

Year 17 • No. 25

Sunday, August 27, 2017

The *Saratoga*

Special

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Best Coast

Baffert colt dominates Travers Stakes

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READER OF THE DAY

Shawn Meyers. Thanks for dropping off a fresh peck of Chambersburg Peaches and a pound of honey from Shatzer Fruit Market in Chambersburg, Pa.

NAMES OF THE DAY

Murika, fifth race. Alex and JoAnn Lieblong's 2-year-old filly is by Awesome Patriot.

Queen Of Spades, seventh race. The 4-year-old filly is out of Queen Of Hearts, but that's not really why she's a Name of the Day. That's next . . .

King Of Spades, eighth race. The 5-year-old gelding's name really has nothing to do with his pedigree (Street Cry-Dynamite Lass) but he and his unrelated sister from another mother in the seventh are certainly worth hooking up in a double.

Space Mountain, eighth race. G. Watts Humphrey Jr. and Ashbrook Farm own the son of Street Cry and Magical Ride. They've also been to Disney World, apparently.

Carolina Shag, ninth race. Owner/trainer/breeder Susan Cooney's 6-year-old mare is by Bop out of Carolina Cousin. The Carolina Shag is a dance that originated in Carolina Beach, N.C.

WORTH REPEATING

"Dallas Stewart, the new Giant Killer."

Valet Nick Santagata, after Forever Unbridled caught Songbird in the Personal Ensign

"It's so simple but it's so brilliant."

Agent Ron Anderson after Joel Rosario's ride on Forever Unbridled to win the Personal Ensign



Connie Bush

Special Morning. Travers Day fans, including this crew sharing the paper with an absent friend (in Italy, so we're told) started early in the backyard Saturday.

Ship Shape

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Two-year-old **Midshipman** filly **Firstmate** takes *the Northern Lights Debutante* by nine lengths on her career debut.

She's the 15th black-type winner for her sire, more than Super Saver, Lookin at Lucky, Kantharos, Blame and Majesticperfection among his sire crop.

Darley

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I didn't say which Derby. The Midsummer Derby counts, right?"
Farm manager Bill Landes, who once said he'd "most certainly" raise a Derby winner for Hermitage Farm owner Carl Pollard; West Coast was bred by Pollard and raised at Hermitage.



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WORTH REPEATING

"It's been a good meet, the horses have run well, we haven't won with everything, there have been some seconds and thirds which were good races."

Trainer Bill Mott, describing his meet which has netted a Jim Dandy and an Alabama

"Beautiful morning."

Ryan Clancy, at 6:21 Travers Day

"That's when you were playing with blocks."

Trainer Gary Sciacca to trainer Bruce Brown about the days of Chip Miller schooling Bastille for Sciacca in the mid 90s

"I'm going home to build a fire."

Clocker Bryan Walls on a crisp Travers morning

"Not at all."

Trainer Bruce Brown when asked if trainers Leo O'Brien and Aidan O'Brien were related

"I'm leaving in an hour."

Jockey Bernie Dalton, when asked about dinner plans, moments after riding Diplomat to win the New York Turf Writers Cup

"No problem."

New York turf writer (perhaps our favorite), Dave Grening, after being thanked for presenting the trophy of the New York Turf Writers Cup Thursday

"Man, you almost knocked me over the cone, or, the beacon."

Seth Merrow after The Special's Sean Clancy bumped him at the winner's circle



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ONLY horses by the following stallions, who were conceived in Maryland and fully nominated/certified to the Maryland Million program, are eligible to run in Maryland Million races. Stallions must have been nominated for the specific year the horse was conceived. Some stallions listed here may not be eligible for every year.

Admiral Alex	Goldmember	Pass You Bye Bye
Ameri Valay	Great Notion	Perfecting
Americo's Bullet	Greek Sun	Petionville
Baltimore Bob	Gyrfalcon (GB)	Plan
Bishop's Other Boy	Hawk in Flight	Polish Miner
Bowman's Band	Hunters Bay	Polish Payola
Buffum	Java Royal	Precious Marque
Bullsbay	Jazz Club	Pulverizing
Cal Nation	Ken Doll	Purple Passion
Cat Country	La Reine's Terms	Que Man
Cherokee's Boy	Ladinos Bambino	Redeemed
Citidancer	Lion Hearted	Regal American
Country Only	Lord Concorde	Rock Slide
Crowd Pleaser	Louis Quatorze	Rush Bay
Cruisin' Dixie	Love of Money	Same Day Delivery
Crypto Star	M Eighty	Scipion
Cuba	Makin Money	Seeking Daylight
Dance With Ravens	Marciano	Showing Up
Deputy Storm	McKendree	Smart Guy
Despite the Odds	Meadow Monster	St Averil
Diamond	Medallist	Standing Room
Disco Rico	Mogador	Only
Domestic Dispute	Mojave Moon	Sticks and Bricks
Dumyat	Money's Star	Street Magician
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
Fleet Foot	One Golf Sierra	Unbridled Mate
Freedom Child	Oratory	Waquoit
Friesan Fire	Orientate	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 11, 2017

\$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 23, 2016, 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 23, 2016, 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 23, 2016, 7f. First preference to Maryland Million-eligible horses. This is a starter/stake.

\$50K Maryland Million and/or Registered Maryland-Bred Distaff Starter Handicap Fillies and mares, 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of \$7,500 or less since October 23, 2016, 7f. First preference to Maryland Million-eligible horses. This is a starter/stake.

For Horses Certified to Maryland Million Ltd. Registered Maryland-breds that are not Maryland Million-sired will be able to pre-enter and race ONLY if the race has less than six (6) Maryland Million-sired entries

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WORTH REPEATING

"You can eat all you want tonight."

Ralph Theroux to jump jockey Bernie Dalton after winning the New York Turf Writers Cup Thursday

"They lie."

Bernie Dalton, after hearing, 'they say you're the greatest exercise rider in history.'

"What you do to those young rookies, man? Somebody had to do it."

Veteran flat jockey Kendrick Carmouche, to veteran jump jockey Bernie Dalton

"They got into a claiming war with Frank Martin. They lost."

Owner Rich Newman, about his father Don and trainer Alan Marcus trying to make it big in racing back in the 1970s

"That's my boy. Congrats."

Text from trainer Charlton Baker, to Rich Newman, after Diplomat won the Grade 1 New York Turf Writers Cup steeplechase; Baker trained Diplomat for a month after helping Newman and his brother Adam claim the horse in 2015

"He loves Diplomat."

Rich Newman, about Baker's continued interest in the jumper

"Until now."

Rich Newman, after Adam said claiming a steeplechaser made no financial sense

"It's like going after a bear with a stick."

Trainer, about running a longshot in a Saratoga Grade 1

"What do I have to do to get into Worth Repeating? I'm on the duck. Worst meet ever."

West Point Thoroughbreds' Joey Migliore, getting off the schneid

"You'll find tickets from 1973 in there."

Trainer Mitch Friedman about trainer Eddie Barker's wallet

"Anybody who steals my wallet is going to be embarrassed."

Barker, agreeing with Friedman

"Oh, you're the famous Nik Juarez."

Doc Richardson, meeting jockey Nik Juarez Thursday morning

"Yes, Dick, he is here."

Richardson, after his friend Dick Knapp asked if Juarez was here in Saratoga, moments after the first exchange



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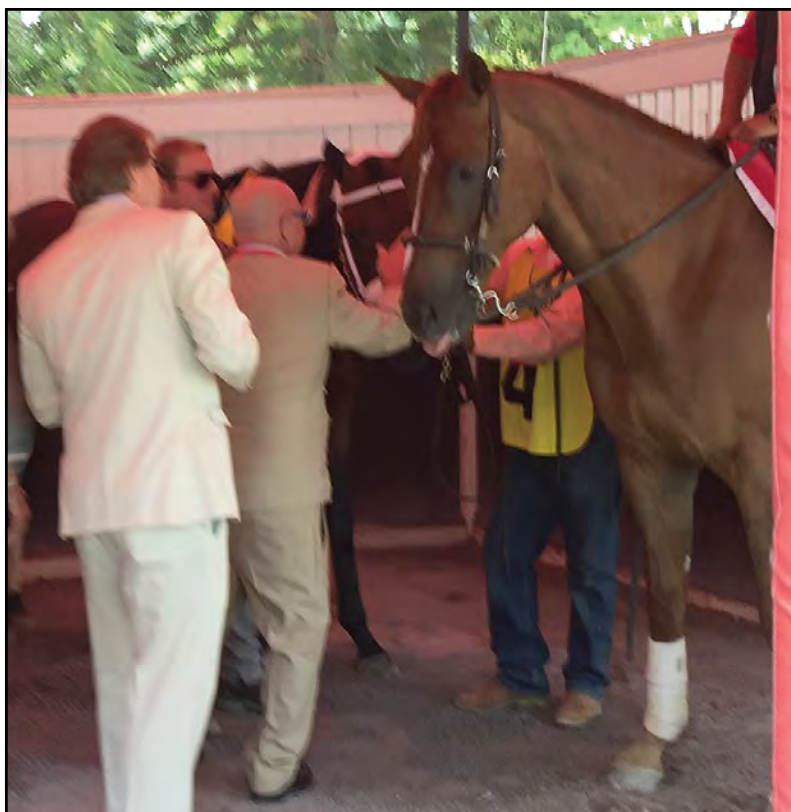
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Chuck Fipke gives Forever Unbridled a pat before her Grade 1 win Saturday.

The Chief... Day 25

"I'd put Citation, Secretariat, Spectacular Bid in the top five, anyway. There's a lot of other ones too. Of course, I didn't see Man o' War, but if you look at his record, he had to win a lot of them, because nobody showed up to run against him. Nobody was better than Spectacular Bid, you watch him train in Florida as a 3-year-old, you couldn't believe a horse could be that tough, he would gallop 2 miles, 2 ¼ miles, the last three quarters in 19, 20, then he'd work his eyes out. There's about 25 mares, you can't believe the races they won. They used to run against the colts, they didn't have any qualms about going against the colts, they figured the 5 pounds took care of it. How about Regret, she won the Hopeful and the Derby."

– **Trainer Allen Jerkens**
1929-2015



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with *Barclay Tagg*

Trainer Barclay Tagg came to Saratoga in 2015 and wasn't sure he'd win a race at the country's top race meeting. Of course, the horses went 7-for-19 to put Tagg in the top 12 alongside far bigger stables. Last year, the win total was one. This year, the barn is 3-for-11 with a stakes win.

He's not sure the quality of his stable changed much in any of the years, but that's the way Saratoga goes.

"If you've got horses up here and you went to all the trouble to come up here, which is a great expense to a trainer, you might as well run them," said Tagg while walking his familiar shedrow in the depths of the main-track side behind the Morning Line Kitchen. "It pays off sometimes. You can win seven one year and two the next with everything going the same. The competition is fun, the weather's cool and nice. You'd be crazy not to run a horse if he's doing well. They come out of things better here."

Tagg, who won the 2003 Kentucky Derby and Preakness with Funny Cide and has won more than 1,500 races, brought the usual mix of proven horses and 2-year-olds for a variety of clients and likes what he sees.

"It's a decent string of horses," he said. "There's some potential. I like some of these babies. Of course, we wouldn't mind some new owners. You can always use more horses. We've got some room. If the right horse comes along, you've always got room."

With help from a list jotted down by assistant/girlfriend Robin Smullen, Tagg checked on the squad with The Special's Joe Clancy Friday morning.

Realm: Four-year-old colt owned by Tagg, Eric Dattner and Harry Astarita won his debut here in 2015 and has placed in three graded stakes including the 2016 Cigar Mile at Aqueduct. Tagg bought the Virginia-bred son of Haynesfield for \$75,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale in 2014. Sixth here Aug. 5, he's earned \$227,225. "He's a beau-



tiful horse. I liked the way he looked at the sale and he's fairly well-bred and he was in the price range where we like to spend. He's a nice horse to have around, sure beats a sharp stick in the eye. He kind of likes a mile or a mile-and-a-sixteenth going around one turn. That's his favorite thing. You can only do 7 furlongs here, and I was just saying a little while ago that if we see a race in the new book maybe we could run him before we go back. Robin reminded me that we could do a one-turn mile at Belmont or Aqueduct and we've got both of them this fall. Maybe we'll run him in the Cigar Mile again. That's when everybody else's horses are tired."

I'm The Captain Now: A Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale graduate for \$15,000, the 3-year-old is winless in seven starts but has finished second three times while running into some tough opponents (Yoshida, Rocketry, Focus Group) going long on the turf. Second here July 30, the son of Trappe Shot and the Deputy Minister mare Klondike Hills races for Sure Thing Stable and will wait for Belmont in part because of how he reacts to his surroundings. "He's very high-strung, goes crazy in the paddock. We paddock-school him 15 times before every race and he sweats and you think he's not going to run any good at all. But he runs his heart out every time. So far, there's been somebody a little bit better every time. It's New York racing so it's not easy. There are future Grade 1 horses in every maiden race. I only paid \$15,000 for him and he's well worth that (\$54,250 in earnings). He can run all day long

and we thought about running him here again, but that's not fair to him. It's quiet at Belmont. He'll like that a lot more.

Highland Sky: Co-owned by breeder Bonner Young, the 4-year-old carries \$447,472 and aims for the Bernard Baruch here on Closing Day. The son of Sky Mesa and the Petionville mare Kristi With A K won his 2017 debut at Gulfstream Park and has lost three straight including a seventh here against stakes horses Muqtaser, Infinite Wisdom, Messi, Red Rifle and Kaigun. Has won a stakes and placed in two graded stakes including last year's Grade 1 Belmont Derby. "He is a real, real nice horse. I might prefer just attacking the long races with him, but we're going to run him in the Bernard Baruch (going 1 1/16 miles) before we leave here. His last race (going 1 1/8 miles) was disappointing to us, but he ended up real wide and didn't get beat all that far. We got the Ragozin figure on him and it was the best race he's ever run – and he was seventh."

Tale Of S'avall: Chuck Fipke's homebred 4-year-old colt by Tale Of Ekati, who raced for Tagg, has kept good company. Finished fifth in Saturday's Grade 1 Forego, his third consecutive start on Travers Day. He also won his debut on Saratoga's biggest day in 2015 and finished seventh in the 2016 King's Bishop. In between graded stakes tries (he's placed in two), he's added two allowance wins to that maiden score including a triumph here July 28. The dark bay thrives at 7 furlongs to a mile, especially when there's plenty of pace, and may point for the Grade 1 Cigar Mile in

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November at Aqueduct. "We won the Cigar Mile twice, one with Tale Of Ekati and one with Jersey Town, and both times we avoided the tough races earlier and waited until the end. The competition got lighter, they still beat some nice horses but it was a good time to do it."

Verve's Humor: Unraced Fipke 2-year-old colt is a half-brother to \$498,045 winner Tale Of Verve, who finished second behind American Pharoah in the 2015 Preakness. The chestnut son of Distorted Humor and the Unbridled mare Verve apparently has a taste for notebooks as he spent five minutes scratching his upper lip on a Gregg-ruled 70-sheeter after working a half-mile in :49.76 on the main track Friday. "He's been a little slow to show any real speed, but he's got it. He's given me every indication that he's going to be a nice horse. It just hasn't connected with him, what he's supposed to do out there. But that's OK. It means he's thinking about it and learning. They're not all ready to run early on. That's just the way some of them are. He's a real nice colt. I'm excited about him."

Frosty Gal: New York-bred 3-year-old filly was an \$80,000 purchase at Fasig-Tipton's 2015 New York-bred yearling sale by Tagg for Sackatoga Stable. The dark bay won a maiden race last fall at Aqueduct and placed in a New York Stallion series stakes to start this year. The daughter of Frost Giant aims for a Saratoga allowance start Sept. 2. "She just breezed five-eighths (1:02.55) out there. She's a real nice filly, and will be OK. She's already stakes-placed, and it'll get tougher from here but we like her. The Sackatoga people are great. It's a pleasure to work for people like that."

Downside Risk: Young's nearly black homebred 2-year-old Lonhro colt out of Kristi B turns heads everywhere he goes. Friday, it was in the shedrow as he walked and jiggled his way around and tried to stir up trouble. He's a half-brother to Grade 1 winner and Grade 2 producer Bit Of Whimsy, whose dam Highland Mills became an unlikely foundation mare for Young and her brother George Rowand. The \$27,000 yearling lost all five starts, but produced stakes horses Royal Mountain Inn and Miss Josh and stakes producers Kristi B and Highland Hope. "He's slow coming

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

around, but that family is like that. They were never early horses. Bonner's kept the line going by upgrading with sires one way or another and has come up with a lot of good horses."

Blacksburg: Another Young 2-year-old homebred, the Ghostzapper gelding is out of Bit Of Whimsy, meaning he's a half-brother to Grade 2 winner Caroline Thomas and stakes winner My Sweet Girl. "He's been a little slow coming around too. He's the first Ghostzapper I've had and I think he's going to be a very nice horse. He's shown all kinds of class in everything he's done. We're excited about him."

Golden Vale: Striking 2-year-old filly is by former Tagg runner Jersey Town and looks a bit like him with a wide blaze and a wider chest. She greeted stall guests with a long, nostril-rattling exhale. She was nearing a debut race, including two gate works, but got sick and missed some training. "She's pretty fast, we like everything she's doing. We have a feeling she's going to be turf, she just gives us that inclination with the way she moves. She looks like Jersey Town and is very much like him. You've got to be a little careful with them because they look like little bulls and you can get ahead of yourself. She was doing really, really well and she got really sick on us about the second week we were here. Now she's bucking and squealing and raising hell. That's good to see. Beautiful filly."

Tale Of Silence: Fipke homebred 3-year-old finished fourth (beaten a nose for third) in the Allen Jerkens Saturday. Like Tale Of S'avall, the Tale Of The Cat colt likes 7 furlongs to a mile and has nibbled at big things with a second to Practical Joke in the Grade 3 Dwyer in July. "He's a 3-year-old and there aren't that many opportunities for them to run against other 3-year-olds left. Sometimes I like to take a shot. Sometimes you just need to run a horse when he's doing well. That's what made Allen Jerkens famous. He said he had a knack for knowing when a horse was ready. I don't know how, but he did."

Verve's Tale: Another Fipke homebred, the 4-year-old Tale Of Ekati filly (a full-sister to Tale Of Verve) won the Summer Colony Stakes by a nose here Aug. 20. A Grade 3 winner in 2016, she's earned \$420,500. "When (Going For Broke) scratched out of the race, I felt pretty confident but, you know, it's hard to be confident in a horse race. There are so many things that can happen in a race that aren't anybody's fault. She's a lovely filly and we really like her. She went into it really, really good and she ran really, really good. She had to dig in and fight which is good to see. I love to see them try that hard. Absolutely. That's what you want them to do."

Highland Lady: Young's 3-year-old daughter of First Samurai and Kristi With A K (therefore a half-sister to Highland Sky) has yet to race, but is coming around. "She was always having sore glutes and stuff like that. She's a big, hefty filly and maybe she grew faster than she developed in some other ways. She's a gorgeous filly. Hopefully we can get a race into her this fall and see what she could do as a 4-year-old."

Spa Jazz: Sackatoga's 2-year-old New York-bred, a \$75,000 purchase at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky's October yearling sale, is getting close to a race. The son of Graydar is about three weeks away from his debut. "Beautiful colt. I really liked him at the sale, and we got him in our price range. He bucked his shins, so we had to back off and lose a little bit of time."

Speighgal: Another Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October graduate races for Dattner and Astarita. The 3-year-old Speightstown filly finished second on the turf here Aug. 19. "She's high-strung and all that but she's doing things. She can really run, she's really fast."

River Deep: The hungriest, or maybe just the loudest, horse in the string finished third here for owner/breeder Morgan's Ford Farm Aug. 7. Son of Arch missed a work with a hoof issue, but is aiming for a race Sept. 3. "He's a nice-looking horse and he's going to be fine. He just got a late start. That happens with some of them."



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2017 Fall Meet Stakes Schedule

October 29 - November 26

STARS OF TOMORROW I			
SPENDTHRIFT JUVENILE FILLY STALLION STAKES		SPENDTHRIFT JUVENILE STALLION STAKES	
Runs Sun., Oct. 29 \$200,000 Fillies, Two Year Olds	Closes Oct. 14 (no nomination fee) 7 Furlongs	Runs Sun., Oct. 29 \$200,000 Two Year Olds	Closes Oct. 14 (no nomination fee) 7 Furlongs
STREET SENSE OVERNIGHT STAKES		RAGS TO RICHES OVERNIGHT STAKES	
Runs Sun., Oct. 29 \$80,000 Two Year Olds	Closes Oct. 21 (no nomination fee) 1 Mile	Runs Sun., Oct. 29 \$80,000 Fillies, Two Years Old	Closes Oct. 21 (no nomination fee) 1 Mile
CHILUKKI (GII)			
Runs Sat., Nov. 4 \$200,000 Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up		Closes Oct. 21 (\$200 nomination fee) 1 Mile	
COMMONWEALTH TURF (GIII)			
Runs Sat., Nov. 11 \$100,000 Three Year Olds		Closes Oct. 28 (\$100 nomination fee) 1 1/16 Miles Turf	
CARDINAL HANDICAP (GIII)			
Runs Sat., Nov. 18 \$100,000 Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up		Closes Nov. 4 (\$100 nomination fee) 1 1/8 Miles Turf	
BET ON SUNSHINE OVERNIGHT STAKES			
Runs Sat., Nov. 18 \$80,000 Three Years Old & Up		Closes Nov. 11 (no nomination fee) 7 Furlongs	
FALLS CITY HANDICAP (GII)			
Runs Thurs., Nov. 23 \$200,000 Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up		Closes Nov. 11 (\$200 nomination fee) 1 1/8 Mile	
RIVER CITY HANDICAP (GIII)			
Runs Thurs., Nov. 23 \$100,000 Three Year Olds & Up		Closes Nov. 11 (\$100 nomination fee) 1 1/8 Miles Turf	
CLARK HANDICAP (GI) <i>presented by Norton Healthcare</i>			
Runs Fri., Nov. 24 \$500,000 Three Year Olds & Up		Closes Nov. 11 (\$300 nomination fee) 1 1/8 Mile	
MRS. REVERE (GII)			
Runs Fri., Nov. 24 \$200,000 Fillies, Three Years Old		Closes Nov. 11 (\$200 nomination fee) 1 1/16 Miles Turf	
DREAM SUPREME OVERNIGHT STAKES			
Runs Fri., Nov. 24 \$80,000 Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up		Closes Nov. 18 (no nomination fee) 6 Furlongs	
STARS OF TOMORROW II			
GOLDEN ROD (GII) <i>2018 Kentucky Oaks Points Race</i>		KENTUCKY JOCKEY CLUB (GII) <i>2018 Kentucky Derby Points Race</i>	
Runs Sat., Nov. 25 \$200,000 Fillies, Two Years Old	Closes Nov. 11 (\$200 nomination fee) 1 1/16 Miles	Runs Sat., Nov. 25 \$200,000 Two Year Olds	Closes Nov. 11 (\$200 nomination fee) 1 1/16 Miles

Western Expression

Baffert, Wests, Smith
stake claim in Grade 1

BY SEAN CLANCY

“When you’re young it’s special because it’s the first one. When you’re old, it’s special because it might be the last one.”

That’s how Hall of Fame jockey Mike Smith described his four Travers wins, spanning 23 years from Holy Bull to Coronado’s Quest to Arrogate to West Coast. The latest one, we didn’t say the last one, came Saturday when Smith changed plans in the post parade, gunned West Coast to the lead and made it stand up for 10 furlongs, widening to a 3

Continued On Page 12



Tod Marks

West Coast (center) sets up on the lead in the Travers. He stayed there.



Photo by Z

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Travers —

■ Continued from page 10

1/2-length score over longshot Gunnevera and Blue Grass winner Irap.

“They’re all special, man, they’re all special,” Smith said, as he peeled off Gary and Mary West’s silks after West Coast wired 11 rivals in the 148th Travers Stakes. “Holy Bull was awesome, he was and still is one of the best, if not the best horse I’ve ever ridden. Coronado’s Quest, I helped a little in that one, maybe, just because I didn’t know if he could get the mile-and-a-quarter. Then coming back and setting the fastest time ever in the Travers, then coming back and doing this again. It’s a dream come true. A dream come true.”

Trained by Bob Baffert, West Coast traveled from the west coast to dominate the Grade 1 Travers, knocking off Kentucky Derby winner Always Dreaming, Preakness winner Cloud Computing, Belmont winner Tapwrit, Haskell winner Girvin, Jim Dandy winner Good Samaritan and six other members of the 3-year-old division which finally has a leader.

“The who’s who of racing was here,” Gary West said. “Nobody can say he caught an easy field, they can say a lot of things but they can’t say that.”

This year’s Travers had it all, the Derby, Preakness and Belmont winners clashing in the big one at Saratoga. That clash failed to materialize as Always Dreaming stalked West Coast



Tod Marks

West Coast is all alone at the finish.

but faded to ninth, Cloud Computing slipped from third to eighth and Tapwrit ran evenly to wind up fourth.

West Coast finished 1 1/4 miles in 2:01.19 to register his fourth straight win. In those wins, West Coast sat off the pace each time, stalking in third to win an allowance at Santa Anita Park in May, rating in sixth before crushing eight rivals in the Easy Goer at Belmont Park in June and settling in sixth before dominating the Los Alamitos Derby in July.

Smith called an audible, changing those tactics as West Coast galloped to the start for his Grade 1 debut.

“Warming up, I knew. He warmed up good, like real good, like fire good. The more I thought about things, I said, ‘I better put him on the lead,’ especially warming up, the way he warmed up so sharp,” Smith said. “I thought if they don’t go fast, he might be pulling behind them and I might be swinging on him. It’s the kind of race where if I could catch a flyer I’m going to the lead and it worked.”

Breaking from stall 3, West Coast jumped sharply as Smith squeezed, draping low and long, wagging his

whip from his right hand and changing his hold with each stride. It only took 15 strides, Smith rose and froze and West Coast’s momentum established a clear lead. The noose was tied.

“I’m so blessed to ride horses that have the kind of talent to be able to do that,” Smith said. “I jiggled him, slapped him, showed him that stick up in his face for just about a jump, just to see what he would do and he went. I said, ‘oooh.’ ”

So did 11 other jockeys, Smith’s ecstasy creating their dismay.

West Coast led Always Dreaming through a quarter-mile in :23.82. Irap fanned wide before sliding into third while Cloud Computing found a comfortable spot in fourth. Tapwrit established a forward spot in fifth. Giuseppe The Great sat in sixth, Fayeq crossed from the outside post to find a position in seventh. Lookin At Lee, Girvin, McCracken and Gunnevera lagged while Good Samaritan plummeted to his customary spot in last.

West Coast doled out the first half-mile in :48.12, unpressured by Always Dreaming and Irap. Jose Ortiz

made the first move, sliding Tapwrit inside Cloud Computing and Irap and into third, on the heels of West Coast and Always Dreaming. Those five opened 4 lengths on the cluster of Girvin, Giuseppe The Great, McCracken, Lookin At Lee, an advancing Gunnevera and a retreating Fayeq. Good Samaritan loped by himself.

Into the turn, Smith allowed West Coast to lengthen as Irap pressured from the outside and Gunnevera ripped audaciously around the outside. Always Dreaming slipped backward fast, Cloud Computing echoed that, Tapwrit paddled without making up ground, Good Samaritan chipped at an unmovable rock and the rest were simply filling gaps.

After 6 furlongs in 1:12.23, West Coast wheeled into the stretch, Smith rocking but far from rolling as Gunnevera and Irap made it three in a line — briefly.

“They came to me on my outside, I was like, ‘Ok, is he going to kick in?’ ” Smith said. “Man, he jumped, when I asked him, he jumped. I said, ‘We’re OK.’ ”

Straightening, Smith switched his whip from his right hand to his left and with one smack, West Coast accelerated, separating from Irap and Gunnevera who were the only two left in the ring. Past the eighth pole, West Coast stayed at the job, inching away from Gunnevera who had inched away from Irap. In the final sixteenth, West Coast widened to score by 3 1/4 lengths over a game Gunnevera.

With Baffert at home on his “Grade 1 couch,” assistant Jimmy Barnes, his wife, Dana, and groom Salvador Rangel led the West Coast team, watching the Travers from the clubhouse first floor.

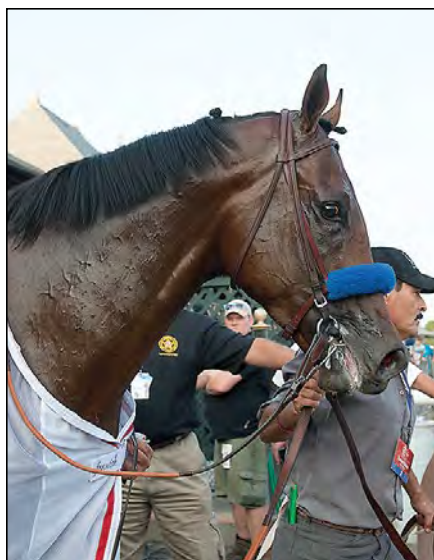
“It’s just the three of us, huh?” Rangel said before the race.

It’s all they needed, switching their implorations from “Come on buddy, come on Mike,” (Dana) to “Go on man,” (Jimmy) to “You got it man, you got it man,” (Rangel).

Racing once a month since making his debut in February, West Coast had made the ultimate transition, systematically turning into a Grade 1 winner.

“That was awesome, wasn’t it? Just getting good,” Jimmy Barnes said. “You never know until you actually go a mile-and-a-quarter and coming here you never know until you run on

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Tod Marks

West Coast heads back to the barn.



Dave Harmon

West Coast leads the field past the stands the first time.

Travers —

■ Continued from page 12

this track. He was just late developing, we knew he was getting better and better each week.”

Dana Barnes could feel that.

“We loved him from Day 1, Bob every time he saw him gallop, he was like, ‘Who’s that? Who’s that?’ Just the way he moves, he always acted like a good horse,” Dana said. “Ever since American Pharoah, the Travers has been Bob’s goal. He’s been able to build up his confidence, it’s the same thing he did with Arrogate last year, just let him win some easier races, build that confidence, get him fitter, he’s just coming around at the right time.”

For Gary and Mary West, it was exactly the right time, making up for American Freedom’s second in the Travers last year and topping the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile won by New Year’s Day in 2013. On the Wests’ stats page, West Coast jumped past the likes of Book Review, Power Broker, Family Tree, American Freedom and the rest of their horses who have compiled 429 wins since 2005.

“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. “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 this 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.”

Nobody felt younger on Travers Day than the 71-year-old West. Walking toward the Nelson Avenue gate, West stopped

twice. First for a picture. Second for a painting.

Saratoga locals Mary Rose Behan, Wayne Potter and Carol Flanagan Potter, dressed to their Travers best, stopped Gary West and asked for a photo.

“Thank you for letting us share your moment,” Behan said. “It was such a great ride.”

“They don’t happen often, so we’ll enjoy them,” West said.

West walked a few more feet and stopped at a circle of flowers like he was taking communion.

Artist Robin Schumacher, who’s been painting Grade 1 jockeys in Saratoga for 10 years, touched up a black diamond on the Wests’ pink and black silks on the newest Travers-winning iron jockey.

“How you doing, my dear?” West asked.

“It’s a little wet, it’s dripping a little bit,” Schumacher said. “It’s close.”

For West, it was already there.



Tod Marks

Jimmy Barnes (left) and Gary West lead in the Travers winner.

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Tod Marks
Forever Unbridled (4) sweeps past
Songbird in the Personal Ensign.



Timing is Everything

BY JOE CLANCY

Seven months . . . 10 weeks . . . a Grade 1 take-down . . . and a serious comparison.

In November, Forever Unbridled emerged from a third in the Breeders' Cup Distaff with a chip in her left front ankle. Surgery and rehabilitation delayed her return, but she jumped off the bench like Rudy and won the Grade 2 Fleur de Lis at Churchill Downs in June. Dallas Stewart knew the next goal – Saratoga Race Course's Grade 1 Personal Ensign on the Travers Day undercard.

"You never know with fillies, sometimes they go home and forget all about running," the trainer said. "She came back just like she always was, exactly the same."

Good, fast, tough and competitive.

Chuck Fipke's homebred spent the 10 weeks between races with Stewart's string at Churchill Downs, arrived in Saratoga for Saturday's \$700,000 race and handed champion Songbird just the second defeat of her career. Forever Unbridled and Joel Rosario broke sharply from post three in a

Forever Unbridled catches Songbird in Gr. 1

PERSONAL ENSIGN STAKES RECAP

four-horse race, dropped back to last and waited as Songbird loped on the lead.

A two-time Saratoga Grade 1 winner last year, Songbird covered the first quarter-mile in :24.14 and was still alone after a half in :47.91. Behind her, Going For Broke and Eskenformoney were side-by-side in second and third. Forever Unbridled inched closer, but was still fourth through 6 furlongs in 1:12.29. Rolling off the turn, Forever Unbridled swarmed the two in front of her and charged four wide as Mike Smith asked Songbird for more. Last year's champion 3-year-old filly responded to that pressure, and a brief challenge from Eskenformoney on the rail. Still three paths to Songbird's right, Forever Unbridled chopped into the margin for real at the eighth pole and was a half-length down and rallying with a sixteenth to go. Rosario never lifted his whip, but got plenty of push from his mare,

who swept past three strides before the line to win by a neck in 1:49.16 for 1 1/8 miles. Eskenformoney stayed for third.

The winner collected \$375,000 to push her career bankroll to \$2,086,880 and won for the seventh time in 16 starts. The victory assured her a spot in the Breeders' Cup Distaff this fall, and confirmed her trainer's already lofty opinion of the now 5-year-old.

"She's like Winning Colors," said Stewart, who worked with the future Hall of Famer while assisting D. Wayne Lukas in the 1980s. "She's big and strong. She makes a point in her races. She makes a point, like she's going to DO something. She lays it on the line."

Stewart came into the Personal Ensign with confidence, but knew Songbird (whose only other defeat in 14 prior starts came when caught in the final

Continued On Page 15

Personal Ensign —

■ Continued from page 14

step by Beholder at the 2016 Breeders' Cup) would take plenty of beating.

"You don't know if you're going to beat a horse like Songbird, you just got to go try," Stewart said. "You just go to go try. You just go to go try. She ran her ass off and she could have done that and gotten beat to. You don't know."

The winner has deep roots with Fipke and Stewart. In 2004, the trainer purchased a yearling filly by Lemon Drop Kid for \$140,000. Named Lemons Forever, and owned by Stewart in partnership with Terry, Willis and Leon Horton, she upset the 2006 Kentucky Oaks, placed in the Alabama and earned \$648,940. At Keeneland November 2007, Fipke paid \$2.5 million to buy the broodmare prospect. She's repaid him with Grade 1-winning full-sisters Unbridled Forever (who won the 2015 Ballerina for Stewart here) and Forever Unbridled.

"How about that?" said Stewart, who used the sale of Lemons Forever to lobby Fipke to send some racehorses his way. "I don't think there's a stronger family in the world. And Mr. Fipke has put it all together."

The owner studies pedigrees, with an eye toward producing classic Thoroughbreds, though the first couple he sent Stewart included one unraced 5-year-old and one who wouldn't work

Continued On Page 16



Tod Marks

Trainer Dallas Stewart.

A large advertisement for West Point Thoroughbreds. The background is a dense field of red roses. Overlaid on the roses is the text "Own A Racehorse. Change Your Life." in large, white, serif font. Below this, in a smaller white font, is "100% of the fun - fraction of the cost." At the bottom of the text area, contact information is listed: "westpointtb.com • info@westpointtb.com • 518.583.6638". In the lower right corner, there is a logo featuring a yellow jockey silks with a black star and the text "WEST POINT THOROUGHBREDS" below it.

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Personal Ensign —

■ Continued from page 15

without going to the gate. When Stewart handled that assignment, Fipke sent some others.

Fipke's homebreds, who race with Stewart, Barclay Tagg and others, also include Grade 1 winners Perfect Soul, Perfect Shirl, Tale Of Ekati, Jersey Town and Java's War among varying branches and generations.

In addition, Golden Soul finished second in the 2013 Kentucky Derby and Tale Of Verve was second in the 2015 Preakness for Stewart.

"Just about all my horses are homebreds," he said Saturday. "I like the breeding. I like the research. I do a lot of research on it. You still have to have a lot of luck and a good horse. And today we had both."

Fipke and Stewart paid credit to Songbird, who won the Coaching Club American Oaks and Alabama here last summer as part of 11 consecutive wins to launch her career for Fox Hill Farm and trainer Jerry Hollendorfer. The California-based filly just missed making it 12 when champion Beholder caught her in the Breeders' Cup Distaff last year, and opened 2017 with Grade 1 wins in the Ogden Phipps at Belmont Park in June and last month's Delaware Handicap at Delaware Park. Saturday, she received a classy Saratoga ovation walking up the stretch after settling for second.



Tod Marks

Songbird (right) breaks on top in the Personal Ensign with winner Forever Unbridled second from left.

"Songbird is such a great horse, she's unbelievable," said Fipke. "I love Songbird too, you know? You're a fan if you're in this game. It's too bad we have to be the ones to bring her down a little bit, but that's the racing game. Our mare is pretty good, too."

Forever Unbridled won her second start at Fair Grounds in 2014, became a stakes winner in the Grade 3 Comely at Aqueduct the next year and won the Grade 1 Apple Blossom and Beldame last year. In her only other Saratoga start, she'd chased

Cavorting and Curalina home in last year's Personal Ensign. Stewart credited his mare's constitution — which also comes with an independent streak.

"She lays it out there every morning, comes home bouncing, eats, does everything you want them to do," he said. "But this is a freak, here. She'll hurt you. She don't stand still. Instead of going this way, she goes that way. She almost dropped the rider here yesterday. She bucked for a sixteenth-of-a mile out here. You're talking about the morning before a Grade 1. She's not easy at all. But I love her."



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Dave Harmon

Sadler's Joy (3) catches Money Multiplier and Bigger Picture (blinkers) near the finish of Saturday's Sword Dancer.

Arrival

Homebred Sadler's Joy runs down foes in Gr. 1

BY BRANDON VALVO

Ask anyone around Sadler's Joy when he was a young horse and they will tell you the same thing: He was good from the very beginning.

Bred by Rene and Lauren Woolcott's Woodslane Farm, Sadler's Joy is a son of Kitten's Joy and the Dynaformer mare Dynaire. Caroline Webster, who broke and prepared Sadler's Joy as a yearling in Ocala, Fla., shared her experience.

"He was tough," she said. "He demanded a lot of attention. He demanded to be the center of attention. My husband (Rob) chose him as his best

SWORD DANCER STAKES RECAP

horse from Day 1. My husband always told (Rene) he was the best, and he was right. He always knew he was a good horse."

Lauren Woolcott issued a similar assessment from the chestnut's early days on the farm in Virginia.

"He was big so he had to grow into himself," she said. "Raymond Figgins, who does all the work with them early on, would tell us how much he liked him."

Sadler's Joy lived up to his connection's hopes in Saturday's \$1 million Sword Dancer Stakes at Saratoga Race Course. Last of seven early, he passed all his rivals in the lane to score his first Grade 1 victory. The win followed a string of thirds, including the Grade 1 Man o' War and Grade 1 Manhattan at Belmont Park and the Grade 2 Bowling Green at Saratoga in his last run July 29.

"He's been knocking on the door for one of these Grade 1s," winning trainer Tom Albertrani said. "His race in the Manhattan, he was a length-and-a-half away from winning that. It felt like it was a

matter of when his turn was going to come up in the next couple of races and luckily, it came today."

Sadler's Joy broke slowly under Julien Leparoux and brushed the right side of his starting stall when the gates opened in the 1 1/2-mile Sword Dancer. Mario Gutierrez put Frank Conversation on the lead and Ryan Moore gave European invader Idaho a stalking trip. Erupt, the other European in the field, raced in third under Stephane Pasquier.

"He broke kind of awkward," Leparoux said. "When this happens, you have only one chance, to stay behind and wait."

Sadler's Joy raced 9 1/2 lengths behind a :24.42 opening quarter-mile and drew within 6 3/4 lengths of a :49.17 half. Sadler's Joy was back to 8 lengths behind after a mile in 1:38.52 as Idaho put his nose ahead of Frank Conversation approaching the final turn.

Racing into the stretch past 10 furlongs in 2:01.90, Frank Conversation turned away Idaho. Erupt shifted into the three path, but didn't fire. Bigger Picture raced past him on the outside and Money Multiplier began to unwind. At the rear of

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Sword Dancer —

■ Continued from page 18

the field, Leparoux came wide off the turn with Sadler's Joy. He tapped his mount on the shoulder and shook him up. Approaching the furlong pole, Leparoux went to the right-handed stick and was still last, but only 3 lengths behind.

"I just wanted to be in the clear coming to the straight, so I took him outside and made a run at it," Leparoux said. "He made a big run at the end. About the quarter pole when I start asking he was running very hard and by the eighth pole I thought I could get there. Anytime when a horse starts running like this, you can feel the power, it's a great feeling."

In the final furlong, Sadler's Joy angled his head to the right and took a step toward the outside rail. But kept on closing. Leparoux tugged the left rein and hit him right-handed again. Sadler's Joy surged, but leaned out again. His rider pulled the left rein again and gave another smack. Sadler's Joy leapt forward and drew even with Money Multiplier and Bigger Picture. Three strides from the finish, Leparoux tucked the whip and let Sadler's Joy run to the finish. He won by a half-length in 2:24.58. Money Multiplier finished second, a nose ahead of Bigger Picture.

"Last race, he got to the lead early and got caught," Leparoux said. "When I rode him at Gulfstream, I always came at the last couple of jumps, so today I did the same thing and it might be the key."

Sadler's Joy's Sword Dancer victory is the product of more than a decade of hard work in flat racing for Woodslane Farm. What started as a steeplechase stable 25 years ago has evolved.

The Woolcotts (who won a jump race here in 2015) started breeding horses 11 years ago, and bred Belmont Stakes winner Tonalist in 2011 before selling him the following year and produced Sadler's Joy, who's Sword Dancer win boosted his earnings to \$1,002,968.

The broodmares added a purpose to Woodslane.

"We had a 243-acre farm in Middleburg, Va., and we wanted to have a lot of horses there, so that got us into the flat racing," Rene Woolcott said.

"Steeplechase is really laid back kind of events where flat racing is serious. Serious money behind it, serious horses behind it, serious people behind it. It's a different game. It took us 11 years to better understand it and get this win.

"It means a great deal. It's the culmination of 11 years of mistakes, heartaches, lots of injuries with horses. It means a great deal."

The Woolcotts bought Sadler's Joy's dam Dynaire out of the 2009 Keeneland September yearling sale for \$360,000. Dynaire, out of the Royal Solo mare Binya, never made it to the races. The Woolcotts did right by her and retired her to broodmare duties instead of pressing the issue.

"She had a soft-tissue injury in pre-training and at that time stem cell wasn't as sophisticated as it is now and just seemed a little dicey with infections and just how you had to go about it," Lauren Woolcott said. "We decided to leave her unraced. It killed us, but it was better than something happening to her."

Sadler's Joy is the first horse the Woolcotts gave to Albertrani. After much deliberation, they finally settled on the multiple graded stakes-winning trainer whose runners have now earned \$40,184,001 since 2003.

"What a nice introduction to Tom," Lauren Woolcott said. "We placed the horse carefully. Caroline put us in touch with him. We interviewed several trainers on her recommendation and from some other people and he just seemed like a really good fit. As small as we are, you can get lost with some people. It turned out to be really good fit."

Sadler's Joy gave Albertrani his first victory of the Saratoga meet from 16 starters.

"Someone told me it's a nice way to get off the duck. I said, 'Yeah, a million-dollar duck,' " he said.

After the race, Albertrani praised groom Angel Matlala, who is a good partner to the demanding horse who has never lost the fire he showed Webster as a yearling.

"He's a big, strong horse to be around," Albertrani said. "He can be a handful at times and he's always on the muscle. His groom, I give a lot of credit to, gets along really well with him."

*Additional reporting by
Ben Gowans and Joe Clancy.*

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Beats by Dre

Drefong adds another Saratoga Gr. 1 to list

BY BEN GOWANS

Bob Baffert didn't make the trip to Saratoga from Del Mar to watch champion Drefong win Saturday's Grade 1 Forego Stakes, but didn't need to be on hand to give his opinion on the outcome.

"We just saw the real Drefong," Baffert said after he watched the 2016 Breeders' Cup Sprint champ take down his second Grade 1 at Saratoga in as many years.

Baffert's longtime assistant Jimmy Barnes couldn't agree more with his boss following Drefong's 4-length victory in the \$600,000 stakes.

"Drefong showed up, as expected," Barnes said of the Baoma Corporation-owned Gio Ponti colt.

The real Drefong was not present in his 2017 debut at Del Mar July 29 in the Grade 1 Bing Crosby. When coming out of the backstretch chute, he ducked in suddenly at the gap where the chute and oval connect and unseated Mike Smith. Drefong ran loose among the rest of the field for the remainder of the race, causing chaos for many of the contenders.



Mike Smith gears down on Drefong at the wire.

Tod Marks



Tod Marks

Drefong blasts home in front of a crowd in the Grade 1 Forego Stakes.

"That was terrible," Barnes said.

Barnes' wife and exercise rider Dana Barnes rode the three Baffert horses in Saratoga this week for Travers Day stakes – Drefong, Travers winner West Coast and H. Allen Jerkens third American Anthem – and shared the same sentiment about the Bing Crosby.

"I was so shocked, that was the last horse I would ever think would do that," she said. "That was really, really bad."

When looking at Drefong and his main rival in the Forego in Mind Your Biscuits in the paddock before the race, Drefong wouldn't have been the answer to which horse dumped his jockey in its last race. Because Mind Your Biscuits was keyed up before the race, he left the paddock behind the rest of the field instead of in sequential order. With Mind Your Biscuits on edge while being ponied right behind him, Drefong stayed calm.

Mind Your Biscuits settled down once on the track, but tired to sixth in the stretch while Drefong drew away.

Smith stayed on Drefong in the Forego and didn't have to do much more than that.

From the outside post in the field of 10 with the Morning Line Kitchen not far to his right over the outside rail, Drefong's California speed was evident from the outset. He cleared and crossed over in front of the nine rivals to his inside only a few strides after leaving the gate. Although there was no foe to his inside when leaving the chute and

crossing over to the main track, he kept his mind on business instead of taking a sharp left.

"Almost all his races, he's fast out of the gate," Barnes said of the colt purchased for \$450,000 at the 2014 Keeneland September yearling sale. "He's always been a very good workhorse. He's pretty level headed, he's about the same as always."

The even-money favorite raced in the 3-path up the backstretch while clicking off fractions of :22.89 and :45.58, not dissimilar to the fractions of :23.11 and :45.85 he set in taking the Grade 1 King's Bishop last year on Travers Day. The colt turned away a brief challenge from eventual fifth-place finisher Tale Of S'Avall on the turn and started to widen his advantage turning for home.

Smith hunkered down in the stretch, balancing himself perfectly in the saddle while using his patented left-handed stick four times. Smith and Drefong finished 4 lengths in front of runner-up Awesome Slew, stopping the clock in 1:21.12.

"I was hoping that he would run like he did last year here," Smith said. "He really likes that summer breeze here. I knew that he was liking it today and I was just thinking positive. I think he ran even better than last year."

Following a winner's circle photo with Drefong, Barnes showed champion sprinter-like speed that his horse showed on the racetrack, dashing out of the winner's circle and then through the clubhouse, juking around the Travers day crowd like a run-

Continued On Page 21

Forego —

■ Continued from page 20

ning-back on his way back to John Terranova's barn on the backstretch.

"I just had to get back to make sure this horse (West Coast) got on his way in good order," Barnes said just before the aforementioned colt won the Travers.

That's why he's counted on by Baffert.

"He does not like to leave those horses without anybody back there," said Dana Barnes.

Baffert called Barnes just before he gave a leg up on Drefong to Smith.

"He did call me once," Barnes said before watching the Travers on a tele-

vision in the clubhouse closest to the track. "He just asked me how things were going, just checking in."

Everything went to plan for Baffert and Co.

"We knew he was our best chance going in there," Baffert said. "When he hit that third gear there, I was really happy, and happy to hear the cheers."

"We gave him a lot of time off and brought him back. It was a lot of patience there. To bring him back to the Breeders' Cup we wanted to get two good runs in him. Sometimes things work out for the best. This was pretty exciting."

Drefong won for the sixth time in eight starts and upped his earnings to \$1,523,385.



Tod Marks

Charles and Susan Chu lead in their sprint champion Drefong.

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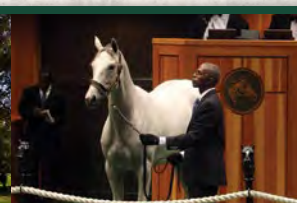
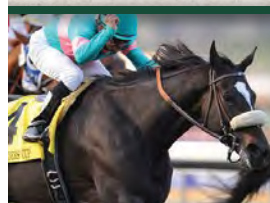
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No Pranks

Practical Joke runs one-turn race record to 5-for-5 in Grade 1

BY TOM LAW

Mike Ryan looks at a lot of yearlings every year before the summer and fall sales. A lot doesn't really do the number justice, as it's in thousands. He inspects them at farms in Kentucky and elsewhere, daylong binges in the weeks and months before they're put through the rigors of the auction process and again once they arrive on the sales grounds.

Some stand out. Most do not.

Practical Joke, winner of Saturday's \$500,000 H. Allen Jerkens at Saratoga Race Course, definitely fell into the former category and continues to impress the successful agent nearly two years after going through the ring at Keeneland.

"He might be the most consistent 3-year-old in America," Ryan said of the son of Into Mischief, bought by Ryan for \$240,000 in the name Aquinnah Ventures on behalf of Seth Klarman's Klaravich Stables and Bill Lawrence. "If not, he's right up there with them. He runs hard every time."

Ryan saw that promise when he bought the colt out of the Distorted Humor mare Halo Humor midway through the fourth session of the 2015 Keeneland September sale.

Bred by Keith and Allen Crupper's Whispering Oaks in Paris, Kentucky, Practical Joke didn't pack a loaded catalog page at Gainesway's consignment in Barn 30 and when he went through the ring as Hip 909. Halo Humor was the dam of five foals of racing age and just one winner when Practical Joke went through the ring.

Ryan wasn't overly concerned with that, instead relying on and trusting his horsemanship. Not that others weren't on the colt, too, as his \$240,000 price was more than \$90,000 more than the session's average price and double the median that day.

"He was a very mature, very impressive physical," Ryan said. "Had a boldness about him, masculine head, a very stoic horse. You watch him now and his mental constitution is extraordinary, and his physical. He really has a constitution that is mental and physical."

"And he's a fighter. I thought that when (Joel Rosario) got him outside at the top of the lane that that's the way he likes to run, outside horses."

Trainer Chad Brown and Rosario echoed Ryan's sentiments as they met with the assembled press



Tod Marks

Practical Joke leads everyone at the finish of Saturday's Grade 1 H. Allen Jerkens Stakes.

following the third of seven stakes on the loaded Travers Day card.

Brown called Practical Joke "our iron horse" after he won for the fifth time in 10 starts, adding the former King's Bishop Stakes to his Grade 1 victories last year in the Hopeful and Champagne and the Grade 3 Dwyer two starts back in at Belmont Park.

Rosario, aboard for the Champagne and Dwyer and in Practical Joke's fifth in the Kentucky Derby and third in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, gave all the credit to his mount after their 1 1/4-length win over Takaful.

"I was just the passenger, he did the job," said Rosario, who guided Forever Unbridled to an upset win over Songbird in the Grade 1 Personal Ensign two races before the Jerkens. "He's very special, a very good horse. It seems like the one turn is what he likes to do. He's just a good horse, probably his best races are when he goes one turn, but he always tries hard. I have a lot of confidence in him. He makes my job easy."

Practical Joke didn't have it completely easy in the 7-furlong Jerkens. He broke from the rail in the nine-horse field that included Grade 2 Woody Ste-

Continued On Page 23



Tod Marks

Practical Joke makes a turn in the winner's circle.

Jerkens —

■ Continued from page 22

phens winner American Anthem from trainer Bob Baffert's California string, unbeaten Grade 2 Amsterdam winner Coal Front and the speedy Takaful.

Rosario kept Practical Joke a couple paths off the inside leaving the 7-furlong chute onto the main track after the break as Takaful took the lead as expected. A winner of an allowance race Opening Day, Takaful outran the field fairly easily as Phi Beta Express tried to give chase through the opening quarter in :22.36. A gap of nearly 5 lengths separated the first two from the chase group led by Coal Front, Ann Arbor Eddie, No Dozing and American Anthem. Rosario found his spot on the inside up the backstretch before inching up a bit passing the half-mile pole.

Practical Joke moved into fifth through the half in :45.05 as Rosario stayed patient down on the fence approaching the quarter pole. Phi Beta Express tossed the anchor first as Rosario rushed Practical Joke up the inside and toward Takaful. He tipped off the rail at the three-sixteenths, hand rode to the eighth pole, threw

a few crosses inside the final furlong before a couple pops right handed a sixteenth from home.

"I was watching for traffic and making sure I wouldn't get stopped," Rosario said. "He really picked it up, accelerated like a very good horse. I had confidence in him the whole time, like I said I was watching the traffic and just trying not to get stopped, hoping to make my move going forward."

Practical Joke edged away inside the sixteenth pole as Takaful held well to be second in 1:21.96. American Anthem made a belated run on the outside to win a photo with Tale Of Silence to be third with Coal Front fifth.


"When I turned for home, I got my spot and went after the horse who was on the lead," Rosario said. "I knew I had it then."

Practical Joke improved to 5-for-5 in races around one turn, at distances from the 6 furlongs of his maiden victory last August at Saratoga to the 1-mile trip of the Dwyer at Belmont. His five losses came in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (third), Fountain of Youth (second), Blue Grass (second), Kentucky Derby (fifth) and Haskell Invitational (third), not exactly easy spots and never by more than 10 lengths.







Tod Marks

Seth Klarman (right) leads in Practical Joke after the Jerkens.



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Tod Marks

By The Moon (right) fights off Highway Star and Carina Mia in the Ballerina.

Lunar Lady

By The Moon turns tables for first Gr. 1

BY SHAYNA TILLER

As the seven-horse field for Saturday's \$500,000 Ballerina Stakes departed the paddock, Michelle Nevin stood quietly along the horse path watching intently as two horses walked past. First, Paulassilverlining wearing the No. 2 blue saddle cloth, followed by By The Moon wearing a No. 4 yellow saddle cloth.

Nevin left the paddock alone, the typically short stroll to the clubhouse seeming miles long as the countdown to post time ticked down. While Travers Day madness ensued nearby, the clubhouse

BALLERINA STAKES RECAP

filling with people bouncing around for the biggest race day of the meet, Nevin stood in the last row of the crowd watching the television in her own bubble.

The field broke for the Grade 1 Ballerina and By The Moon darted to the lead with Rajiv Maragh aboard for the fourth consecutive time. They crawled through splits of :24.05 and :47.81, leading by a half-length over Highway Star.

Nevin stayed quiet until the eighth-pole, as Highway Star narrowed the margin behind By The Moon.

"Come on, Rajiv! Come on, Rajiv," Nevin said, clapping and stomping as her mare ran shoulder-to-shoulder with Highway Star.

By The Moon accepted the challenge, responded and pushed her head over the finish before Highway Star to win the 7-furlong stakes in 1:22.97.

"When she broke and Rajiv went right to the lead and got control of the race right away I thought it was such a brilliant move because he had control so that meant he got first run too," said Nevin. "He just gave her an awesome ride."

Maragh won back-to-back races in his first two rides on By The Moon in the Grade 3 Vagrancy and Grade 3 Bed o' Roses at Belmont Park this spring before a third in their previous start in the Grade 2 Honorable Miss Handicap at Saratoga July 26.

"She's such a top-class filly; if you give her that advantage, it's going to be tough to beat her," said Maragh. "I just kept slowing it down as much as they'd let me and the rest worked out good."

"She's such a powerful filly and she's always given me 100 percent. She's so consistent, she always shows up with her 'A' game and that gives me a lot of confidence as her rider to show up in a race. That was fun. I'm just so happy we held on."

A previous stablemate of By The Moon, Pau-

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Ballerina —

■ Continued from page 24

lassilverlining left Nevin's barn after being privately purchased as a broodmare prospect for Arrogate by Juddmonte Farms. She closed her 4-year-old campaign with Nevin, highlighted by a third in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint, and started with Chad Brown as a 5-year-old. Paulassilverlining won against her old stablemate in the Honorable Miss, before finishing fifth Saturday.

"I love Paula, I feel like these are two of my children," said Nevin. "Paula has done great, I'm so proud of her. Throughout their career both fillies have both taken their turn, one beat one here and then the other one comes back so they've been fair to each other."

Jay Em Ess Stable's homebred daughter of Indian Charlie has seven wins, six seconds and two thirds and \$1,552,940 in earnings from 19 career starts. She finished runner-up in last year's Ballerina by a half-length to Haveyougoneaway, followed by a fifth in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint at Santa Anita.

Her 5-year-old campaign has been her most successful, placing in all five starts with a \$612,500 bankroll so far. By The Moon is out of the graded stakes-placed Malibu Moon mare



Tod Marks

Trainer Michelle Nevin.

By The Light, who Jay Em Ess also raced.

"I used to gallop her mom. I'm like her Nana," said Nevin. "She's very similar to her mother, she's very determined."

"From the get go she's just been a really straightforward, hard-working, honest filly. Distance is key. Seven furlongs is her preferred trip, last race was a great stepping-stone to get here."

The Ballerina is part of the Breeders' Cup "Win and You're In Division" and By The Moon earned an automatic spot in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint at Del Mar Nov. 4.

"Tomorrow's another day," said Nevin. "We've got to regroup and figure out how to go forward again. That was so exciting, I can hardly breathe."



Tod Marks

Trainer Michelle Nevin (right) makes the winner's circle with By The Moon.



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Tod Marks

Lady Eli streaks away from Dickinson to win for the 10th time, with three seconds, in 13 starts.

Bank It

Turf star Lady Eli does it again in Gr. 2

BY TOM LAW

Sol Kumin can't get enough action.

He's bought into so many horses through the Sheep Pond Partners and Head of Plains Partners he's involved with that it's probably hard to keep track of them all. Half-interests, quarters, eighths, other fractions. Sheep Pond has joined with 29 partnership groups since 2014 while Head of Plains counts nearly 100 in the same timeframe.

Kumin and his partners are always on the lookout for the next prospect. But the best horse they own isn't a prospect at all, quite the contrary, and

BALLSTON SPA STAKES RECAP

chances are she won't even be in the Sheep Pond fold once November rolls around.

Lady Eli is that horse and she's not only the best for Sheep Pond but perhaps the best female turf horse in America after winning again Saturday in the \$400,000 Woodford Reserve Ballston Spa at Saratoga Race Course. Slated to be sold in the Keeneland November breeding stock sale shortly after the Breeders' Cup World Championships at Del Mar, Lady Eli improved to 3-for-4 this year with a 1 1/2-length win over Dickinson in the Grade 2 Ballston Spa.

Kumin and Jay Hanley, who head up the Sheep Pond group with two friends, celebrated Lady Eli's latest victory with a huge group at Saratoga.

They led the Divine Park mare into the winner's circle, posed for photos, dashed off to the Saratoga Room for champagne while the Travers Day crowd spilled onto the streets. They even conceded that watching Lady Eli win her eighth graded stakes in front of the appreciative crowd that stuck around for 40 minutes after the Travers made the decision

to sell even more difficult.

"It does. It's hard, very hard," Kumin said. "We've been struggling with it but we don't breed, it's not part of our program and it's a lot of dollars for us for what we do and what we're trying to accomplish at the racetrack. We know we've got to recycle a lot of those dollars, but it doesn't make it any easier."

Lady Eli figures to be one of the more sought-after broodmare prospects in the November sale and the 5-year-old out of the Saint Ballado mare Sacre Coeur will no doubt land in the hands of one of the world's top breeders. Kumin and Hanley make no bones they're not in that same conversation.

"If we turned into breeders all of a sudden we'd start dabbling, so to speak, and it's almost a disservice to her and the breeding establishment to say, 'oh yeah, we can do that,'" Hanley said. "We'll be sad to see her go, but it's been such an amazing ride and it continues to be. We're just happy to be a part of it."

Lady Eli's latest victory came five weeks after she ran down a stubborn Quidura and held off sta-

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Ballston Spa —

■ Continued from page 26

blemate Antonoe to win the Grade 1 Diana going 9 furlongs the first Saturday of the meet. The Ballston Spa looked like a near rerun of that race, albeit at 1 1/16 miles against familiar foes Dickinson and Antonoe and new faces On Leave and Roca Rojo.

Irad Ortiz Jr., Lady Eli's only rider in her 13-start career, rated her a few paths off the inside early as Dickinson set the pace just ahead of Antonoe and On Leave rounding the clubhouse turn on the Mellon course. The winner stayed fourth up the backstretch, tracking Antonoe while Jose Ortiz made a bid for the lead aboard On Leave after a soft half-mile in :48.92.

Irad Ortiz gave Lady Eli her cue around the far turn, passed those rivals and looked like a winner the moment the field came into the stretch. Dickinson, who beat Lady Eli in the Grade 1 Jenny Wiley at Keeneland in April, stayed on well in the lane before giving way inside the final sixteenth. Roca Rojo and Antonoe, Lady Eli's stablemates in trainer Chad Brown's barn, finished third and fourth with On Leave fifth. Lady Eli won in 1:39.70.

The ownership group announced last week that Lady Eli would be offered in the Keeneland November sale and didn't learn she'd be running in the Ballston Spa until this week.

Brown originally intended to wait with Lady Eli and use just one prep — the Grade 1 Flower Bowl Invitational at Belmont Park Oct. 8 — for the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf at Del Mar Nov. 4. The plan changed during Travers Week as Brown watched Lady Eli train and after he factored in the timing and the possibility of adverse conditions downstate for the Flower Bowl.

"The decision wasn't ours, it was Chad's. Let's be clear about that,"

Kumin joked. "It was an 8 a.m. call, 'Hey, what's up buddy? I'm entering Lady Eli today and I'm going to take a look.' We laughed, 'Take a look,' that means she's running."

"He just said he was worried about too long between races, 'If we catch wet turf at Belmont and it puts us in a tough spot, she's ready to run, she wants to run and I think I'm going to run her.'"

The Ballston Spa, a race Lady Eli lost in her comeback last year after a well-documented near-death battle with laminitis, also wasn't in the plan. Lady Eli made three starts this year before the Ballston Spa, all Grade 1s by design. She'd run in two Grade 1s



Tod Marks

Lady Eli and her people head to the winner's circle.

to end her 4-year-old season last year, too, winning the Flower Bowl and finishing second by a nose to Queen's Trust in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf at Santa Anita.

"It made all kinds of sense, it just wasn't what we thought about from the beginning of the year," Hanley said. "We thought about Grade 1s only. We all kind of looked at it and saw the gap between the Diana and the Flower Bowl was like 10, 12 weeks and we were like, 'OK, that feels like a long gap.' It was a good decision in retrospect."

"We had a few moments where we were like, 'Oh my goodness, is this going to turn out OK?' But it makes sense, it's five weeks from her last race and if she goes to the Flower Bowl she'll be six weeks to the Flower Bowl and four to the Breeders' Cup and that's it. It makes sense, it wasn't exactly what we thought at the beginning of the year but obviously it's great."

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Profiteer appreciates return to allowance

Trainer Shug McGaughey looked on from the middle of the winner's circle with his jacket dangling from his fingertips and slung over his shoulder as Profiteer got his picture taken after the fifth race at Saratoga Race Course.

Stuart Janney III's homebred son of War Front improved his record to 3-for-6 in the 1 1/16-mile allowance on the turf.

Profiteer started his career with a fourth in a maiden special weight at Belmont Park last September, but won his next two in a Belmont maiden and


Continued On Page 29



Tod Marks

Profiteer (1) charges past Sycamore Lane in Saturday's fifth race.

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Tod Marks

Paradise Island (left) and Empirically battle to the line in Saturday's third.

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Saturday —

Continued from page 29

it don't matter whether it's here or River Downs," McGaughey said. "It's fun to win with his horse and it's always fun to win on Travers Day in Saratoga."

— **Brandon Valvo**

• "We won at Saratoga, baby!" Dan Morgan said to his wife Debora after the decision of the inquiry into the third race was announced.

A win is a win. After crossing the wire second a neck behind Empirically, Paradise Island was promoted to first after being bumped twice by his rival in the stretch run of the 1 1/16-mile turf maiden special. The 2-year-old homebred was the first starter in Debora Morgan's name.

"We got in on the 23rd. I live in Winter Park, Florida, which is about a two-hour drive to Ocala," Debora Morgan said. "I'm beyond excited, I love this horse. I drove to see him every week (at Ciaran Dunne's Wavertree Stables in Ocala), two hours to get up there and two hours to get back. Every week I've seen this baby and he's been special from Day 1."

With guidance from Dunne, Morgan sent her 2-year-old to trainer George Weaver. Paradise Island is the son of Treasure Beach and the Milwaukee Brew mare Raggle Taggle, who is one of two mares owned by Morgan.

"My husband bought me her for a gift," Morgan said. "She's a half-sister to Dubai Majesty who we ran

with partners and we had a lot of fun with."

Dubai Majesty won \$1,407,547 racing for the Morgans and Martin Racing Stable. She capped off her stellar career with a win the 2010 Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint before being sold for \$1.1 million at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky November mixed sale a few days later.

"My friend Lee Byrne believed in that stallion," Morgan said of the son of Galileo. "It was just a kind of a hot summer day, we were looking at him, my husband, me and Lee and she really believed in him and I believe in Lee. That's how it came to be 3 1/2 years ago."

— **Ben Gowans**

Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS	1ST
Chad Brown	32
Todd Pletcher	31
Linda Rice	12
Kiaran McLaughlin	11
Bill Mott	10
George Weaver	9
Rudy Rodriguez	8
Jason Servis	8

JOCKEYS	1ST
Jose Ortiz	49
Irish Ortiz Jr.	44
John Velazquez	34
Javier Castellano	26
Manny Franco	22
Luis Saez	20
Joel Rosario	18
Jose Lezcano	15

Through Saturday

NYTHA GENERAL MEETING AUG. 29

NYTHA's General Nominating Meeting is Tuesday, Aug. 29, in the tent behind the Recreation Hall on Union Ave. The purpose is to receive nominations and nominating petitions from the floor, and for the NYTHA Nominating Committee to announce nominations. The committee includes trainer Abigail Adsit and NYTHA executive director Andy Belfiore, and is chaired by trainer Mark Hennig. There are two options for eligible members who would like to have their names added to the ballot as a candidate for the NYTHA Board or President.

1) Nominations can be made from the floor during the General Nominating Meeting, if the member consents in writing to the nomination. The nomination has to have two (2) seconds and must be accompanied by a petition signed by at least thirty (30) members of the Association.

OR 2) For a period of 15 days after the General Nominating Meeting, additional candidates may be nominated by petition signed by at least fifty (50) members in good standing, provided the petition is filed with the NYTHA Nominating Committee during the 15-day period following the General Nominating Meeting and is accompanied by the candidate's affidavit and policy statement, if any. The 2017 election is set for this fall. Ballots will go out in October, and the new Board will take office in December. NYTHA elections are held every three years. All qualified members may participate in electing the Board of Directors. For more information, go to: nytha.com/members/voting.aspx.



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A spectacular home circa 1849 that has been completely redone with no expense spared. Nestled on a hill overlooking Adena Springs Farm, one of the finest thoroughbred farms in the world, the farm sports a top of the line Morton Barn with all of the extras-including a formal office, 2 bathrooms, 12 stalls, multiple tack rooms & wash stalls, equipment storage, indoor training area. The farm also has an outdoor ring, an additional 10 stall barn, garage apartment, cigar bar/saloon! The main house features a gorgeous floor plan with a gourmet kitchen, 1st floor owner's suite, detailed moldings, elaborate wrap-around porch complete with an outdoor fireplace and TV viewing area. \$1,380,000



2399 Long Valley Ln, Lexington

This former portion of Spendthrift Farm sports super land with Maury silt soil, a 24 stall barn with 14'x 12' stalls, covered European style walker and a 4 bedroom house that has been redone into a lovely guest house. This farm is offered in two tracts or its entirety. 15.7 acres with all improvements for \$499,000 or 27 acres for \$724,000

362 Iron Works, Paris

A lovely 21 acre horse farm with 11 stalls in 2 barns, redone house with first floor living and large vaulted ceiling great room, gorgeous setting. Will consider division. \$515,000



2777 Maysville Road

Feather Ridge Farm, circa 1810, located on a former portion of Forest Retreat Farm, the breeders of both a Kentucky Derby & Kentucky Oaks winner. The farm has a 12 stall barn, 141 acres, estate home with 1st floor master. \$879,000



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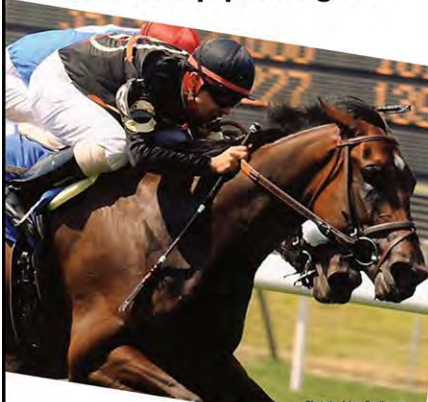
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SARATOGA RESULTS

Saturday August 26.

FIRST \$83,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 6 1/2F

2	Hazit	J. Velazquez	\$8.60	\$2.90	\$2.10
8	Good Magic	J. Castellano		\$2.40	\$2.10
5	Road to Meath	J. Ortiz			\$2.40

B Colt 2015, by War Front - Rumor by Indian Charlie

Owner: Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners. Trainer: Todd Pletcher.

Breeder: Raydelz Stable (KY). Late Scratches: Belle Tapisserie, Victory Lane, Escarapela. Time: 1:16.40. Exacta (2-8), \$15.60; Superfecta (2-8-5-6), \$54.00; Trifecta (2-8-5), \$39.40

SECOND \$85,000, ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 3/16M TURF

6	Marshall Eddy	M. Franco	\$46.80	\$22.40	\$12.00
8	Holiday Bonus	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$11.00	\$7.00
3	Surprise Twist	J. Castellano			\$4.20

Ch Gelding 2013, by City Zip - Seattle Society by A.P. Indy

Owner: Ho'o, Galen. Trainer: Michelle Nevin. Breeder: BCWT, Ltd. (KY).

Late Scratches: Uncle Mojo. Time: 1:55.75

Daily Double (2-6), \$204.00; Exacta (6-8), \$502.00; Quinella (6-8), \$281.00; Superfecta (6-8-3-1), \$19,528.00; Trifecta (6-8-3), \$2,830.00

THIRD \$83,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 1 1/16M

1	Paradise Island	M. Franco	\$25.20	\$11.20	\$8.20
7	(dq)Empirically	T. Gaffalione		\$26.40	\$12.20
8	Strike Me Down	J. Rosario			\$6.20

B G 2015, by Treasure Beach (GB) - Raggle Taggle by Milwaukee Brew

Owner/Breeder: Morgan, Debora (FL). Trainer: George Weaver.

Late Scratches: Blockade, The Best Candy. Time: 1:41.42

Daily Double (6-1), \$566.00; Exacta (1-7), \$642.00; Superfecta (1-7-8-5), \$29,865.00; Trifecta (1-7-8), \$4,201.00; Pic 3 (2-6-1), \$2,954.00

FOURTH \$93,000, AOC \$80,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

4	Threefiveindia	J. Castellano	\$5.50	\$3.30	\$2.70
2	Ostrolenka	J. Bravo		\$5.30	\$3.70
8	Candid Desire	J. Lezcano			\$6.80

Ch Colt 2013, by Street Hero - Palacio de Amor by Dixieland Band

Owner: Amerman Racing LLC. Trainer: Chad Brown.

Breeder: Myung Kwon Cho & Jun Park (KY). Late Scratches: Aquamarine. Time: 1:15.43. Daily Double (1-4), \$85.00; Exacta (4-2), \$22.60; Quinella (2-4), \$14.60; Superfecta (4-2-8-9), \$669.00; Trifecta (4-2-8), \$179.00; Pic 3 (6-1-4), \$2,127.00

FIFTH \$90,000, AOC \$62,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M

1	Profiteer	J. Velazquez	\$19.20	\$8.90	\$6.30
2	Sycamore Lane	J. Lezcano		\$8.90	\$6.30
7	Tathqeef	K. Carmouche			\$7.20

B Colt 2014, by War Front - Hit It Rich by Smart Strike

Owner: Janney, III, Stuart, S. Trainer: Claude McGaughey III.

Breeder: Stuart S. Janney, III LLC (KY). Late Scratches: Bonus Points, Poshsky. Claimed: Sycamore Lane claimed by Jacobson, David for \$62,500. Time: 1:39.79. Daily Double (4-1), \$77.50; Exacta (1-2), \$171.50; Superfecta (1-2-7-5), \$7,482.00; Trifecta (1-2-7), \$1,382.00; Pic 3 (1-4-1), \$1,327.00; Pic 4 (6-1-1/4-1), \$31,435.00; Pic 5 (2-6-1-1/4-1), \$91,640.00

SIXTH \$700,000, PERSONAL ENSIGN STAKES, 3&UP, F&M, 1 1/8M

4	Forever Unbridled	J. Rosario	\$6.20	\$2.10	
2	Songbird	M. Smith		\$2.10	
5	Eskenformoney	J. Castellano			

B M 2012, by Unbridled's Song - Lemons Forever by Lemon Drop Kid

Owner: Fipke, Charles, E.. Trainer: Dallas Stewart. Breeder: Charles Fipke (KY). Late Scratches: Flora Dora. Time: 1:49.16. Daily Double (1-4), \$73.00; Exacta (4-2), \$8.60; Pic 3 (4-1-4), \$319.50

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

4	By the Moon	R. Maragh	\$13.00	\$6.00	\$4.20
7	Highway Star	A. Arroyo		\$6.00	\$4.30
5	Carina Mia	J. Castellano			\$3.80

Dk B/ Br Mare 2012, by Indian Charlie - By the Light by Malibu Moon

Owner: Jay Em Ess Stable. Trainer: Michelle Nevin. Breeder: Samantha Siegel (KY). Time: 1:22.97. Daily Double (4-4), \$37.60; Exacta (4-7),

\$78.50; Superfecta (4-7-5-1), \$1,830.00; Trifecta (4-7-5), \$353.00; Pic 3 (1-4-4), \$382.50

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

1	Practical Joke	J. Rosario	\$6.00	\$3.60	\$2.50
2	Takaful	J. Ortiz		\$6.50	\$4.10
9	American Anthem	M. Smith			\$2.70

B Colt 2014, by Into Mischief - Halo Humor by Distorted Humor

Owner: Klaravich Stables, Inc. and Lawrence, William H..

Trainer: Chad Brown. Breeder: Whispering Oaks (KY). Time: 1:21.96

Daily Double (4-1), \$41.00; Exacta (1-2), \$39.40; Superfecta (1-2-9-3), \$788.00; Trifecta (1-2-9), \$130.50; Pic 3 (4-4-1), \$112.50

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

10	Drefong	M. Smith	\$4.30	\$3.90	\$3.20
5	Awesome Slew	J. Velazquez		\$9.90	\$6.50
3	Tom's Ready	B. Hernandez, Jr.			\$12.60

B Colt 2013, by Gio Ponti - Eltimaas by Ghostzapper

Owner: Baoma Corporation. Trainer: Bob Baffert. Time: 1:21.12

Breeder: Frederick Allor, Michael Barnett, Anthony Warrende (KY).

Daily Double (1-10), \$16.20; Exacta (10-5), \$43.40; Superfecta (10-5-3-4), \$4,892.00; Trifecta (10-5-3), \$778.00; Pic 3 (4-1-10), \$103.00

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

3	Sadler's Joy	J. Leparoux	\$16.00	\$5.50	\$3.80
5	Money Multiplier	J. Castellano		\$3.90	\$2.90
2	Bigger Picture	J. Ortiz			\$3.60

Ch Colt 2013, by Kitten's Joy - Dynaire by Dynaformer

Owner/Breeder: Woodslane Farm (KY). Trainer: Thomas Albertrani.

Time: 2:24.58. Daily Double (10-3), \$51.00; Exacta (3-5), \$58.00; Superfecta (3-5-2-4), \$846.00; Trifecta (3-5-2), \$220.00; Pic 3 (1-10-3), \$143.50

11TH \$1,250,000, TRAVERS S. PRESENTED BY NYRA BETS, 3YO, 1 1/4

3	West Coast	M. Smith	\$14.20	\$7.60	\$5.30
11	Gunnevera	E. Zayas		\$18.40	\$10.40
10	Irap	M. Gutierrez			\$5.40

B Colt 2014, by Flatter - Caressing by Honour and Glory

Owner: Gary and Mary West. Trainer: Bob Baffert.

Breeder: CFP Thoroughbreds LLC (KY). Time: 2:01.19

Daily Double (3-3), \$126.00; Exacta (3-11), \$357.50; Superfecta (3-11-10-4), \$14,329.00; Trifecta (3-11-10), \$2,245.00; Pic 3 (10-3-3), \$314.00; Pic 4 (1-10-3-3), \$925.00

12TH \$400,000, WOODFORD RESERVE BALLSTON SPA, 3&UP F&M, 1 1/16M TURF

1	Lady Eli	I. Ortiz, Jr.	\$3.40	\$2.30	\$2.10
6	Dickinson	P. Lopez		\$5.20	\$3.60
2	Roca Rojo (IRE)	J. Rosario			\$3.60

Dk B/ Br Mare 2012, by Divine Park - Sacre Coeur by Saint Ballado

Owner: Sheep Pond Partners. Trainer: Chad Brown.

Breeder: Runnymede Farm Inc. & Catesby W. Clay (KY). Late Scratches: Time and Motion. Time: 1:39.70

Daily Double (3-1), \$26.00; Exacta (1-6), \$20.80; Superfecta (1-6-2-5), \$121.00; Trifecta (1-6-2), \$81.50; Pic 3 (3-3-1), \$230.50; Place Pix Nine (3/5/10-2/3/5-3/10/11-1/3), \$49.80; Pic 6 (4-1-10-3-3-1/3), \$104.00; Pic 6 (4-1-10-3-3-1/3), \$7,967.00

SARATOGA RESULTS PHOTOS

BY TOD MARKS AND DAVE HARMON



13TH \$45,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M

6 Mohican	J. Rosario	\$15.40	\$6.80	\$4.50
4 Prognostication	J. Ortiz		\$3.90	\$2.90
12 Wingman	L. Saez			\$4.90

B Colt 2014, by Pioneerof the Nile - Indian Love Call by Cherokee Run
Owner: WinStar Farm LLC, China Horse Club International Ltd. and SF Racing Group Inc..
Trainer: William Mott. Breeder: Glendalough LLC (KY). Late Scratches: Battle Ready
Claimed: Champagne Papi claimed by Hinkhouse, Joseph A. for \$40,000, All About Voodoo
claimed by Brewster, Clark O. for \$40,000. Time: 1:40.99
Daily Double (1-6), \$33.40; Exacta (6-4), \$56.00; Superfecta (6-4-12-2), \$2,243.00; Trifecta
(6-4-12), \$323.00; Pic 3 (3-1-6), \$206.00; Pic 4 (3-3-1/3-6), \$1,640.00; Pic 5 (10-3-3-1/3-6),
\$3,729.00

Attendance: 47,725. On Track Handle: \$10,862,094. All-Sources Handle: \$47,870,984.04.

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Sunday, August 27.

1ST (1:00PM). \$39,000, CLM \$20,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

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

1	.....	1	.....	Notorious	.....	J. Rosario	.....	W. Catalano	.....	7-2
2	.....	2	.....	Rossie Val	.....	D. Davis	.....	B. Levine	.....	8-1
3	.....	3	.....	Hard Hitter	.....	K. Carmouche	.....	J. Kimmel	.....	6-1
4	.....	4	.....	Caniform	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	S. Asmussen	.....	9-2
5	.....	5	.....	Thirst for Victory	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	T. Pletcher	.....	8-5
6	.....	6	.....	Top Fortitude	.....	A. Arroyo	.....	R. Diodoro	.....	3-1

2ND (1:33PM). \$56,000, MCL \$75,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (TURF)

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

1	.....	4	.....	Wage Acceleration	.....	J. Castellano	.....	C. Brown	.....	7-5
1a	.....	9	.....	Data Room	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	C. Brown	.....	7-5
2	.....	5	.....	Markitoff	.....	L. Saez	.....	M. Maker	.....	3-1
2b	.....	6	.....	Electro	.....	K. Carmouche	.....	M. Maker	.....	3-1
3	.....	1	.....	Bootlegger (FR)	.....	L. Reyes	.....	N. Chatterpaul	.....	8-1
4	.....	2	.....	Junonia	.....	J. Rosario	.....	J. Sheppard	.....	12-1
5	.....	MTO	.....	Battle Ready	.....	Rider TBA	.....	B. Brown	.....	6-1
6	.....	7	.....	Spring On Curlin	.....	D. Davis	.....	C. Baker	.....	10-1
7	.....	8	.....	Ninety One Assault	.....	J. Lezcano	.....	W. Mott	.....	7-2
8	.....	10	.....	Rough Sea	.....	S. Russell	.....	N. Saville	.....	8-1

3RD (2:07PM). \$47,000, CLM \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....	1	.....	Surtap	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	J. Englehart	.....	6-1
2	.....	2	.....	Bancroft Hall	.....	K. Carmouche	.....	D. Gargan	.....	9-2
3	.....	3	.....	Karma Delight	.....	L. Saez	.....	S. Asmussen	.....	4-1
4	.....	4	.....	Perro Rojo	.....	M. Franco	.....	N. Zito	.....	15-1
5	.....	5	.....	Portfolio Manager	.....	J. Castellano	.....	C. Brown	.....	6-5
6	.....	6	.....	Harlan Punch	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	T. Amoss	.....	3-1

4TH (2:41PM). \$62,000, CLM \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....	1	.....	Hold Me Down	.....	K. Carmouche	.....	B. Levine	.....	2-1
2	.....	MTO	.....	Just Got Out	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	L. Rice	.....	5-2
3	.....	3	.....	Truth in the Lies	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	J. Servis	.....	8-5
4	.....	4	.....	Ranger Lady	.....	C. Camilo	.....	R. Rohena	.....	12-1
5	.....	5	.....	Given Fire	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	J. Abreu	.....	8-1
6	.....	6	.....	Cinder	.....	J. Castellano	.....	G. Arnold, II	.....	7-2
7	.....	7	.....	C Islandsurprise	.....	L. Saez	.....	M. Scherer	.....	6-1

5TH (3:15PM). \$83,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 6F

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

1	.....	1	.....	Murika	.....	R. Albarado	.....	R. Moquett	.....	6-1
2	.....	2	.....	Twofer	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	R. Violette, Jr.	.....	5-1
3	.....	3	.....	Quick Quick Quick	.....	J. Leparoux	.....	I. Wilkes	.....	4-1
4	.....	4	.....	No Deal	.....	M. Franco	.....	P. Serpe	.....	20-1
5	.....	5	.....	Smarty Smart	.....	J. Lezcano	.....	M. Trombetta	.....	6-1
6	.....	6	.....	Tapete Claire	.....	S. Camacho, Jr.	.....	J. Mejia	.....	30-1
7	.....	7	.....	Navajo	.....	J. Rosario	.....	A. Dutrow	.....	9-2
8	.....	8	.....	Wine Halo	.....	L. Saez	.....	D. Lukas	.....	15-1
9	.....	9	.....	Moolah Schmoolah	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	10-1
10	.....	10	.....	Everybody Loves Me	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	J. Terranova, II	.....	7-2

6TH (3:49PM). \$73,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 6 1/2F

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

1	.....	1	.....	Impazible Creek	.....	J. Castellano	.....	J. Kimmel	.....	6-1
2	.....	2	.....	Kinsale	.....	E. Cancel	.....	T. Albertrani	.....	8-1
3	.....	3	.....	Truly Courageous	.....	L. Reyes	.....	G. Contessa	.....	12-1
4	.....	4	.....	Sugarille	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	H. Bond	.....	9-2
5	.....	5	.....	Mo Style	.....	J. Alvarado	.....	M. Hennig	.....	12-1
6	.....	6	.....	Frost Wise	.....	L. Saez	.....	M. Dilger	.....	2-1
7	.....	7	.....	She'sakittykat	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	J. Servis	.....	9-5

7TH (4:25PM). \$75,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	.....	1	.....	Swayed	.....	E. Cancel	.....	G. Weaver	.....	6-1
2	.....	2	.....	Queen of Spades	.....	L. Reyes	.....	N. Chatterpaul	.....	8-1
3	.....	3	.....	Tiffanys Freud	.....	J. Velazquez	.....	L. O'Brien	.....	10-1
4	.....	4	.....	First Appeal	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	L. Rice	.....	3-1
5	.....	5	.....	Treatherlikestar	.....	J. Castellano	.....	G. Delgado	.....	9-2
6	.....	6	.....	Mo Promise	.....	M. Franco	.....	G. Contessa	.....	20-1
7	.....	7	.....	Wantagh Queen	.....	A. Arroyo	.....	E. Barker	.....	5-1
8	.....	8	.....	Decorator Jenn	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	L. Rice	.....	5-1
9	.....	9	.....	Amber Dancer	.....	D. Davis	.....	B. Levine	.....	20-1
10	.....	10	.....	Laura's Patriot	.....	M. Luzzi	.....	J. Toscano, Jr.	.....	15-1

8TH (5:02PM). \$55,000, STR \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....	7	.....	Patriot Drive	.....	K. Carmouche	.....	D. Gargan	.....	8-1
1a	.....	MTO	.....	Dunk a Din	.....	Rider TBA	.....	D. Gargan	.....	8-1
2	.....	1	.....	Any Questions	.....	J. Leparoux	.....	D. Jacobson	.....	15-1
3	.....	2	.....	King of Spades	.....	J. Rosario	.....	B. Brown	.....	12-1
4	.....	3	.....	Cite	.....	J. Velazquez	.....	W. Mott	.....	7-2
5	.....	4	.....	Snag	.....	F. Geroux	.....	S. Asmussen	.....	6-1
6	.....	5	.....	Carlino	.....	J. Lezcano	.....	M. Hennig	.....	15-1
7	.....	6	.....	Astounding	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	J. Servis	.....	5-2
8	.....	8	.....	Dr. Edgar	.....	J. Bravo	.....	C. Domino	.....	10-1
9	.....	9	.....	Space Mountain	.....	J. Castellano	.....	G. Arnold, II	.....	8-1
10	.....	10	.....	Romans Paradise	.....	A. Arroyo	.....	C. Domino	.....	30-1
11	.....	11	.....	Jupiter Rising	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	T. Pletcher	.....	15-1
12	.....	12	.....	Scatoga	.....	A. Lezcano	.....	G. Goodwin	.....	50-1
13	.....	AE	.....	Hembree	.....	J. Lezcano	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	6-1

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	.....	Paquita Coqueta (CHI)	.....	L. Saez	.....	C. Summers	.....	20-1
2	.....	2	.....	Rumble Doll	.....	J. Bravo	.....	R. Falcone, Jr.	.....	20-1
3	.....	3	.....	Wheatfield	.....	F. Geroux	.....	N. Zito	.....	20-1
4	.....	4	.....	Miss Ella	.....	J. Rosario	.....	H. Motion	.....	3-1
5	.....	5	.....	Chanteline	.....	J. Velazquez	.....	S. Asmussen	.....	12-1
6	.....	6	.....	Ginger N Rye	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	H. DePaz	.....	8-1
7	.....	7	.....	Miss Katie Mae (IRE)	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	H. Motion	.....	12-1
8	.....	8	.....	Fair Point	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	C. McGaughey III	.....	4-1
9	.....	9	.....	Pretty Perfection	.....	R. Albarado	.....	K. Breen	.....	12-1
10	.....	10	.....	Ava's Kitten	.....	J. Castellano	.....	C. Brown	.....	9-2
11	.....	11	.....	Ultimate Holiday	.....	J. Lezcano	.....	M. Nevin	.....	15-1
12	.....	12	.....	Carolina Shag	.....	S. Russell	.....	S. Cooney	.....	8-1
13	.....	AE	.....	Fire Key	.....	R. Maragh	.....	P. Kelly	.....	30-1
14	.....	MTO	.....	Royal Inheritance	.....	M. Franco	.....	D. Cannizzo	.....	5-2

10TH (6:18PM). \$83,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	.....	1	.....	Reality Queen	.....	L. Saez	.....	M. Maker	.....	8-1
2	.....	2	.....	Gio Game	.....	J. Leparoux	.....	M. Casse	.....	3-1
3	.....	3	.....	Cool Beans	.....	F. Geroux	.....	B. Cox	.....	8-1
4	.....	4	.....	Amity	.....	D. Davis	.....	A. Stall, Jr.	.....	20-1
5	.....	5	.....	Fortune Street	.....	J. Alvarado	.....	M. Hennig	.....	20-1
6	.....	6	.....	Data Dependent	.....	J. Castellano	.....	C. Brown	.....	5-2
7	.....	7	.....	Make Merry	.....	J. Rosario	.....	K. McLaughlin	.....	6-1
8	.....	8	.....	My New Daughter	.....	S. Camacho, Jr.	.....	J. Mejia	.....	30-1
9	.....	9	.....	Love Mo	.....	J. Lezcano	.....	W. Mott	.....	12-1
10	.....	10	.....	Significant Form	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	C. Brown	.....	9-2
11	.....	AE	.....	Matty's Magnum	.....	E. Cancel	.....	D. Donk	.....	12-1
12	.....	AE	.....	Cyrielle	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	H. Motion	.....	5-1
13	.....	AE	.....	Fairy Link	.....	J. Bravo	.....	P. Pugh	.....	12-1
14	MTO	Silver Fern	Rider TBA	W. Mott	7-2
15	MTO	Fingerpaint	Rider TBA	J. Terranova, II	5-1

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the Power grid						
	Race #	John Shapazian	Gaile Fitzgerald	Tom Law	Charles Bedard	Caton Bredar
	1	Thirst For Victory Caniform Top Fortitude	Caniform Top Fortitude Hard Hitter	Caniform Thirst For Victory Top Fortitude	Top Fortitude Thirst For Victory Caniform	Thirst For Victory Caniform Rossie Val
	2	Brown entry Maker entry Ninety One Assault	Brown entry Maker entry Junonia	Brown entry Ninety One Assault Markitoff	Brown entry Ninety One Assault Maker entry	Wage Acceleration Markitoff Ninety One Assault
	3	Portfolio Manager Harlan Punch Bancroft Hall	Harlan Punch Portfolio Manager Bancroft Hall	Portfolio Manager Harlan Punch Bancroft Hall	Portfolio Manager Bancroft Hall Harlan Punch	Portfolio Manager Harlan Punch Bancroft Hall
	4	Truth In The Lies Hold Me Down Cinder	Cinder Truth In The Lies Hold Me Down	Truth In The Lies Hold Me Down Cinder	Just Got Out C Islandsurprise Cinder	Truth In The Lies Cinder Hold Me Down
	5	Everybody Loves Me Twofer Quick Quick Quick	Quick Quick Quick Twofer Navajo	Twofer Murika Everybody Loves Me	Quick Quick Quick No Deal Wine Halo	Twofer Quick Quick Quick Moolah Schmoolah
	6	Frost Wise She'sakittykat Truly Courageous	Frost Wise She'sakittkat Impazible Creek	She'sakittykat Frost Wise Impazible Creek	Sugarille She'sakittykat Impazable Creek	She'sakittykat Frost Wise Impazible Creek
	7	First Appeal Treatherlikeastar Decorator Jenn	First Appeal Wantagh Queen Treatherlikeastar	First Appeal Tiffanys Freud Decorator Jenn	First Appeal Decorator Jenn Wantagh Queen	First Appeal Tiffanys Freud Treatherlikeastar
	8	Astounding Hembree Cite	Astounding Snag Cite	Cite Astounding Jupiter Rising	Astounding Cite Gargan entry	Space Mountain Astounding Cite
	9	Miss Ella Ava's Kitten Fair Point	Miss Ela Ginger N Rye Fair Point	Miss Ella Fair Point Ginger N Rye	Fair Point Chanteline Miss Ella	Miss Ella Fair Point Ginger N Rye
	10	Gio Game Data Dependent Reality Queen	Cool Beans Data Department Make Merry	Gio Game Significant Form Data Dependent	Reality Queen Gio Game Make Merry	Gio Game Data Dependent Reality Queen
2017 Records:		99/322	85/322	78/322	94/3222	43/250*

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GUEST HANDICAPPER DETAILS

Today's guest handicapper is Caton Bredar, on-air host and host for Betfair US TVG Network. Bredar, who has worked in racing media for more than 25 years, is a past or present contributor to ESPN, Horse Racing Radio Network, WAVE 3 TV in Louisville, Xpressbet.com and Sirius Satellite Radio. Saturday, Ray Arsenault picked one winner.

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

Moon Beam

Eddie Arcaro counted to 12 over and over. The Hall of Fame jockey always said if you could count to 12, you would win the race.

Rajiv Maragh can count to 12.

The veteran jockey did it four times in the Ballerina, slowing By The Moon to a :24.05 first quarter-mile and a :47.81 (so it got a little quicker). Those two fractions, basically clicking off four furlongs in 12 seconds each won the Grade 1 Ballerina Saturday. How good were they? Well, last year By The Moon pressed the pace through the first quarter-mile in :22.15 and a half in :45.54.

Five weeks into a tough meet, Maragh had his salvation, a Grade 1 win on the biggest afternoon of them all.

"I was really happy that they let me go along that easy, obviously, this is a top class mare, when she gets that kind of advantage, it's going to be really hard to beat her," Maragh said. "The plan was pretty open, I did see scenarios that this might happen because there wasn't a true leader. We talked about it, I thought my best bet was to come out of the gate running and don't give up anything that comes easily, so when I saw that plan developing, I said, 'Maybe if I take advantage of this and slow it down, it will work.' And it did."

By The Moon loped on the lead with Highway Star to her outside, while the rest were penned in like hogs at a state fair.

"I looked three times to make sure that it was Highway Star, I said, 'If she's here on the bridle, we're going real slow.' I said, 'Let me slow it down a little more.' It's going to be very tough to beat this filly if she gets that advantage even though she's best with a target in front of them, but this was too enticing to give up," Maragh said. "It felt like we were going really slow for that caliber of horses, the more they bottle up the better for me, that's why I kept slowing it down. So amazing. Just to ride a filly of this caliber is amazing, to be able to capitalize on



Tod Marks

it and win a Grade 1 in Saratoga on Travers Day, it just means the word."

Five weeks ago, Maragh and I sat in a golf cart behind the jocks' room and talked about what it was like to be back in Saratoga for the first time since 2014. Maragh broke his back and missed two consecutive meets at Saratoga. He returned this year, won some races, but it was Saturday when he officially returned.

"As I said before, I felt like everything was going the way I wanted before I had the serious injury, this feels like a step back in the right direction, to win the Ballerina for the third time, that's amazing

to me," Maragh said. "Getting on her, that's the first step. I'm so glad Michelle (Nevin) had comfort and confidence to let me ride this mare. I've raced against her and seen her run and always held her in such high regard, she was a mare I was always hoping that I could get a chance to ride, it aligned for me where I got to ride her."

On his way to ride Irish War Cry in the Kentucky Derby this spring, Maragh stayed in New York to ride By The Moon the day before the Derby. They won the Vagrancy.

"Guys were spread out, it opened up an opportunity for me," Maragh said. "I was originally supposed to go to Churchill Downs, just to ride, when I found out I could ride this mare, I said, 'I don't care, I'm staying to ride her it'll pay off in the long run.' It's definitely paying off."

After taking the Vagrancy, By The Moon and Maragh won the Bed o' Roses in June and finished third in the Honorable Miss earlier in the meet.

"I just felt like I never wanted to lose on her and I lost last time, it was a little disappointing," Maragh said. "The first two times, I didn't want to rush her, she got into a nice rhythm, the last time cutting back to six, I didn't want to take her out of her best element and we got there late. I thought that was one of the reasons why she wasn't having the success she should have had earlier in her career, she was getting rushed. I wanted to change that, just get her into a rhythm."

Miles Davis never had the kind of rhythm that clinched the Ballerina in the first few furlongs. As for the disappointing meet, Maragh, the most upbeat jockey in the room, had yet to run up the white flag.

"I'm so happy coming to ride, whether I've won five races at the meet or 100 races at the meet, this is what I dreamed about doing all my life," Maragh said. "I'm going to say that the meet was subpar, but the meet's not over, I've still got a week."



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