

Year 17 • No. 26

Thursday, August 31, 2017

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here&there... at Saratoga

BY THE NUMBERS

47,870,987: Million dollars wagered (from all sources) on the Travers Day card at Saratoga Race Course, the second highest Travers Day total ever.

1: Guy jumping the Oklahoma infield hurdles Tuesday morning. He fell at least once.

9: Geese breezing – more like waddling – on the far turn of the Oklahoma training track Tuesday morning. We got them a sixteenth in about 12 minutes.

8: People waiting in line for the track to open at the Union Avenue/East Avenue gate at 6:30 Wednesday morning. Hopefully they didn't all want the same picnic table.

NAMES OF THE DAY

Taoiseach, fourth race: The Prime Minister of Ireland in Gaelic. The word means chieftain or leader and if this 4-year-old son of Dublin and Sister Marette can boss around his foes today you'll make some money.

Silly Sister, fourth race: The 3-year-old filly, who races for Lady Sheila Stable and Edition Farm, is out of Giggly.

Mr. President, fifth race: The 2-year-old colt, who races for Skychair Racing and David Koenig, is out of Marilyn Monroan.

WRITERS ALMANAC

Submitted by reader Pete Finley

*Labor Day is the saddest day at the track,
But they'll be back,
The horses and the vans,
And the jockeys and the fans.*



Hey Kid. Manny Franco high-fives Eli Englehart after winning Wednesday's third. Tod Marks

Street cred



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The Kentucky Oaks, the Arkansas Derby, the King's Bishop. **Only Tapit and Curlin have more three-year-old G1 winners on dirt since 2013.**

Add in the Hong Kong Derby, the American Oaks and Australia's top sprint, the Newmarket Handicap. **Street Boss:** he's sired twice as many G1 winners as Into Mischief, from the same sire crop.

Darley

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“He said, ‘David, I’m glad to know she can run fast enough to buck her shins.’ ”
Trainer David Donk, on owner Russell Reineman’s response to an apology for bucking the shins of 2-year-old filly Danzig’s Beauty in 1989; she won a Gr. 2 stakes and became the dam of leading sire Distorted Humor



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here&there... at Saratoga

WORTH REPEATING

“If it had horse racing, it would be perfect.”

Doc Richardson, singing the praises of Bend, Oregon

“Here comes CB.”

File name of the trainer/jockey standings put together by The Special’s Ben Gowans over the weekend; Chad Brown and Todd Pletcher were tied headed into the final week, and finished Wednesday’s card with Brown up 35-34.

“See you at the job site.”

Dick Knapp, to Doc Richardson, after breakfast at Five Points Market (that’s code for racetrack in the Oklahoma Circle of Trust)

“Normally there’s an initiation process, but we waived it for you.”

Knap, Richardson and company, on admitting Barry Schwartz to the Oklahoma Circle of Trust Monday morning

“I’m probably training one of your future stake horses.”

Jimmy Crupi’s voice mail message, on why he can’t get the phone


“In New Jersey, everybody calls me hon.”

Trainer Kate Dalton, about spending the summer at Westhampton Training Center

Bill Terrill to The Special’s Tom Law as he hustled trainer Bruce Brown into his golf cart to go watch a breezer on the main track at about 8:45 a.m.: “You guys need to get up earlier in the morning.”

Law: “But you’re my last stop.”

Terrill: “Yeah right.”



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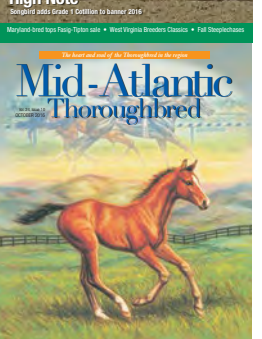
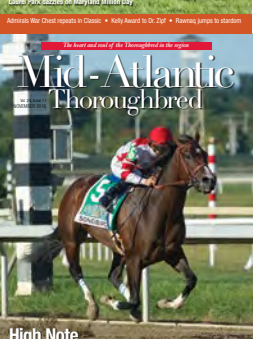
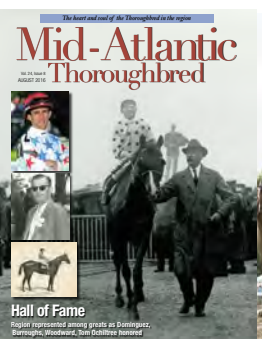
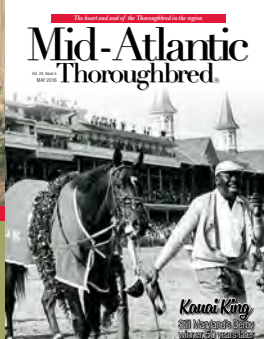
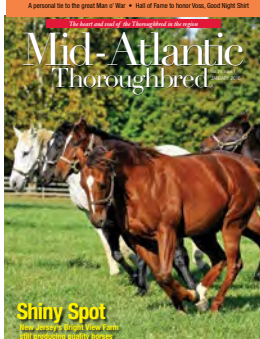
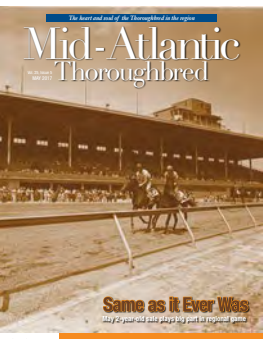
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WORTH REPEATING

"I want someone good, someone really good, to go over those numbers."
Albany Times-Union's Tim Wilkin about not winning the National Turf Writers Association's Walter Haight Award for career excellence in turf writing

"I played the first 14 holes like my horses have run. The last four, I hit a brick wall."
Trainer David Donk, on his Tuesday golf game

"For some reason, we're always pretty good after the last paper comes out."
Tom Bellhouse, on the success of West Point Thoroughbreds over the final weekend at Saratoga every summer (look out)

"Yeah, but I couldn't get him to pay for it."
Trainer Barclay Tagg, about riding his lead pony up to the Morning Line Kitchen to place an order Tuesday

"Luca did a 15-minute Power Point presentation. I held out as long as I could."
Rich Cristiano, on the business tactics of his son and the addition of new puppy Travers to the family

READER OF THE DAY(S)

Madeline Tillotson, for keeping us supplied with banana bread.



Saratoga Colors. The Oklahoma canvas was spectacular Monday morning.

Connie Bush



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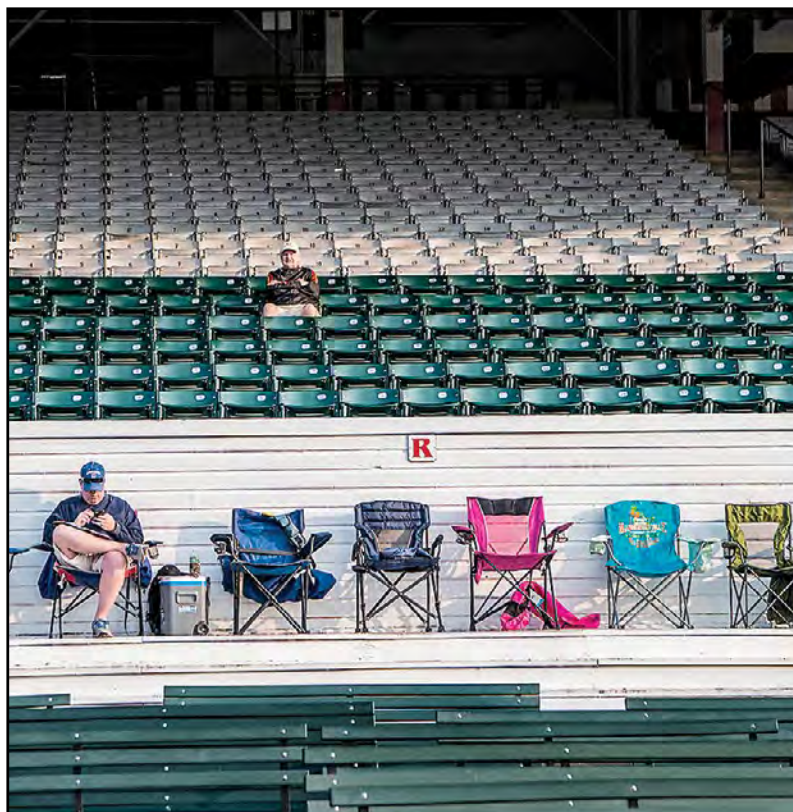
Breeder: Mrs. Jerry Amerman

Photo of the day

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Great Seats!

Connie Bush

The Chief... Day 26

"The big outfits, if they had a good work horse in the morning but didn't run that good in the afternoon, they would keep him and work with the good horse. Some of them would use two of them to work with a good horse. If they worked a mile and an eighth, they'd have one pick em up at the half-mile pole. I saw Assault do that, he came over to Aqueduct on Thursday morning and worked a mile and an eighth with two different horses. He carried 135 pounds on Saturday."

- **Trainer Allen Jerkens**
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with *Ray Handal*

Last Thursday morning after training, five pigeons caused a fuss outside Ray Handal's barn on the Oklahoma Training Track. A Handal Racing cooler hung to dry on a railing. Geese squawked overhead. Pickup trucks and golf carts zipped by. Piles of bedding poured out of stalls in the barn. In front of each stall, a Jolly Ball horse toy dangled. Hanging baskets of flowers hung from the roof.

Handal's team was hard at work tending to the horses, who were all quiet, relaxed and happy.

The scene was a far cry from last summer, when Handal had four horses in a barn on the harness-track side at Saratoga. He's got 20 now, but was up to 26 in the beginning of the meet before several were claimed. The young trainer had a "miracle run" last year, going 2-for-5. This season, his runners have won two of 18 with another eight placings.

Handal became a racing fan as a child reading the Daily Racing Form to his visually impaired father. Handal still describes his dad as his best friend, and they bonded at the track. From age 10, Handal knew he wanted to be a trainer. As soon as he was old enough, he left home and went to work for Jonathan Sheppard.

Handal learned to walk horses and ride, bounced around a few stables before finding a home in Tony Dutrow's barn. He worked for Dutrow for three years before going out on his own. Handal, who pays tribute to his mentor with his red and black stable colors, took The Special's Brandon Valvo on a tour of the shedrow.

English Soul: A \$55,000 buy at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May 2-year-old sale, New York-bred daughter of English Channel finished second in debut Monday for Zilla Racing Stables. Acupuncturist Nan Miller worked on her the morning of the tour while Handal



held a Jolly Ball up the filly chomped on. "My acupuncturist. She does me and the horses. I have way more stress than the horses. It's not easy. She seems really talented. Breezing lights out, fast from the gate. She's done everything the right way. She's huge. I can't believe she's a filly, let alone a 2-year-old filly. She looks like a colt. She's got a lot of sass to her. She's just aggressive about everything. Walking, just sitting in the stall, if you look at her too long, she'll get (mad) and kick the wall or something. She's a lot of horse."

Wake Me Up At Noon: Regan Jack Racing purchased son of Temple City for \$40,000 at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale. Breezed 5 furlongs in 1:01.88 last Friday. "He's probably my biggest client. I have like five for him. He breezed a really nice five-eighths from the gate the other day with two older horses that have won. Visually, it was very impressive. It's hard for 2-year-olds to do that kind of time. I'm excited to see him run. He's going to run in a maiden special going seven-eighths. Looking forward to him getting out there. It's fun getting the young horses out there. You put all this work into them and it takes three months to get them to the race and hopefully all the work pays off."

Go Big Or Go Home: Sol Kumin owns 2-year-old son of Ghostzapper out of multiple graded stakes winner Bizzy Caroline. He shows eight works that include a half-mile move from the gate in :47.89 Aug. 19 and 5 furlongs on the training track in 1:02.39 Aug.

28. "I used to ride his mom for (Ken) McPeck six or seven years ago. I want to go long on the grass with him first time. I have a couple five-eighths into him. I want to get a few more before I want to run him. We're just going to sit tight. Those guys are so easy to deal with. A lot of people want to run here. They're like, 'let's run at Saratoga, he might be a work short, but let's just get him out there and see what he's like.' They're like, 'no, when the horse is ready to win, then we'll run.' Last summer I claimed a horse off Sol for 25, Winter Springs, and I ran him back five weeks later. He ran fourth the day I claimed him for 25, I stepped him up to 32 and he won. Sol got my number and reached out to me. We just started building a relationship from there, stayed in touch, and we've been talking about getting a horse together for awhile now. They sent me this guy like 2 months ago."

Valhalla: The son of Trappe Shot, who walked in the end stall as a truck idled loudly outside, won twice for a tag at Belmont, the latest going 6 furlongs July 9. Entered in the third race Friday. "He's going to run in a 20 for 3-year-olds. A really good group of people own him. Gaining Ground Racing, the guy is from Minnesota. I used to take care of Brad Cox horses and when he left for the winter, he pulled out his string and he suggested they stay with me and we did really well with each other and when Brad came back to New York, they kept horses with him and I. Just a great group of guys that love racing. I like the horse, he's got a really good shot."

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

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Madam Aamoura: Placed in the Oak Tree Juvenile Fillies Turf Stakes as a 2-year-old before being claimed by Handal for \$14,000 June 25. Five-year-old Zensational mare finished second here twice. "Honest mare, runs her race every time. Linda (Rice) caught us with a drop down the other day and I think we'll be tough at Belmont in the same condition. Randall Manor owns this girl. Five guys from Staten Island, a couple guys that are local. They're young guys that are all about having a good time and winning some races. It's not always about the dollars and cents, it's about the experience and having a blast with it all. It's a big selling point for me being a young guy and training. A lot of my owners are early 30s, looking to have fun."

Jegos Fire: An imposing figure in the barn, the son of Posse sticks his head out from the stall and Handal rubs his face. Winless in 11 tries, he finished third in a maiden claimer Aug. 4 and is entered in the 11th race Friday. "He's literally the biggest horse I've ever worked around. Last race was my first start with him. I'd had him about four weeks, they transferred him over from Gary Contessa to me. I decided to stretch him out, try going two turns. He ran a bang-up third, was running on good at the end. He's going to run back here right before the meet's done for a maiden 40 going a mile-and-an-eighth, which is a little bit longer than the last race. Training super well, very straightforward horse. Sometimes he can be a little difficult, before and after the track. For as big as he is, he's a little bit of a spook. He'll jump around at things. He's a good boy though. He's really sweet."

Collective Effort: Loudmouth Racing's and Dark Horse Racing Stable's 2-year-old son of Mission Impazible finished second twice and third once in three starts. Handal holds the colt and points two bumps protruding from his forehead. "We call him Diablo. He has two horns on the front of his head. Literally two horns. He's a little nippy. He's a biter. I think we're going to run him in (the Aspirant Stakes) at Finger Lakes Sept. 9. Even though he's a maiden, there have been maidens who have won it and his figures would be right on par. He'd probably be the favorite in that spot. I still have in the back of my mind he could be

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

grass as well. I'm thinking about breezing him on the grass for the race and see what he's like. It would be silly not to at least try it. He's dead fit, he's run three times, so even if he doesn't like it, he'll get enough out of it to be just fine for the race the following week."

North Eight Street: The Big Brown mare finished second for \$16,000 tag going 6 1/2 furlongs Aug. 4. "Was transferred to me from Michelle Nevin. Ran a couple times on the grass, just couldn't quite get there. We ran her non-two for 16 on the dirt last time. Kiaran (McLaughlin) had one in there on the drop, a Stay Thirsty filly for Zilla actually. She seems like she'll probably be the logical choice next time, so we'll see what happens."

Real Creel: Broke his maiden in his first start last September at Kentucky Downs before Handal claimed son of Mizzen Mast for \$40,000. Third here sprinting on the turf July 30. "I'm so bummed this guy didn't get in the other day. He's a horse we claimed off Asmusen. Ran back ... got stuck in some traffic. We got excluded from the race last week, so I need to find out if they're going to put something up for us, otherwise we're going to have to look for Belmont. Nice Mizzen Mast colt for Reagan Jack Racing. He'll get there for that same condition."

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Tod Marks

Romantic Babe looks to become a stakes winner today for trainer David Donk.

One at a time

Donk barn, already at Spa best, tries stakes with Romantic Babe

BY JOE CLANCY

P.G. JOHNSON STAKES PREVIEW

Ten. Ask trainer David Donk if he thinks he can hit double digits in Saratoga wins this summer, and he'll lean a little bit farther back on that post by the three-eighths pole, laugh and set you straight.

"I've got to get to eight first," he said Wednesday morning. Already at a career high for Saratoga with seven wins at the meet, Donk gets his chance in a big way today with Romantic Babe in the \$100,000 P.G. Johnson Stakes for 2-year-old fillies on the turf.

The day's ninth race attracted a predictably even group of seven, none with more than one win on their records. StarLadies Racing's Orbolu-

tion looks like the favorite for trainer Todd Pletcher off a maiden win here going 1 1/16 miles July 23, but she's got plenty of competition.

Donk's filly, owned by Alistair Fyfe's Alifyfe Racing, is 9-2 on the morning line and comes off a maiden win going 5 1/2 furlongs Aug. 11. The chestnut daughter of Girolamo looked the part Wednesday, walking the shedrow under a red and white plaid cooler and getting a little antsy after training on a cool morning. She settled down with a lip chain and a mint from Donk's wife and assistant

Continued On Page 12

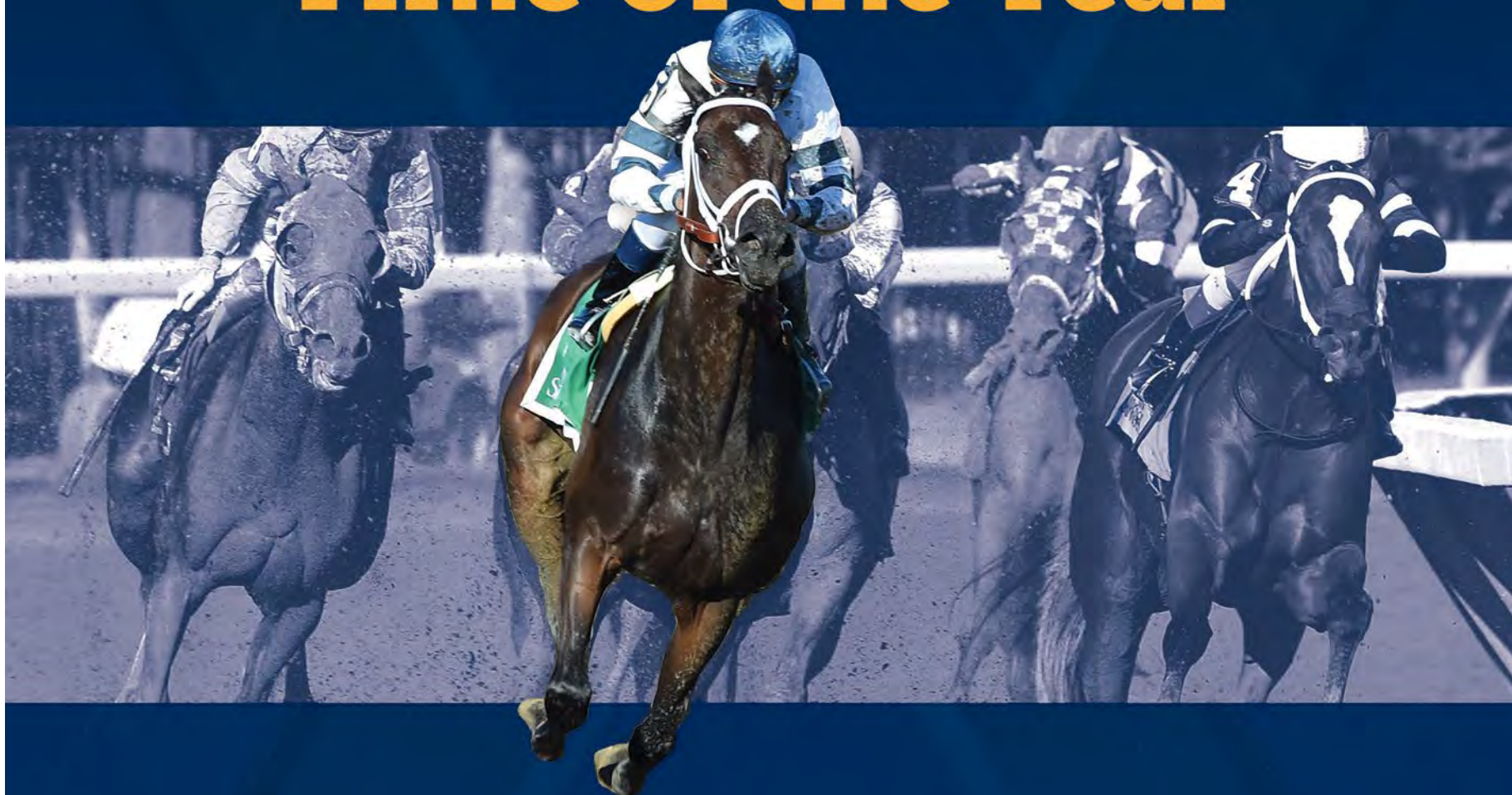
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Johnson —

■ Continued from page 10

Fay. Manny Franco rides the graduate of Fasig-Tipton Kentucky's October sale from post five.

Donk loved the debut, an off-the-pace run at 38-1. That day, Romantic Babe broke last of 10, moved up to eighth around the turn, steadied off heels midway on the turn and then closed between horses to win by 1 1/4 lengths while galloping out like a horse in search of more distance. She gets that, and another turn, today.

"She was real professional," Donk said of the win. "Great demeanor, she handled herself real well in the paddock, she got squeezed a little bit at the break, overcame a little adversity. In the stretch, she split horses. I loved the way she did it."

Like all but two in the field, Romantic Babe has never run around two turns.

"That's the big question — 5 1/2 (furlongs) to two turns, but I never thought she was just a sprinter," Donk said. "It was a starting point. This is a good spot to find out about the distance and the two turns."

The Johnson, named for the Hall of Fame trainer of Kiri's Clown, Maplejinsky, Quiet Little Table and Volponi among others, offers valuable black type to fillies. Bred in Kentucky by Michael Power, Romantic Babe sold for \$17,000 to Fyfe via bloodstock agent Marette Farrell.

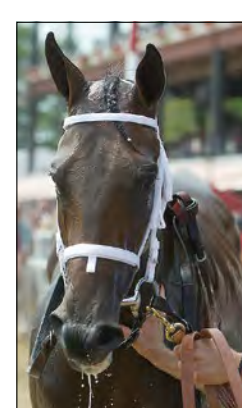
"She's a good-balanced filly, she's got a good grass foot and it was my intention to always run her on the grass — I don't think you'll ever see me run her on the dirt," said Donk. "She's just a nice, medium-sized, well-balanced filly and she's obviously got a good walk if Marette bought her. She's a pretty good judge."

Donk likes the setup of NYRA's 2-year-old program, with lucrative opportunities early on at Belmont Park in the spring (not that he ran Romantic Babe there) and then stakes there and at Sartoga, and sees a move toward trainers getting horses ready sooner. That's key to developing horses over time, Donk said.

"We're getting back to the way it used to be," he said. "The last 15 years or so we got away from that. It's theory and science by (veterinarian Dr. Larry) Bramlage and some of

the others. It is best to train and race them at 2. If they need time, give them time, but go ahead and train them and get them ready. Mother Nature will always make you wait if you pay attention. People say, 'Don't race them at 2.' Actually that is the worst thing you can do. They need to get going, get built up so their bone structure and everything else develops."

Orbolution won here on Sunday of opening weekend, going 1 1/16 miles in a field of 10. The daughter of Orb, a \$370,000 yearling purchase at Keeneland September, breaks from post three for John Velazquez and is 2-1 on the morning line. She placed third on the dirt twice before trying



Tod Marks

Orbolution.

the turf, and stretching out in trip. Lindy Farm's Mentality won a Belmont Park maiden race going 6 furlongs on the turf for trainer Wesley Ward in June. The daughter of Freud breaks from the rail for Ricardo Santana Jr. at 5-2. Leonard Green's Oldfashioned Style won an off-the-turf maiden here going 7 furlongs Aug. 13.

She's 15-1 from post two with Luis Saez for trainer Gary Contessa.

Indiana Grand winner Life Time Citizen makes her second start for WellSpring Stable and trainer Phil Serpe. The daughter of Proud Citizen finished fourth in the Bolton Landing Stakes at 5 1/2 furlongs here Aug. 16 after getting fractious in the gate and breaking in the air. Irad Ortiz Jr. rides at 5-1 from post four. Sassy Sienna won going 7 1/2 furlongs (around two turns) at Indiana Grand for Zayat Stable and trainer Brad Cox July 19. She gets Javier Castellano from post six at 8-1.

Wild N Ready comes out of the race Romantic Babe won for Robert Masterson and trainer Mark Casse. The daughter of More Than Ready was third that day and after getting floated wide on the turn in front of Romantic Babe before passing three horses in the final yards. The Keeneland graduate breaks from the outside at 6-1 for Julien Leparoux.

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Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	No Wunder (GB)	J. Doyle	E. Voss	5-2
2	.....	2	.....	Balance the Budget	.....	M. Watts	.....	J. Gomena	.....	10-1
3	.....	3	.....	Hardrock Eleven	.....	S. Crimin	.....	P. Fout	.....	7-2
4	.....	4	.....	Selection Sunday	.....	S. McDermott	.....	J. Fisher	.....	5-1
5	.....	5	.....	Orchestra Leader	.....	R. Geraghty	.....	R. Hendriks	.....	6-1
6	.....	6	.....	Strongbox	.....	B. Dalton	.....	K. Dalton	.....	10-1
7	.....	7	.....	Giza	.....	D. Nagle	.....	J. Sheppard	.....	3-1

2ND (1:33PM). \$35,000, MCL \$30,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

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

1	.....	1	.....	No Regrets	.....	L. Saez	.....	T. Albertrani	.....	15-1
2	.....	2	.....	Dublin Express	.....	J. Robles	.....	R. Persaud	.....	50-1
3	.....	3	.....	One More Round	.....	M. Luzzi	.....	A. Avila	.....	6-1
4	.....	4	.....	Irst	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	L. Rice	.....	9-2
5	.....	5	.....	Your Secret's Safe	.....	J. Rosario	.....	G. Gullo	.....	5-2
6	.....	6	.....	Sicilia Mike	.....	J. Lezcano	.....	G. Sciacca	.....	12-1
7	.....	7	.....	Forge	.....	J. Castellano	.....	C. Brown	.....	4-1
8	.....	8	.....	Cookie Crisp	.....	D. Davis	.....	D. Jacobson	.....	8-1
9	.....	9	.....	Get Ready Freddie	.....	J. Velazquez	.....	T. Pletcher	.....	6-1
10	.....	10	.....	Thaddeus	.....	P. Lopez	.....	D. Cannizzo	.....	15-1

3RD (2:06PM). \$75,000, AOC \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

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

1	.....	1	.....	Control Group	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	2-1
2	.....	2	.....	Born for a Storm	.....	J. Castellano	.....	C. Brown	.....	3-1
3	.....	3	.....	Minsky Moment	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	C. Brown	.....	8-5
4	.....	4	.....	Taoiseach	.....	D. Davis	.....	D. Schettino	.....	6-1
5	.....	5	.....	Crafty Concorde	.....	A. Arroyo	.....	R. Sells	.....	20-1
6	.....	6	.....	Third Son	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	A. Avila	.....	10-1

4TH (2:40PM). \$78,000, AOC \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 6 1/2F

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

1	.....	1	.....	Cozy Spring	.....	D. Davis	.....	C. Baker	.....	2-1
2	.....	2	.....	Rip Loves Maize	.....	E. Cancel	.....	L. Dixon	.....	20-1
3	.....	3	.....	Moondance Joy	.....	A. Arroyo	.....	E. Barker	.....	8-1
4	.....	4	.....	Palladian Bridge	.....	K. Carmouche	.....	G. Contessa	.....	10-1
5	.....	5	.....	Silly Sister	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	L. Rice	.....	4-1
6	.....	6	.....	Shimmering Moon	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	M. Nevin	.....	3-1
7	.....	7	.....	Jules N Rome	.....	M. Franco	.....	G. Contessa	.....	6-1
8	.....	8	.....	Young Anna Lee	.....	J. Lezcano	.....	L. Rice	.....	12-1

5TH (3:14PM). \$73,000, MSW, 2 YO, 5 1/2F

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

1	.....	1	.....	Five Star Bunt	.....	J. Castellano	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	5-1
1a	.....	AE	.....	Engineers Report	.....	J. Castellano	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	5-1
2	.....	2	.....	Mr. President	.....	L. Saez	.....	M. Maker	.....	12-1
3	.....	3	.....	Violent Delights	.....	L. Reyes	.....	T. Albertrani	.....	15-1
4	.....	4	.....	Flash Drive	.....	J. Lezcano	.....	C. Englehart	.....	8-1
5	.....	5	.....	Candy Zip	.....	F. Geroux	.....	L. Rivelli	.....	7-2
6	.....	6	.....	Ultimateentice ment	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	R. Violette, Jr.	.....	2-1
7	.....	7	.....	New York Hero	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	L. Rice	.....	9-2
8	.....	8	.....	Shiny Medal	.....	M. Luzzi	.....	B. Brown	.....	20-1
9	.....	9	.....	Foolish Ghost	.....	M. Franco	.....	C. Summers	.....	20-1
10	.....	10	.....	Causforcelebration	.....	R. Maragh	.....	T. Morley	.....	20-1
11	.....	AE	.....	Stoney Bennett	.....	J. Velazquez	.....	O. Figgins, III	.....	3-1

6TH (3:48PM). \$85,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	.....	MTO	.....	Portando	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	L. Rice	.....	2-1
2	.....	2	.....	Whiskey Seven	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	L. Rice	.....	8-1
3	.....	3	.....	Royal Asset	.....	J. Bravo	.....	W. Ward	.....	8-1
4	.....	4	.....	Lord of Love	.....	J. Castellano	.....	J. Hertler	.....	10-1
5	.....	MTO	.....	Hard Scramble	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	S. Asmussen	.....	8-5

6	.....	6	.....	Rappel	.....	J. Velazquez	.....	R. Ribaud	.....	15-1
7	.....	7	.....	Rate for Me	.....	M. Franco	.....	G. Weaver	.....	6-1
8	.....	8	.....	Hold Me Black	.....	J. Leparoux	.....	A. Stall, Jr.	.....	7-2
9	.....	9	.....	Grand Sky	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	J. Servis	.....	5-2
10	.....	10	.....	Somekindofmagician	.....	J. Rosario	.....	M. Trombetta	.....	20-1
11	.....	11	.....	Banana Thief	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	S. Asmussen	.....	4-1

7TH (4:24PM). \$73,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....	1	.....	Ides of Arch	.....	R. Maragh	.....	L. Gyarmati	.....	10-1
2	.....	MTO	.....	Surface Strike	.....	J. Alvarado	.....	W. Mott	.....	4-1
3	.....	3	.....	Constant Knight	.....	E. Cancel	.....	J. Mazza	.....	20-1
4	.....	4	.....	St. Patrick Frost	.....	K. Carmouche	.....	P. Kelly	.....	30-1
5	.....	5	.....	Grand Valour	.....	J. Lezcano	.....	L. Rice	.....	5-1
6	.....	6	.....	Catch a Cab	.....	J. Rosario	.....	M. Casse	.....	8-1
7	.....	7	.....	Prince Reigner	.....	M. Franco	.....	T. Albertrani	.....	20-1
8	.....	8	.....	Charge Latouche	.....	J. Castellano	.....	M. Dickinson	.....	8-1
9	.....	9	.....	Gosilently	.....	D. Davis	.....	A. Granitz	.....	6-1
10	.....	10	.....	Appealing Briefs	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	J. Toner	.....	3-1
11	.....	11	.....	J J's Dreaming	.....	J. Alvarado	.....	M. Hennig	.....	15-1
12	.....	12	.....	Summer Mischie f	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	C. Clement	.....	7-2
13	.....	MTO	.....	Zonic	.....	J. Rosario	.....	T. Albertrani	.....	3-1

8TH (5:02PM). \$75,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....	1	.....	Cody's Notes	.....	L. Reyes	.....	J. Morrison	.....	30-1
2	.....	2	.....	Manifest Destiny	.....	E. Cancel	.....	B. Brown	.....	12-1
3	.....	3	.....	Jo's Bold Cat	.....	F. Geroux	.....	R. Violette, Jr.	.....	6-1
4	.....	4	.....	Blame the Thief	.....	P. Lopez	.....	T. Hills	.....	8-1
5	.....	5	.....	Nutzforboltz	.....	L. Saez	.....	R. Schosberg	.....	15-1
6	.....	6	.....	Storm Prophet	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	L. Rice	.....	5-2
7	.....	7	.....	Mission Leader	.....	K. Carmouche	.....	K. McLaughlin	.....	6-1
8	.....	8	.....	Jupiter Rising	.....	J. Castellano	.....	T. Pletcher	.....	7-2
9	.....	9	.....	Ode to the Hunt	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	R. Violette, Jr.	.....	10-1
10	.....	10	.....	Uncle Chester	.....	R. Maragh	.....	L. Gyarmati	.....	20-1
11	.....	11	.....	Lead by Example	.....	J. Rosario	.....	N. Esler	.....	15-1

9TH (5:40PM). \$100,000, STK - THE P. G. JOHNSON, 2 YO, F , 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	.....	1	.....	Mentality	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	W. Ward	.....	5-2
2	.....	2	.....	Oldfashioned Style	.....	L. Saez	.....	G. Contessa	.....	15-1
3	.....	3	.....	Orbolution	.....	J. Velazquez	.....	T. Pletcher	.....	2-1
4	.....	4	.....	Life Time Citizen	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	P. Serpe	.....	5-1
5	.....	5	.....	Romantic Babe	.....	M. Franco	.....	D. Donk	.....	9-2
6	.....	6	.....	Sassy Sienna	.....	J. Castellano	.....	B. Cox	.....	8-1
7	.....	7	.....	Wild N Ready	.....	J. Leparoux	.....	M. Casse	.....	6-1

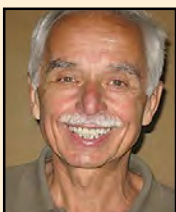




10TH (6:17PM). \$32,000, CLM \$16,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	.....	1	.....	Delta Outlaw	.....	M. Franco	.....	G. Weaver	.....	4-1
2	.....	2	.....	The Orphan Miracle	.....	E. Cancel	.....	D. Donk	.....	15-1
3	.....	3	.....	Open Bar	.....	A. Lezcano	.....	A. Adsit	.....	20-1
4	.....	4	.....	Bunyaan	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	L. Rice	.....	5-2
5	.....	5	.....	Right Ben	.....	R. Maragh	.....	M. Hennig	.....	10-1
6	.....	6	.....	Hy Brasil	.....	L. Saez	.....	T. Pletcher	.....	6-1
7	.....	7	.....	King of All Media	.....	P. Lopez	.....	J. Sharp	.....	10-1
8	.....	8	.....	Kerry Boy	.....	M. Luzzi	.....	G. Goodwin	.....	12-1
9	.....	9	.....	Saratoga Charlie	.....	J. Lezcano	.....	L. Gyarmati	.....	30-1
10	.....	10	.....	Aberdeen Way	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	J. Antonucci	.....	30-1
11	.....	11	.....	Sky Fiftyfive	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	C. Domino	.....	12-1
12	.....	12	.....	Undercutter	.....	D. Davis	.....	R. Barbara	.....	20-1
13	13	Bold Illusion	R. Montanez	R. Metivier	50-1
14	14	Hay Listen Up	A. Arroyo	D. Lukas	12-1

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the Power grid

Race #	 John Shapazian	 Gaile Fitzgerald	 Tom Law	 Charles Bedard	 Tom Herkenham
1	No Wunder Selection Sunday Giza	Giza No Wunder Orchestra Leader	No Wunder Selection Sunday Giza	No Wunder Strongbox Giza	Giza No Wunder Hardrock Eleven
2	Forge Your Secret's Safe Get Ready Freddie	One More Round 1rst Your Secret's Safe	Forge Your Secret's Safe 1rst	Your Secret's Safe Forge 1rst	Cookie Crisp 1rst One More Round
3	Minsky Moment Control Group Born For A Storm	Control Group Minsky Moment Taoiseach	Minsky Moment Control Group Born For A Storm	Minsky Moment Third Son Control Group	Born For A Storm Taoiseach Control Group
4	Shimmering Moon Cozy Spring Silly Sister	Cozy Spring Moondance Joy Shimmering Moon	Shimmering Moon Jules N Rome Silly Sister	Cozy Spring Shimmering Moon Silly Sister	Shimmering Moon Silly Sister Young Anna Lee
5	Ultimateentiment New York Hero Dubb entry	New Year Hero Ultimateentiment Candy Zip	Ultimateentiment New York Hero Candy Zip	Ultimateentiment Stoney Bennett Dubb entry	New York Hero Five Star Bunt Mr President
6	Grand Sky Hold Me Black Banana Thief	Portando Hard Scramble Rate For Me	Hold Me Black Grand Sky Lord Of Love	Hard Scramble Whiskey Seven Hold Me Black	Rate For Me Grand Sky Banana Thief
7	Grand Valour Appealing Briefs Summer Mischief	Summer Mischief Appealing Briefs Catch A Cab	Appealing Briefs Summer Mischief Charge Latouche	Zonic Appealing Briefs Gosilently	Gosilently Appealing Briefs Grand Valor
8	Storm Prophet Jupiter Rising Manifest Destiny	Storm Prophet Mission Leader Uncle Chester	Jupiter Rising Storm Prophet Ode To The Hunt	Storm Prophet Jupiter Rising Manifest Destiny	Storm Prophet Mission Leader Ode To The Hunt
9	Orbolution Romantic Babe Wild N Ready	Orbolution Mentality Romantic Babe	Orbolution Romantic Babe Sassy Sienna	Orbolution Mentality Sassy Sienna	Mentality Wild N Ready Sassy Sienna
10	Bunyaan Delta Outlaw Hy Brasil	Hy Brasil Delta Outlaw The Orphan Miracle	Bunyaan Delta Outlaw Sky Fiftyfive	Hy Brasil Bunyaan Right Ben	Sky Fiftyfive Delta Outlaw Hy Brasil
2017 Records:	107/351	93/351	86/351	101/351	47/260*

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GUEST HANDICAPPER UPDATE

Today's guest handicapper is Tom Herkenham, one of the co-owners of the Trackside Grill just outside the clubhouse entrance on Wright Street. Born and raised in nearby Colonie, Herkenham is an attorney and the father of two children. Be sure to pick up a copy of The Special Thursday to Sunday at the Trackside Grill. Sunday, Caton Bedard picked four winners.

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

WITH ANTICIPATION STAKES RECAP

Correct Decision

Catholic Boy lands at Spa, wins stakes

BY SEAN CLANCY

“Did that just happen?”

Yes, Jonathan Thomas, that just happened.

The 37-year-old former steeplechase jockey, former assistant, former a lot of things asked that question while standing on the track after Catholic Boy upset the Grade 3 With Anticipation Stakes.

Robert LaPenta's 2-year-old son of More Than Ready notched Thomas' first Saratoga win as a trainer. Thomas and John Panagot, LaPenta's rac-

Continued On Page 17



Tod Marks

Catholic Boy glides across the finish with a stakes win in Wednesday's With Anticipation.

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Featured
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With Anticipation —

■ Continued from page 16

ing manager, hatched the plan after the bay colt broke his maiden at Gulfstream Park July 20, a day before Opening Day at Saratoga. Well, hatched is probably a stretch, the thought was thrown out there and the plan was dissected, corrected, analyzed and audibled from that maiden win to the stakes score 41 days later.

“We handicapped every two-turn turf race in the country,” Thomas said. “We literally made up our mind 12 days ago, he worked at home, he went in like 1:02, but he went the last quarter in :23, galloped out in 1:14 and 4, 1:15, I called John and said, ‘This horse just breezed great.’ John said, ‘New York.’”

“We were flirting with it, flirting with it,” Panagot said. “When he won, we were like ‘Two turns, With Anticipation...’ It just wound up fitting. We took a shot.”

Thomas shipped Catholic Boy from his base at Bridlewood Farm in Ocala, Fla., bedding down in the receiving barn in Saratoga nine days before the With Anticipation. Jump jockey Sean McDermott, who works for Thomas’ former boss Jack Fisher, galloped Catholic Boy and Manny Franco breezed him an easy half-mile in :51.11 over the Oklahoma Training Track’s turf course Aug. 25.

Catholic Boy did the rest. Catholic Boy broke well from post three in the field of 11 as Franco braced against him, allowing him to find his rhythm while keeping a position into the first turn as Earth led through the first quarter-mile in :23.19.

Briefly seventh, Catholic Boy slid forward into fifth as the field straightened down the backstretch, chasing Earth, Trumpi, Nauti Buoy and Fort Wise Treaty through a half in :47.02. Midway on the far turn, Earth led as maiden Irish Territory ripped past horses on the outside, Untamed Domain, making up for a bumbling break, followed him and Catholic Boy waited behind a wall of four. At the head of the stretch, Franco went for the exit ramp, sliding across heels and moving into position inside Untamed Domain and outside Trump, but behind Earth and Irish Territory. Still third past the sixteenth pole, Catholic Boy stretched and rolled past a tiring Earth and Irish Territory to finish 1 1/16-miles in 1:40.94 over the Mellon Turf.

Unsold as a short yearling in the ring for \$170,000 at the 2016 Keeneland January horses of all ages sale, Catholic Boy was bought after the sale by Thomas for LaPenta. He’s one of three horses Thomas has bought for LaPenta (Belmont Stakes winner Tapwrit being one of them). Sent to

Continued On Page 18



Tod Marks

Catholic Boy (right) pulls away from Irish Territory and Earth (left).



Barrel Of Dreams second win at the meet, and an awesome meet for Newman Racing!

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With Anticipation —

■ Continued from page 17

Bridlewood, the Kentucky-bred colt bred by Fred Hertrich III and John Fielding went through Thomas' program and was evaluated this spring. With an option to go to New York or to stay at Bridlewood, Panagot decided to keep the late developing colt with Thomas' small but select string of racehorses (he's 12-for-43 in 2017).

"When it was time to evaluate him, we thought he might be good enough for New York but we would rather find out before," Thomas said. "He was a little immature, he was a little slow to come around, you know, let's give him a chance to show who he is a little more, he came around quicker than we thought, he was doing well, just run him off the farm."

Looking for a race at Gulfstream for three weeks, Thomas and Panagot settled on an extra going 7 1/2 furlongs on the turf. Catholic Boy drew off to win by 2 lengths.

More decisions.

"What am I going to do, send him to New York to someone else?" Panagot said. "The horse is doing so well with Jonathan, he knows him inside and out at this point. Keep him at two turns and come here, he's probably not good enough to win, but he's not going to embarrass us, he's not going to embarrass himself. Our plan was to run him longer



Tod Marks

Jonathan Thomas (right), John Panagot (center) and Sean McDermott bask in the stakes win.

every time we ran him. And today, he showed that he's somebody else."

Undeclared, a Grade 3 stakes winner and Thomas' first Saratoga winner. The latter line of achievement was certainly the headline of the day.

Thomas grew up on Paul Mellon's Rokeby Farm in Upperville, Va., rode steeplechase race before breaking his back in 2000. Once he recovered from that, he returned to ride amateur races and then set out on a long journey in flat racing, assisting

Christophe Clement and Dale Romans, training in Saudi Arabia and making his most integral move when becoming Todd Pletcher's assistant in 2007. In 2013, Thomas became Bridlewood's farm trainer. That role has expanded from breaking and developing horses to keeping a few and running them off the farm, a mini Fair Hill Training Center, as Thomas likes to describe it.

"It was a client request, we had some horses that maybe were a little anxiety ridden or wanted a quieter atmosphere, they were doing well, Aron (Wellman) was the spark," Thomas said of the Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners president. "I was up front, saying it was an experiment, it's actually worked out well. We've been lucky with the quality of the horse we have, we've got a very, very good team at home, our owners have allowed us to put horses where they belong. Like this horse, instead of coming to New York, we got a confidence booster at Gulfstream."

That win boosted everybody's confidence and began the Saratoga dialogue between Thomas and Panagot, a discourse that works very well.

"If I come up with an idea and he doesn't agree, we won't do it," Panagot said. "If he comes up with an idea and I don't agree, we won't do it."

Catholic Boy in the With Anticipation at Saratoga? They agreed. And Thomas had his career moment.

"You don't come to Saratoga on a whim, this can be a heartbreaking place," Thomas said. "For me, this is everything."



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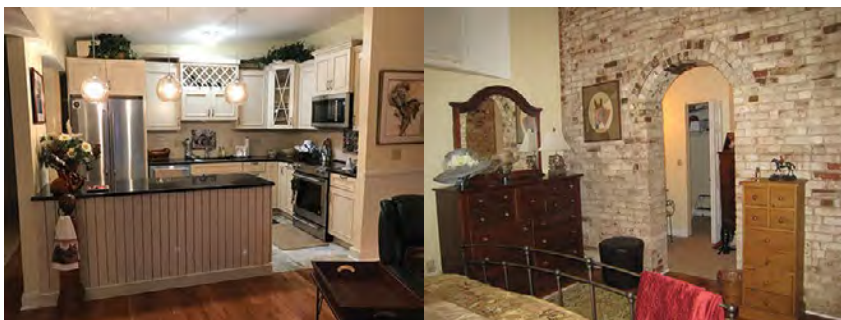
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Family Style

Newmans celebrate Barrel Of Dreams' second win at meet

BY TOM LAW

Adam and Rich Newman made the dash from their clubhouse box to the winner's circle after the seventh race Wednesday – a familiar march for them at the 2017 Saratoga Race Course meeting – and tossed out an invite to friends, family and just about anyone that would listen.

"Come one, come all, we all go," Adam Newman said.

A small group joined in to meet Barrel Of Dreams, who earned her second win of the meet in the 1 3/16-mile allowance on the grass, along with a special guest. Jeremiah Englehart didn't have a starter in the race but his young son Eli wasn't about to miss a chance to crash the winner's circle.

"He said the one thing he wanted to do was get his picture taken with Charlie," Englehart said of Charlie Baker, trainer of Barrel Of Dreams for Newman Racing.



Adam (left) and Rich Newman enjoy another Spa win.

Tod Marks



Tod Marks

Barrel Of Dreams pushes toward the finish in Wednesday's seventh race.

Englehart handed Eli off to Baker, who proudly posed with the youngster when the 5-year-old New York-bred daughter of Not For Love met the Newmans and their crew.

The Newmans had reason to celebrate, after the family picked up its fourth victory of the season either through Newman Racing or Flying Elvis Stable.

"And I'm going to tell you for sure how many starts but I'd say seven or eight," Adam Newman said. "It's pretty amazing."

Barrel Of Dreams was the ninth starter for the family – seven for Newman Racing and two for Flying Elvis, which scored the big one last week in the Grade 1 New York Turf Writers Cup steeplechase with Diplomat.

"And this is two years in a row," Newman said. "I'm only hoping because, in all honesty, once we left here things plummeted. Precipitously. You always want to do well here, you always point to this, but not to the exclusion of all else. We'd like it to continue on. Obviously we'll give everybody a break, give them their time but I'm thrilled with how everybody performed up here. Everybody showed up and it's been a thrill from start to finish."

Barrel Of Dreams, who won a state-bred allowance Aug. 4, led her open-company field Wednes-

day from the break to the finish under Manny Franco. A \$40,000 claim by the Newmans in November 2015 at Aqueduct, Barrel Of Dreams set sensible fractions of :23.04, :47.44 and 1:11.27 and opened up by 2 1/2 lengths into the far turn. She continued to run alone around the turn and was up 3 1/2 lengths in midstretch.

Franco stayed busy on the mare as Dovecote launched her run from midpack and 3-2 favorite Durable Goods rallied from the rear of the field. Barrel Of Dreams held on to win by a half-length from Dovecote, getting the trip in a quick 1:52.58 over the firm ground.

Barrel Of Dreams wound up in the open-company allowance after Baker scratched her from last week's \$150,000 Yaddo for state-breds. Rather than take on the likes of Fourstar Crook, Bar Of Gold, Ack Naughty, Feeling Bossy and Freudie Anne going 1 1/16 miles, Baker opted for the longer race where Barrel Of Dreams might be lone speed.

"I thought it was a little too tough, actually way too tough," he said of the Yaddo. "She was the lone speed here, in the Yaddo she was going to be tested all the way. There were a couple classy fillies in there. This was the right spot, no speed, a mile and three sixteenths, you get to go your own pace up

Continued On Page 21

Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 20

front, that was great.”

Adam Newman also used the word great to describe the ride by Franco, one of his three winners on the day.

“Nobody wanted the lead, he took it and what I really appreciated was when it became obvious that he was committed to the front and nobody else wanted it, he didn’t wait for anybody,” Newman said. “He opened up, what, 4 or 5, and said ‘come and get me.’ Too many folks, when they’re on the front they try and nurse it to the point where they make it a sprint to the finish and you know that’s not her game.”

“He opened it up and discouraged them, let her get brave up there and let the chips fall where they may. If she would have wound up second I wouldn’t have found fault with him in the slightest. She was able to carry on.”

Barrel Of Dreams improved her record on the Saratoga turf – all on the Mellon course – to 4-for-5. The lone defeat came for her former connections in 2015 and she’s earned \$233,261 since being claimed.

- Ollie Figgins III admitted he was a long way from thinking Saratoga when he bought a West Virginia-bred yearling by Hunt Crossing privately



Tod Marks

Monavista Crossing (8) leads everyone home in Wednesday’s fifth.

from her breeder O’Sullivan Farms in 2014.

“She was a West Virginia-bred, we live there and we race there,” Figgins said after that Monavista Crossing won the fifth, a 5 ½-furlong starter allowance on the grass. “We thought we’d have some fun with her.”

Monavista Crossing provided Figgins and his wife Carisa, who owns the 4-year-old filly, with some fun back home when she beat West Virginia-breds for a \$12,500 tag in her debut at Charles

Town Races in June 2016. She later won a \$5,000 claimer for non-winners of two lifetime at Timonium before Figgins gave her a shot against better company on the grass at Laurel Park.

“This filly, she broke her maiden cheap at Charles Town,” Figgins said. “Her mother (Monavista) loved the grass, and being by Johannesburg that makes sense. I ran her cheap a couple times and I gave her one shot on the turf and she galloped.

Continued On Page 22

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Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 21

“Honestly the only flaw she has in her form she got beat a neck by a filly My Sister Cairo, who went on to run in some stakes at Gulfstream. She loves the grass. Nothing more than that.”

Monavista Crossing came into Wednesday’s race with two wins in three starts on the grass last fall at Laurel Park. She hadn’t run since winning for \$35,000 Oct. 23, a race after finishing third behind Dare To Be and My Sister Caro, runner-up in the Claiming Crown Distaff Dash and fifth in the Captiva Island Stakes at Gulfstream Park.

“I thought this was a great spot because she should have won an a-o-ther-than,” Figgins said. “I felt like she fit, it was a great spot for her.”

Figgins, who won the Grade 1 Bal-lerina and Grade 2 Honorable Miss in 2013 at Saratoga, prepped Monavista Crossing with six works back home at Charles Town before shipping her and Stoney Bennett to Saratoga. Stoney Bennett is on the also-eligible list for today’s fifth, a 5 1/2-furlong maiden special weight on the main track.

Figgins was out on his pony during training hours Wednesday morning and his wife joined him at the races in the afternoon, something she hadn’t done since Dance To Bristol provided the career highlights here four years ago.

“This was wonderful,” Carisa Figgins said. “I haven’t been back since then, even though he came a couple times. ... I’ve got to come back when I feel like I have a chance. I didn’t want to miss this, with my little Shetland pony. She’s so tiny.”

Regular jockey Kevin Gomez came in for the ride, joining his father Oscar (who is based at Finger Lakes) as a winner on the Saratoga 2017 slate.

• Chad Brown and Todd Pletcher went into Week 7 tied atop the trainer standings with 33 wins and Brown came out of the 35th day of racing one up after sending out Call Provision to win the second and Transaction Tax to take the fourth. Pletcher went down two before cutting it back to a single win with a victory by Mr. Crow in the eighth.



Dave Harmon

Trained by Dominick Schettino, Berning Rose heads for home in the finale.

Klaravich Stables and Bill Lawrence own both winners for Brown. Call Provision won a \$90,000 allowance going 1 3/8 miles on the grass under Irad Ortiz Jr. while Transaction Tax won the 1-mile maiden claimer for a \$75,000 tag under Jose Ortiz.

Mr. Crow won for the second time at the meet for Pletcher and the South Korean ownership KRA Stud Farm, taking his 7-furlong allowance by 6 1/4 lengths in 1:22.07 under Luis Saez.

The jockeys’ race didn’t see any changes as Jose Ortiz maintained his five-win lead over brother Irad Ortiz Jr. as they both singled on the day. The race stands at 53-48 heading into today’s card with John Velazquez third with 36 wins.

• Dominick Schettino sent out his first winner of the meet when first-time starter Berning Rose won what turned out to be a mash-up of a finale.

The action started in the paddock when longshot Reyana Reya Dreams, beaten 56 1/4 lengths in her two Saratoga starts, flipped over and caught her left front leg in the reins. The Yes It’s True filly was scratched immediately. Eventual fourth-place finisher Climb The Ladder proved somewhat difficult to saddle first in the stalls and later in the back corner of the paddock near the Big Red Spring. She eventually settled down when a lead pony was brought in.

A few minutes before post time Here’s Wattever, a daughter of Here

Comes Ben making her second start for A.C. Avila, was announced as a late scratch to leave a field of just six.

Berning Rose made quick work of her five opponents, taking the lead from the start under Kendrick Carmouche and shrugging off a challenge from 6-5 favorite Under Suspicion to return \$22.20 as the longest price on the board. A homebred for Robert Rosenthal and Brad Bernstein, the 2-year-old daughter of Freud is out of the multiple stakes-winning Flying Chevron mare Peach Flambe.

Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS	1ST
Chad Brown	35
Todd Pletcher	34
Linda Rice	14
Bill Mott	12
Kiaran McLaughlin	11
Rudy Rodriguez	9
Jason Servis	9
George Weaver	9
Jeremiah Englehart	8

JOCKEYS	1ST
Jose Ortiz	53
Irada Ortiz Jr.	48
John Velazquez	36
Javier Castellano	27
Manny Franco	25
Luis Saez	23
Joel Rosario	19
Jose Lezcano	16

Through Wednesday



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CHURCHILL DOWNS

2017 Fall Meet Stakes Schedule

October 29 - November 26

STARS OF TOMORROW I

SPENDTHRIFT JUVENILE FILLY STALLION STAKES

Runs Sun., Oct. 29
\$200,000
Fillies, Two Year Olds

Closes Oct. 14
(no nomination fee)
7 Furlongs

SPENDTHRIFT JUVENILE STALLION STAKES

Runs Sun., Oct. 29
\$200,000
Two Year Olds

Closes Oct. 14
(no nomination fee)
7 Furlongs

STREET SENSE OVERNIGHT STAKES

Runs Sun., Oct. 29
\$80,000
Two Year Olds

Closes Oct. 21
(no nomination fee)
1 Mile

RAGS TO RICHES OVERNIGHT STAKES

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)

Runs Fri., Nov. 24
\$500,000
Three Year Olds & Up

Closes Nov. 11
(\$300 nomination fee)
1 1/8 Mile

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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)

2018 Kentucky Oaks Points Race

Runs Sat., Nov. 25
\$200,000
Fillies, Two Years Old

Closes Nov. 11
(\$200 nomination fee)
1 1/16 Miles

KENTUCKY JOCKEY CLUB (GII)

2018 Kentucky Derby Points Race

Runs Sat., Nov. 25
\$200,000
Two Year Olds

Closes Nov. 11
(\$200 nomination fee)
1 1/16 Miles



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SARATOGA RESULTS

Wednesday August 30.

FIRST \$37,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$20,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

9	Liam's World	R. Maragh	\$10.20	\$5.80	\$3.00
2	Ouro Verde	J. Rosario		\$7.30	\$3.40
6	Special Risk	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$2.20

Gr/ro Filly 2014, by Exchange Rate - Princess Liam by Saint Liam

Owner: Cecere, Ron. Trainer: Chris Englehart.

Breeder: Sienna Farms LLC (FL). Late Scratches: Miss Pearl

Claimed: Special Risk claimed by Drawing Away Stable for \$20,000,

Renewal claimed by Corms Racing Stable for \$20,000

Time: 1:12.43

Exacta (9-2), \$27.50; Superfecta (9-2-6-3), \$17.27; Trifecta (9-2-6), \$37.37

SECOND \$90,000, AOC \$62,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 3/8M

4	Call Provision	I. Ortiz, Jr.	\$2.90	\$2.50	\$2.10
9	Soluble (GER)	M. Franco		\$9.30	\$4.60
5	Roman Approval	K. Carmouche			\$3.40

Ch Gelding 2013, by Lemon Drop Kid - Run In by Dynaformer

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

Trainer: Chad Brown. Breeder: KatieRich Farms (NY).

Late Scratches: Bonus Points, Tasit, King of New York, Royal Posse

Time: 2:13.35

Daily Double (9-4), \$7.00; Exacta (4-9), \$17.70; Quinella (4-9), \$12.80; Superfecta (4-9-5-7), \$27.20; Trifecta (4-9-5), \$43.00; Consolation Double (9-8), \$4.15

THIRD \$25,000, CLAIMING \$12,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

6	Swivel	M. Franco	\$15.60	\$5.80	\$3.80
4	Dunk a Din	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$3.40	\$2.60
1	Street Heat	L. Saez			\$2.70

B Gelding 2012, by Tiznow - Safety Net by A.P. Indy

Owner: Transfiguration Stables LLC. Trainer: Jeremiah Englehart.

Breeder: Chester Broman & Mary R. Broman (NY).

Claimed: Dunk a Din claimed by Drawing Away Stable for \$12,500,

Core Portfolio claimed by M and M Racing for \$12,500

Time: 1:52.64

Daily Double (4-6), \$15.40; Exacta (6-4), \$29.50; Superfecta (6-4-1-2), \$26.55; Trifecta (6-4-1), \$44.25; Pic 3 (9-4-6), \$76.25; (9-8-6), \$42.50

FOURTH \$56,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$75,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

3	Transaction Tax	J. Ortiz	\$9.00	\$5.60	\$4.20
8	Factoring	J. Rosario		\$7.70	\$5.10
6	Subic Bay	M. Franco			\$3.40

B Filly 2014, by Gemologist - Collect the Fee by Menifee

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

Trainer: Chad Brown. Breeder: Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Hayes & Paucic Lawlor (KY). Late Scratches: Furtive Glance, Kusama. Time: 1:35.08

Claimed: Summer Punch claimed by M and M Racing for \$75,000

Daily Double (6-3), \$50.75; Exacta (3-8), \$40.75; Quinella (3-8), \$24.20; Superfecta (3-8-6-4), \$92.80; Trifecta (3-8-6), \$92.12; Pic 3 (4-6-3), \$71.50

FIFTH \$55,000, STARTERS ALLOWANCE \$50,000, 3 & UP, 5 1/2F

8	Monavista Crossing	K. Gomez	\$23.20	\$11.00	\$6.80
7	May Flowers	M. Franco		\$11.80	\$6.80
9	R Lucky Charm	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$4.40

Dk B/ Br Filly 2013, by Hunt Crossing - Monavista by Johannesburg

Owner: Figgins, Carisa, A.. Trainer: Ollie Figgins, III.

Breeder: O'Sullivan Farms LLC (WV). Late Scratches: Might Be, Marnesia Big Girl. Time: 1:01.14

Daily Double (3-8), \$65.50; Exacta (8-7), \$135.25; Superfecta (8-7-9-10), \$329.10; Trifecta (8-7-9), \$459.00; Pic 3 (6-3-8), \$525.00; Pic 4 (3/4/6/8-6-3-8), \$399.00; Pic 5 (9-3/4/6/8-6-3-8), \$3,554.75

SIXTH \$83,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

5	Boule	J. Rosario	\$20.20	\$8.50	\$5.20
2	Presumptuous	L. Saez		\$4.60	\$3.00
6	Wise Strike	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$4.00

B Filly 2014, by Exchange Rate - Routine by Empire Maker

Owner: Juddmonte Farms, Inc.. Trainer: William Mott.

Breeder: Juddmonte Farms Inc (KY).

Time: 1:23.95

Daily Double (8-5), \$102.00; Exacta (5-2), \$35.50; Superfecta (5-2-6-1), \$53.35; Trifecta (5-2-6), \$64.37; Pic 3 (3-8-5), \$814.00

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

11	Barrel of Dreams	M. Franco	\$17.20	\$9.10	\$4.00
2	Dovecote	J. Castellano		\$9.50	\$4.50
6	Durable Goods	J. Ortiz			\$2.70

B Mare 2012, by Not For Love - Wide Barrel by Broad Brush

Owner: Newman Racing. Trainer: Charlton Baker.

Breeder: Tri-County Stables (NY).

Late Scratches: Crimson Frost, Stay Fond, Just Got Out, Say Cin Cin

Time: 1:52.58

Daily Double (5-11), \$126.25; Exacta (11-2), \$82.75; Superfecta (11-2-6-1), \$82.80; Trifecta (11-2-6), \$109.00; Pic 3 (8-5-11), \$1,223.00

EIGHTH \$85,000, ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

6	Mr. Crow	L. Saez	\$3.20	\$2.20	\$2.10
2	Patternrecognition	J. Castellano		\$2.40	\$2.30
5	Foreset	M. Franco			\$4.10

B Colt 2014, by Tapizar - Black Chocolate by Harlan's Holiday

Owner: KRA Stud Farm. Trainer: Todd Pletcher. Breeder: Avalon Farms, Inc. & Scott Swaim (KY).

Late Scratches: Pagliacci, Strong Yen, Curious Cal

Time: 1:22.07

Daily Double (11-6), \$18.50; Exacta (6-2), \$2.75; Superfecta (6-2-5-8), \$7.35; Trifecta (6-2-5), \$9.70; Pic 3 (5-11-6), \$200.25

NINTH \$150,000, STAKES - WITH ANTICIPATION S., 2 YO, 1 1/16M

3	Catholic Boy	M. Franco	\$26.40	\$14.00	\$8.20
6	Irish Territory (IRE)	J. Lezcano		\$7.50	\$6.10
8	Untamed Domain	J. Ortiz			\$4.20

B Colt 2015, by More Than Ready - Song of Bernadette by Bernardini

Owner: LaPenta, Robert, V.. Trainer: Jonathan Thomas.

Breeder: Fred W. Hertrich III & John D. Fielding (KY).

Time: 1:40.94

Daily Double (6-3), \$26.50; Exacta (3-6), \$128.25; Superfecta (3-6-8-11), \$701.45; Trifecta (3-6-8), \$464.00; Pic 3 (11-6-3), \$292.50; Grand Slam (2/5/6-2/6/11-2/5/6-3), \$81.25

TENTH \$73,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 7F

5	Berning Rose	K. Carmouche	\$22.20	\$9.10	\$5.20
9	Under Suspicion	L. Saez		\$2.90	\$2.40
6	Salty Smile	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$2.80

Dk B/ Br Filly 2015, by Freud - Peach Flambe by Flying Chevron

Owner: Rosenthal, Robert D. and Bernstein, Bradford H.. Trainer: Dominick Schettino. Breeder: Robert D. Rosenthal & Bradford Bernstein (NY). Late Scratches: Little Nanny, Here's Wattever, Reyana Reya

Dreams. Time: 1:24.55

Daily Double (3-5), \$244.75; Exacta (5-9), \$37.00; Superfecta (5-9-6-3), \$34.70; Trifecta (5-9-6), \$65.25; Consolation Double (3-5/8), \$12.70; Pic 3 (6-3-5), \$518.00; (6-3-5/8), \$28.75; Pic 4 (11-4/6/7/9-3-5), \$2,563.00; Pic 5 (5-11-4/6/7/9-3-5), \$61,745.25; Pic 6 (8-5-11-4/6/7/9-3-5), \$17,458.00

Attendance: 19,850

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SARATOGA RESULTS PHOTOS – MONDAY

BY TOD MARKS AND DAVE HARMON



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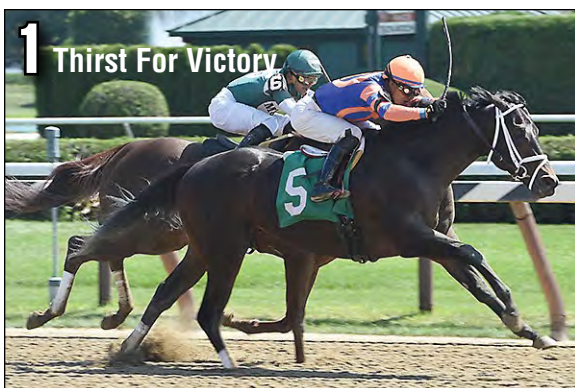
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They weren't missing this one, not this year. And maybe not ever.

Brent and Carol Johnson turned up in Saratoga Monday to present the trophy for the Better Talk Now Stakes two months after the race's namesake – and the best horse they ever owned – died of colic at age 18. Retired in 2009 after 51 starts and 14 wins including the 2004 Sword Dancer Invitational at Saratoga Race Course, Better Talk Now was part of the Johnson family. And they miss him.

"This year, it's a little bit harder," Carol said before helping her husband hand the trophy to the connections of Hieroglyphics after Monday's \$100,000 turf stakes for 3-year-olds.

"I struggled with it more than I thought I would," said Brent. "It went on for a little while. He got sick, he made a bad turn, then a good turn, then another bad turn. I had three weeks to prepare myself and get an idea that it could happen without really having thought about it. Then he died. He was a big part of our lives."

Indeed. Better Talk Now raced for parts of eight seasons for the Johnsons and trainer Graham Motion. Brent Johnson bought the then 3-year-old colt privately from owner/breeder/trainer Diane Perkins in 2002 and watched him blossom into a turf warrior. He won twice that fall, opened 2003 with a win at Gulfstream Park and in November became a stakes winner in Aqueduct's Knickerbocker Handicap. The next year he was a beast – winning the Sword Dancer and the Breeders' Cup Turf.

Far from finished, he added Grade 1 wins in the 2005 United Nations and Man o' War and 2007 Manhattan while finishing second in two more Sword Dancers. He retired in 2009 with earnings in excess of \$4.3 million. Sporting a signature run-in blinker for much of it, he raced in Japan, Dubai, Canada and 15 American racetracks.

He never won an Eclipse Award, lost the final 12 races of his career, but left racing as a hero to many

and an all-time great in the eyes of his owners.

Better Talk Now became nearly as famous as a retiree, watching traffic (equine, human and vehicular) go past his paddock at Fair Hill Training Center for almost eight years before getting sick this summer.

Surgeons at New Bolton Center tried to save the son of Talkin Man and the Baldski mare Bendita, but mortality won in the end. Reactions came from everywhere, and the Johnsons will be forever grateful.

"The outpouring from people after it happened was amazing," said Carol. "I talk to people everywhere we go in racing and they're like, 'You owned Better Talk Now?' More people know about him than I possibly could have imagined. It's pretty special."

The Johnsons went along for the ride in racing with Better Talk Now, far and away the star of their Bushwood Stable (just three others have topped \$100,000 in earnings) and a link to their past. Brent Johnson grew up watching racing on television, bought Andy Beyer's handicapping books, developed personal speed figures (after reading the Daily Racing Form at the Library of Congress) and ultimately translated that to owning horses all while building an investment business in Virginia.

He remembers coming to Saratoga when he was 20 and staying in a hotel near Green Mountain



Carol and Brent Johnson.

Dave Harmon

Greyhound track (in Vermont) to save money.

"We would drive here, spend all day at the races and go back there and play Green Mountain at night," he said. "We stood down here (on the grandstand apron) and I remember thinking 'Who are these celebrities who have got these seats? How do you get a seat?'"

Monday, they had seats in a box and presented a trophy. They hope to be back with some runners at some point, but have also branched into playing handicapping tournaments. Brent has two seats to the National Horseplayers Championship and Carol has one after winning a contest at Woodbine June 24. This past weekend, they were back in Canada for another round. This time, Brent won to qualify for the Breeders' Cup Betting Challenge. They're both in the mix for the Woodbine Player of the Year prize.

"We started playing in some of these handicapping tournaments this year," said Brent. "We've always handicapped, and learned a lot trying to figure out how to spot the horses. It really is fun. The end games are very fun. You handicap a lot of races. This tournament was Woodbine, Saratoga and Gulfstream. Two days, three tracks, you see a lot of races. It's fun in that regard and when you get to the end of those tournaments trying to figure out what everybody else is doing is fun too. Do I play a price? Do I bet the favorite? It has a lot of game theory to it too."

Monday, the Johnsons put the handicapping success on hold and stopped in Saratoga – on their way home to Virginia – to pay tribute to an old friend.

"We covered an incredible amount of ground with him and it all ties together because of this horse," said Brent. "He introduced us to things that we would normally not ever have an opportunity to do."

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I started running again in Saratoga this summer. Well, running might be overstating it. More like slogging, plodding, bumbling.

Joe and Tom revved me up the first Sunday, three papers down, our first night off, we hit the 5-mile trail at the state park. Not having run in months, I pleaded for them to slow down (they didn't) as I took short cuts through the woods, turning squares into bends, walking for moments when I was out of sight, trying to quiet the pain of my old friends. Spiral fracture in my right ankle, plate, seven screws – Beetleman, Saratoga, 2000. Torn lateral collateral ligament in my right knee – Abacus, Morven Park, 1992. And other ailments. I know how old horses feel, the injuries never go away, they are the first things to nag. I survived that first run, that's all, just survived. There was no runner's high.

The second run came quickly, the next day at the old Boy Scout camp in Wilton, in a 5K put on by the Saratoga Stryders. A born coach, Tom said it would be fun, "Come on, it's great, social, camaraderie, fun run in the woods, scenic. You'll love it." I saw Joe and Tom at the start, actually saw lots of runners at the start, it was social, almost felt like camaraderie, then it didn't.

After a furlong, I was alone in the woods. I passed one runner during the entire 5K, I actually passed her six times as she fiddled with her iPhone, stopping and spinning dials, she passed me seven times. That was rough. When I feel anxiety – every once in a while on a plane, every time in the tube of an MRI or when I can't sleep, I try to recite my 152 career winners. I know, I know, it sounds self absorbed and pathetic, but it's my way of counting sheep, the only way I can will myself through anxiety, stress or pain. That night, I battled all three as I got to 149 on the list. I've never made it to 152. Yeah, that was great, Tom.

With the pain of two runs in the books, I kept going, figuring why waste those two and slogged

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around town the following day. Pavement is tough, my hips making sparks, but I managed to find the Spring Run Trail that runs along the bottom of Saratoga, it provides some respite as an up and back loop, around dogs, past strollers, through people mesmerized by their phones (I run to get away from my phone) and past the man sitting on the bridge playing a clarinet, or what sounded like a clarinet. When you're running, anything sounds good.

Tom and I hit the Saratoga Battlefield the following Sunday. Driving past the lake, past the broodmares at McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds, out into the country. Since my first summer here in 1989, I've been out of the city limits, oh, maybe 10 times. I don't swim in Lake George, I don't shop in the outlets of Vermont and I don't go home, driving out to the battlefield felt like escaping.

Then we hit the Wilkinson Trail at the Battlefield, a long, sweeping, fields-to-woods-to-fields 4.2 mile loop, it was no escape. Bucolic and refreshing at the beginning, it turned faster than a Stephen King novel. Tom knew it was coming, it didn't dawn on me

until we came out of the woods and saw the building where we started in the far-off distance, sitting at the top of the hill like an eagle sits on the top of a nest. I spit, cursed and stared at the back of Tom's half-marathon shirt, the words searing into my brain, as we slogged to the top.

Passing the cannons, drifting to a walk, drinking from the mineral-warning fountain, I was spent. I guess that's why I love running, nothing could feel so bad and so good in a shorter amount of time. A couple of IPAs and fish tacos at Lake Local served as the reward.

Sales week derailed any team running but we managed a few short ones and then began another binge of Sunday-Monday-Tuesday runs. Battlefield, Wilton, 5-Mile Trail. A coach would be banned for this schedule but that's what The Special allows. Joe's youngest son, Nolan, reminded us of the beauty of youth, fading in the distance like yesterday's dreams. Joe and Tom ran another Wilton 5K while I bailed because my family was in town. Joe climbed a mountain before the 5K, that seemed to help at the start but not at the finish as Tom won again.

Tuesday, after a quick jaunt to Delaware Park, I hooked up with my running partners again for a spin around the 5-mile trail at the park. We ran it backward for a change but Joe and Tom still dragged me, West Coast and Gun Runner loping away.

I snuck in a quick run around town Wednesday, past the kids in the fountain, past the teenager dribbling a basketball, past the man drinking from a paper bag, past Peter Thomas Fornatale on his way to the races for the first.

Saturday, we'll run the Run for the Horses 5K at Saratoga Spa State Park. Joe and Tom will beat me again. Key me underneath in the trifecta, it's a sure thing.

And get out there with us.



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