

Year 17 • No. 27

Friday, September 1, 2017

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Tod Marks

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T-SHIRT SLOGAN OF THE DAY

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LICENSE PLATE OF THE DAY

SLEW, Vermont.

BY THE NUMBERS

1: Sheep in the back of a pick-up truck on Warren Street Thursday morning.

2: Times steeplechase horses Selection Sunday and Balance The Budget ran against each other as flat horses. The former, trained by Alan Goldberg, won an Aqueduct maiden in 2011 in which the latter, trained by Bill Mott, finished fourth. They met again at Saratoga in 2012, with Balance The Budget finishing fifth and Selection Sunday placing eighth. Thursday, Balance The Budget was second, one spot better than his old friend, in a handicap hurdle.

NAMES OF THE DAY

Ethan Hunt, third race. The 3-year-old colt, who races for Calm and Cool Stable and G and A Racing, is by Mission Impazible. Ethan Hunt is the character played by Tom Cruise in the Mission Impossible movie. Thanks Kevin “Brooklyn Cowboy” Cox for the tip.

Electrified, ninth race. Mosaic Racing Stable’s 5-year-old mare is out of Watt Ever.

Swayze, eighth race. Agave Racing Stable and Hebert Bloodstock’s 3-year-old colt is by Ghostzapper.

Heliodoro, first race. Just because. Mossarosa’s 5-year-old gelding is – we think – named for Forego’s jockey Heliodoro Gustines.



Tod Marks

Farewell Song. Champion Songbird, twice a Saratoga Grade 1 winner last year and second in this year’s Personal Ensign, was retired Thursday. She won 13 of 15 and earned in excess of \$4.6 million.

The Sarago-to stallion

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Bernardini has sired two G1 Woodward winners – in fact, his offspring have won more G1s and more Graded Stakes at The Spa since 2011 than those of any other active stallion.

Saratoga Graded Stakes wins since 2011

1	Bernardini	11
2	Tapit	10
3	Ghostzapper	7
	Speightstown	7
	Unbridled’s Song	7
6	Curlin	6
	Kitten’s Joy	6
	Smart Strike	6

Saratoga G1 wins since 2011

1	Bernardini	7
	Unbridled’s Song	7
3	Speightstown	5
4	Congrats	4
5	Hard Spun	3
	Medaglia d’Oro	3
	Tapit	3
	Tiznow	3
	and five others	

TO 8/28/17

Darley

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"On Memorial Day weekend, we'd get 40,000 people there. I wouldn't have been a racing fan without Ak-Sar-Ben."

**Owner (and Nebraskan) Gary West,
winner of the Travers with West Coast**



here&there... at Saratoga

WORTH REPEATING

"Finally got into the winner's circle."

Trainer Jonathan Sheppard after presenting the trophy for Wednesday's With Anticipation

"Are you lonely?"

Ian Wilkes to The Special's Tom Law as he walked on the road near the half-mile pole Wednesday morning

"He's the coolest horse ever."

Charlton Baker on New York Turf Writers winner Diplomat

"How do I get my byline in The Special?"

Albany Times-Union's Tim Wilkin

"Are you showing off for the crowds?"

Alice Clapham after Untamed Domain ripped a few double-barreled bucks in the paddock before Wednesday's With Anticipation

"If Songbird can't handle it, I can't handle it."

Trainer Larry Jones when asked about coming to Saratoga

"What the hell does he use shampoo for?"

Valet Simon Harris, about jockey Mike Smith

"I like to get out of town."

Assistant trainer Jimmy Barnes, on his constant traveling schedule

"High. I expect him to show up."

Barnes, when asked about his confidence level in West Coast before the Travers

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

Admiral Alex	Goldmember	Pass You Bye Bye
Ameri Valay	Great Notion	Perfecting
Americo's Bullet	Greek Sun	Petionville
Baltimore Bob	Gyrfalcon (GB)	Plan
Bishop's Other Boy	Hawk in Flight	Polish Miner
Bowman's Band	Hunters Bay	Polish Payola
Buffum	Java Royal	Precious Marque
Bullsbay	Jazz Club	Pulverizing
Cal Nation	Ken Doll	Purple Passion
Cat Country	La Reine's Terms	Que Man
Cherokee's Boy	Ladinos Bambino	Redeemed
Citidancer	Lion Hearted	Regal American
Country Only	Lord Concorde	Rock Slide
Crowd Pleaser	Louis Quatorze	Rush Bay
Cruisin' Dixie	Love of Money	Same Day Delivery
Crypto Star	M Eighty	Scipion
Cuba	Makin Money	Seeking Daylight
Dance With Ravens	Marciano	Showing Up
Deputy Storm	McKendree	Smart Guy
Despite the Odds	Meadow Monster	St Averil
Diamond	Medallist	Standing Room
Disco Rico	Mogador	Only
Domestic Dispute	Mojave Moon	Sticks and Bricks
Dumyat	Money's Star	Street Magician
E Dubai	Mr. Shoplifter	Tomahawk Lake
Elusive Charlie	Nicanor	Touch 'n' Fly (IRE)
Etched	No Armistice	Trial Prep
Eternal Star	Not Abroad	Two Punch
Fantasticat	Not For Love	Unbridled Jet
Fleet Foot	One Golf Sierra	Unbridled Mate
Freedom Child	Oratory	Waquoit
Friesan Fire	Oriente	Wayne County (IRE)
Gators N Bears	Outflanker	Who's Your Daddy
Giacomo	Parker's Storm Cat	Yarrow Brae
Go for Gin	Partner's Hero	

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

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

PRE-ENTRY DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017

\$150K Maryland Million Classic Three-year-olds & up, 1 1/4 mi.

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

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WORTH REPEATING

“It just works out, timing, they have little issues, one thing leads to another and it’s February.”
Exercise rider Dana Barnes, on West Coast making his debut in February

“We knew as we got older, our eyesight would get worse, pink stands out like a sore thumb so it’s purely optics.”

Owner Gary West, when asked about why he chose pink for his silks

“I breezed him and I watched him, he had been outworking everything.”

Jockey Mike Smith, on why he was confident with West Coast

“He went. If they don’t and they do three jumps later, you’re screwed, they’re pulling behind horses.”

Smith, on gunning West Coast from the gate

“We’ve gone through a couple of tough weeks and I’m just glad we got the gorilla off our backs.”
Smith, after winning the Travers

“The way the race looked on paper and I thought they probably didn’t want Always Dreaming on the lead the way he’s been running. I thought.”

Smith, on deciding to go to the lead aboard West Coast

“That’s a hell of a lot of sod. I wonder who got that contract?”

Trainer Bruce Brown, on the installation of sod on the new Aqueduct turf course

“I’m big everywhere.”

NYRA handicapper Anthony “The Big A” Stabile, to Andy Serling’s comment ‘You’re big at Foxwoods’

“All of our horses picked up a check except the one who bought half an acre.”

Jump jockey Bernie Dalton, to his wife Kate, about Thursday’s runner Strongbox who fell at the seventh fence and emerged with little more than grass stains

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– David Donk

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Where's Waldo?

Connie Bush

The Chief... Day 27

"I had this little scrapbook I made when I was 7 years old and that. It was in my old house, I don't know how I lost it. If I showed you that little scrapbook, you would laugh. When I first became a horse bug, I would put every, everything I could see and cut out and paste in that book, even the advertisements for the harnesses on the Sears Roebuck catalogue. The first racehorse was Omaha and I remember ripping it slightly while I was pasting it in, so then, I had to push it back in there, you could see it. It was so funny to see it later on."

– **Trainer Allen Jerkens**
1929-2015



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Tod Marks photo

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with George Weaver

“Want to do a Stable Tour?”

George Weaver looked up from his desk at his barn near the Oklahoma training track and laughed, “I was wondering why you were hanging around here,” Weaver said, sliding his chair and walking out of his office.

With 10 wins at the meet and seven horses in the entry box, Weaver holds a firm spot in the top 10 at Saratoga, producing another strong showing at the Spa.

The Special’s Sean Clancy walked Weaver’s shedrow Tuesday morning.

Cullum Road: Owned by West Point Thoroughbreds and Brent Parent, the son of Quality Road finished fourth in his debut at Saratoga Aug. 19. “Pretty horse. Always been springy and athletic in the morning, beautiful galloping horse, won’t get a chance to run back at the meet but he will at Belmont.”

Majestic Bonnie: Bona Venture Stable’s 3-year-old filly is entered on the turf Sunday. “Broke her maiden here last year, third behind Coasted in a stake, she’s been stakes-placed this year, she’ll run in the one-other-than on Sunday, nice filly. She’s one all the exercise riders like, she’s a nice gallop.”

Bella’s Game: A graduate of the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October Yearling Sale, the daughter of Soldat breezed 3 furlongs in :39.87 here Aug. 20. “Unstarted 2-year-old filly, was going to make the meet, just came up with some issues, now she’s *not* going to make the meet, but we like her.”

The Moment Is Now: Son of Tiznow breezed four times at Saratoga, clipping off 4 furlongs in :50.04 in his most recent move. “Unstarted Tiznow 2-year-old, real pretty-training horse, he got sick recently, he’s another that didn’t make the meet. We try to get them all ready for the meet but it just doesn’t always happen, sometimes Mother Nature gets in the way.”

Subic Bay: A Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling graduate, the 4-year-old filly finished third here Aug. 30. The daughter of



Warrior’s Reward stared out the back window, taking little notice of her trainer or a writer. “Looking to break her maiden. She’s got that classy look.”

Majestic Bloom: An \$85,000 purchase at the Fasig-Tipton New York-bred Saratoga sale, the daughter of Majestic Warrior won her debut here in 2014. “She’s one of a group of horses that gets kind of screwed here, she’s a middle-distance turf horse, a mile is too far and five-and-a-half (furlongs) is too short. It’s just not ideal.”

Mo Maverick: Son of Uncle Mo has earned a check in seven of his nine starts, including a win in the Lamplighter Stakes at Monmouth July 29. “We’re going to try the Saranac Saturday, he’s a 3-year-old out of conditions, he doesn’t have a choice but to run against good horses now. He’s a nice colt, he’s athletic.”

Stormy Alexis: Irish-bred daughter of Excellent Art stands in a stall with a makeshift window in the partition between her and a neighbor. “There’s always horses that this helps. We’ve had her awhile, she’s a second-level, turf claiming filly.”

Dynamax Prime: A graduate of the Fasig-Tipton Fall Mixed Sale in 2014, the New York-bred son of Bluegrass Cat hangs his head into Stormy Alexis’ stall like he’s looking for his drive-through order. “She doesn’t need it as much as he does, he gets a little destructive with his stall when he doesn’t have

somebody to hang out with. He was running real well over the winter but he’s tailed off, we ran him in the Albany, he couldn’t keep up, just galloped around there. The other day, he’s got his head through that other hole, I’m like, ‘I built this for you and now you’re going to get splinters in your neck over there.’”

Winning Element: Jim and Susan Hill’s 3-year-old finished fourth here Aug. 23. “City Zip. Maiden. Had him on the grass the first time last time, seemed to like it, but it might have been a tad far for him, he’s got some talent, but he just hasn’t put it together yet.”

The Mighty Judge: Bought for \$160,000 at the Saratoga Select Sale last year, the son of Curlin breezed 4 furlongs from the gate in :50.40 Aug. 25. “He’s nice, we like him, big solid son of a gun. Look at his shoulder. The 2-year-olds look nice. They look out the window at the jumpers schooling, like, ‘Man, do I get to do that?’”

Sensible Myth: Another solid looking 2-year-old, the daughter of Street Sense has posted five breezes at the meet. “Another one who won’t make the meet, but we like her. She’s quick.”

Way Early: Son of Tizway fetched \$35,000 at the Fasig-Tipton New York-bred Yearling Sale last year. “Unstarted New York-bred 2-year-old, never gets tired, like a big freight train, you guys (steeplechase people) will be looking for him when I’m done with him.”

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Thunder’s Honor: Parkland Thoroughbreds’ son of Dialed In finished ninth in his career debut. “We ran him once, he went extremely fast early, but after that first half-mile he was cooked, but we do like him, we need to harness his speed a little better than the first time we ran him, take him back and make one run.”

Thundering Sky: Matt Schera’s daughter of Sky Mesa earned a final bid of \$145,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Select Sale in 2014 and she’s up to \$316,790 earned. “This is one of our stars here. She won the Pebbles last year and the De La Rose this summer. She actually got sick recently, too. This is a race-horse right here. When she first came in as a 2-year-old, she was tough, new place, but once she got her ‘This is what I do’ down, she’s been good.”

Holiday Stone: Jim and Susan Hill’s son of Harlan’s Holiday finished fourth in the Better Talk Now Monday. “He’s another one we love watching train, he’s cleared the one-other-than condition, he’s been running against 3-year-old stake horses, he ran a couple of days ago, just made his move too soon. He’s always trained like a good horse, we love having him around.”

Paradise Island: Debora Morgan’s homebred son of Treasure Beach made an impressive debut on the turf here on Travers Day, when getting elevated from second because of a bump from winner Empirically. “Broke his maiden via DQ, he’s been training forwardly, we liked him, I was glad he got put up. He’s by Treasure Beach, those Treasure Beaches are running.”

Grandpa’s Arianna: Daughter of More Than Ready finished fifth here Aug. 25, she’s on the also-eligible list closing day. “This is Big Dom’s horse, Big Dom’s Pizza. She’s a New York-bred maiden, got beat a couple of times for 40, I was trying to get her in one more time at the meet but not sure it’s going to happen.”

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

Rapid Route: Daughter of Fast Bullet brought a \$45,000 bid from Jim and Susan Hill at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred sale last summer. “Unstarted 2-year-old, was actually ready to run, in the entries as a main-track-only, it didn’t rain, then she came up with a foot, then she got sick and now she’s not going to run at the meet. She’s all better now, we were there, but we got knocked back down the hill.”

For Honor: Owned by R. A. Hill Stable and Gatsas Stable, the daughter of To Honor And Serve shocked the world with a \$49 bomb here on closing weekend in 2016. “Won first time out here last year, got on a stakes diet with no luck, she needed some time off, she finished sixth the other day.”

Sokie: Two-time winning daughter of Indian Charlie hasn’t run since May, but breezed a solid 4 furlongs in :49.78 Aug. 25. The bay mare was relaxing in the outdoor stall at the end of the barn. “She’s sunbathing, she was in here last year, she likes it, a lot of these outside stalls, the horses like them, they’d rather be out here. She finished sixth at Pimlico, didn’t run bad. She’ll let you get on her good side if you try, but if you get on her bad side, she’ll send you out of here.”



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Tod Marks

Spring To The Sky makes his 12th start at Saratoga in today's feature.

Old Reliable

Bruce Brown vet makes 12th start at Saratoga, 4th in this turf sprint

BY TOM LAW

LUCKY COIN STAKES PREVIEW

Spring To The Sky stepped out of his stall a little before 6:30 a.m. Thursday, walked a full circuit of the wood chip ring in front of trainer Bruce Brown's barn inside Horse Haven on the Oklahoma Training Track and went about it like he'd done it hundreds of times.

Chances are Anthony McCarthy's 8-year-old gelding had indeed done it at least that many times. He's in the midst of his seventh summer with Brown in Saratoga and preparing for today's \$100,000 Lucky Coin Stakes. Spring To The Sky is a former winner of the Lucky Coin, taking it back in 2014 when it preceded the meet's other 5 1/2-furlong open turf stakes, the Troy. He makes his 12th Sarato-

ga appearance today as a 15-1 long-shot against eight others in the race restricted to 4-year-olds and up who have not won a stakes in 2017.

Spring To The Sky trained Thursday morning like the pro he's been in his 42-start career, making a short and quiet walk from Brown's barn to the Oklahoma in a set of three. He jogged once the wrong way then turned around for a workmanlike gallop followed by a schooling session at the starting gate.

The Oklahoma was fairly busy on a cloudy and gray late-summer morning that felt a bit humid but nei-

Continued On Page 11

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Lucky Coin —

■ Continued from page 10

ther warm nor cool. Spring To the Sky blended in with the others during his jog but couldn't be missed galloping down the center, head cocked to the side and doing his job with purpose.

"His rider won't be happy today since it's so busy, he'll be tough," Brown said before Spring To The Sky galloped past while his trainer stood near the gap. "Here he comes; the one with his head to the side, ready to break off."

Spring To The Sky's propensity to toss his head — especially when he's in the starting gate — used to be a bit of a concern to Brown until the gelding showed a new dimension in his last start.

Making his first start in allowance-optional company at Saratoga since 2013 in a 5 1/2-furlong turf race July 22, Spring To The Sky threw his head at the start and found himself last of 11 early.

Usually one who races close or on the lead, Spring To The Sky didn't give up and jockey Joe Bravo didn't panic. They gradually made up ground and made a strong run in the stretch to finish third, beaten only a neck by Partly Mocha and Vici. Offered for \$62,500 that day, Spring To The Sky wasn't claimed and is back for his fourth appearance in the Lucky Coin.

"He showed that last time but now watch he'll break this time and be in front by 5," Brown joked. "Looking at the race I hope he uses some of last time's dimension since it looks like there's a lot of gas in there. If he makes that same run I'd think he'll be right there."

Brown freely admits Spring To The Sky is in fairly deep in the Lucky Coin, where he finished fourth in 2016 and fifth in 2015.

The field includes Group 1 winner Undrafted, graded stakes winner Ready For Rye, Tale Of The Cat Stakes runner-up Loose On The Town, last-out Saratoga winners Dream Mover and Big Rock and Grade 2 Play The King Stakes runner-up Dowse's Beach.

"The way that race is written you'd think it would write out some of the better horses but there's some hard knockers in there," Brown said.

Spring To The Sky fits that descrip-

Continued On Page 12



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Continued On Page 11



WEST POINT
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Lucky Coin —

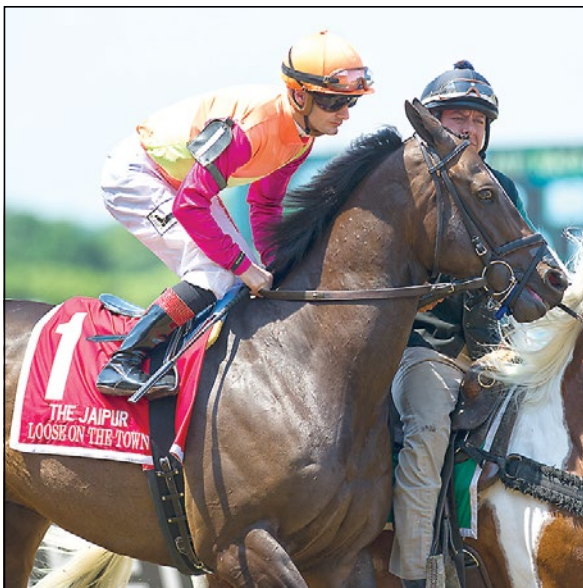
■ Continued from page 11

tion, too. Gelded in the spring of 2016, he's won eight of 42 starts with seven seconds and four thirds for a bankroll of \$635,789. Undrafted, winner of the Group 1 Diamond Jubilee Stakes in 2015 at Royal Ascot for Wesley Ward, leads the field in earnings with \$1,365,513.

McCarthy, a Saratoga Springs native whose mother still owns a home on Wright Street not far from the clubhouse gate, bought Spring To The Sky for \$55,000 at the 2010 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale of selected yearlings. He was the third least expensive horse reported sold and won at least one race a year from 2011 to 2016 with expectations to do so again in 2017.

Brown deliberately didn't get Spring To The Sky started until later in the year, after watching him start his 2016 campaign with strong efforts that included a close second to Ben's Cat in the Jim McKay Turf Sprint, a runner-up in the Pennsylvania Governor's Cup and an allowance win at Belmont before five straight defeats to close the year.

"A horse like him, knock on wood, he's never had any major soundness things so he should be running when he's 10, 11 years old," Brown said. "This year he was lighter raced than normal. Hopefully we get four or five more into him this year. That was the plan, to start a little later.



Tod Marks

Loose On The Town looks for his third win of 2017.

"Last year it seemed like he was doing better than ever early, but then petered out toward the end. This year we tried to stretch it out further so he'd be in peak form up here and into the fall. They added a few races, the new Aqueduct turf course is going to have a sprint race, so they added a few races and hopefully he can make some noise in those races."

Brad Cox won the Troy Stakes at the meet with

Green Mask and looks to add another with Dowse's Beach, the 5-2 favorite on the morning line for the Lucky Coin.

The 6-year-old gelding he claimed on behalf of Gaining Ground Racing for \$62,500 from Patricia Generazio and Christophe Clement won back-to-back starts going 7 and 6 furlongs on the grass at Belmont before the Play The King.

Dowse's Beach led nearly the entire 7 furlongs Play The King before coming up a neck short to Conquest Panthera. The son of Disco Rico has won three of four at Saratoga, including back-to-back starts going 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf in 2015.

Loose On The Town is the 3-1 second choice for trainer Brian Lynch and jockey Javier Castellano. Seventh in Disco Partner's record-setting victory in the Grade 3 Jaipur on Belmont Day, the 5-year-old Speightstown gelding won back-to-back starts sprinting on the turf this spring at Keeneland and Belmont.

Big Rock makes his return to stakes company for the first time since finishing eighth in the Grade 3 Woodford last fall at Keeneland for Clement. He won going 5 1/2 furlongs in 1:01.12 Aug. 3, not far off Lady Shipman's course record of 1:00.46.

Undrafted, third in last year's Lucky Coin for trainer Wesley Ward, exits a fourth in the Troy and is the co-fourth choice at 6-1 with Ready For Rye.

Dream Mover, a winner going 5 1/2 furlongs on the grass Aug. 3 for Jimmy Jerkens, Grade 3 Vigil Stakes runner-up We Deer You and longshot Doctor J Dub complete the field.



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Friday, September 1.

1ST (1:00PM). \$28,000, CLM \$14,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

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

1	.....1	Mister Monolo.....	M. Luzzi.....	G. Matties.....	8-1
2	.....2	Enduring Honor.....	F. Geroux.....	T. Amoss.....	2-1
3	.....3	Pirellone.....	M. Franco.....	G. Contessa.....	4-1
4	.....4	Sir Maurice.....	J. Robles.....	R. Persaud.....	20-1
5	.....5	Augie's Coming.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Rodriguez.....	8-5
6	.....6	Mr Grey (FR).....	A. Lezcano.....	A. Arriaga.....	8-1
7	.....7	Heliodoro.....	C. DeCarlo.....	N. Zito.....	15-1

2ND (1:33PM). \$83,000, MSW, 2 YO, F, 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	.....1	Lady Blessings.....	K. Carmouche.....	T. Morley.....	20-1
2	.....2	Radiant Beauty.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Rodriguez.....	6-1
3	.....3	Ad In.....	C. DeCarlo.....	G. Arnold, II.....	10-1
4	.....4	Brattata.....	J. Ortiz.....	C. Brown.....	3-1
5	.....5	Puttinyouonthenews.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	S. Asmussen.....	4-1
6	.....6	Talk Softly.....	F. Geroux.....	C. Clement.....	12-1
7	.....7	Souper Striking.....	J. Lezcano.....	M. Trombetta.....	15-1
8	.....8	Lyrical Tale.....	R. Maragh.....	T. Morley.....	10-1
9	.....9	Mermaid of Honor.....	M. Franco.....	R. Nicks.....	6-1
10	.....10	Chipolina.....	J. Velazquez.....	W. Ward.....	9-2
11	.....AE	Money Purse.....	M. Luzzi.....	L. Jolley.....	20-1
12	.....AE	Classy Act.....	K. Carmouche.....	W. Calhoun.....	15-1
13	.....AE	Special Trip.....	E. Cancel.....	J. Abreu.....	12-1
14	.....AE	Lenamarie.....	J. Leparoux.....	E. Kenneally.....	6-1
15	.....AE	Gold Zipper.....	L. Saez.....	G. Contessa.....	20-1
16	.....MTO	Ornamental Iron.....	Rider TBA.....	C. Summers.....	12-1

3RD (2:06PM). \$40,000, CLM \$20,000, 3 YO, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	Shadow Surprise.....	P. Lopez.....	G. Gullo.....	5-1
2	.....2	My Friend.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	M. Hennig.....	12-1
3	.....3	High Five Cotton.....	J. Ortiz.....	B. Perkins, Jr.....	15-1
4	.....4	Italian Syndicate.....	K. Carmouche.....	D. Gargan.....	5-2
5	.....5	Valhalla.....	M. Franco.....	R. Handal.....	4-1
6	.....6	Buddy Anthony.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	J. Servis.....	2-1
7	.....7	Silver Assault.....	D. Davis.....	B. Brown.....	15-1
8	.....8	Ethan Hunt.....	R. Montanez.....	J. Toscano, Jr.....	8-1

4TH (2:40PM). \$25,000, CLM \$12,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

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

1	.....2	Tug of War.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Rodriguez.....	5-2
1a	.....5	War Eagle's Return.....	J. Rosario.....	G. DiPrima.....	5-2
2	.....1	Draxhall Woods.....	L. Saez.....	J. Sharp.....	2-1
3	.....3	Lyrical Miracle.....	E. Cancel.....	D. Donk.....	15-1
4	.....4	All About Ashley.....	P. Lopez.....	M. Nevin.....	3-1
5	.....6	Global Positioning.....	K. Carmouche.....	B. Brown.....	8-1
6	.....7	Major League.....	J. Ortiz.....	R. Moquett.....	4-1
7	.....8	I Stand Alone.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	L. Gaudet.....	20-1

5TH (3:14PM). \$51,000, CLM \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	Deep Sea.....	J. Lezcano.....	M. Casse.....	4-1
2	.....2	Avast Matey.....	E. Cancel.....	R. Nicks.....	9-2
3	.....3	Planet Trailblazer (BRZ).....	J. Rosario.....	A. Avila.....	8-1
4	.....4	Scarf It Down.....	L. Saez.....	J. Englehart.....	7-2
5	.....5	Divine Interventio.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	S. Asmussen.....	5-2
6	.....6	Decorated Soldier.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	S. Asmussen.....	5-1
7	.....7	Giantinthemoonlite.....	D. Davis.....	C. Baker.....	15-1
8	.....8	Kristofferson.....	M. Franco.....	M. Vera.....	20-1

6TH (3:48PM). \$55,000, STR \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 1M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....2	Laniakea.....	J. Velazquez.....	A. Avila.....	8-1
1a	.....8	Vasilika.....	J. Rosario.....	D. Cannizzo.....	8-1
2	.....1	City Section.....	J. Castellano.....	T. Bush.....	3-1
3	.....MTO	Honor Way.....	Rider TBA.....	D. Gargan.....	8-5
4	.....4	Jonquil.....	M. Franco.....	R. Ribaud.....	15-1
5	.....5	Dynamic War.....	A. Arroyo.....	R. Diodoro.....	8-1
6	.....6	Desert Duchess.....	J. Ortiz.....	M. Maker.....	9-2
7	.....7	On a Star.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	S. Klesaris.....	6-1
8	.....9	Believe Indeed.....	K. Carmouche.....	D. Ryan.....	20-1
9	.....10	Madame Uno.....	L. Saez.....	P. Serpe.....	5-2
10	.....11	Questeq.....	J. Leparoux.....	D. Jacobson.....	15-1

7TH (4:24PM). \$78,000, AOC \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	.....1	The Crocheron Kid.....	E. Cancel.....	D. Donk.....	30-1
2	.....2	New York's Finest.....	J. Lezcano.....	L. Rice.....	9-2
3	.....3	Saratoga Giro.....	D. Davis.....	P. Barrow.....	12-1
4	.....4	With Exultation.....	A. Arroyo.....	R. Diodoro.....	10-1
5	.....5	Dr. Shane.....	J. Rosario.....	N. Esler.....	10-1
6	.....6	D' Eloquent.....	N. Juarez.....	M. Dilger.....	8-1
7	.....7	Excluded.....	J. Ortiz.....	J. Toscano, Jr.....	20-1
8	.....8	Whatstotalkabout.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	J. Servis.....	5-2
9	.....9	Animal Posse.....	J. Castellano.....	C. Domino.....	7-2
10	.....10	Uncle Youdge.....	K. Carmouche.....	H. McMahon.....	20-1
11	.....11	D'funnything.....	J. Velazquez.....	C. Baker.....	15-1
12	.....12	Manoffire.....	M. Franco.....	J. Abreu.....	30-1
13	.....MTO	Proper Freud.....	D. Davis.....	D. Jacobson.....	9-2
14	.....MTO	Marriedtothemusic.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Rodriguez.....	3-1

8TH (5:02PM). \$83,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

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

1	.....2	Greek Alphabet.....	R. Maragh.....	K. McLaughlin.....	9-2
1a	.....7	Fully Vested.....	L. Saez.....	T. Albertrani.....	9-2
2	.....1	C Z Rocket.....	J. Lezcano.....	A. Stall, Jr.....	12-1
3	.....3	Zap Zap Zap.....	J. Velazquez.....	T. Pletcher.....	3-1
4	.....4	Tommy T.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Barbara.....	7-2
5	.....5	I Can Do Anything.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	H. DePaz.....	6-1
6	.....6	Total Cooperation.....	F. Geroux.....	T. Amoss.....	20-1
7	.....8	Adulation.....	M. Franco.....	I. Wilkes.....	15-1
8	.....9	Pendleton.....	J. Ortiz.....	C. Brown.....	6-1
9	.....10	Swayze.....	J. Rosario.....	S. Asmussen.....	20-1
10	.....11	Unlockthepotential.....	J. Castellano.....	C. Brown.....	8-1

9TH (5:40PM). \$75,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....11	Frosty Lady.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	J. Servis.....	3-1
1a	.....MTO	Cotton Candy Cutie.....	Rider TBA.....	R. Rodriguez.....	3-1
2	.....1	Hollywood Cat.....	J. Velazquez.....	C. Martin.....	12-1
3	.....2	Electrified.....	M. Luzzi.....	L. Gyarmati.....	30-1
4	.....3	Alabama Bound.....	J. Castellano.....	T. Bush.....	15-1
5	.....4	Out of Trouble.....	J. Alvarado.....	K. McLaughlin.....	12-1
6	.....5	Munchkin Money.....	L. Saez.....	B. Lynch.....	7-2
7	.....6	Sweet August Lady.....	J. Rosario.....	C. Brown.....	6-1
8	.....7	Votre Coeur.....	R. Maragh.....	L. Gyarmati.....	30-1
9	.....8	About That Base.....	M. Franco.....	T. Pletcher.....	10-1
10	.....9	Amazing Anne.....	K. Carmouche.....	D. Gargan.....	5-1
11	.....10	Lem Me Dance.....	J. Ortiz.....	B. Levine.....	8-1
12	.....12	Bree's Got Heart.....	D. Davis.....	R. Reid, Jr.....	30-1
13	.....AE	Light Reign.....	L. Reyes.....	P. Kelly.....	50-1
14	.....AE	Zenbennie.....	A. Arroyo.....	C. Morgan.....	20-1
15	.....AE	Madison Blues.....	J. Leparoux.....	C. Martin.....	8-1

10TH (6:17PM). \$100,000, STK - THE LUCKY COIN, 4 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	.....	1	.....	Dream Mover (IRE)	.....	J. Alvarado	.....	J. Jerkens	.....	10-1
2	.....	2	.....	Ready for Rye	.....	L. Saez	.....	T. Albertrani	.....	6-1
3	.....	3	.....	We Deer You	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	M. Trombetta	.....	10-1
4	.....	4	.....	Spring to the Sky	.....	J. Bravo	.....	B. Brown	.....	15-1
5	.....	5	.....	Dowse's Beach	.....	R. Maragh	.....	B. Cox	.....	5-2
6	.....	6	.....	Big Rock	.....	J. Rosario	.....	C. Clement	.....	9-2
7	.....	7	.....	Doctor J Dub	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	J. Antonucci	.....	30-1
8	.....	8	.....	Loose On the Town	.....	J. Castellano	.....	B. Lynch	.....	3-1
9	.....	9	.....	Undrafted	.....	J. Velazquez	.....	W. Ward	.....	6-1

11TH (6:51PM). \$45,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	.....	1	.....	Artic Storm Cat	.....	C. DeCarlo	.....	G. Contessa	.....	12-1
2	.....	2	.....	Run for Boston	.....	J. Alvarado	.....	J. Ryerson	.....	30-1
3	.....	3	.....	Victory's Cash	.....	R. Montanez	.....	B. Brown	.....	30-1
4	.....	4	.....	O Captainmycaptain	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	8-1
5	.....	5	.....	Jegos Fire	.....	M. Franco	.....	R. Handal	.....	6-1
6	.....	6	.....	Jolly	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	J. Antonucci	.....	30-1
7	.....	7	.....	Private John	.....	A. Lezcano	.....	G. Goodwin	.....	30-1
8	.....	8	.....	There He Goes	.....	J. Velazquez	.....	D. Gargan	.....	9-2
9	.....	9	.....	Follow the Signs	.....	J. Rosario	.....	C. Brown	.....	4-5
10	.....	10	.....	Morning Daddy	.....	E. Cancel	.....	D. Donk	.....	20-1
11	.....	11	.....	Man of Chrome	.....	S. Camacho, Jr.	.....	R. Metivier	.....	50-1
12	.....	12	.....	Minus Two	.....	L. Reyes	.....	J. Morrison	.....	30-1
13	.....	AE	.....	Jumpinjack	.....	D. Davis	.....	R. Davis	.....	30-1
14	AE	Wondermeister	I. Ortiz, Jr.	L. Gyarmati	15-1
15	AE	Bartleby	J. Alvarado	M. Hennig	5-1
16	AE	Dooley	D. Davis	D. Donk	15-1

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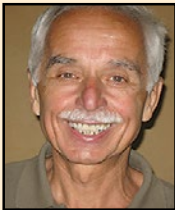


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Race #					
1	Enduring Honor Augie's Coming Pirellone	Enduring Honor Augie's Coming Pirellone	Augie's Coming Enduring Honor Pirellone	Enduring Honor Mr Grey Augie's Coming	Enduring Honor Augie's Coming Pirellone
2	Brattata Chipolina Puttinyouonthenews	Chipolina Puttinyouonthenews Brattata	Brattata Radiant Beauty Chipolina	Puttinyouonthenews Talk Softly Chipolina	Chipolina Puttinyouonthenews Mermaid Of Honor
3	Buddy Anthony Italian Syndicate Valhalla	High Five Cotton Valhalla Shadow Surprise	Buddy Anthony Italian Syndicate Valhalla	Valhalla Italian Syndicate Silver Assault	Buddy Anthony Valhalla Shadow Surprise
4	Major League Tug Of War All About Ashley	Draxhall Woods All About Ashley Major League	Tug Of War Draxhall Woods All About Ashley	Major League Draxhall Woods Tug Of War	All About Ashley Lyrical Miracle Tug Of War
5	Decorated Soldier Divine Interventio Avast Matey	Avast Matey Divine Interventio Planet Trailblazer	Deep Sea Planet Trailblazer Scarf It Down	Avast Matey Divine Interventio Decorated Soldier	Decorated Soldier Scarf It Down Divine Interventio
6	On A Star City Section Madame Uno	Madame Uno City Section On A Star	Madame Uno Vasilika City Section	Honor Way Desert Duchess Dynamic War	City Section Madame Uno Desert Duchess
7	Whatstotalkabout New York's Finest Animal Posse	New York's Finest Whatstotalkabout Animal Posse	New York's Finest Whatstotalkabout With Exultation	Marriedttthemusic Animal Posse Saratoga Giro	New York's Finest Whatstotalkabout Dr. Shane
8	Tommy T Zap Zap Zap Pendleton	C Z Rocket Zap Zap Zap I Can Do Anything	Zap Zap Zap C Z Rocket I Can Do Anything	Tommy T Zap Zap Zap Godolphin entry	I Can Do Anything Zap Zap Zap C Z Rocket
9	Munchkin Money Lem Me Dance Frosty Lady	Dubb entry Sweet August Lady Munchkin Money	Frosty Lady Lem Me Dance Amazing Anne	Sweet August Lady Munchkin Money Amazing Anne	Hollywood Cat Sweet August Lady Alabama Bound
10	Dowse's Beach Loose On the Town Big Rock	Dowse's Beach Big Rock Dream Mover	Spring To The Sky Dowse's Beach Ready For Rye	Dowse's Beach Big Rock Loose On The Town	Dowse's Beach We Deer You Dream Mover
11	Follow The Signs There He Goes O Captainmycaptain	Follow The Signs Bartleby Wondermeister	Follow The Signs There He Goes Morning Daddy	Follow The Signs Artic Storm Cat Jegos Fire	There He Goes Follow The Signs Artic Storm Cat
2017 Records	113/361	96/361	91/361	105/361	47/270*

Our fifth handicapper will be a special guest each day.

GUEST HANDICAPPER UPDATE

Today's guest handicapper is Jim Mulvihill, director of media and industry relations at the National Thoroughbred Racing Association. A former intern at The Saratoga Special, Mulvihill is a graduate of Emerson College and the University of Arizona's Race Track Industry Program. Follow him on Twitter at @YourFriendJimbo.

Thursday, Tom Herkenham picked zero (0) winners.

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

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Turfer Girl

Orbolution blasts away in 2YO stakes

BY TOM LAW

Orbolution walked off the van at Palm Beach Downs in late February, fresh from being prepped at J. J. Pletcher's Payton Training Center and about as ready as a 2-year-old can be at that stage of her life.

She was so ready that it only made sense to see the filly whose pedigree screams distance and turf in a 4 1/2-furlong maiden on the dirt out of Keeneland's Headley Course chute and a 5-furlong dash at Belmont Park. Perhaps yes, perhaps no.

P.G. JOHNSON STAKES RECAP

"Mainly she was very precocious," said Todd Pletcher, explaining why the winner of Thursday's \$100,000 P. G. Johnson Stakes going long on the grass started going short on the dirt. "We thought she'd run well, we didn't think she was a slam-dunk by any means, but thought she'd run well. She kind of ran a little green that day (at Keeneland). She

Continued On Page 19



Horse Lover's Delight!

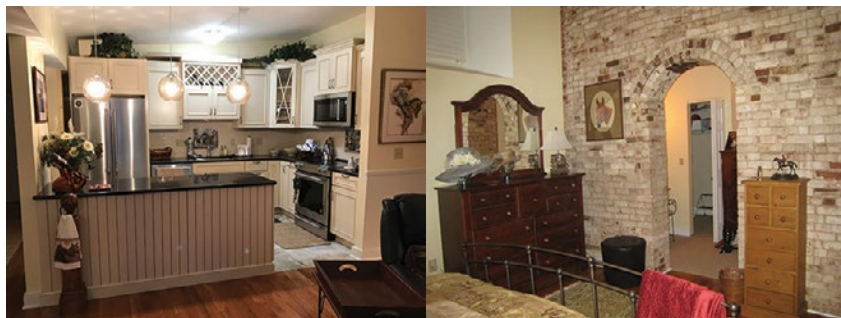
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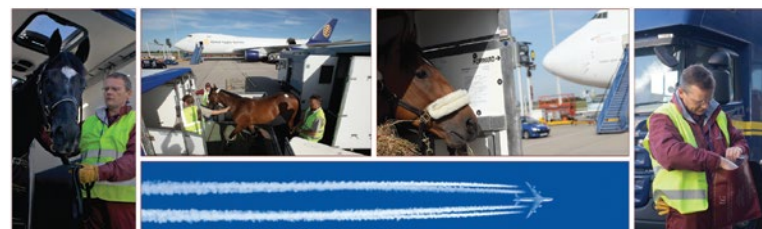
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Johnson —

■ Continued from page 18

bobbled a bit at the start, tried to recover and you could see going around the turn she was shying a little.

“Her next race we entered her on the turf, it came off, and it seemed logical to run her. She didn’t get away well that day and like a lot of young horses getting slop in their face she didn’t appreciate that.”

After those two starts – thirds for the StarLadies Partnership led by Laurie Wolf and Barbara Lucarelli – Orbolution went to Saratoga to prepare again.

“We got to do what she wants to do, run two turns up here on the grass,” Pletcher said. “She’s taken to it awfully well. Being by a Derby winner out of a mare that ran a mile-and-a-half on the grass, that’s what she’s made to do.”

Orbolution proved that by running her record to 2-for-2 on the turf at Saratoga in the 1 1/16-mile P. G. Johnson. Benefitting from a ground-saving trip under John Velazquez in a race that lacked significant early pace, Orbolution won by 4 3/4 lengths over Wild N Ready in 1:43.18.

Orbolution, the winner of her turf debut going the same trip the first Sunday of the meeting July 23, saved ground behind the pace set by the free-running Mentality. That filly, a daughter of Freud who won a 6-furlong turf maiden at Belmont in mid-June for Wesley Ward, set early fractions of :24.08 and :47.85 with a 2 1/2-length advantage over Oldfashioned Style to the second split.

Mentality continued to lead through 6 furlongs in 1:14.29 as the field stacked up, Oldfashioned Style



Tod Marks

Orbolution strides toward the finish with her second win.

still giving chase with Velazquez motionless on Orbolution, Julien Leparoux waiting on Wild N Ready and Manny Franco looking to make up ground after being bumped twice aboard Romantic Babe.

“I thought there’d be a little more pace, looking at the race beforehand,” Pletcher said. “We were kind of hoping for a ground-saving trip, there wasn’t a whole lot of pace on so she was a touch closer than we thought we might be.”

Velazquez never panicked down on the inside, keeping Mentality in his sights and waiting for a hole to open around the turn and in the lane. The hole opened in the stretch, Orbolution went through like an older horse and in an instant it was over.

“When you start looking and the horse in front of you is one of the horses to beat and the horse is getting out, you are taking a chance to stay there,” Velazquez said of his decision

to wait down inside. “I took a chance and when he (Ricardo Santana Jr. on Mentality) did let go, she got out and I got through.”

Walking back to the jocks’ room Velazquez smacked his hands together to describe the acceleration that led to the visually impressive victory.

“Pow! It was incredible,” he said. “She got to the hole and really went through it. She was impressive the way that she got through and accelerated that quick as soon as she got in there.”

Orbolution is the first stakes winner for 2013 Kentucky Derby winner and freshman sire Orb. Purchased by Starlight for \$370,000 at last year’s Keeneland September yearling sale, she’s out of the Horse Chestnut mare My Rachel who raced for Pletcher, Braidwood Stable and Steve Young’s A One A Racing.

My Rachel finished fourth in three small stakes on the grass in the fall of

her 5-year-old season before a third in the Grade 3 Long Island Handicap going 1 1/2 miles on turf.

The first time Orbolution breezed on the grass – a half-mile in :50.81 on the Oklahoma Training Track turf course June 13 – Pletcher said “we saw what we were hoping we’d see.” She breezed twice more on the grass and on the Saratoga main track about a week before Opening Day.

A sizable contingent from the large StarLadies group that owns Orbolution was on hand for her maiden win and again for the P.G. Johnson. The whole group includes Wolf and Lucarelli, along with Suzanne Masters, Leigh Butler, June Rooney, Diana Ryan, Sandy Sullivan, Mary Nixon and Beverly and Cathy Shircliff.

After brushing dirt from her feet and out of her wedges, Wolf plotted the group’s next move to Siro’s for champagne while others answered phone calls and made a few texts. The toast of the day would be the filly rapidly rising up the ranks of the partnership’s best horses behind Eskenformoney, Firsthand Report and Tonasah.

“She just had the worst luck in her first two races and I’m thinking, ‘you can’t burn these starts,’ ” Wolf said. “Todd was like, ‘let’s try her on turf, I had her mom, I know she wants to go longer, we’ll get the distance we want and we’ll start aiming for that.’ He put her on turf, worked her and we were all like, ‘oh, wow, that looks like it’s going to be the surface for her.’ I’m just excited she’s coming along.”

“She’s not a mild filly. Not at all. She’s got a head on her shoulders and she doesn’t mind telling you. She’s obviously got some talent and we’re excited to see her and see what lies forward.”

Additional reporting by Brandon Valvo.



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Spa Success

Paolangeli collects third homebred winner of 2017 meet

Francis Paolangeli sent out his third homebred winner from nine starters at the Saratoga meeting when Cozzy Spring, a 3-year-old daughter of Spring At Least, won the fourth race Thursday.

Despite his success this summer, the longtime owner and breeder remains grounded, crediting the horse and trusted trainer Charlie Baker.

"Charlie does a fantastic job with the horses," Paolangeli said. "I couldn't ask for anything better. He does great and I'm appreciative of it. Getting in the winner's circle at Saratoga is an honor. Not everybody can do that and I'm really humbled by it."

Paolangeli got his start in racing in 1982 and began breeding in the 1990s. His foundation mare, Aggres-

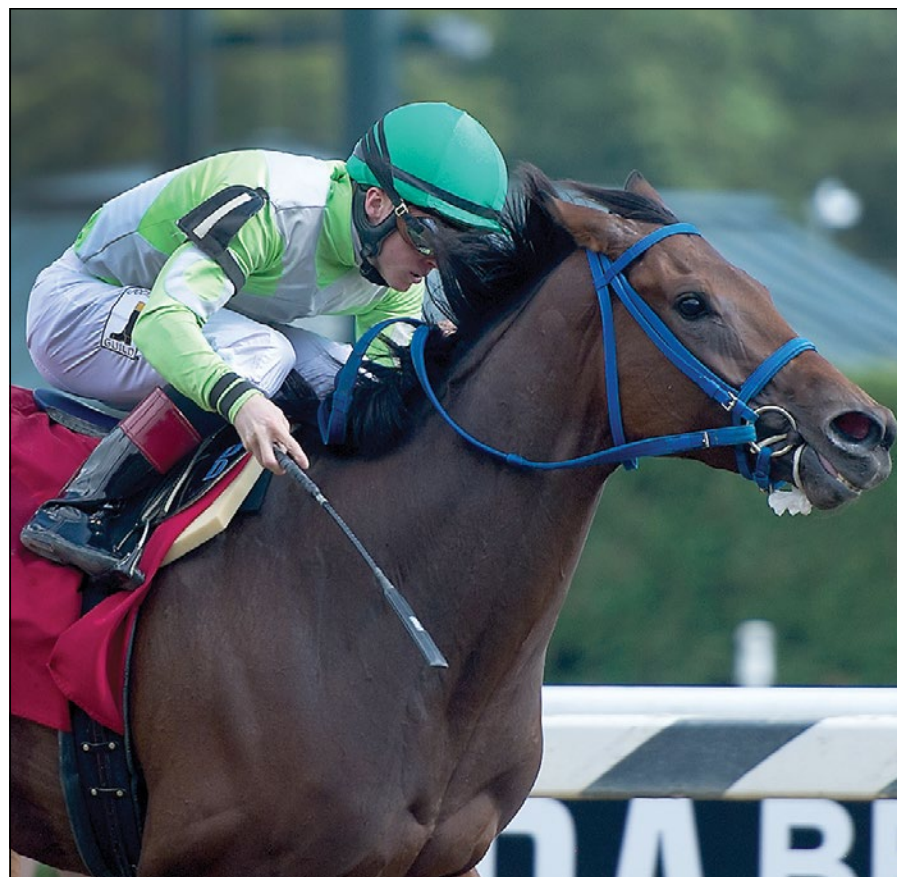
THURSDAY RACING RECAP

sivebynature, produced Serenity's Smile, who won 11 races and placed in multiple stakes. She, in turn, produced several stakes winners for Paolangeli. Still, his decision-making in the breeding process is guided by instinct and not modern methods.

"I'm no scientist. I breed to stallions I like," Paolangeli said. "Almost all of them have something to do with Storm Cat. I don't really have a reason, I just like him."

Cozzy Spring is a rare exception. By Silver Deputy's son Spring At Last, Cozzy Spring is out of the Broken Vow mare Pretty Cozzy. Paolange-

Continued On Page 21



Tod Marks

Cozzy Spring heads for home in Thursday's fourth.



New York runner, Whiskey Rebel, will compete in this year's Thoroughbred Makeover.

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Thursday —

■ Continued from page 20

li claimed Pretty Cozzy for \$16,000 out of a win at Aqueduct February 10, 2012. She won the Susan B. Anthony Handicap at Finger Lakes four months later and placed in the Arctic Queen Handicap the next month.

Pretty Cozzy failed to place in three more starts and was retired. Cozzy Spring is Pretty Cozzy's first foal. The mare also has a 2-year-old by Paynter named Paynter's Prize who finished fifth on debut at Saratoga Aug. 17. She just returned to New York in foal.

"She just shipped up from Kentucky today in foal to Super Saver," Paolangel said. "She goes to Keane Stud, that's where I keep my broodmares."

Cozzy Spring didn't race as a 2-year-old. She finished fifth on debut at Belmont April 29 and improved to second on a muddy track next out May 26. She broke her maiden on a sloppy, sealed track at Belmont against state-breds June 17 and followed it with a win in an allowance a month later. After a seventh on the turf here Aug. 6, Baker returned Cozzy Spring to a dirt sprint Thursday. She responded, winning the restricted allowance by 1 1/2 lengths.

"I do that with a lot of my horses. I don't like to run them a lot as 2-year-olds," Paolangel said. "I don't like it, it's hard on them. If they don't come around when you want them to, I put them on the shelf and give them time, run them as 3-year-olds. This horse here, I believe she's kind of special, kind of good."

— Brandon Valvo

• Fred Desimone went to the 2016 Keeneland September yearling sale with four trainers, but when he wanted to ask their opinion about Hip 3825, they were nowhere to be found.

While the Drosselmeyer colt was in the ring, Desimone remembered watching his half-sibling Party Boat, out of the Unbridled's Song mare Pavati, break her maiden by 3 lengths at Monmouth Park. Desimone pulled the trigger without consulting his trainers and bought the colt for \$12,000.

"They didn't know it at the sale, I did, I got him relatively cheap," Desimone recalled of the key update not printed in the catalog at the time of

Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS	1ST
Chad Brown	36
Todd Pletcher	35
Linda Rice	14
Bill Mott	12
Kiaran McLaughlin	11
Rudy Rodriguez	10
Jason Servis	10
George Weaver	10
Charlie Baker	8
Jeremiah Englehart	8

JOCKEYS	1ST
Jose Ortiz	54
Irad Ortiz Jr.	50
John Velazquez	37
Javier Castellano	28
Manny Franco	26
Luis Saez	23
Joel Rosario	19
Jose Lezcano	16

Through Thursday

the now gelding named Ultimateentiment. "I fell into a really good horse."

Party Boat went on to win the Wait A While Stakes at Gulfstream Park in December, placed in the Grade 3 Herecomesthebride Stakes in March and won the Memories Of Silver Stakes at Aqueduct in April. She finished second in the Penn Oaks in June and has two graded stakes placings at the meet, a third in Grade 3 Lake George Opening Day and a second in the Grade 2 Lake Placid Aug. 19. She's earned \$283,025.


Desimone sent his New York-bred bargain to trainer Tim McCanna in his native state of Washington to be broken. Ultimateentiment stayed with McCanna for his first start at Golden Gate Fields June 18. The 2-year-old gelding finished second, and McCanna told Desimone he had a decision to make.

"Tim McCanna is a phenomenal trainer. He said, 'you've got to make a decision whether to run him in open company or give him to somebody in New York,'" Desimone said.

By chance, Desimone met exercise rider Rodney Paine while in Las Vegas. Paine recommended his boss, trainer Rick Violette, and the rest is history.

"It's a cute story, Rodney and Melissa (Cohen) have a good friend they

Continued On Page 22



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Thursday —

■ Continued from page 21

call Suitcase,” Violette said. “They had a roast for (Gary “Suitcase” Smith) in Las Vegas, Rodney went out and (Desimone) happened to be there and mentioned he had a New York-bred he was thinking of sending East.”

As a complete aside, Smith is a former NHL goalie who played for the Chicago Black Hawks, California Seals, Toronto Maple Leafs, Vancouver Canucks, Washington Capitals and Winnipeg Jets (hence the nickname) in the 1960s and 1970s. He had an interest in racing while he played and later owned racehorses.

Desimone said the decision was “pretty easy” and sent the horse to Violette.

“I’d met Rodney, Rick’s exercise rider, so it was a no brainer to give him to who I found out is the best 2-year-old trainer here,” he said.

Violette started Ultimateentiment at Saratoga Aug. 7. He finished second, beaten 2 1/2 lengths by Chad Brown’s Barley Impazible, after setting the pace. Violette tuned Ultimateentiment with a half-mile work Aug. 25 and entered him back for Thursday. After stalking the pace in the 5 1/2-furlong state-bred maiden special, Ultimateentiment powered away in the stretch to win by 2 lengths in 1:05.90.

Ultimateentiment’s win was the first Saratoga victory for Desimone, his wife Cindy, and their friend and co-owner Gregg Kingma. Although Desimone won at Saratoga in just his third start here, he’s waited a long time. His first start here came in the 2012 Personal Ensign Stakes with Brushed By A Star, who finished fifth in the Grade 1 behind Love And Pride, Royal Delta, It’s Tricky and Tiz Miss Sue. Ultimateentiment became Desimone’s second Saratoga starter this month before connecting Thursday. The victory is a dream come true for Desimone, who dreamed of owning horses as a child after he attended the races at Longacres near Seattle, Wash.

“I went to a 12th birthday party. My friend and I were both 12 on the same day and our parents took us to the racetrack and I knew someday I was going to own a racehorse,” he said. “In 2004, I started getting into it



Tod Marks

No Wunder flies a fence early in his handicap hurdle win Thursday.

pretty heavily. I bought one in 1989, found out how expensive it was and then waited. In 2004, we started buying. Now we own four by ourselves and parts of 20 or 21.”

Desimone’s stint in Saratoga didn’t last long. He arrived 10 a.m. Thursday and was set to depart for Del Mar at 6 a.m. today to see Respect The Hustle run in Sunday’s \$100,000 Del Mar Juvenile Turf Stakes.

— **Brandon Valvo**

- Three days out from Thursday’s 2017 steeplechase finale at Saratoga Race Course, jockey Jack Doyle responded to a, “Well, who’s going to win?” query with a smirk.

“I don’t know,” he said, “but I’ll be second.”

Doyle based that declaration on his Saratoga meet prior to Thursday, which included four seconds – and zero wins – in eight rides. In flat-jockey speak, that’s like Jose Ortiz finishing second 132 times without winning a race. Thursday, aboard No Wunder in a \$70,000 handicap hurdle, Doyle finally came home a winner and the trek back to Maryland will be a bit easier.

“Finally got one, it would have been a long drive home tomorrow

if he didn’t win,” said Doyle, third in the overall steeplechase standings with eight wins this year. “He’s been a horse who has always had a lot of ability, but it’s just taken a while for his jumping and everything to come right, it came right today. He got in with a light weight (144 pounds), but he would have won with 10 more pounds on his back.”

No Wunder allowed Orchestra Leader, Giza and Balance The Budget trade punches on the front end early, watched Hardrock Eleven make a play for the lead on the final run up the backstretch before ultimately passing them all. Sent off as the 6-5 favorite, the English-bred won by 9 3/4 lengths over Balance The Budget (who carried 156) with Selection Sunday (150) third.

Seventh here July 26, and second Aug. 9, the 6-year-old took another step forward Thursday for owner Bob Kinsley and trainer Elizabeth Voss.

“He’s improving all the time, you can see it,” said Gary Murray, Voss’ husband who bought the son of Rock Of Gibraltar at England’s 2014 Tattersalls horse-in-training sale. “It’s made a big difference in him. He loved it out there today.”

Trained in Ireland by David Wach-

man for owner Fitri Hay, No Wunder came to the United States with a single win on the flat at Listowel before going to the sales ring. Murray, a frequent importer of jump prospects for the Voss barn, spent \$67,574 for the then 3-year-old. No Wunder stuck to the flat for his first dozen American starts, winning twice at Delaware Park and finishing second here in 2015. The bay gelding tried hurdles for the first time in April, and was sixth. He finished third at the Iroquois meet in May and broke through the maiden ranks with a win at Fair Hill on Memorial Day Weekend.

“I always thought he would be very good over hurdles if he came to it, now he’s got his confidence, he’s one that could come back for big races here next year,” said Doyle. “He’s been doing everything well up here the last couple of weeks. You don’t know having three runs up here, sometimes they can be flying and come run a stinker, but I couldn’t have been happier with him. I schooled him yesterday and got off him and was like, ‘That’ll do.’ There was no more we could do at that stage.”

Kinsley, whose horse Modem placed in both Grade 1 jump races at the meet, came up from Maryland for the day and enjoyed his first Saratoga win since Pyro City scored for Voss’ father Tom in 2012.

“The trill is winning of course, but the thrill is really watching a race when you have a horse that’s in the back like that and biding his time,” said Kinsley. “That anticipation when he moves out is something to watch. I had a horse Incomplete who was always in the back and you would almost have a heart attack because it took so long, then you’d get better because he’d come running.”

Jockey Bernie Dalton and his mount Strongbox were not injured in their fall at the race’s seventh fence.

— **Joe Clancy**

- The battle for leading trainer continued Thursday with Chad Brown holding the edge over Todd Pletcher, 35-34. They each started four horses on the card and each won one race. Brown’s Forge broke his maiden for a \$30,000 tag in the second race and Pletcher’s Orbolution took the featured P.G. Johnson Stakes. Brown leads Pletcher 36-35 with four days remaining in the meet.

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SARATOGA RESULTS

Thursday August 31.

FIRST \$70,000, HANDICAP HURDLE, 4 YO'S & UP, 2 1/16M

1	No Wunder (GB)	J. Doyle	\$4.60	\$3.50	\$2.40
2	Balance the Budget	M. Watts		\$9.50	\$4.70
4	Selection Sunday	S. McDermott			\$2.90

B G 2011, by Rock of Gibraltar (IRE) - Iwunder (IRE) by King's Best
Owner: Kinsley, Robert, A.. Trainer: Elizabeth Voss.
Breeder: Exors of the Late J. Ellis (GB). Time: 3:47.49
Exacta (1-2), \$24.70; Superfecta (1-2-4-5), \$55.25;
Trifecta (1-2-4), \$49.37

SECOND \$35,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$30,000, 3 & UP, 6 1/2F

7	Forge	J. Castellano	\$6.90	\$3.70	\$2.90
5	Your Secret's Safe	J. Rosario		\$3.90	\$2.90
8	Cookie Crisp	D. Davis			\$3.40

Dk B/ Br Colt 2014, by Harlan's Holiday - True Feelings by Latent Heat
Owner: Woodford Racing, LLC. Trainer: Chad Brown.
Breeder: Stonehaven Steadings (KY). Late Scratches: Sicilia Mike, Thaddeus. Claimed: Forge claimed by Looch Racing Stables, Inc. for \$30,000, Your Secret's Safe claimed by Politi, Joel for \$30,000, Cookie Crisp claimed by Rodriguez, Rudy R. for \$30,000. Time: 1:16.71
Daily Double (1-7), \$11.20; Exacta (7-5), \$10.20; Quinella (5-7), \$6.70; Superfecta (7-5-8-4), \$8.75; Trifecta (7-5-8), \$15.75

THIRD \$75,000, NY-BRED AOC \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

1	Control Group	I. Ortiz, Jr.	\$7.40	\$4.20	\$2.10
2	Born for a Storm	J. Castellano		\$4.80	\$2.10
3	Minsky Moment	J. Ortiz			\$2.10

B Colt 2014, by Posse - We Kept Her by Victory Gallop
Owner: Dubb, Michael and Simon, David. Trainer: Rudy Rodriguez.
Breeder: Colts Neck Stable & Alan Goldberg (NY).
Time: 1:50.93
Daily Double (7-1), \$11.80; Exacta (1-2), \$12.50; Superfecta (1-2-3-6), \$5.97; Trifecta (1-2-3), \$9.40; Pic 3 (1-7-1), \$39.75

FOURTH \$78,000, NY-BRED AOC \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

1	Cozy Spring	D. Davis	\$7.10	\$4.20	\$2.70
5	Silly Sister	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$4.50	\$2.60
6	Shimmering Moon	J. Ortiz			\$2.30

B Filly 2014, by Spring At Last - Pretty Cozy by Broken Vow
Owner: Paolangel, Francis, J.. Trainer: Charlton Baker.
Breeder: Francis Paolangel (NY). Late Scratches: Palladian Bridge
Claimed: Jules N Rome claimed by Levine, Bruce N. for \$40,000
Time: 1:17.71
Daily Double (1-1), \$12.30; Exacta (1-5), \$14.80; Quinella (1-5), \$8.40; Superfecta (1-5-6-3), \$7.45; Trifecta (1-5-6), \$13.00; Pic 3 (7-1-1), \$41.75

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

6	Ultimateenticeement	J. Ortiz	\$5.20	\$3.00	\$2.40
7	New York Hero	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$3.80	\$2.70
1	Five Star Bunt	J. Castellano			\$3.50

Dk B/ Br Gelding 2015, by Drosselmeyer - Pavati by Unbridled's Song
Owner: Desimone, Fred & Kingma, Gregg. Trainer: Richard Violette, Jr.
Breeder: Fred W. Hertrich III (NY). Time: 1:05.90
Late Scratches: Engineers Report, Shiny Medal, Stoney Bennett
Daily Double (1-6), \$9.80; Exacta (6-7), \$9.20; Superfecta (6-7-1-3), \$38.10; Trifecta (6-7-1), \$15.37; Consolation Double (1-8), \$3.45; Pic 3 (1-1-6), \$36.75; (1-1-8), \$12.60

SIXTH \$85,000, ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F TURF

9	Grand Sky	I. Ortiz, Jr.	\$8.10	\$5.00	\$3.10
10	Somekindofmagician	J. Rosario		\$17.80	\$6.60
3	Royal Asset	J. Bravo			\$3.90

B Gelding 2012, by Sky Mesa - Alfonsina by Grand Slam
Owner: Dubb, Michael. Trainer: Jason Servis.
Breeder: Michael Mandara (NY). Late Scratches: Hard Scramble, Rap-
pel, Portando, Whiskey Seven. Time: 1:01.67
Daily Double (6-9), \$11.50; Exacta (9-10), \$68.50; Superfecta (9-10-3-7), \$192.15; Trifecta (9-10-3), \$218.00; Pic 3 (1-6-9), \$30.25; (1-8-9), \$12.60; Pic 4 (1-1-6/8/11-1/2/5/6/9), \$77.75; Pic 5 (6/7/10-1-1-6/8/11-1/2/5/6/9), \$240.50

SEVENTH \$73,000, NY-BRED MDN SPECIAL WGT, 3&UP, 1M TURF

1	Ides of Arch	R. Maragh	\$15.60	\$8.10	\$4.70
9	Gosilently	D. Davis		\$6.60	\$4.40
10	Appealing Briefs	J. Ortiz			\$2.80

Dk B/ Br Gelding 2014, by Arch - Chestoria by Chester House
Owner: E L R Corp. Trainer: Leah Gyarmati. Breeder: ELR Corp (NY).
Late Scratches: Surface Strike, Zonic, Grand Valour. Time: 1:35.41
Daily Double (9-1), \$49.00; Exacta (1-9), \$45.00; Superfecta (1-9-10-6), \$69.70; Trifecta (1-9-10), \$55.25; Pic 3 (6-9-1), \$126.00

EIGHTH \$75,000, NY-BRED ALLOW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M TURF

2	Manifest Destiny	E. Cancel	\$23.00	\$12.80	\$7.50
7	Mission Leader	K. Carmouche		\$18.60	\$10.00
6	Storm Prophet	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$3.60

Ch Gelding 2014, by City Zip - Jb's Golden Regret by Banker's Gold
Owner: Chalk Racing and Our Sugar Bear Stable LLC.
Trainer: Bruce Brown. Breeder: Barry R. Ostrager (NY). Time: 1:41.08
Daily Double (1-2), \$107.75; Exacta (2-7), \$262.50; Superfecta (2-7-6-9), \$1,292.20; Trifecta (2-7-6), \$786.00; Pic 3 (9-1-2), \$1,089.00

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

3	Orbolution	J. Velazquez	\$3.50	\$2.90	\$2.30
7	Wild N Ready	J. Leparoux		\$5.60	\$4.10
6	Sassy Sienna	J. Castellano			\$3.60

Dk B/ Br Filly 2015, by Orb - My Rachel by Horse Chestnut (SAF)
Owner: StarLadies Racing. Trainer: Todd Pletcher.
Breeder: Hinkle Farms (KY). Time: 1:43.18
Daily Double (2-3), \$31.00; Exacta (3-7), \$13.00; Superfecta (3-7-6-1), \$17.30; Trifecta (3-7-6), \$25.25; Pic 3 (1-2-3), \$434.50; Grand Slam (3/9/10-1/9/10-2/6/7-3), \$11.20

TENTH \$32,000 CLM \$16,000 NW2, 7F

1	Delta Outlaw	M. Franco	5.30	3.90	3.30
14	Hay Listen Up	A. Arroyo		11.00	7.60
2	The Orphan Miracle	E. Cancel			6.70

B.g. Tiznow-Mistical Plan, Game Plan.
Owner: RA Hill Stable. Trainer: George Weaver.
Breeder: Blue Heaven Farm (KY). Time: 1:24.67.
Exacta \$25.25. Trifecta \$59.12. Superfecta \$106.80. Double \$5.20.
Pick 3 \$98.75. Pick 4 \$644. Pick 5 \$4,036. Pick 6 \$44,647. Pick 6 (5 correct) \$182.50.

Attendance: 18,368. On Track Handle: \$2,371,779

All-Sources Handle: \$12,230,461.13

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For the Moment

Aron Wellman lobbied hard. “That’s got to be the moment of the meet. Come on...it is for me.”

It was minutes after Catholic Boy provided Jonathan Thomas with his first win at Saratoga, in the Grade 3 With Anticipation no less. Your first win and your first stakes win at Saratoga, that’s a hell of a moment. Wellman, a client and a friend (perhaps not in that order) of Thomas’, helped to convince the 37-year-old to run a few horses off his Bridlewood base, the plan percolated, crawled and burgeoned with a stakes win at Saratoga.

Yeah, it was the moment of the year for Thomas, certainly for John Panagot, a client and a friend (again, perhaps, not in that order), who manages Catholic Boy for Robert LaPenta and for Wellman, who had already voted.

But that’s the thing about Saratoga. They’re all moments. Individual moments for each person involved, moments that define a summer, a season, a life. Not to glamorize The Special, but it was part of the impetus to try to get this project off the ground – to tell the stories about the moments.

Wellman had already voted for Thomas.

Now for the other candidates...

Kate and Bernie Dalton won the New York Turf Writers Cup with Diplomat. The husband and wife team from South Carolina packed up and moved their horses to a training center in New Jersey, went back and forth from there to Saratoga every week. They do it all themselves, own New York-bred flat horses, steeplechase horses and anything that comes their way. They somehow get along and win races. Toss Rich and Adam Newman in there as well, they claimed Diplomat and won a Grade 1 stakes.

Dylan Davis won a race on the day he became a father. Now that’s a moment.

NYRA’s Pat McKenna and his wife Ali had a baby girl, Abigail. Now that’s a moment.

Gun Runner won the Whitney with a shoe in his tail. He’s the answer to a trivia question, which

horse won the Whitney while wearing five shoes. That was certainly the craziest moment of the year.

Father/son Oscar and Kevin Gomez won races at the meet. Has that ever been done? That’s a moment, well two moments, for the Gomez family.

Bruce Brown, John Kimmel, Phil Serpe, Mark Hennig, Jimmy Ryerson, Dominick Schettino, Leah Gyarmati, Nick Zito and others got off the duck, relief is the biggest moment.

Sean McDermott guided Invocation, Paddy Young’s ride, to win a hurdle race, put on a “198” hat for the five-time champ in a moment when you call yourself lucky.

David Duggan won two races at the meet from just six starters, those two wins were certainly the moments of the year for Duggan and his wife, Lara. Send them some horses, they might be able to provide some moments for you.

Manny Franco won his first Grade 1 stakes, nimbly guiding World Approval to win the Fourstar dave.

Celtic Chaos put Zilla Stable on the cover of The Special. Good Samaritan became a dirt horse. Barbara Minshall stormed Saratoga with Dream It Is. Simon Callaghan and Michell Nevin exacted revenge. Reid Nagle won the New York Stallion Series with Lover’s Key. Moments.

Proctor’s Ledge won two stakes at the meet for Trish Moseley and Brendan Walsh. That’s momentous for a long-game, old-school owner/breeder and a trainer who had never won a race at Saratoga.

How about Unbridled Forever for Dallas Stewart? That’s his moment of the meet, moment of the year. As for Joel Rosario’s ride, well, that was a moment of genius.

Anybody see Jose Ortiz’s ride on Tusk, to make it five on the day? That was the riding moment of the year.

Good Night Shirt, Goldikova, Tom Voss, Garrett Gomez, Victor Espinoza and Javier Castellano were

inducted into the Hall of Fame. The moment of recognition for your life’s work.

Robert Bonnie won with homebred Joyful Joyful. It might have looked like a \$40,000 maiden claimer but it was far bigger for Bonnie and his wife, Julie Gomena.

Rusty Arnold won the Coronation Cup with Morticia. We missed the Name of the Day moment when the daughter of Halloween Party ran on a Monday. We also didn’t get to adequately tell the story of Morticia’s groom, Armando Cortes, who died while on a road trip to Laurel Park with the filly in July. Take a moment to remember.

Ollie Figgins brought his wife’s horse to Saratoga and she ran off the screen. Good guy, shrewd trainer, certainly the moment of the meet for him.

Rajiv Maragh won a Grade 1 with By The Moon after missing the last two Saratoga seasons. Momentous. By The Moon’s trainer Michelle Nevin won the second Grade 1 of her career – beating a horse she used to train, Paulassilverlining.

Voodoo Song won three races – and counting – at the meet. Entry-box moments.

Chad Brown and Todd Pletcher have won 71 races and counting, sorry, those moments are running together.

Jimmy Toner won two stakes. Bill Wilmot and Joan Taylor bred the winner of the Albany. Bret Calhoun unveiled Big Gemmy, next year’s Albany winner. Jason Servis broke out. Pat Kelly won two. Big moments for all.

Songbird ran her last race, an indelible career finished in a fleeting moment.

And those are the ones I noticed or knew about or learned about during this 40-day odyssey. For all the ones that come to my mind, there are countless others that come to other people’s minds, whether they were involved in the moment or were simply living in the fringe of the moment.

Either way, here’s to the moments.



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