

Year 18 • No. 27

Friday, August 31, 2018

The *Saratoga*

Special

Saratoga newspaper since 2001

War Baby

Dogtag takes P.G. Johnson



ENTRIES & HANDICAPPING
FRIDAY STAKES PREVIEW
LOOKING BACK AT STONETASTIC

#1 SIRE OF GRADED STAKES WINNERS

by percentage of Lifetime GSWs amongst active N.A. sires

U S NAVY FLAG

Winner of the
Darley July Cup S. (G1)
at Newmarket



CAMBODIA won the Yellow Ribbon H. (G2) 8/4



HAKAM won the Polar Cup (G3) 8/26

WAR FRONT

(Danzig - Starry Dreamer)
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here&there...at Saratoga

NAMES OF THE DAY

- Cross Multiply, third race.** The 3-year-old colt is by The Factor out of Class Break.
- Dancing All Night, eight race.** Subtle and smart. The 5-year-old mare is by Parading out of Castanet.
- Spring To The Sky, ninth race.** The turf-sprinting veteran, who makes his 50th start in the featured Lucky Coin Stakes, is out of Seek To Soar.
- Problem Solving, 10th race.** The 3-year-old filly is by Algorithms.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 1:** Guest handicapper (Michael Venezia), who also showed up at The Saratoga Special office with dinner in 2018. We don't care how many winners he picked or didn't pick, he'll be back next year for sure.
- 2:** Saratoga Special staffers who watched most of Smokey and the Bandit Wednesday night.
- 1,108:** Pages printed in The Saratoga Special this summer counting today. Sounds like a lot and we've got two more to go.
- 102,628.50:** Square inches of newspaper-page space filled by The Special this summer counting today. We're probably nearing that in hours of sleep missed, too.
- 1938:** Year of a Daily Racing Form article mentioning the use of white bridles by trainer George Odom at Belmont Park (sent in by reader Bill Orzell). So Lukas, Pletcher and company aren't the pioneers everyone thinks they are.




Blue Heaven. Phil Serpe, Lisa Bartkowski and a trainee soak up a Saratoga morning on the main track.

Connie Bush




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Go back to 1980. **The dawn of our era.** Count up all the two-year-olds who sold for \$500,000 or more, and look at their sires. Two stallions dominate: Storm Cat – and the stunning **Bernardini**.

STALLIONS BY \$500K JUVENILES, SINCE 1980		
1	Storm Cat	28
2	Bernardini	22
3	Malibu Moon	21
	Scat Daddy	21
5	Distorted Humor	19
	Tapit	19
7	Unbridled's Song	17
8	Mr. Greeley	16
	Seattle Slew	16
10	Medaglia d'Oro	14
	More Than Ready	14





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WORTH REPEATING

"I grew up with Pat Kelly. I think he's still riding the same bike."

Nancy, the Paper Lady

"It'll be a nice flight home."

Chiefswood Stable racing manager Robert Landry after winning Monday's Better Talk Now

"This is the hot bed of racing. Job done, but we have to step it up to win the bigger races here. We're working on it. We'll do the Travers, next..."

Chiefswood's Robert Krembil, after winning the Better Talk Now (he was smiling when he mentioned the Travers)

After the Sword Dancer Aug. 25, trainers Chuck Lawrence and Bill Mott met at the top of the clubhouse steps after their horses ran 1-2 in the Grade 1 (four weeks after deadheating in the Bowling Green):

Lawrence: "I thought you had me."

Mott: "You didn't want to share today? You got greedy today."

Lawrence: "That was fun."

Mott: "He ran well."

Lawrence: "Thank you. Thank you."

"We're gunning for you. We're going to go Irad and Jose Ortiz on you; maybe the Malachi Crunch."

Sean Clancy to Tom Law after discussing the Clancy Brothers' training in advance of Saturday's Run for the Horses 5K; Tom is still 8-5.

"My goal is to beat Tom Law in the (Run for the Horses) 5K race."

Reader David Fitts, who is primed for a big effort Saturday morning at Spa State Park; check out runforthehorses5k.com for more details and to SIGN UP

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Photo courtesy of Richard Clay.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Four legs with big hearts."
**Breeder Nancy Dillman, describing
her horses (well, anybody's horses)**



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Tod Marks

MY NAME IS CALL PAUL, and I thought the Saratoga Special was just a newspaper. Heck, it's also the name of the stakes race I won. My daddy Friesan Fire stands at Country Life.

He's got me and Army Mule aiming at the Breeders' Cup. To win that would be special, seeing as how dad was favored in the 2009 Kentucky Derby there. I'd like to win at Churchill for him, but first, let me see what I can do in the Champagne October 6.



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WORTH REPEATING

"I have a hell of a lot more wins than I thought I'd have, and there aren't any lows. Every day you get up is a good day."

**Trainer Dave Donk assessing his 2018 Saratoga meet
after Matty's Magnum won Thursday's third for the barn's seventh win of the meet**

"I tried that once. It wasn't for me."

**Local runner Denise Herman, on the Saratoga Stryders
Monday night trail run on the mountain at Moreau Lake**

"That Ken Ramsey guy can really run."

**The Special's Joe Clancy, Sean Clancy and Tom Law
while trying to keep up with a trail runner in a white shirt
with a large red R on the front (we were later told it stood for Team Rocket)**

"I'm walking past the football field right now."

**The Special's Ben Gowans, who called from his
fourth day at the University of Kentucky Thursday afternoon; Go Cats.**



Connie Bush

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The Top 10

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

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

The bubble: Cape Angel, Farrell, Mucho, CatherintheGreat, Arch Kingsley's 2 jump wins, the 145 Beyer put up by the rain, Barclay Tagg's double, Jeremiah Englehart, Dave Donk, Joe Sharp & Phil Serpe climbing the leaderboard, NY-breds in open stakes, Sandy's Slew (Happy Retirement), Endorsed and Code Of Honor, Rushing Fall, Ricky Hendriks & Ross Geraghty sweeping jumps Aug. 22-23, Sistercharlie, John Hertler, Kharafa, Tricky Escape, Mike Smith & Bob Baffert, **LNJ Foxwoods getting a feel-good win with Dogtag after losing Bowie, Irad Ortiz and Chad Brown.**

BACKSEAT DRIVER



Photo: Connie Bush

PHOTO OF THE DAY

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The Chief... Day 27

"I used to read a lot, watch Fitzsimmons, watch what the other guys are doing. You get your own, that makes you learn. In fact, Preston Burch said that, nothing teaches you more than having your own money in them. That horse that won in Florida with Steve DiMauro's father, the old man when he had the bug, that time, man was that ever important. Me and another guy had him in partners. Right after my father died and my wife was having our first child, and she was in New York and I went down to Florida, he won at Hialeah, then he won again in New York, we claimed him for \$2,500 and we lost him for \$6,000, breathing room. Then I got lucky, people sent me some horses, got lucky, you have to have a little luck."

– Trainer Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015



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Tod Marks

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NOMINATE NOW!

with Barclay Tagg

After being stood up by a young trainer who had actually scheduled a Stable Tour Thursday morning, The Special had to scramble.

Tom Law and Sean Clancy rolled up to Barclay Tagg's barn late Thursday morning and looked at each other.

"If he won't do it, we're in trouble," Law said.

Clancy climbed out his golf cart, "He'll do it."

Sometimes a scramble turns into a bonanza.

In four years of doing the Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour, a member of The Special has always made sure to walk down Barclay Tagg's shedrow with the trainer or his assistant Robin Smullen. This year, it was bonus time as Tagg and Smullen took Clancy on a tour of their main barn and around to Ralph Nicks' barn where they have three horses stabled on the main track.

As always, the barn focuses on quality rather than quantity with a typical cast of Bonner Young homebreds, Chuck Fipke's homebreds, a couple of promising New York-breds and a handful of shrewd yearling and 2-year-old purchases by Tagg.

By the end of the conversation, the tape had run one hour, three minutes and 47 seconds. The conversation had bounced from Tagg's Spinaway starter to when Tagg had to beg for stalls from racing secretary Larry Abbundi in Maryland to long ago steeplechaser Gaddo to riding timber races with Hall of Famer Joe Aitcheson to stories about iconic trainers Ben and Jimmy Jones.

As always, it was a treat.

Im The Captain Now: Purchased by Tagg for \$15,000 at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearling Sale in 2015, the son of Trappe Shot won an allowance on the turf here Aug. 5 to push his earnings to nearly \$200,000 for Sure Thing Stable. **Tagg:** "He's the greatest." **Smullen:** "It took him 10 starts to break his maiden and then he won his a other than three starts later." **Tagg:** "I bought him at Kentucky yearling sale for \$15,000, I was prepared to go higher, but it didn't go any higher. Just a little, long-bodied horse, with a great ass end, which I liked. Trappe Shot was brand new, he's a son of Tapit, I said, 'I can't afford a Tapit but I might be able to afford a Trappe Shot.' He stops at \$15,000 and I led him home. He's been a champ.



Life is good at trainer Barclay Tagg's barn.

He's little, he's handy, he'll go all day, he's absolutely tireless."

Smullen: "Then he kept getting beat by stake horses, Yoshida, Rocketry." **Tagg:** "You're running in a maiden race in New York you've got the best-bred animals around. He got a bad injury in his second race, he sliced his hind leg, it opened up like a glove. We missed a year. The Vetrap was sheered right off, it looked like somebody took a precision instrument and cut it. The bandage was completely gone, there was one piece of tape, that's all. Dr. Kristian Rhein looked at it, he got down on his hands and knees and looked at it, he said, 'Put him in the stall.' I said, 'You don't want to send him to the clinic?' He said, 'No, let me get my tools.' He put that leg on a bucket and went to work, stitched the whole thing up, the inside and then the outside. It was amazing."

Realm: Another shrewd purchase by Tagg, the Virginia-bred son of Haynesfield cost \$75,000 at 2014 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall Yearling Sale. He's earned \$350,795 for Eric Dattner, Harry Astarita and Tagg. The bay gelding won the Al-ydar Stakes here Aug. 5. **Smullen:** "You've got to love those Virginia-breds, you win a race and they send that money right to you." **Tagg:** "He's turned out to be a nice horse. He was third in the Cigar Mile as a 3-year-old. He had a problem in his right rib cage, he was standing on the wash board after a race at Gulfstream, you know when they stand while they're washed and then they get stiff and then they show lameness if they're going to. He picked his leg up and couldn't move." **Smullen:** "We thought he broke his shoulder and then in about 10 seconds, he walked off fine. They think something pinched him in his neck. We thought about going in the Woodward but there were so many horses, he doesn't like the inside, so you have to work your way outside to make your run, 13 horses, forget it. We'll go to the Kelso." **Tagg:** "I'd like to try the Cigar Mile again,

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he ran well in it but he ran like a immature horse, he loves Aqueduct."

Highland Sky: Bred by longtime Tagg client Bonner Young and owned by her, Gerald McManis and Jerrie Stewart, the son of Sky Mesa has bank-rolled \$581,222 in 19 races. He won a tough allowance at Belmont Park in June before finishing fifth in the Bowling Green and fifth again in the Sword Dancer this summer. **Tagg:** "Joe Hirsch, that's what I want to do, if that doesn't work, we'll start over." **Smullen:** "If he gets pace in front of him, he's going to run his race."

Firery Tale: Chuck Fipke homebred finished seventh in his debut here Aug. 18. The 2-year-old son of Tale Of Ekati, who Tagg trained to win more than \$1 million, ran into the likes of Code Of Honor and Wild Medagliad'oro in a hot maiden on Alabama Saturday. **Tagg:** "We were conceding that he's probably a turf horse. He had a really good work (on the dirt) and I said maybe he's coming around." **Smullen:** "He breezes well, but he didn't run the other day, we'll start him once more on the dirt and then we'll probably have to go to the turf because his mother won on the Polytrack."

Sir Frost: Owned by John Murrell and Hayward Pressman, 3-year-old New York-bred son of Frost Giant has made two starts for Tagg, finishing seventh in his most recent start here Aug. 8. **Tagg:** We just picked up these people, Carl Domino was nice enough to talk all his owners into coming to us. Wonderful people." **Smullen:** "They're looking to get more horses. We claimed a filly for them that's OK. They love their horses and love the game."

Ghosting: Daughter of Ghostzapper graduated the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Select Sale last year and the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-old sale this year. Beautiful dark bay filly bites at Tagg, Smullen, anybody near her. Tagg goes in the stall and shows her off. **Smullen:** "She's owned by Eric Dattner, he's been very lucky, he owned Confrontation. Barclay bought this filly for him. She's going to be a late developer. **Tagg:** "We've been slow with her, we haven't pushed on her because she's so big."

Cassie's Dreamer: A rare claim by Tagg, the daughter of Flatter attracted the attention of Rusty Jones' Turf Stable Racing and Pressman, who ponied up \$50,000 to claim her from her debut here Aug. 3. Sent off favorite, she drew off to win by 2 1/4 lengths. She's entered in Saturday's Grade 1 Spinaway. **Smullen:** "They picked her out on paper and said, 'Are you against claiming a 2-year-old? If you like this filly, we're going

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

to drop the slip.’ ” **Tagg:** “Well, I said, ‘Let me watch her walk down the gauntlet, between all those people.’ Big, good-looking filly, she didn’t turn a hair. They picked her out on pedigree or something. She just won easy and we thought, ‘How lucky did we get?’ ” **Smullen:** “She does everything right, she really feels good underneath you. She’s really classy.” **Tagg:** “I’m guessing 30 years ago since I claimed one, for Chris Elser’s father at Laurel, maybe Bowie, in Maryland.”

Dearly Declared: Sackatoga Stable purchased the New York-bred filly for \$90,000 at the Fasig-Tipton New York-bred yearling sale last year. **Smullen:** “She’s a big girl, by Declaration Of War. She was just about ready to run but she got a temperature, a little bit of this and a little bit of that. She’ll be second book at Belmont. She’s going to breeze out of the gate for the first time (today). She’s done everything right so far, we worked her on the grass but she didn’t work as good as we hoped, that’s fine, she’s a half-sister to (multiple stakes winner) Saratoga Snacks, if she wants the dirt, that’s fine.”

Niko’s Dream: Two-year-old daughter of Central Banker finished fourth in her debut here Monday. She walked around the outside walking ring and Tagg made sure to take off her blanket and show off the chestnut filly. **Tagg:** “We hardly ever run 2-year-olds until fall.” **Smullen:** “We were pushing, pushing, she was really bad in the gate, she was trying to climb up, out, she was trying to go under, she was up against the sides, finally, she broke and she was 20 behind the leader, maybe 6 behind the last horse. She’s still last turning for home and came flying down the middle of the turf course and finished fourth.”

Verve’s Tale: The big mare. Owned and bred by Fipke, the daughter of Tale Of Ekati finished third in the Grade 3 Shuvee, improving her earnings to \$568,400. **Smullen:** “She just got beat in the stake, she came down the stretch, kind of got bumped, just enough to stop her forward momentum. She’s going to run in the Beldame.”

Dr. Edgar: The hard-luck horse at the meet, 5-year-old son of Lookin At Lucky won a turf allowance but was disqualified for drifting out. Tagg and Smullen are trying not to dwell on the controversial call. **Smullen:** “He got the

wrong end of the stick, he doesn’t know he got beat, he’s a cool horse to be around.” **Tagg:** “We had three wins, four would have been made a very nice meet for us and they took him down.”

Ferdinanda: Virginia-bred 3-year-old filly owns two wins from nine starts for the William Backer Revocable Trust. Daughter of Giant’s Causeway finished seventh in the Riskaverse last week. **Tagg:** “I love this filly.” **Smullen:** “She tries so hard, she’s an over-achiever. She likes Gulfstream. She got beat a dirty, rotten nose there. Temperamental. Very temperamental, she’s so tough to ride, you’re standing up, you’re jiggling, this pulley, that pulley, every stride is something different because if you just sit, she’s gone.” **Tagg:** “She’s just a trooper, no matter what we throw at her, she’s dancing the next morning.”


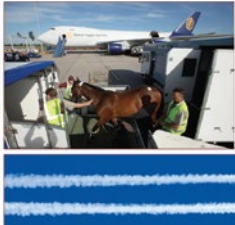


Hy Sweet Girl: Purchased for \$50,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky February Mixed Sale in 2016, the 3-year-old daughter of Violence looks out Nicks’ big back window toward Tagg’s main barn. **Smullen:** “She has taken a long time, she has some knee issues, they said you’re going to have to go real slow if you’re going to get to the races.” **Tagg:** “She’ll be all right.”

Brucia La Terra: Selected by Tagg and purchased by Bill Ferrone for \$20,000 at 2017 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall Yearling Sale, the Maryland-bred daughter of El Padri-no won her debut impressively here Aug. 12. As three visitors showed up Thursday morning, the imposing bay filly hopped in the air and pinned her ears at the intrusion. **Tagg:** “The only thing I faulted her on was she was a little light in her cannon bone. At the very end we had two or three we were going to bid on and Bill said, ‘Can we go back and look at that filly again?’ She grew out of that, she looks like she has the right legs for her body. I was surprised we bought her for 20, in that sale, she stood out a little bit I thought.” **Smullen:** “She’s the star. She doesn’t look like a star, but she’s a star. The filly she beat came back and just got beat a head in her second start. We thought she would run well, we took her over and breezed her on the turf and we kept saying to Bill that we were going to try to her on the turf. He said, ‘Barclay, you know I don’t like going against you and I won’t go against you, but she has zero turf pedigree.’ She loved the turf, that’s why we put her in on the turf, then when it came off, we decided to run her anyway because she has no turf pedigree. I guess she’ll run in the Frizette.”

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Child's Play

Walsh-trained Florida-bred gelding takes on seven rivals in turf sprint

BY TOM LAW

Brendan Walsh could use a break. Not for himself; he's continuing to keep a rapid pace with multiple divisions this time of year in Kentucky and New York. Walsh is looking for a break for Extravagant Kid, one of eight entered in today's \$100,000 Lucky Coin Stakes at 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf at Saratoga Race Course.

"He's a decent horse," Walsh said as he tended to business early this week from his storage unit-turned office outside his stalls in Barn 9 on the main track. "Hopefully he can get his head in front this time. But you know what it's like up here, it's tough, as always. A bunch of them in there looking to do the same and a bunch of them that can run no doubt."

LUCKY COIN STAKES PREVIEW

Walsh and David Ross, who races in the name DARRS Inc., identified Extravagant Kid as a runner in mid-January and claimed the 5-year-old Kiss The Kid gelding for \$75,000. They liked him enough to try tougher company next time out, and Extravagant Kid finished eighth in the Grade 3 Gulfstream Park Sprint.

From there Extravagant Kid ran against a Canadian Horse of the Year riding a long win streak, on a synthetic track at Presque Isle Downs and finally a proper turf sprint stakes at Ellis Park.

"After he didn't run any good at

Continued On Page 12



Gulfstream Park/Lauren King

Claimed at Gulfstream Park in January, Extravagant Kid exits a second in stakes company at Ellis Park Aug. 5.

SUMMER RACING MEANS...

Two-year-olds, Debut runners, stretchouts, & a lot more turf

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Lisa Danielle 1994											
Sire: Your Power (2003)				Dam: American Pharoah				Breeder: Bred by: American Pharoah			
Totals for the property of Lisa Danielle											
11 Foals 8 Starters 7 Winners				Total Property Earnings In: North America				Earnings (\$) \$1,401,374 Total: \$1,401,374			
Property	NAME	YOB	COLOR	SEX	SIRE	YEARS	STARTS	WINS	PLACES	SHOWS	EARNED
+	Lisa's Royal Cup	1999	B	M	Bob	6	61	7	14	9	\$192,386
+	OUR ROYAL DANCER	2000	B	F	Bob	4	19	5	2	2	\$195,010
+	Amestemsky	2001	B	F	Star Andy	1	6	0	0	0	\$2,270
+	Blue Zach	2002	OB	M	Mudabakar	4	20	5	3	3	\$169,969
+	Hood Ends	2004	dk br	F	Indomitable Study						
+	Courting Fame	2005	B	F	Coronado Cloud	0	20	0			\$103,455
+	SUCCESSFUL DAN	2006	B	M	Successful Appeal	0	11	7			\$205,808
+	WIDE DAN	2007	dk	M	Wasserman's Easy	0	20	13			

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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	Gyr Falcon (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	Orienteate	Wayne County (IRE)
Gators N Bears	Outflanker	Who's Your Daddy
Giacomo	Parker's Storm Cat	Yarrow Brae
Go for Gin	Partner's Hero	

This list shows nominated stallions with horses of racing age. ONLY horses by the stallions listed, who were conceived in Maryland and fully nominated/certified to the Maryland Million program, are eligible to run in Maryland Million races with the following exception:
If the race does not have six (6) Maryland Million eligible horses entered, not including cross-entered horses, the race will be opened up to registered Maryland-breds that were pre-entered. All Maryland Million eligible and Maryland-Bred (not Md-Sired) horses must pre-enter by Wednesday, October 11th, and pay the pre-entry fee. If a Maryland-Bred (not Md-Sired) horse does not get the opportunity to enter in a race, the pre-entry fee will be refunded.



Jim McKay

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

\$125K Maryland Million Ladies Fillies & mares, 3-year-olds & up, 1 1/4 mi., turf

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

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

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

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

\$60K Maryland Million and/or Registered Maryland-Bred Turf Starter Handicap 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of \$11,000 or less since October 22, 2017, 1 1/4 mi., turf. First preference to Maryland Million-eligible horses. This is a starter/stake.

\$60K Maryland Million and/or Registered Maryland-Bred Turf Distaff Starter Handicap Fillies and mares, 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of \$11,000 or less since October 22, 2017, 1 1/4 mi., turf. First preference to Maryland Million-eligible horses. This is a starter/stake.

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

\$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 22, 2017, 7f. First preference to Maryland Million-eligible horses. This is a starter/stake.

\$33K Maryland Million Waiver Maiden Claiming Fillies and mares 3-year-olds & up, 5 1/2 f., turf. Claiming price \$40,000-\$32,000. 1st preference to Maryland Million-certified. 2nd preference to registered MD-breds. (MD-bred and/or MD-sired horses may waive claiming price in this race)

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Lucky Coin —

■ Continued from page 10

Gulfstream I brought him up to Woodbine and he ran second to (2017 Canadian Horse of the Year) Pink Lloyd,” Walsh said. “That’s a serious horse and he ran him right to the wire. Pink Lloyd broke the track record up there on the Poly and he was second to him. That was a good race.

“He broke bad in the stakes at Presque Isle and didn’t run any good. Finally he ran well the other day at Ellis.”

Extravagant Kid finished second in the Ellis race, the Kentucky Downs Turf Sprint Preview, dueling the entire trip before losing by a half-length to longshot Jazzy Times. Walsh considered running Extravagant Kid back in next weekend’s Grade 3 Kentucky Downs Turf Sprint.

The Kentucky Downs race carries a \$500,000 purse which includes \$200,000 for Kentucky-breds – Extravagant Kid is a Florida-bred so not eligible for the whole pot – and it’s longer than the Ellis preview and today’s Lucky Coin.

“The race at Kentucky Downs is 6 1/2 and I don’t think he wants to go that far,” Walsh said. “So we decided to come here instead. He got in Saturday and should run well.”

Extravagant Kid raced exclusively in his home state prior to being claimed and won seven times in 23 starts, including Gulfstream Park’s Tamiami



Tod Marks

Pocket Change is favored in today’s feature.

Handicap in September 2017 and Green Parrot Handicap in October 2017. He also placed in four other stakes for Vicino Racing Stables and trainer Milton Wolfson.

“He’s a neat horse, a cool horse,” Walsh said. “He’s by Kiss The Kid, a son of Lemon Drop Kid. I can’t say I’ve paid an awful lot of attention to Kiss The Kid as a stallion, but he’s a runner. He’s a

Florida-bred he’ll be a nice horse to have down at Gulfstream in the winter.

“When we claimed him, at \$75,000, I don’t think (his former connections) thought they were going to lose him. Mr. Ross will do that sometimes, he’ll see something and go for it.”

Jose Ortiz takes the mount on Extravagant Kid, the 3-1 second choice on the morning line for the Lucky Coin (the ninth of 10 races Friday) behind 7-5 favorite Pocket Change.

Owned by Gary and Mary West and trained by Jason Servis, Pocket Change comes off a seventh behind Voodoo Song in the \$150,000 Forbidden Apple. He finished a close fifth in the Grade 2 Jai-pur on the Belmont Day card prior to that effort and won back-to-back starts going 5 furlongs on the turf in late 2017 and in early 2018.

The field also includes Spring To The Sky, who won the Lucky Coin in 2014 and makes his fifth consecutive appearance in the race for owner Anthony McCarthy and trainer Bruce Brown. The 9-year-old Langfuhr gelding will make his 13th Saratoga start if he goes, and second of the meet after finishing second to Rocket Heat for a \$62,500 claiming tag the second Sunday of the meet.

Others entered in the Lucky Coin include Rocket Heat, claimed out of his victory by trainer Michael Tannuzzo and owner Flying P Stable; Grade 2 winner Ready For Rye, seventh last time in the Grade 3 Troy; and Big Rock, third in last year’s Lucky Coin and 3-for-4 on the grass at Saratoga. Bold Thunder and Axtell complete the field.

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Friday, August 31.

1ST (1:00PM). \$75,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Chiclet's Dream	J. Castellano	C. Brown 1-1
2	.....2.....	Barrel of Destiny	K. Carmouche.....	J. Hertler 4-1
3	.....3.....	That's Smart.....	J. Lezcano	T. Bush 8-1
4	.....4.....	St Edmond's Girl	M. Franco	R. Reid, Jr. 15-1
5	.....5.....	Dreamers and Me.....	D. Cohen.....	B. Levine 7-2
6	.....6.....	Copperline.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	M. Casse 6-1
7	.....7.....	Walk of Fame	R. Maragh.....	C. DeVaux..... 20-1

2ND (1:33PM). \$32,000, CLM \$16,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Shamsaan	D. Davis	P. Fout 12-1
2	.....2.....	Champagne Papi.....	E. Cancel.....	A. Adsit 20-1
3	.....3.....	Banker's Island.....	M. Franco	M. Dilger 15-1
4	.....4.....	Apartfromthecrowd.....	J. Castellano	C. Brown 3-5
5	.....5.....	Playwright.....	K. Carmouche.....	D. Gargan 9-2
6	.....6.....	Single Gem	D. Cohen.....	R. Diodoro..... 4-1
7	.....7.....	Fullback Foye	L. Reyes	N. Zito 30-1
8	.....8.....	Cookie Crisp.....	A. Lezcano	R. Persaud 15-1

3RD (2:06PM). \$39,000, MCL \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double				
1	.....3.....	Theresa's Boy.....	J. Rosario	G. Contessa..... 5-1
1a	.....4.....	Cross Multiply.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	G. Contessa..... 5-1
2	.....1.....	Sudden Victory	M. Franco	R. Rodriguez 12-1
3	.....2.....	One More Tom	D. Cohen.....	D. Stewart 7-2
4	.....5.....	My Mr. Wonderful	J. Ortiz	R. Violette, Jr..... 5-2
5	.....6.....	Ziller	D. Beckner	P. Meadow 30-1
6	.....7.....	Caleb the Boss	D. Brown	E. Beech 30-1
7	.....8.....	Global Impact.....	E. Cancel.....	C. Baker 9-5
8	.....9.....	Raging Fire.....	J. Lezcano	J. Kimmel 15-1
9	.....10.....	Freudian Analyst	L. Reyes	L. O'Brien 20-1

4TH (2:40PM). \$95,000, AOC \$80,000, 4 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	My Impression	J. Ortiz	C. McGaughey III 10-1
2	.....2.....	Dynatail	L. Saez	M. Dini 8-1
3	.....3.....	Candy Store (IRE)	J. Rosario	C. Clement..... 10-1
4	.....4.....	Malibu Stacy	M. Franco	G. Weaver 4-1
5	.....5.....	Penjade (FR)	J. Castellano	C. Brown 2-1
6	.....6.....	Rymska (FR)	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	C. Brown 6-5

5TH (3:14PM). \$85,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 6, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Malibu Mischief.....	J. Velazquez.....	G. Contessa..... 8-1
2	.....2.....	Miss Leah Angel (GB) ...	J. Alvarado	H. Motion 8-1
3	.....3.....	Princess Trina	J. Rosario	R. Nicks 10-1
4	.....4.....	Paradise Retained	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	J. Servis 5-1
5	.....5.....	Quiet Company	J. Bravo	H. DePaz 7-2
6	.....6.....	Stellar Agent	M. Franco	J. Abreu 6-1
7	.....7.....	Senda.....	K. Carmouche.....	W. Mott 12-1
8	.....8.....	Lady Grace	J. Ortiz	M. Casse 4-1
9	.....9.....	Altar of Speed	L. Saez	J. Sharp 10-1
10	.....10.....	My Girl Rocket	R. Santana, Jr.....	A. Stall, Jr..... 12-1
11	.....AE.....	Champagne Bliss	J. Ortiz	J. Toner 8-1
12	.....AE.....	China Silk.....	J. Leparoux.....	J. Sheppard..... 10-1
13	.....AE.....	Here Comes Jackie.....	J. Lezcano	M. Dini 20-1
14	.....AE.....	Egoli	J. Velazquez.....	W. Ward 5-1
15	.....MTO.....	It's a Shaw Thing.....	J. Alvarado	E. Barker 15-1
16	.....MTO.....	Liza Jambalaya.....	Rider TBA.....	R. Rodriguez 4-1

6TH (3:48PM). \$32,000, CLM \$16,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Halloween Horror.....	D. Davis	G. Contessa..... 10-1
2	.....2.....	Bar None	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Rodriguez 5-2
3	.....3.....	Scarf It Down	L. Saez	J. Englehart 3-1
4	.....4.....	King Kranz.....	S. Jimenez.....	N. Chatterpaul 12-1
5	.....5.....	Voluntario	J. Alvarado	R. Rodriguez 15-1
6	.....6.....	Divine Interventio.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	S. Asmussen 7-2
7	.....7.....	Major League	E. Cancel.....	A. Adsit 12-1
8	.....8.....	Manipulated	J. Rivera	S. Morales..... 9-2
9	.....9.....	Thirsty Donnerstag	L. Reyes	R. Metivier..... 20-1

7TH (4:24PM). \$85,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Say It Softly	D. Cohen.....	D. Lukas 10-1
2	.....2.....	Tipazar	R. Santana, Jr.....	R. Moquett 10-1
3	.....3.....	Miss Vinegar	K. Carmouche.....	C. DeVaux 15-1
4	.....4.....	Baccarat Fashion.....	L. Saez	B. Tessore 15-1
5	.....5.....	Big Birthday	J. Castellano	C. Brown 5-2
6	.....6.....	Smile More	J. Ortiz	H. DePaz 2-1
7	.....7.....	French Empire.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	G. Weaver..... 3-1
8	.....8.....	Mo Moxie	J. Lezcano	B. Lynch 8-1

8TH (5:02PM). \$87,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Aunt Babe	D. Davis	J. Ferraro 30-1
2	.....2.....	Wisconsin Night.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	M. Hennig 10-1
3	.....3.....	Catoria	J. Rosario	M. Dini 8-1
4	.....4.....	Special Relativity.....	D. Cohen.....	R. Diodoro..... 4-1
5	.....5.....	Layla	L. Saez	A. Stall, Jr..... 12-1
6	.....6.....	Danyelli	R. Santana, Jr.....	R. Rodriguez 20-1
7	.....7.....	Naples Princess	J. Alvarado	W. Mott 6-1
8	.....8.....	Treasure in Heaven.....	J. Castellano	B. Lynch 10-1
9	.....9.....	Norma's Charm	M. Franco	U. St. Lewis 12-1
10	.....10.....	Dancing All Night	J. Velazquez.....	C. McGaughey III 2-1
11	.....11.....	Quick Quick Quick.....	J. Ortiz	I. Wilkes 10-1

9TH (5:40PM). \$100,000, STK - THE LUCKY COIN, 4 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Spring to the Sky	R. Santana, Jr.....	B. Brown 15-1
2	.....2.....	Bold Thunder	K. Carmouche.....	G. Sciacca 20-1
3	.....3.....	Rocket Heat.....	J. Velazquez.....	M. Tannuzzo..... 5-1
4	.....4.....	Axtell	J. Alvarado	K. Boniface 12-1
5	.....5.....	Ready for Rye	L. Saez	T. Albertrani..... 8-1
6	.....6.....	Big Rock	J. Castellano	C. Clement..... 6-1
7	.....7.....	Extravagant Kid	J. Ortiz	B. Walsh 3-1
8	.....8.....	Pocket Change	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	J. Servis 7-5

10TH (6:17PM). \$44,000, CLM \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta				
1	.....1.....	You Promise	A. Lezcano	R. Metivier..... 30-1
2	.....2.....	Timeless Beauty.....	D. Cohen.....	R. Diodoro..... 5-2
3	.....3.....	Claire's Kitty	L. Saez	P. Bauer 6-1
4	.....4.....	Heaven's Creation	R. Santana, Jr.....	R. Diodoro..... 4-1
5	.....5.....	Problem Solving	J. Rosario	C. Baker 3-1
6	.....6.....	Rapid Route	A. Hernandez Sanchez	A. Maymo 20-1
7	.....7.....	Mazmania.....	D. Davis	G. Sciacca 20-1
88.....	She'sakittykat.....	J. Ortiz	J. Ferraro 9-2
99.....	Carlisle Belle	L. Reyes	G. Sciacca 10-1

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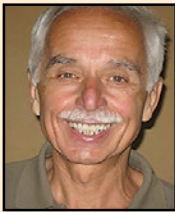











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grid

Race #	 John Shapazian	 Charles Bedard	 Tom Law	 Donald Phillips	 Dustin Fabian
1	Chiclet's Dream Dreamers And Me Copperline	Chiclet's Dream Dreamers And Me Barrel Of Dreams	Chiclet's Dream Barrel Of Destiny Copperline	Chiclet's Dream That's Smart Copper line	Chiclet's Dream That's Smart Dreamers and Me
2	Apartfromthecrowd Playwright Single Gem	Apartfromthecrowd Playwright Single Gem	Single Gem Apartfromthecrowd Playwright	Apartfromthecrowd Playwright Single Gem	Apartfromthecrowd Playwright Single Gem
3	Global Impact My Mr. Wonderful Raging Fire	Global Impact My Mr Wonderful Raging Fire	Global Impact My Mr. Wonderful Raging Fire	Global Impact My Mr. Wonderful One More Tom	Global Impact My Mr. Wonderful One More Tom
4	Rymska Penjade Malibu Stacy	Penjade Malibu Stacy Rymska	Rymska Penjade My Impression	Penjade My Impression Dynatail	Rymska Penjade Malibu Stacy
5	Quiet Company Senda Lady Jambalaya	Liza Jambalaya Quiet Company Malibu Mischief	Senda My Girl Rocket Paradise Retained	Quiet Company Lady Grace Stellar Agent	Altar of Speed Quiet Company Paradise Retained
6	Manipulated Divine Interventio Scarf It Down	Scarf It Down Divine Interventio Bar None	Divine Interventio Bar None Scarf It Down	Divine Interventio Scarf It Down Manipulated	Manipulated Divine Interventio Bar None
7	Mo Moxie Tipazar Smile More	Big Birthday French Empire Smile More	Tipazar Smile More Big Birthday	Smile More Mo Moxie Big Birthday	French Empire Smile More Big Birthday
8	Dancing All Night Special Relativity Wisconsin Night	Dancing All Night Treasure In Heaven Special Relativity	Dancing All Night Quick Quick Quick Special Relativity	Dancing All Night Special Relativity Naples Princess	Treasure in Heaven Dancing All Night Quick Quick Quick
9	Pocket Change Rocket Heat Big Rock	Pocket Change Big Rock Rocket Heat	Pocket Change Extravagant Kid Rocket Heat	Big Rock Pocket Change Spring To The Sky	Extravagant Kid Big Rock Rocket Heat
10	Timeless Beauty Heaven's Creation She'sakittykat	Timeless Beauty Heaven's Creation Problem Solving	Timeless Beauty Heaven's Creation She'sakittykat	Timeless Beauty Clair's Kitty She'sakittykat	Heaven's Creation Problem Solving Timeless Beauty
2018 Records	102/359	87/359	84/359	65/359	52/263*

Our fifth handicapper will be a special guest each day.

Guest Handicapper

Today's guest handicapper is Dustin Fabian, director of marketing and communications at Xpressbet. Fabian has been playing the races since the day he was able to see over the counter of his local OTB – Rest in Peace, The Meadows-Moon Township OTB). Thursday, Michael Venezia picked two winners.

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

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

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Low to High

Filly Dogtag delivers bright moment for owner/breeder LNJ

BY TOM LAW

Jaime Roth thought about sitting one out, still feeling the sting of losing a filly in a Saratoga stakes race less than a week before her family's LNJ Foxwoods ran another filly in another Saratoga stakes race.

Her parents Larry and Nanci Roth also seemed convinced they couldn't make Thursday's \$100,000 P.G. Johnson, feeling like the 2-year-old stakes on the grass carried too many similarities to Sunday's Smart N Fancy Stakes where Bowie suffered a fatal injury.

The three made it the races, watching their homebred War Front filly Dogtag nervously in the paddock, during the preliminaries while a Chad Brown-trained stablemate ran loose on the main track for nearly five minutes and eventually cheering Dogtag home to victory. The Roths, who started in racing in 2012, watched the 1 1/16-mile turf stakes from a box along the front row, blasted down the steps after she came up the inside to win by a length and let the emotion flow when they reached the winner's circle.

"She did it for her stablemate," Jaime Roth said, her welled-up eyes almost shielded from her sunglasses. "She did it for Bowie. She did it for Bowie."



Tod Marks

Dogtag reaches the finish line with a stakes victory in the P.G. Johnson.

Larry Roth, who made his fortune in the eye-wear company Marchon, agreed with his daughter. "Wow, things change in five days," he said. "It's been a very tough last few days."

Dogtag, a gray filly out of a mare the Roths bought from Australia on the advice of their primary bloodstock agents Alex Solis and Jason Litt, provided the lift the LNJ Foxwoods team needed in her turf debut. She made only one start prior to the P.G. Johnson, finishing third via disqualification after crossing the line fourth in an off-the-turf maiden race Aug. 5.

A rival bumped Dogtag late in that race and she finished 2 lengths behind the winner as the 3-5 favorite. She bounced out of that well and breezed

twice between her debut and the P.G. Johnson, including a half-mile in :49.44 the morning of last weekend's Travers Stakes.

The day after the Travers, things went south for the Roths and trainer Bret Calhoun when Bowie, a Malibu Moon filly they bought as a weanling for \$750,000 at the 2014 Keeneland November breeding stock sale, broke down in the Smart N Fancy. The fan favorite, known for her distinctive features of one dark and one light eye, suffered the injury midway on the far turn of the 5 1/2-furlong turf stakes and was euthanized on the turf course.

"My father didn't think he could handle it

Continued On Page 18

"This thing could cure a broken heart."

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Tod Marks

Dogtag exits the winner's circle after the stakes score.

P.G. Johnson —

■ Continued from page 16

again," Jaime Roth said. "This being a similar race, on the turf and a stakes race, I think he got superstitious. After awhile I was like 'I'm coming.' I loved this filly since the day she was born."

The second foal out of the Unbridled's Song mare Diamond Necklace, a Solis/Litt purchase for \$556,902 at the 2013 Inglis Easter broodmare sale in Australia, Dogtag was born at Kentucky's Darby Dan Farm. She impressed from the start and right through the breaking process.

"You breed horses and you hope that they come out alive," Jaime Roth said. "Then down the line you hope they're good looking. She was the star from the beginning. She was beautiful, didn't have a really bad moment and during the breaking process she really impressed Eddie Woods."

"She's done everything the right way. She's pretty special. It's very satisfying. We got in the game as breeders, more than anything, so to breed and see something like that today is special."

Dogtag led a 1-2 finish of maidens in the P.G. Johnson, defeating the Graham Motion-trained Varenka by 1 length in 1:45.82 over the drying out turf course labeled yielding.

Dogtag raced fourth in the early stages behind Road Tiger, O'Malley and Chocolate Kisses. Javier Castellano, who rode LNJ Foxwoods' first Grade 1 winner Nickname to victory in the 2015 Frizette at Belmont, kept Dogtag behind the leaders through slow splits of :24.20, :49.92 and 1:15.28. Castellano never came off

the fence as the field turned for home, O'Malley taking the lead from Road Tiger making the straight.

Road Tiger came in slightly at the top of the stretch, nearly bumping with Dogtag as Castellano hand rode the filly along the rail. He shook her up a few times, tapped her on the shoulder and never turned over his stick until late — only showing it to the filly — and she edged away from the leaders. Varenka made a late run down the middle of the course to be a clear second, 5 lengths clear of Chocolate Kisses.

"Going through that hole, I liked how she did it," Castellano said. "She kind of looked around at the grandstand, then after she switched leads she leveled off and I liked the way she finished at the sixteenth pole."

"She struggled on the turn a little bit. I liked the way she did it, split horses through a tiny hole along the rail. Not too many young horses do that and she did. Very impressed."

The victory gave a lift to the Roths and also to Chad Brown, who missed the races due to a death in the family. Brown also trained the P.G. Johnson's morning-line favorite Mintd, a daughter of Olympic Glory bought privately by Madaket Stables and Bradley Thoroughbreds after making her first four starts in Ireland.

Mintd shied as she walked across the Mellon Course toward the gap in the hedge leading to the inner course, tossed jockey Irad Ortiz Jr. and rolled on the ground. Scratched on the advice of the veterinarian, Mintd got loose from the outrider walking on the main track toward the finish line. She ran loose for several minutes, delaying the start for about 10 minutes before being caught near the quarter-pole gap and led off the track.



Jaime Roth (center with jockey Javier Castellano) accepts the P.G. Johnson trophy.



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Gate Crasher

Quick Stonefactor wins allowance for Dilger barn as weather breaks

The midweek heat wave broke, giving way to a welcome and more seasonal late summer day marked by a cool breeze and abundant sunshine on the second day of the final week of the 2018 Saratoga Race Course meeting Thursday.

Of course, the new weather came with a price.

Overnight rain Wednesday into Thursday did its part to continue a meet-long trend of races being moved from the turf to the dirt, as four of the first six carded for the grass were transferred to the main track. The rained-off grass events resulted in 25 scratches in the second, third, fifth and sixth races.

Paid attendance of 19,626 turned out to see a Finger Lakes shipper win the opener, David Donk collect his

THURSDAY RACING RECAP

seventh win of the meet and trainer Linda Rice double on the card. Leading trainer Chad Brown won the feature, to go to 37 on the season while leading jockey Irad Ortiz Jr. picked up two more wins to get to 48.

- Stonefactor broke fast in her first six starts and broke fast again in the eighth, going to the front at the start of the 5 1/2-furlong state-bred turf allowance and winning by 1 1/2 lengths. The 3-year-old daughter of Ghostzapper, a homebred for Sugar Maple Farm, Dan Hayden and H. Lewis Rapaport trained by Mike Dilger, improved to 2-for-7 with her

Continued On Page 21



Tod Marks

Stonefactor streaks to the finish in the eighth.

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GIFTS • MEMORABILIA • SOUVENIRS

Thursday —

■ Continued from page 20

second win in her last three starts.

“She’s brilliant,” Dilger said of Stonefactor’s ability from the gate.

Stonefactor led at the first call in four of her first six races, but couldn’t quite close the deal until winning a 6-furlong state-bred maiden the day before the Belmont Stakes. She finished second once and third twice in her first four starts before that maiden win, including three last fall as a 2-year-old.

“She was never bad, just needed time to improve,” Dilger said. “So we put her away for the winter and here we are.”

Stonefactor was Dilger’s second winner at the meet from 12 starts. Wildly, his horses have finished second seven times – including Stonefactor in an off-the-turf state-bred maiden Aug. 6.

“She’s better on turf, but she handles the dirt. These races get a little easier when they come off. There were no MTOs in her last race, so it makes it a little easier.

“The horses are running fantastic, they came up here ready to run. They’ve run well. We haven’t been beaten more than 2 or 3 lengths in any of those seconds. We can’t be unhappy but at the same time seven seconds is a big difference. If we could trade one or two of them we would.”

– Tom Law



Tod Marks

Timely Tradition (2) wins the opener for Finger Lakes-based trainer Ralph D’Alessandro.

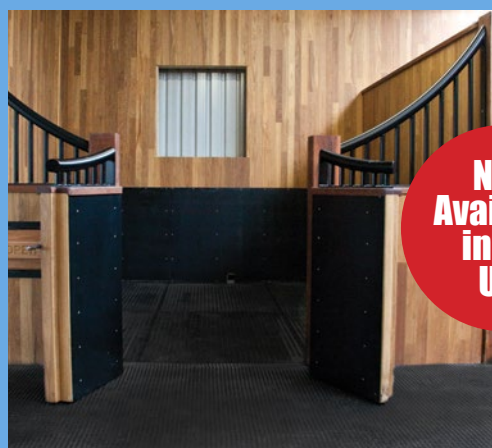
• Finger Lakes-based Ralph D’Alessandro won at Saratoga for the first time in 14 years when Timely Tradition took the opener, a \$25,000 claimer at 6 1/2 furlongs on the main track.

The 4-year-old daughter of First Defence won under Jose Ortiz to give D’Alessandro his first win at Saratoga since So Sweet A Cat took the 2004 Statue of Liberty Stakes in the New York Stallion Series.

Thursday, Timely Tradition won by a neck over Satin Sheets. D’Alessandro was confident despite the lengthy drought, with Timely Tradition coming off an allowance win at Finger Lakes Aug. 1.

“The only thing I didn’t like was being in the 1 hole,” he said of the post position. “She broke sharp enough. Jose did the right thing he took a hold of her and when he had an opportunity to

Continued On Page 22



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Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS	1ST
Chad Brown	37
Todd Pletcher	18
Steve Asmussen	13
Bill Mott	12
Rudy Rodriguez	12
Jeremiah Englehart	10
Linda Rice	9
Kiaran McLaughlin	8
Jason Servis	8
Joe Sharp	8

JOCKEYS	1ST
Irad Ortiz Jr.	48
Javier Castellano	36
Jose Ortiz	35
Manny Franco	32
Luis Saez	30
Joel Rosario	22
Ricardo Santana Jr.	22
Junior Alvarado	21
John Velazquez	21

Through Thursday

Thursday —

Continued from page 21

make a run he took her to the outside and she just blew by the field.”

D'Alessandro claimed Timely Tradition for \$12,500 at Belmont Park July 15. She raced at a mile that day, and again in her Finger Lakes victory, all while D'Alessandro kept a thought in the back of his mind.

“She sprinted before, and I thought that 6 1/2 or 7 furlongs would hit her right on the nose,” he said. “When she goes a mile she makes the lead and then likes to hang a little bit, so I thought just cutting her back would be the right way to go.”

— David Woods

• Donk won the third with Matty's Magnum, who overcame a leaping start to win a \$62,500 open claimer at 1 1/8 miles on the dirt. The race was originally carded for the turf, and scratched down to four runners with the winner catching favorite Naples Legacy late to score by a neck for jockey John Velazquez. Donk's seven winners match his 2017 total.



Tod Marks

Veteran Poshsky won his 12th race.

• Gary Contessa also pushed his win total to seven when Poshsky pulled a mild upset in the sixth with Dylan Davis aboard. Owned by DCK Racing, the winner drew off in the stretch to score by 5 lengths at better than 7-1 in the \$25,000 claimer going 7 furlongs on the dirt. The California-bred 8-year-old, a Grade 3 winner at Golden Gate Fields in 2015, won for the 12th time while pushing his career earnings total past \$669,000.

• Rice doubled, winning the fourth with Stoney Bennett and the seventh with Poppy's Destiny to get nine on the season. The former, racing for Roddy Valente, Darlene Bilinski and Richard Alfred, wired four others in a \$50,000 claimer at 6 1/2 furlongs on the dirt. Manny Franco rode the favorite, a homebred son of Bustin Stones.

Three races later, first-time starter Poppy's Destiny also led throughout to defeat nine other New York-bred rookies going 5 1/2 furlongs on the dirt. Irad Ortiz rode the son of Orb for owner Lobdell Family Stables. Poppy's Destiny contested the pace, then held on to win by a nose over True Gold with Risp third. Lobdell spent \$300,000 on the dark bay colt, bred by SF Racing Group, at the OBS March sale of 2-year-olds.

• Trainer Chris Englehart and jockey Mike Luzzi teamed up to win the fifth, a \$40,000 state-bred maiden claimer going 5 1/2 furlongs on the dirt, with Bid You Adieu. The 3-year-old daughter of Artie Schiller made the running and won a four-way photo by a neck at almost 6-1. Owned by My Purple Haze Stable, the winner finished fifth in her debut at Belmont Park in June. Luzzi pulled to within 10 wins of 3,500 for his career.

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SARATOGA RESULTS

Thursday August 30.

FIRST \$50,000, NY-BRED CLAIMING \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

2	Timely Tradition	J. Ortiz	\$6.60	\$3.70	\$3.00
3	Satin Sheets	D. Cohen		\$4.10	\$2.80
1	Cats Halo	D. Davis			\$5.60

B Filly 2014, by First Defence - True Believer by Smart Strike
Owner: Our Blue Streaks Stable. Trainer: Ralph D'Alessandro.
Breeder: Mr. & Mrs. Bertram R. Firestone (NY).

Late Scratches: Scripted

Claimed: Satin Sheets claimed by Goldfarb, Sanford J. for \$25,000
Time: 1:18.08 Exacta (2-3), \$12.20; Superfecta (2-3-1-6), \$9.72; Trifecta (2-3-1), \$27.25

SECOND \$85,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

10	End of Spirits	L. Saez	\$10.20	\$4.50	\$3.30
12	Illudere	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$3.40	\$2.70
13	Rucksack	J. Rosario			\$4.60

B Colt 2015, by Ghostzapper - Spirit Seeker by Peace Rules

Owner: Jim and Susan Hill. Trainer: Brian Lynch.

Breeder: Hidden Springs Farm (KY). Late Scratches: Carom, Bail Out, Chantry Flats, Argonne, Strategic Outlook, Frontier Market
Time: 1:22.71

Daily Double (2-10), \$27.25; Exacta (10-12), \$13.90; Quinella (10-12), \$7.10; Superfecta (10-12-13-3), \$46.00; Trifecta (10-12-13), \$36.50

THIRD \$75,000, CLAIMING \$62,500, 3 YO, 1 1/8M

6	Matty's Magnum	J. Velazquez	\$5.30	\$2.70	
1	Naples Legacy	J. Ortiz		\$2.60	
2	Theodosia	D. Davis			

Gr/ro Filly 2015, by Even the Score - Matanah (GB) by Machiavellian

Owner: Lessell, Edward R. and Mary Jo. Trainer: David Donk.

Breeder: Edward Ross Lessell & Mary Jo Lessell (KY). Time: 1:52.54
Late Scratches: Radiant Beauty, Fast Track Kathern, Bramble Queen
Daily Double (10-6), \$21.50; Exacta (6-1), \$6.40; Pic 3 (2-10-6), \$50.00

FOURTH \$67,000, CLAIMING \$50,000, 3 YO, 6 1/2F

6	Stoney Bennett	M. Franco	\$3.50	\$2.60	\$2.20
1	What a Catch	J. Velazquez		\$3.10	\$2.30
3	Zombie	R. Santana, Jr.			\$2.50

Ch Gelding 2015, by Bustin Stones - Saudi Princess by Unbridled's Song
Owner: Valente, Roddy J., Bilinski, Darlene and Alfred, Richard.

Trainer: Linda Rice.

Breeder: Dr. Jerry Bilinski, Roddy Valente & Dr. Richard Alfred (NY).
Late Scratches: Taruca. Time: 1:18.98. Daily Double (6-6), \$7.30; Exacta (6-1), \$4.05; Quinella (1-6), \$2.90; Superfecta (6-1-3-5), \$1.15; Trifecta (6-1-3), \$3.45; Pic 3 (10-6-6), \$29.25

FIFTH \$45,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN CLAIMING \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

8	Bid You Adieu	M. Luzzi	\$13.60	\$5.90	\$4.90
3	Fiveinthemorning	J. Castellano		\$4.70	\$3.30
1	Ma Mo	D. Cohen			\$4.00

B Filly 2015, by Artie Schiller - Je T'aime by Gold Token

Owner: My Purple Haze Stables. Trainer: Chris Englehart.

Breeder: Merrylegs Farm North, LLC (NY). Time: 1:06.65

Late Scratches: Missbigtimes, Quietly Quick, Lets Dance Some Mo, Youth Gone Wild, Andretta, Reconsider It, Truly Courageous

Daily Double (6-8), \$16.50; Exacta (8-3), \$30.00; Superfecta (8-3-1-6), \$51.15; Trifecta (8-3-1), \$72.62; Pic 3 (6-6-8), \$57.50; Pic 4 (10-6-2/6-8), \$235.75; Pic 5 (2-10-6-2/6-8), \$793.25

SIXTH \$50,000, CLAIMING \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

2	Poshsky	D. Davis	\$16.20	\$4.90	\$2.60
14	Hardly a Secret	L. Saez		\$3.20	\$2.30
15	Bad Student	D. Cohen			\$2.20

B Gelding 2010, by Vronsky - Pinky's Posh by Bold Badgett

Owner: DCK Racing. Trainer: Gary Contessa.

Breeder: Old English Rancho & Berumen (CA).

Late Scratches: Aire Bueno (CHI), Sycamore Lane, Hieroglyphics, Bow Tie Affair, Captain Dixie, Your Only Man, Nileator, Neoclassic, Zefiro
Claimed: Hardly a Secret claimed by Gullo, Gary P. for \$25,000, Bad Student claimed by Foster, Michael S. for \$25,000 . Time: 1:24.70
Daily Double (8-2), \$47.50; Exacta (2-14), \$19.70; Superfecta (2-14-15-1), \$18.57; Trifecta (2-14-15), \$23.25; Pic 3 (6-8-2), \$185.75

SEVENTH \$75,000, NY-BRED MDN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2YO, 5 1/2F

5	Poppy's Destiny	I. Ortiz, Jr.	\$13.40	\$6.70	\$3.60
3	True Gold	J. Rosario		\$6.10	\$3.90
9	Risp	J. Castellano			\$2.90

Dk B/ Br Colt 2016, by Orb - Plethora by First Samurai

Owner: Lobdell Family Stables. Trainer: Linda Rice.

Breeder: SF Racing Group, Inc. (NY). Late Scratches: Quick Charge, Tapit Tango, Bustin Hoffman. Time: 1:05.52
Daily Double (2-5), \$60.50; Exacta (5-3), \$26.50; Superfecta (5-3-9-1), \$137.80; Trifecta (5-3-9), \$55.00; Pic 3 (8-2-5), \$505.00

EIGHTH \$77,000, NY-BRED ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

12	Stonefactor	K. Carmouche	\$7.50	\$4.40	\$3.70
6	Wantagh Queen	J. Lezcano		\$13.80	\$8.90
7	Birthday Gift	R. Maragh			\$13.80

Gr/ro Filly 2015, by The Factor - Miss Blarney Stone by Dynaformer

Owner: Rapaport, H. Lewis, Sugar Maple Farm and Hayden, Dan.

Trainer: Michael Dilger. Breeder: Sugar Maple Farm & H. Lewis Rapaport (NY). Late Scratches: Saratoga Treasure, Hannah's Smile, Tough Old Bird, Ohmygollymsmolly. Time: 1:04.56

Daily Double (5-12), \$27.00; Exacta (12-6), \$45.50; Superfecta (12-6-7-2), \$3,656.30; Trifecta (12-6-7), \$1,003.00; Pic 3 (2-5-12), \$222.50

NINTH \$100,000, STAKES - P. G. JOHNSON S., 2 YO, 1 1/16M

1	Dogtag	J. Castellano	\$4.30	\$3.30	\$2.20
9	Varenka	J. Velazquez		\$8.20	\$4.20
10	Chocolate Kisses	J. Ortiz			\$2.40

Gr/ro Filly 2016, by War Front - Diamond Necklace by Unbridled's Song
Owner: LNJ Foxwoods. Trainer: Chad Brown. Breeder: LNJ Foxwoods (KY).

Late Scratches: Global Exchange, Cassies Dreamer, Guacamole, Mintd (IRE), Miss Technicality. Time: 1:45.82

Daily Double (12-1), \$9.50; Exacta (1-9), \$23.30; Superfecta (1-9-10-5), \$16.97; Trifecta (1-9-10), \$29.25; Consolation Double (12-7), \$3.50; Pic 3 (5-12-1), \$74.00; (5-12-7), \$21.30; Place Pix Nine (2/14/15-3/5/9-6/7/12-1), \$8.20

10TH. \$75,000 NY-BRED MDN SPECIAL WEIGHT. 3&UP. 6 1/2F

7	Suas	I. Ortiz Jr.	6.40	3.80	3.00
9	San Juan Diego	E. Cancel		9.20	6.70
4	Unsellie	J. Rosario			11.00

Dk. B./Br. g. Forty Tales-In Flagrant, Came Home.

Breeder: Peggy Vandervoort (NY).

Owner: EV Racing Stable. Trainer: Rudy Rodriguez. Time: 1:18.89.
Exacta \$36.75. Trifecta \$463.50. Superfecta \$332.15. Double \$8.20.
Pick 3 \$31.50. Pick 4 \$38.87. Pick 5 \$604.25. Pick 6 \$18,833. Pick 6 (5 correct) \$138.

Numerous consolation pick 3 payouts and double payouts. See other sources.

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Pretty City Dancer and Sweet Loretta

Spinaway 2016

BY JOE CLANCY

Of all the major achievements of super sire Tapit, the one from Sept. 3, 2016 might be the most phenomenal. He sired two Grade 1 winners at once as Sweet Loretta and Pretty City Dancer dead heated in the Spinaway on closing weekend at Saratoga Race Course.

"That was a pretty good day," said Michael Hernon of Gainesway Farm, where the country's top stallion stands. "It isn't often a stallion gets two Grade 1 winners out of one race."

Sweet Loretta and Pretty City Dancer both broke slowly in the 7-furlong stakes and let Runway Doll set the early pace. From the rail, Sweet Loretta found a spot in third behind three rivals. Pretty City Dancer followed her into contention on the turn. Sweet Loretta struck first in the stretch, but was soon joined by Pretty City Dancer to her outside. The latter finally drew alongside in deep stretch, and the fillies traded three bumps in the final yards. The photo finish couldn't separate them, though a stewards' inquiry nearly did.

Trainers Todd Pletcher (Sweet Loretta) and Mark Casse (Pretty City Dancer) waited out the decision.

Pletcher asked, "Would you take a dead heat?" Casse said he would.

Neither was sure who won.

"Afterwards I thought we won, then I thought we got beat," Casse said.

"In the stretch, I thought she had it and then it was getting closer, and then I thought the other filly put a nose in front of her and then she got a big bob. I was happy with the way she did it. She was home free – almost."

After a lengthy review, each got what he wanted – a winner's circle photo.



Tod Marks
Pretty City Dancer (left)
and Sweet Loretta.

The fillies were destined for big things early.

Bred by Ashview Farm and Colts Neck Stable, Sweet Loretta sold for \$750,000 as a weanling in 2014. The bay filly won her first three starts for Pletcher and St. Elias Stable – a Monmouth Park maiden, the Schuylerville and Spinaway at Saratoga – and returned to win the Grade 3 Beaumont last year.

Bred by Gainesway, Pretty City Dancer sold for \$825,000 as a yearling at Keeneland September in 2015. John Oxley made the purchase, and got a precocious 2-year-old.

Casse called the gray filly their "favorite" at the sale, and one Oxley wanted to make sure joined the team.

"She was unique because normally when we bid on a horse, Mr. Oxley and I will go in together," said the trainer. "I tend to stop him a lot of times. I'll say, 'That's enough, that's enough,'

that sort of thing. We wanted to buy what we felt was the best Tapit filly in the sale. She was our No. 1 pick. He told me to wait in the hall. I remember that. Normally I walk in and he just says, 'You might want to wait here.' Basically, 'You're not going to interfere with what I decide to do.' That's why I remember. We laughed about that after."

Pretty City Dancer finished third in her debut at Churchill Downs in May, then won her next three – a Churchill maiden, the Debutante Stakes at the Kentucky track and then the Spinaway.

Neither filly did much on the racetrack beyond that 2-year-old season, though both will get plenty of chances to make another impact. Pretty City Dancer was bred to Medaglia d'Oro this year while Sweet Loretta went to Into Mischief.

Additional reporting by Tom Law.

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- Graham Motion

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

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

Stonetastic

Prioress 2014

BY JOE CLANCY

In the 2014 Prioress, Stonetastic ran so fast you could literally hear Saratoga gasp. OK, the old track didn't make any noise but the people in attendance on Aug. 30 sure did.

The gray 3-year-old filly shipped in from Monmouth Park for trainer Kelly Breen and didn't let a horse get anywhere near her in the 6-furlong stakes. She led by a length after a first quarter in :22.27 and was still up by that margin after a half in :44.75. The 5-furlong time went up in :56.60 with Stonetastic and jockey Paco Lopez in total command. By the end, she won by 8 1/2 lengths after 1:08.88.

Afterward, Breen joked that his job was to make the daughter of Mizzen Mast slower – somewhat counterintuitive for a horse trainer.

"She's fast, she's always been fast," the trainer said then. "She works extremely fast. It's a matter of trying to slow her down. She's too fast for her own good. But it's nice to have those problems. We have plenty we are trying to speed up."

Bred in Kentucky by Carrie and Craig Brogden of Machmer Hall, Stonetastic won twice that year and returned in 2015 to win the Grade 2 Inside Information at Gulfstream Park and finish second in the Grade 1 Humana Distaff. By the time she retired in 2016, she'd won eight of 22 and earned \$856,062 for Stoneway Farm.

Not bad for a filly whose dam, the Maryland-bred Special Me, cost \$6,000.

Carrie Brogden paid that at Keeneland January in 2009, but wasn't sure it was a bargain. Special Me raced just three times as a 2-year-old for owner/breeder Dark Hollow Farm and trainer Graham Motion – and didn't get close. Undersized, she didn't fit the conformation profile either. As a daughter of Unbridled's Song and the Lord Avie mare Delta Danielle she did have some



Tod Marks
Stonetastic coasts home
in the 2014 Prioress.

pedigree in her corner, and that's how Brogden got involved.

"I had been watching her because I'm such a huge fan of Unbridled's Song," Brogden said. "They ran her for a (\$25,000) tag and I had somebody look at her for me. She was 14.2 (hands tall) on a good day, so we passed on her."

Then the pony-sized filly showed up at the sale as a 3-year-old racing/broodmare prospect. Brogden looked again and talked to Dark Hollow owner David Hayden. The filly was born five weeks early, and just never caught up. She was small, slow, unproductive and Dark Hollow had plenty of broodmares. So Special Me was in the sale without a reserve. Brogden bid \$6,000, and took her home.

"I'm not saying we would have spent a kajillion dollars on her," said Brogden. "I've done this before and it hasn't worked out so it's not a

failsafe business plan. You wouldn't want to buy a lot of them like that. For \$6,000 it was worth it to take a shot on her. And the rest is history."

Brogden sold Special Me's first foal, a son of Street Hero later named Restricted List, for \$17,000. He was born without the ability to nurse, so grew up drinking out of a bucket and alongside a nurse-mare foal named Spicy. Restricted List won three times and recently came back to the farm for knee surgery and a happy retirement as a riding horse (Spicy is a pony clubber).

Next came Stonetastic, a \$77,000 yearling purchase by Stoneway.

"She was beautiful," said Brogden. "It's typical of the graded stakes winners that come off our farm. She was far above average, in the top 30 percent of all the foals we've raised. She sold for a lot of money at the time for a Mizzen Mast."

Continued On Page 29

Stonetastic —

■ Continued from page 28

Special Me's third foal, Gift Box, sold for \$135,000 and has won three times for Will Farish and Chad Brown. Stonetastic's full-sister Divergent Thinking sold for \$270,000 as a yearling in 2015. A 2015 foal named Special Forces (by Candy Ride) brought \$220,000 and is a winner. Shadwell Farm bought Special Me's 2016 foal, a Speightstown filly named Wamathaat, for \$550,000. An Honor Code filly is in Book 1 at Keeneland September this year.

"The mare has been very good to us," Brogden said of Special Me. "She's a really good mother. If you see her in the field, she's around the same size as her foals when it's time to wean them. She's probably at the point where she's proven herself now that she's had some good foals, but you would never pick her out."

Stonetastic herself is a broodmare for Stoneway and delivered a Candy Ride filly in March and was bred to American Pharoah.



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Spread the Wealth

“...plus I’m tired of reading about Chad and Todd.”

That was the final line of a text sent to me Aug 2. A reader, well an ex-reader, was explaining why he hadn’t read *The Special* this season.

I fired back, “Trainers who have won stakes at the meet: Carvajal, Wilkes, Lawrence, Weaver, Kingsley, Calhoun, Serpe, Miller.”

That was off the top of my head.

Two days later, I added, “Tagg and Violette.”

I gave up texting after that, but could have continued the theme. Little guys won big races all season.

Sure, the sport is suffering because of a top-heavy trainer colony, the balance of power is not balanced. In New York, Chad Brown and Todd Pletcher have the most horses, they win the most races and they take the brunt of the criticism. Through their unparalleled success, they’ve earned their position and they have the right to accept as many horses as they want in a free-market system. Sure, the racetrack could help tweak it – limiting stall space, creative conditions – but that’s a slippery slope with plenty of unintended consequences.

Now, the owners and racing managers, they can do something about it. They’re ultimately the ones in charge. If big owners sent a few horses to smaller trainers, others would follow and the sport would begin to recalibrate. It’s not that simple, but that’s where it needs to start.

With that in mind, here are few highlights to remember from Saratoga 2018.

Bret Calhoun, who wins a lot of races on a lot of circuits but not many in New York, won the Honorable Miss with Finley’s luckycharm, a \$77,000 yearling purchase.

Darrin Miller won the Caress with Ruby Notion, a filly who was once in the big barn of Wesley Ward but then went to Miller’s small stable. “Wesley did a great job with her, and we appreciate what he did,” owner Bonnie Hamilton said. “Darrin has 20 horses

maybe...and is looking at that girl every single day. He rides her every day. It makes a difference as you get older.”

Old? Phil Serpe kept the wheels turning on 8-year-old Weekend Hideaway, a horse he bought from the Flying Zee Dispersal and has coddled ever since, winning the John Morrissey. Owner Mike Hoffman described the relationship between horse and trainer. “I know that Phil has a bond with this horse, he talks to him, he does all this crazy stuff with him in the afternoon. I saw him before the race whispering in Weekend Hideaway’s ear. I told my son, ‘The horse whisperer, he’s telling him to win.’”

Luis Carvajal Jr. won his first Grade 1 stakes when Imperial Hint, a horse he found as a yearling, dominated the Vanderbilt. The former jockey mans a small ship at Parx, he’s two wins from reaching 100 for his 13-year career. “It took a little bit of faith in what you’re doing and luck.” Individualized training? Imperial Hint breezed July 7, July 21, won the Vanderbilt July 28 and worked for the first time since then Aug. 25.

Chuck Lawrence brought Glorious Empire, a horse claimed for \$62,500, to Saratoga to dead heat in the Grade 2 Bowling Green and turned around to do it again in the Grade 1 Sword Dancer. This spring, Lawrence put the nervous gelding on his van and drove him around town, Mikey Smithwick style. Now, that’s hands-on attention.

Arch Kingsley, who once lived in an Imperatore Horse van for a summer, brought Show King from his small base at Monmouth Park to upset the A.P. Smithwick.

Wayne Catalano, who was once big but is now relatively small, carved out a four-stall pitch between Norm Casse and John Hertler for the meet. Farrell leapt out of there to upset Brown’s Wow Cat in the Shuvee.

Ian Wilkes, the most unassuming trainer around, upset Pletcher’s Hard Study in the Birdstone.

Rick Violette (67 starts this year) trained Diversify to beat Mind Your Biscuits, trained by Chad Summers (64 starts this year) in the Whitney. And Parx-based Uriah St. Lewis picked up third with Discreet Lover, a horse he owns and trains.

Barclay Tagg won the Alydar with Realm, a horse he picked out for \$75,000. Tagg won the race before the Alydar with Im The Captain Now, a \$15,000 purchase, for a double from a string of 23.

Veteran Ned Allard is down on horses but not on Saratoga raids, he won the Tale Of The Cat with Always Sunshine.

Brandon McFarlane brought a colt bred by the University of Kentucky to win the Skidmore and pay \$47. Owner Dave Baxter promised McFarlane he’d send horses. Good move, he was rewarded with a Saratoga stakes win.

Town and Country Stable gave Chris Davis a few horses. He won the Summer Colony with Moonlit Garden. It was his 20th career victory.

Mike Trombetta, big in Maryland but small in New York, justified another Saratoga summer when Monte Crista won the Riskaverse.

How about the job Tim Hills has done with Kharafa? Hills kept the 9-year-old sprightly enough to upset the West Point.

Ray Handal became the only trainer to go from Fasig-Tipton’s Little Guy Stable Tour to winning a stakes at Saratoga when English Soul won the Fleet Indian. The young trainer was almost bust before Zilla Racing gave him a shot.

Trish Moseley has always supported the little guy, she won a big one with Tom Morley when La Moneda took the Yaddo.

Oh, and Jonathan Thomas. The former steeplechase jockey arrived, winning the Travers in just his second full season as a trainer.

So, yeah, that’s what the ex-reader missed when thinking all we wrote about were Brown and Pletcher. And there are still four days to go.

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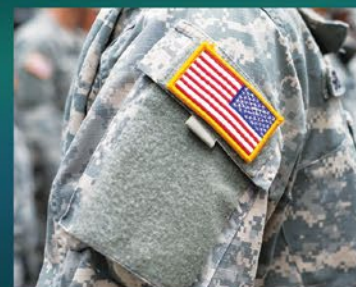
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