.....8.....	Joe's Smokin Gun.....	D. Davis..... T. Hills..... 5-2
9	.....9.....	Time Expired.....	E. Cancel..... M. Friedman..... 15-1
10	.....10.....	Iron Mast.....	M. Franco..... J. Englehart..... 8-1
11	.....11.....	Straitouta Congtin.....	K. Carmouche..... A. Adsit..... 10-1
1212.....	Ambition Mission.....	A. Lezcano..... C. Caiazzo..... 30-1
13AE.....	Local Edition.....	J. Lezcano..... T. Bush..... 15-1

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WINNER'S CIRCLE BEER

the Power grid					
Race #	John Shapazian	Charles Bedard	Tom Law	Donald Phillips	Jack Clancy
1	Niko Strong Engineers Report Mr. Fixit	Niko Strong Mr. Fixit Flatexcel	Niko Strong Mr. Fixit Engineers Report	Espresso Caliente Niko Strong Mr. Fixit	Niko Strong Mr. Fixit Engineers Report
2	Black Dynamite Miss Rombauer Speedy Solution	Speedy Solution Trish The Dish Miss Rombauer	Miss Rombauer Madding Crowd Speedy Solution	Speedy Solution Irish Intuition Trish The Dish	Blahnik Speedy Solution Madding Crowd
3	Zorzor Acoustic Parauari	Parauari Acoustic Zorzor	Parauari Zorzor Acoustic	Zorzor Acoustic Parauar	Parauari Zorzor Tricked Up
4	Maho Bay Hexameter Curiousncuriouser	Maho Bay Hexameter Nocturnal Mission	Nocturnal Mission Curiousncuriouser Maho Bay	Maho Bay Leah's Dream Curiousncuriouser	Maho Bay Curiousncuriouser Hexameter
5	Vomba Enliven Into The South	Enliven Into The South Angelia	Into The South Angelia Vomba	Vomba Carolina Beach Enliver	Angelia Enliven Into The South
6	Via Egnatia Dr. Edgar Harlan's Hunch	Dr. Edgar Harlan's Hunch Lunaire	Via Egnatia Dr. Edgar Three Perfections	Dr. Edgar Lunaire Holiday Bonus	Dr. Edgar Holiday Bonus Lunaire
7	Myhartblongstodady Chestnut Street Unbridledadventure	Chestnut Street Way Smart Myhartblongstodady	Myhartblongstodady Chestnut Street Hope's Roar	Myhartblongstodady Way Smart Chestnut Street	Jody's Song Myhartblongstodady Chestnut Street
8	Proven Reserves Souper Tapit Krewe Chief	Proven Reserves Secret House Souper Tapit	Proven Reserves Souper Tapit Carlino	Souper Tapit Proven Reserves Secret House	Proven Reserves Souper Tapit Krewe Chief
9	Vertical Oak Chanteline Epping Forest	Vertical Oak Morticia Amapola	Tillie's Lily Girls Know Best Chanteline	Epping Forest Morticia Chanteline	Epping Forest Jc's Shooting Star Morticia
10	Spa Jazz Powerstroke Iron Mast	Joe's Smokin Gun Powerstroke American Ninja	Iron Mast Powerstroke Spa Jazz	Straitouta Congtin Spa Jazz Iron Mast	Joe's Smokin Gun Straitouta Congtin Powerstroke
2018 Records	92/ 320	76/ 320	73/ 320	56/320	49/243*

Our fifth handicapper will be a special guest each day.

Guest Handicapper

Today's guest handicapper is Jack Clancy, the regional field director for Jesse Colvin's campaign to represent Maryland's first congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives. Jack is a graduate of Salisbury University and former longtime head of the distribution for The Saratoga Special. Saturday, Patrick McGoey picked five winners.

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

Top Guest Handicapper for 2018: Patrick McGoey with five wins.

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RIDERS UP

Conversations with some of America's top jockeys, presented by The Jockey's Guild

Though based in California, Mike Smith rides regularly enough at Saratoga Race Course to get the fans' attention. All you have to do is listen.

Before the Alabama Stakes last Saturday, fans lining the rail of the picnic area called to the Hall of Famer like he was a long-lost friend. And in a way that's what he is.

"Hey Miiiiike."

"Welcome back, Mike."

"You the man, Mikey."

And on and on and on. As he's done through 37 years of riding races, Smith smiled, gave a nod and then went to work. He and Midnight Bisou finished third in the Grade 1, and Smith rode four at Del Mar the next day. The New Mexico native returned to Saratoga for yesterday's Travers card, winning two stakes with Abel Tasman and Marley's Freedom.

It's been a long road for Smith, whose first mount came at Santa Fe in 1982. Two-year-old New Mexico-bred Misty Fate finished second, but started one of Thoroughbred racing's great careers.

Smith won Eclipse Awards in 1993 and 1994. He made the Hall of Fame in 2003. He's won 26 Breeders' Cup races, seven Triple Crown races and the 1991 Irish 2,000 Guineas aboard Fourstars Allstar. He cracked the 300-win barrier four times in the 1990s. A short list of the best horses he's ridden would start with Arrogate and Azeri and meander through Coronado's Quest, Game On Dude, Holy Bull, Inside Information, Lure, Mizdirection, Royal Delta, Shared Belief, Skip Away and Songbird before reaching Zenyatta.

Smith has won 5,471 races and is second behind John Velazquez with \$314.5 million in career purse earnings. Beyond mere racing success, he's been singled out for the Mike Venezia Award for extraordinary sportsmanship and citizenship in 1994, the George Woolf Memorial Jockey Award for "high standards of personal and professional conduct on and off the racetrack" in 2000 and the Laffit Pincay Jr. award which goes to someone who served racing with "integrity, dedication, determination and distinction."

Finally, Smith put the ultimate signature on one



Tod Marks

Mike Smith.

of racing's great careers – a sweep of the 2018 Triple Crown aboard Justify for trainer Bob Baffert – and the man is not finished.

Last week, Smith took a few moments out of another busy day to talk to The Special's Joe Clancy by phone about life as a big-name jockey.

You're on the board of the Jockeys' Guild. Why is that important to you?

It's our organization man. It's all of us together. We try to help others, help other riders that are less fortunate and to stick together as one to get some things done. It's for everybody, all riders and that's important. It's not just for the guys who do well, the guys who ride in the big races.

What issue do you see as most important to the Jockeys' Guild?

Safety is always a huge issue. I think when it comes to safety, for the most part we're on the same page in racing. Like every other sport, we're trying to be safer. We know so much more now than we ever did. Football is trying to change things around. You'll never have it completely safe. It's all a learning

process as you go along. It's sports, there's always going to be a danger factor. We understand that. We just want to keep working to make it as safe as we can. In my career, a lot has changed. The helmets, the vests, the tracks, the rails, they're all different from when I started.

What would you be if you weren't a jockey?

I don't know. I really don't know. I was too small to play most other sports anyway. Who knows? Some sort of a rancher probably. I'd have raised cattle, learned how to farm probably. I'm not sure I'd have been in the sport enough to be a commentator because that's what I say now that I've done it. When I finish riding, the easiest thing would be to go into TV and see if I'm good at it, see if I've got a passion for it. I'd like to stay involved that way. I was already working around the ranch a lot. I'd have probably gotten some property and started my own ranch, tried to anyway – cattle or a little bit of everything. Where I'm from, there was cotton, wheat, hay. People had cattle, sheep, all kinds of livestock.

How did you get into riding races?

My uncle was training. My grandparents on both sides were really into racing. At some point or other they owned racehorses. It was pretty easy for me, I had the tools to learn. It's a matter of whether I wanted to learn or not. I just started off on my own. I started putting a jockey saddle on my pony instead of a stock saddle.

You won the Triple Crown aboard Justify in 2018. What's life been like since?

Busy. There's a lot that goes with it. There really is. Interviews and appearances, family, friends, everything. A lot of celebration. It's a life-changing thing. Amazing. I went home to my home state for a thing and the governor came in and they made a Mike Smith Day. Mike Smith Day in the whole state of New Mexico. You might get one at a track or at a town, not a whole state. That day will be Mike Smith Day. To me, it was pretty neat. I'd have never thought something like that would happen, even after I started riding and doing well. It was incredible.

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Smith —

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What's the first Triple Crown you remember?

Secretariat. I remember right where I was sitting. My grandmother had just gotten a brand new coffee table that had a mirror in the middle of it, I thought that was the neatest thing. I was sitting right on that table watching it. She put the TV on because the race was coming on, me and my grandfather sat right there and watched it. That's when I started thinking about Thoroughbreds. I was a big Quarter Horse guy then. My first dream was to win the All American (Futurity), not the Kentucky Derby. I never won it, I always said I was going to be the first jock to win the All American and the Kentucky Derby, but I thinking I'm running out of time to hold onto one going 440 yards.

Justify's career blazed through just six starts. What is his legacy?

To accomplish what he accomplished without getting beat in such a short amount of time is something. It will always be something. He went everywhere in a short amount of time, did what horses just don't do. It's crazy to think about what he was able to accomplish.

How did you react to the retirement announcement?

It really wasn't crushing when I heard he was retired. I'd have liked to ride him a time or two more, but I understood. He was going to have to get some time because he had a minor injury, and if he made the Breeders' Cup he was going to have to do it without a prep and he'd have been 80 percent. That wouldn't have been fair to him. It just wasn't going to work out. I get it. Bob let me get on him for the last time and we took some pictures. That was pretty neat, but it was pretty sad. That's when it kind of hit me. It was the first time I'd ever been on him without any pressure. I'd been on him just five times, for the five races. We walked around. I felt like a little kid getting on a horse for the first time. It was great. We just went around the barn a little bit. I was a little sad at that moment but he's got nothing to prove to anybody.

You've said for years that you'll ride "for another year or two." You're 53, you've won a Triple Crown, made the Hall of Fame, ridden some true greats of the game. What's left?

Now I want to do the Triple Crown again I'd like to take another crack at it. The whole thing is a life changer. It really is. If I'm blessed to come up with another solid horse, it would be amazing.

What's the message of a 53-year-old jockey winning the Triple Crown?

Keep yourself in good shape, stay healthy, good and strong, you can keep on keeping on. Work at it. The body is a tool, if you don't use it, it'll grow old on you quick. The mental part is the best, because experience is a wonderful thing to have, man, when you have that experience...

What's special about riding at Saratoga?

It's a special place. It has a different feel to it for everybody. Not just riders. For everybody. Owners, trainers, exercise riders, fans, it's just different. You want to win there. It's where everyone comes together. You've got best racing in the world. It's a beautiful place and you can feel the history that it's all about as soon as you drive into the place. Pulling up into that town, you see the tracks on both sides of the races, you can't help but feel it. You have to almost pull over because you might run off the road from looking at everything.

What's the one race you want back, to ride again?

The Breeders' Cup Classic in 2010 with Zenyatta, where Blame beat us a nose. That's a no-brainer. Who knows what would happen? Maybe he'd have beaten me again, I don't know. That was one of those races where you lost, but you didn't. You weren't really upset. She ran great, she ran one of her best races. It was her last race, she was undefeated, we all knew it. We were thinking about it. What if she gets beat? What a race she ran. She ran so hard. Blame ran an incredible race to hold her off. He might beat me again if we got to do it over, I don't know. Nothing really went wrong, but I'd sure like another crack at it.

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

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

West Coast

The Travers 2017

BY JOE CLANCY

Bill Landes started working at Hermitage Farm in 1977 and has seen the Goshen, Ky. property pass through three owners – Warner Jones, Carl Pollard and now Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson. Landes prepped and sold a \$13.1 million yearling, managed the stallion Raja Baba and guided a \$32 million dispersal of Jones' stock at Keeneland in 1987.

But West Coast made him proud.

"I've been here too damn long – 41 years I think," he said recently. "With Mr. Jones, we could do nothing wrong. We bred Northern Trick, she was a French champion. We bred Woodman, an Irish champion, and Lomond, he won the Guineas in England. We had one after another overseas like that, but I don't know if we ever raised an American champion.

"That's why West Coast was significant for me and Mr. Pollard."

Pollard bred West Coast, the champion 3-year-old male of 2017, under his CFP Thoroughbreds banner. The bay son of Flatter and the Honour And Glory mare Caressing was raised at Hermitage and was pointed to the Keeneland September Sale as a yearling. Racing for Pollard and trainer David Vance, Caressing was the champion 2-year-old filly of 2000 – meaning West Coast figured to be popular pedigree-wise. The rest would be up to him.

Then Keeneland came to Hermitage.

"When the team came to look at the horses like they always do," Landes recalled, "Frankie Brothers said, 'This boy's going to go one of two ways – improve or you're in trouble.' And of course he improved."

West Coast improved so much that he sold for \$425,000 to agent Ben Glass, who signed the



Tod Marks
West Coast charges
home in the 2017 Travers

ticket for Gary and Mary West. The big bay eventually went to trainer Bob Baffert in California, but didn't race as a 2-year-old.

"He was just a big horse," said Baffert last year. "Gary said don't worry about it. When you have that kind of clientele that let you develop a horse like you own him yourself, (waiting) was always the thing to do."

West Coast won his second start in March of his 3-year-old season, finished second in the Lexington Stakes at Keeneland and then started winning – an allowance race at Santa Anita in May, the Easy Goer Stakes at Belmont Park in June, the

Grade 3 Los Alamitos Derby in July, the Grade 1 Travers at Saratoga in August and the Grade 1 Pennsylvania Derby in September. Third behind Gun Runner and Collected in the Breeders' Cup Classic at Del Mar, West Coast won the Eclipse Award as champion 3-year-old.

This year, he finished second in the Pegasus World Cup in January and the Dubai World Cup in March, before an extended break. He's training in California for a fall campaign, which might include the Breeders' Cup.

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West Coast —

■ Continued from page 38

The 2017 Travers sent the Kentucky-bred on his way to a championship, as jockey Mike Smith put the horse on the lead and never flinched. West Coast put away Always Dreaming and Irap early, then had plenty left for Gunnevera late while winning by 3 1/4 lengths at more than 6-1.

Like Landes, the Wests called it a great racing moment.

"It's almost indescribable, there are a few races on our bucket list, on everybody's bucket list, if the Travers isn't on your list, you're not following racing," Gary West said after the win. "We won a Breeders' Cup Juvenile, that was a big thrill, but this was even better. This is definitely the biggest, especially considering the quality of horses we beat today."

West never dreamed of owning horses like West Coast (or horses of any kind) while growing up in the small town of Harlan, Iowa, falling for horse racing while gambling at Ak-sar-ben, watching his first Travers on a black and white TV, claiming Joe Blow, his first horse at Ak-sar-ben in 1980.

"It started out as a gambling thing, then I fell in love with the sport of horse racing," West said. "It's become more about the sport than the gambling, winning races like this, it keeps you young."

After the Pennsylvania Derby, which sealed the 3-year-old title, West paid credit to Baffert's ability to stay patient with a talented horse. As Baffert put it, the owner had a little something to do with that as well.

"I've been in the game for a long time and I've realized you've got to let the horses tell you when they're ready to do whatever it is that they're going to do," he said. "If you do it the other way around, if you force them to do something that they're not ready to do you'll ruin a good horse."

Landes, the Wests, Baffert, everybody made sure they didn't ruin West Coast.

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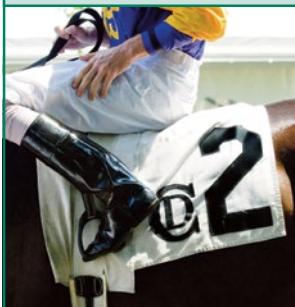
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Saratoga Bye Bye

I did not grow up in a horse family, with my sister and mom being deathly allergic to my favorite animals. I grew up just 10 minutes from Laurel Park and my dad liked spending the occasional sunny Saturday at the track, but that's the extent of my family's background in racing.

I got an internship in the Laurel and Pimlico detention barns with veterinarian Dr. Stacey Buzzell during high school, studied the use of Lasix in racing for a school project and was hooked. However, the horse racing industry seemed exclusive and impossible for me to break into without any real connection or avenue to pursue.

I found the internship posting for The Saratoga Special online during a career exploration course as a freshman at the University of Maryland. I sent my application to Tom Law, did a simple test story and was denied – too late contacting Tom and too young to spend 40 days 6 hours from home.

I harassed Tom and Sean Clancy for the next year, and finally they invited me to ST Publishing's Fair Hill office for an interview in 2016. I will never forget the phone call home I made to my parents, teary with excitement, as I told them they'd give me a shot.

I was clueless, but enthusiastic and was a sponge to the other interns (Brandon Valvo, Annise "Fargo" Montplaisir and Linzay Marks) and guys at The Special that helped me through my first year. My first story was Jeremiah Englehart winning the first race of the meet. I was absolutely terrified and shaking, expecting it to go terribly, and was surprised by Englehart's friendliness and willingness to talk to me.

There were plenty of terrible moments that first year, and many trainers that I owe a thank you for helping me limp through those early interviews. Todd Pletcher, thank you for not laughing at me as my hand shook, unable to form a real question. I've definitely improved since then.



There were many great moments, too many for me to include in this short column. There are the no brainer highlights – Arrogate, Songbird, Gun Runner, Flintshire, A.P. Indian. Then there's more.

Seeing Arrogate the morning before the Travers, before he was Arrogate, and listening to Jimmy Barnes chat about what a cool character he is as he stood for a bath.

Eric Guillot winning the Jim Dandy with maiden Laoban, who tripped and dumped Jose Ortiz following the race and galloped himself to the winner's circle. I don't think I've ever laughed so hard.

The look in Hilly Fields Stable's Tony Smith's eyes as he pointed to the sky, smiling after his filly Lady Joan broke her maiden. He named the horse after his sister who passed the year before. He gave his sister a picture of the filly, promising that they'd win for her. Lady Joan romped by 2 1/2 lengths that day and has continued winning. She's their highest earning racehorse.


Watching Imperial Hint walk off the trailer at 9 o'clock at night before the Vanderbilt. The little horse's small-time trainer, Luis Carvajal, greeted him and they went on to win their first Grade 1 with ease the next day. Carvajal returned to the barn after the race, giving all the praise to his horse. All trainers should love their horse as much as Carvajal loves Imperial Hint.

Voodoo Song thundering down the stretch with his ears perked and eyes bright, through all five wins at Saratoga.



Then there are all of the moments in between. Watching a perfect sunrise, and seeing smiling faces and happy horses training over the track in the morning. The low-dollar longshots beating horses bought for six or seven figures. The quiet contentment of walking through the empty paddock with "New York State Of Mind" playing in the background, reflecting on a great day of racing.


To say I'm going to miss it will be an understatement. The Special has changed my life over the last 3 years. I've met Annise, Linzay, Madison Scott and "Benny Boy" Gowans, who have become my best friends and I couldn't imagine not having them in my life. Tom, Sean and Joe helped me grow up, taught me more than I could ever imagine and gave me a chance to chase my dream.

While I head to Lexington on Tuesday to begin my next chapter interning with Fasig-Tipton, I will never forget my time with The Special and will be forever grateful for all that it's given me.



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Hey guys,

Just wanted to check in and make sure you're definitely OK with this happening. If so I'll lead the charge so you don't have to worry about it at all. Figure I'll just reserve a few adjacent picnic tables to start and check in with some folks at NYRA.

The only thing I'd need help with I think would be tracking down everyone that's worked for the Special at some point. Even if you just snapped some pics of mastheads from the archives and sent them to me I'd be willing to track folks down on social media and hopefully word would spread from there. I'll create a closed Facebook group and make all of you Admins as a way of getting details to people. Then all of us can invite or approve anyone to join.

Hope this comes together! I'll be around next week for a few days so I'm sure I'll see you around!
Jim

It was a grand plan – a Saratoga Special reunion the day after the Travers. Celebrate the 18th season of The Special. Jim Mulvihill, an alumnus, came up with the idea, sent the note, we jumped at it. Love it. Let's do it. Call the caterer, the florist and the band. Order the banners. Bake a cake. There was a flurry of texts and emails. OK, there were a few.

And then it died.

Mulvihill got a new job. Joe, Tom and I discussed the concept, it didn't last long, deciding the last thing we needed/wanted to do was host a party after producing a record 80-page newspaper Saturday and a seven-stakes extravaganza Sunday. Sam, Annie and Cc, the women behind The Special, well, we knew better than to ask.

But, let's just say we did throw the party.

It would have gone something like this.

Six picnic tables. Three trees. Green grass. Sunshine and shade.

All our graduates move mountains to come to Saratoga for a walk down memory lane, each brings their favorite articles written during a life-changing summer at Saratoga. All our advertisers do the same, actually printing their ads and bringing them to the party, each one re-ups for 2019, that's great, we are way ahead for next season.

IPA on ice for Tom. Guinness on tap for Joe. Cabernet for Gabby. Whiskey on the rocks for Adrian. Genny Cream Ale for Frank Scatoni and Pete Fornatale, yeah, they were here from the beginning. Joel delivers ice-cold Winner's Circle Ale. Saratoga Water (because they're advertising next year) for everybody. Putnam Market sandwiches on one table, a few extra High Rocks. Spring Street Deli on another table, Fourstardaves and Behrens on white plates. Our new spot 9 Miles East delivers feta/tomato/artichoke/mushroom pizzas after the third. We line the tables with old Specials, fans and friends pick them up for souvenirs.

Quint Kessenich arrives, fresh off sideline coverage of the ACC game of the week. He tells this year's crop of interns that they have it easy, compared to the first few fledgling years.

Our favorite trainers arrive throughout the day, talking about the days when The Special stood between them and their car door to get quotes and the time that Christophe Clement and Joe went for coffee at Stewart's while all he wanted was a quote about the Diana or some such race.

Everybody talks about the Chief, ah, he would have liked this party, we set a cold can of Bud on the corner of a table for him.

More alumni roll in throughout the day. Travis Stone actually plays the Chowder's First demo call he did when he was writing for The Special, the one that helped him land his first job in the announcer's booth at Louisiana Downs. He's improved.

Brian Nadeau talks about his respect for the jumpers, earned and learned after a couple of years

with The Special.

Ryan Jones comes home from the trenches of Fort Benning. Catlyn Spivey postpones her move to New Zealand to reminisce about her summer at the Spa. Liz Ronk leaves her assignment at Life Magazine and tears up when she talks about Battier, a horse who won her heart. One after another, our stars, our proudest achievements come and go, laugh and cry.

All the kids who delivered papers over the years return and talk about ink-stained hands and big tips from their summers of yesteryear. Ryan, Jack and Nolan laugh the hardest, the longest.

The jockeys arrive throughout the day, all our favorites, from Dylan to Day, Johnny to Javier, Carmouche to Calvin. The only somber moment comes when we talk about Go Go and a few others who are sadly gone.

The valets, old and new, stop by for a laugh and a story. They're our kind. We all talk about Snook, and another tear is shed.

Billy Blaze (Blake) sits at a picnic table and after hours of studying decides we should go all in Flintshire's Sword Dancer, we don't. John Shapazian hands out winners like candy at Halloween. We use No Deadline in the last, like we did the first year, she wins and pays for the party.

Ah, and the readers. Our longtime, old-school, tried-and-true fans pat us on our backs and we talk about Birdstone's Travers, Rachel's Woodward, Wise Dan's Bernard Baruch. They tell us about the copies of the paper stored in their basement.

The races come and go, the food goes, the drinks go and by the end, we say our long goodbyes. Handshakes and hugs, promises to keep in touch, memories made and restored. By the end, it's Joe, Tom and I standing under a tree. We clink three bottles, job done.

Thanks, Jim, glad you pulled it together. Let's do it again next year.

Reunion

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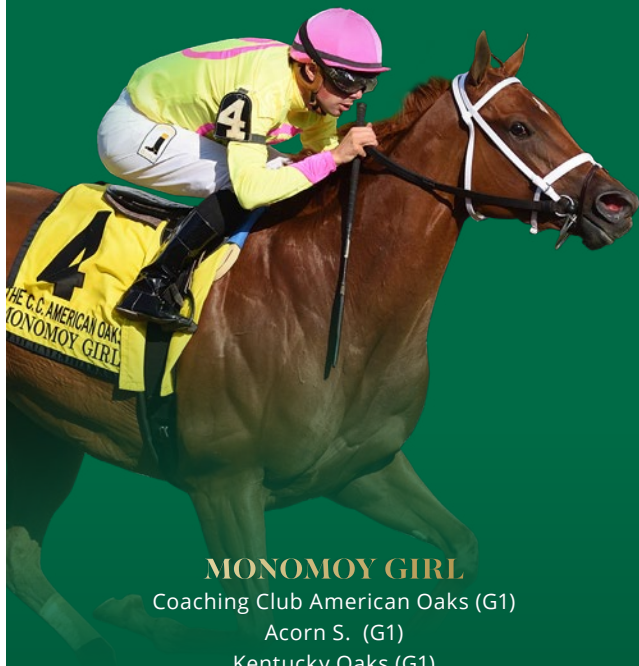
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