

The *Saratoga* Special

Travers Day
Preview Edition

Year 14 • No. 29

Saratoga's Daily Newspaper on Thoroughbred Racing

Saturday, August 23, 2014



Three for the Show

Wicked Strong, Tonalist, Bayern head 10-runner Travers

Tod Marks



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Tod Marks
Hoofpick is too a word. A Thoroughbred helps out a Words With Friends player on the backside Friday morning.

here&there... at Saratoga

NAMES OF THE DAY

Potthast, second race. We just like his paintings.

Chat, fifth race. Augustin Stable's 4-year-old filly is out of Verbal.

Strike Accord, fifth race. Chester and Mary Broman's mare is by Smart Strike out of New Harmony.

Whispering, seventh race. Empire Equines homebred is by Quiet American out of Verbalize.

Madre Ditutticapi, seventh race. Italian for mother of all bosses, she's by Street Boss.

Centre Court, ninth race. Smart Strike...Let...Centre Court.

Dayatthespa, ninth race. Whether she runs today or tomorrow, enjoy your day at the Spa.

The Big Beast, 10th race. Have you seen him?

BY THE NUMBERS

3: Times The Special's Sean Clancy was asked for Arlington Million-winning trainer Eddie Graham's number Thursday.

13:42: Hours and minutes of daylight Friday, provided by 88.7's Mark Green.

17: Bicycles in the backyard of a Lake Avenue real-estate office.

2: Plates of cold lasagna (way better than it sounds) served to The Special on the backside Friday morning.

The Racehorse as nature intended



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here&there... at Saratoga

WORTH REPEATING

“Wise Dan’s trainer can fish tricos early in morning on the Battenkill and beetle patterns worked great on Spring Creek Tuesday near State College, Pa. or go to West Branch of the Ausable near Wilmington, N.Y.”

Eclipse Award-winning photographer Douglas Lees, with some fishing advice for trainer Charlie LoPresti (see yesterday’s paper)

“As you know, the cell service is a little spotty here in Cecil County.”

Trainer Tres Abbott, after an interview from Maryland was cut off Friday morning

“Deidre said he did everything he could to try to get Larry off this morning.”

Trainer Larry Jones, about the report from assistant Deidre Jackson about how Coup de Grace and Larry Melancon got along Friday morning

“Fair to poor drying conditions.”
Meteorologist Mark Green, on 88.7 Friday morning

“My track is much better this morning.”
Dr. Stowe Burke, assessing Saratoga’s sloppy main track Friday morning

“He knows better than me.”
Jason Beides, agent for jockey Jose Lezcano, after trainer Jack Fisher switched Syros from a Belmont flat win to a Saratoga hurdle win

“She hasn’t changed much.”
Cheyenne Stable’s Everett Dobson, while looking at Shadwell Farm’s back cover showing Clothes Fall Off at the 2-year-old sale in March and at the finish line at Saratoga in August

“It’s good for him. Put that in your paper.”
Exercise rider Paul Breedon, after a Bill Mott exercise rider fell off Friday morning

“I’ve got a bridle, now can you find me a horse?”
Trainer Leo O’Brien, while carrying a bridle Friday morning

“I didn’t even get off the ground, I looked up and said, ‘Allen, he could do this to me all day long.’”
Joe Brocklebank, about trying to gallop Step Nicely for Allen Jerkens

“Everybody from every county comes over here when it rains.”
Jimmy Jerkens, who has one of the few shed-row barns on the Oklahoma side

“Hey Dan Quayle there is no e at the end of Labrador.”
The Special’s Tom Law, reprimanding The Special’s Sean Clancy Thursday night

“You don’t get this fat by not eating.”
Tom Law, as he ate another slice of Sam Clancy’s delicious key lime pie Thursday night

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Nothing wrong with having Dan in a horse’s name.”

Tom Proctor, trainer of King’s Bishop starter Myositis Dan, after hearing champion Wise Dan’s name Friday morning



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Rail Art. Even eight bell boots and a bottle of seltzer look good at Saratoga.

Tod Marks

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Photo
of the day

Hunt and peck.

Photo by Elizabeth Collins

The Chief . . . Day 29

"The only time we got paid with Devil His Due is when the government got involved. It's doing-up time, we're running back and forth feeding the horses, here comes eight people, they said, 'We're taking this horse.' I said, 'Taking him where?' They said, 'He's running tomorrow, it's a \$500,000 race, the government will get the money.' I said, 'Wait a minute. Number one, the winner only gets 60 percent. Plus the fact, you pay the trainer and the rider.' They said, 'Oh.' Terry Meyocks was in charge then, we called him, he came down, and they left him in the barn. One lady walked up to him, he grabbed her. They were watching us feed, 'What is that? What is that stuff?' I think he got beat a nose the next day. Mike Smith was so mad at himself, he knew he (screwed) it up, he let Jose Santos steal a march on him, he still almost got him right at the end, he was hitting him right-handed, and it looked like he was just going to get there, then he hit him left-handed and he drifted out. Damn."

- Trainer Allen Jerkens



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Tod Marks photo

The Saratoga Special

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KEENELAND FALL STARS WEEKEND

Nominations close Wednesday, September 17.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

Darley Alcibiades (G1)*
“Win and You’re In Juvenile Fillies Division”
\$400,000, 2-Year-Old Fillies
1 1/16 miles; Nomination fee: \$150

Stoll Keenon Ogden Phoenix (G3)*
“Win and You’re In Sprint Division”
\$200,000, 3-Year-Olds and Up
6 furlongs; Nomination fee: \$100

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

Shadwell Turf Mile (G1)*
“Win and You’re In Mile Division”
\$1,000,000, 3-Year-Olds and Up,
1 mile (turf); Nomination fee: \$200

Claiborne Breeders’ Futurity (G1)*
“Win and You’re In Juvenile Division”
\$500,000, 2-Year-Olds, 1 1/16 miles;
Nomination fee: \$150

First Lady (G1)
\$400,000, 3-Year-Olds and Up,
Fillies and Mares, 1 mile (turf);
Nomination fee: \$100

Thoroughbred Club of America (G2)*
“Win and You’re In Filly & Mare Sprint Division”
\$200,000, 3-Year-Olds and Up, Fillies & Mares,
6 furlongs; Nomination fee: \$100

**Woodford Presented by
Keeneland Select (G3)**
\$150,000, 3-Year-Olds and Up
5 1/2 furlongs (turf), Nomination fee: \$100

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Juddmonte Spinster (G1)*
“Win and You’re In Ladies’ Classic Division”
\$500,000, 3-Year-Olds and Up,
Fillies and Mares
1 1/8 miles; Nomination fee: \$150

Dixiana Bourbon (G3)*
“Win and You’re In Juvenile Turf Division”
\$250,000, 2-Year-Olds, 1 1/16 miles (turf);
Nomination fee: \$100

OCT 3~25

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***Breeders’ Cup Challenge Series Race**



Signing up for History

Meet's most important race lures deep field from 3-year-old class

BY TOM LAW

The Travers is still the Travers. If you need proof after feeling the energy around town this week and after looking at the field for today's 145th edition of the signature event of the Saratoga Race Course season, then consider a few factors.

The Travers might not be the richest race on the Saratoga calendar, but its \$1.25 million pot is bigger than any of the previous 144 editions and is pretty close to the \$1.5 million given away for this year's Grade 1 Whitney Invitational a few weeks back.

TRAVERS STAKES PREVIEW

The Travers might not feature the biggest field of any stakes at the meet, but it's pretty close. The 10 entrants in today's 1 1/4-mile Travers make it tied with four others for the second biggest stakes field of the meet and only behind the dozen that contested a grass marathon for fillies and mares the day after the Whitney. Through Friday's card and its two stakes, 44 stakes have been run at the meet and they've averaged 7.25 starters, making the Travers nearly 40 percent big-



Tod Marks

Jim Dandy starters (from left) Wicked Strong, Commanding Curve, Kid Cruz and Tonalist return for the Travers.

ger whatever that's worth.

But those are just numbers.

The 2014 Travers – just like last year's race, the one before that and every other one going back to Kentucky's win in the inaugural 1864 edition a year before the Civil War – is all about the horses.

A near perfect mixture is assembled for the race, which goes off at 5:45 p.m. as the 12th of a 14-race card that begins at 11:35 a.m.

The Travers doesn't have the two 3-year-olds considered by many to

See **TRAVERS** page 10 ►



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Winning the Travers (G1) over Moreno, Orb, Palace Malice.

Travers —

■ Continued from page 8

be the best of their generation – dual classic winner California Chrome and last year's 2-year-old champion Shared Belief – but it's got the best cast of sophomores that could be assembled from East of the Mississippi and one pretty good one from West of it, too. The group includes Belmont Stakes winner Tonalist, the winners of the two key Travers preps in Wicked Strong and Bayern, the first two finishers in a soon-to-be key Travers prep in V. E. Day and Charge Now, Kentucky Derby runner-up Commanding Curve and Grade 1 turf winner Mr Speaker.

"It's a good race isn't it? They certainly don't give it away, do they?" trainer Ian Wilkes, who sends out longshots Viva Majorca and Ulanbator, said as he watched training on the main track on a rainy morning this week. "But let's be realistic, if you take out the top three it's a very wide-open race. There are some questions in there."

Chief among the questions could be key to the outcome of Travers 145.

Can 2-1 morning-line favorite Bayern, dominating and speedy winner of the Grade 2 Woody Stephens at 7 furlongs and the Grade 1 Haskell Invitational at 9, stretch his speed 10 furlongs?

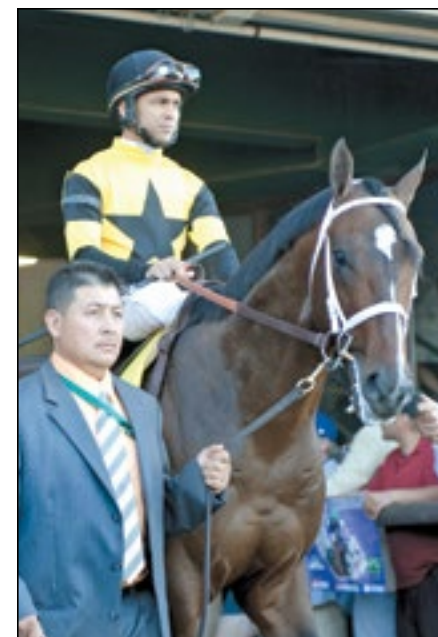
Will Wicked Strong pair two winning races together off his impressive victory in the Grade 2 Jim Dandy, which came with the addition of blinkers?

Is Tonalist back to where he was this spring when he dominated the Grade 2 Peter Pan and stayed better than 10 others in the Belmont Stakes?

"It's the Travers," Wilkes said. "You can make a case for a lot of horses in there."

The biggest case being made since post positions were drawn Tuesday is the one for Bayern, the talking horse this winter at Santa Anita Park after back-to-back victories by a combined 18 1/4 lengths before a third as the favorite in the Grade 1 Arkansas Derby essentially cost him a shot at the Kentucky Derby.

Bob Baffert, who trained 2001 Travers winner Point Given, regrouped after Bayern was disqualified from first in the 1-mile Derby Trial



Tod Marks

Late running Commanding Curve is ideally suited to the 1 1/4 miles of the Travers.

and made the Triple Crown's second jewel with the son of Offlee Wild. He wasn't up to the task when ninth in the Preakness as California Chrome won to set up his bid for a Triple Crown sweep. Baffert regrouped again, shipping Kaleem Shah's Bayern to the East Coast to win the Woody Stephens and Haskell before setting course for Saratoga.

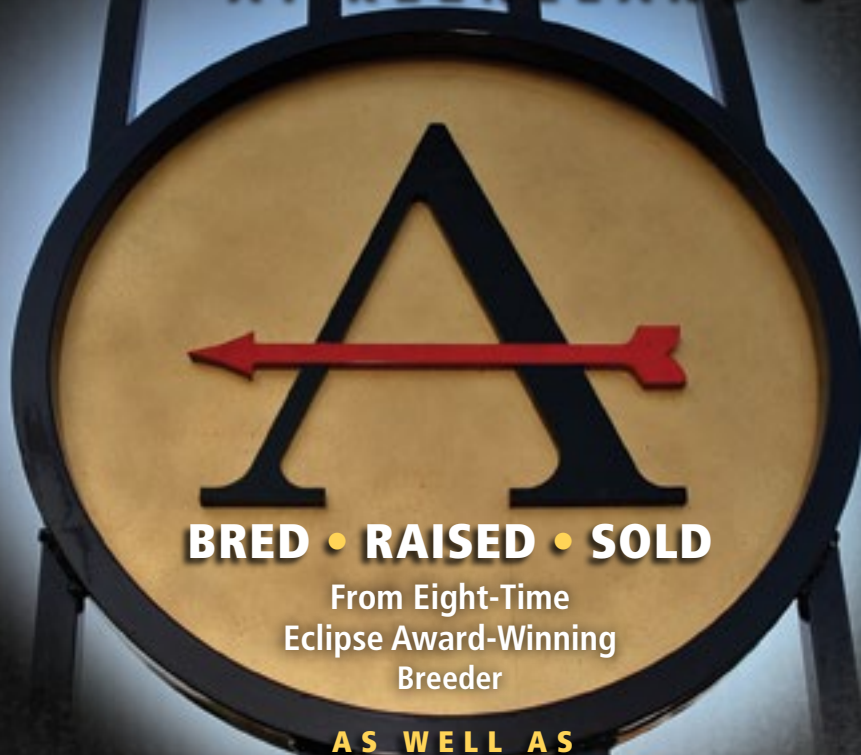
Baffert's only been back to the Travers three times since Point Given's romp in 2001, the best finish a third by Haskell winner Roman Ruler in 2005. The Southern California-based conditioner won't make the trip – he tries to limit his travel by plane since suffering a heart attack in Dubai in 2012 – and will be at Del Mar to saddle Game On Dude when he takes on Shared Belief in Sunday's Pacific Classic.

Bayern arrived from California Wednesday and wasn't greeted with the best weather as heavy rain left a sea of slop on Saratoga's main track Thursday and Friday. The conditions didn't bother Bayern when he trained, jogging Thursday and galloping around the cones Friday.

Jimmy Barnes, Baffert's top assistant who frequently travels when his boss ships out of California, gave a leg up to exercise rider Simon Harris on Bayern a little before 9 a.m. Friday and made the short walk to the gap near the five-eighths pole. Bayern

See **TRAVERS** page 12 ►

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Travers —

■ Continued from page 10

jogged back to the finish and stood for a few minutes before Harris gave him his cue. Bayern skipped over the sloppy and sealed track and less than 15 minutes later was back at the barn cooling out.

Harris, an exercise rider and valet who works the circuit, frequently gets on Baffert's horses when they ship to New York. He rode Bayern in the days leading up to his 7 ½-length blitz of the Woody Stephens a few hours before Tonalist won the Belmont Stakes and liked what he felt Friday.

"He felt better out here today than he did at Belmont," Harris told Barnes as he got off Bayern under the shed of John Terranova's barn on the Saratoga backstretch.

Harris made a quick change in Terranova's tack room before heading off to get on another horse before offering some more insight into the speed colt's development and versatility.

"He handled this track perfectly. The good ones, they seem to handle whatever you put in front of them," he said. "And there was a lot of traffic out there today. He was great. A per-



Tod Marks

Wicked Strong leads Tonalist home in the Jim Dandy for trainer Jimmy Jerkens.

fect gentleman."

Wicked Strong won the Jim Dandy the day before Bayern won the Haskell, defeating Tonalist by 2 ¼ lengths with fellow Travers entrants Kid Cruz, Commanding Curve and Ulanbator third, fourth and fifth, re-

spectively.

Thursday morning, Jimmy Jerkens sat in the front seat of his car, door propped open, parked outside his barn on the Oklahoma side and fiddled with his phone. Rain dripped through the trees, puddles over-

flowed and Wicked Strong walked the shedrow after his final tune up, a quarter-mile jolt, before the Travers.

Jerkens looked up from his phone and downplayed Wicked Strong's late-morning jaunt over the sloppy Oklahoma track.

"We just let him go down the stretch a little. He went from the three-sixteenths pole to a sixteenth past the wire and galloped out a little bit," Jerkens said. "I don't think he went better than 25, which is fine in that crap. Damn rain. We're happy just to get something into him."

Neck bowed, head down, flicking his front hooves like he was trying to kick off a pair of loafers on the porch after a long day, Wicked Strong relished the stoking. The big bay colt arrived in the Jim Dandy, finally adding polish to his chrome, results to his promise. Wearing blinkers for the first time, in his ninth career start, Wicked Strong pulled Rajiv Maragh to a stalking spot and then pulled again when called upon, rolling away from Tonalist.

A month later, Centennial Farm's colt seems to have stayed in the air, at least to Jerkens, son of Hall of Fame

See **TRAVERS** page 14 ►

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Travers —

■ Continued from page 12

trainer Allen Jerkens. When it comes to life, Jimmy Jerkens refers to his dad as “my father.” When it comes to training, he refers to him like everybody else on the track, it’s just “Chief.”

“I think he’s the same, held his flesh a little better between races than he did from the others,” Jerkens said. “Chief would say, ‘I don’t know if that’s good or bad, gaining weight to go a mile-and-a-quarter.’ You never know, but I can’t see anything that says he’s not doing good.”

Notoriously fresh and free, Wicked Strong has tried Jerkens’ patience and certainly his nerve. The trainer takes the shank every afternoon, allowing Wicked Strong to roll in a sand pile between the barn and the manure pit.

“He seems to be happy, he’s still a pain in the ass, but in a good way,” Jerkens said. “He loves to roll in that sand pile, it’s really fun when he gets up, wow. I do it myself so I don’t have to blame anybody but myself if he gets loose. It’s gotten to be too risky to let him graze out there on the hill, there’s too much action over here.”

Jerkens watched Wicked Strong cool out under the low roof of his barn.

“Think you can walk him without the lip shank for the last 10 minutes?” Jerkens asked.

The next time around, Wicked Strong walked past, brass chain around his nose, he shook his head like he was thanking his trainer for the freedom.

A day earlier, Jerkens watched his other Travers starter V. E. Day blow out and cool out. Going 3 furlongs over a fast Oklahoma track, V. E. Day went in :37.70 and galloped out in :50.

“He went along a little better because he worked a little slow the other day,” Jerkens said, referring to a 7-furlong breeze in 1:30.18 Aug. 15. “Just an error, a little miscalculation, he finished really, really well, he crawled the first part, but he finished up well.”

Owned by Maggie Bryant, the son of English Channel won the Curlin a day before the Jim Dandy to clinch his ticket to the Travers. Relying on his turf pedigree, V. E. Day made his first two starts on grass, finishing fifth and second going 9 furlongs at Gulfstream Park. Shipped to Belmont, he won an off-the-turf maiden in May, and returned to win a 9-furlong turf allowance July 12 at Belmont Park.

Jerkens brought him to Saratoga and worked him 7 furlongs six days before a projected start in the Curlin. It went from a projected start to a defining win.

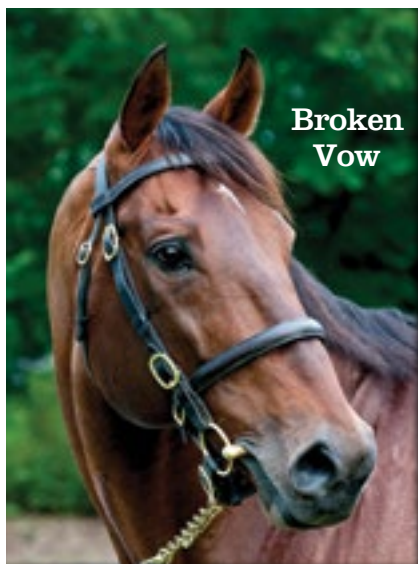
“I thought it was an ideal time to try the dirt again, against 3-year-olds. I thought we’d give the Curlin a shot if he worked good; he worked fantas-

See **TRAVERS** page 16 ►



Speedy Bayern will try to win his third consecutive graded stakes.

Tod Marks



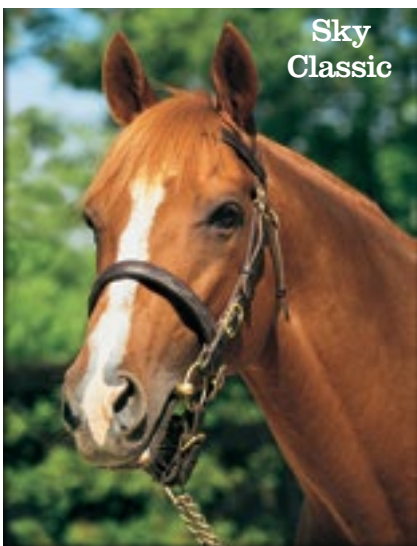
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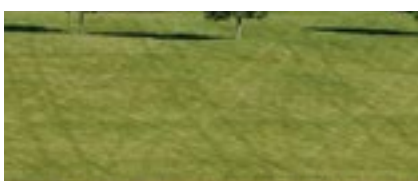
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Travers —

■ Continued from page 14

tic, he worked like any stakes horse, he went a mile in like 41, went great and he ran good. Outside Wicked, Tonalist and Bayern, he's every bit as good as the other ones on paper."

Jerkens isn't the only trainer trying to bridge the gap from decent turf horse to stellar dirt horse.

Shug McGaughey returns Mr Speaker to the dirt for the first time since finishing seventh in the Holy Bull Stakes in January at Gulfstream Park. Since then, he's won the Grade 3 Lexington Stakes on the Polytrack at Keeneland and the Grade 1 Belmont Derby Invitational on the turf at Belmont Park.

A few days after the win, McGaughey talked to Phipps.

"What are you going to do with him?" Phipps asked. "I'm not telling you what to do but I'd like to work him a couple of times on the dirt up there."

So that's what McGaughey did.

"I worked him on it and I thought he worked well on it," said the Hall of Famer. "He's trained well here. If this race was a mile-and-a-quarter on the turf, I'd have as much confidence no matter who was in it."

McGaughey mapped out a schedule for Mr Speaker and opted against shipping to Arlington Park for the Grade 1 Secretariat — "a gut feeling." He decided the Saranac on the turf at the end of the meet didn't offer a lot. He doesn't want to ship to the Breeders' Cup this fall.

"One of the things I wanted to see was what they replaced the Jamaica with, the Hill Prince is in October, if I'm wrong, I've got another spot," McGaughey said. "We might make the Hill Prince the last race of the year for him . . . unless he wins the Travers, then things will be different."

Mr Speaker will be running late — if he handles the dirt.

"He laid up too close in the Holy Bull and in the Pennine Ridge," McGaughey said. "I think Jose (Lezcano) understands that now. We let him drop back in the Belmont race and he finished. He'll be back anyway, I don't want him out of the race by any means. If they let Bayern loose, we're all in trouble but I think they'll want Wicked Strong and Tonalist up there.



V. E. Day (left) and Charge Now battle down the stretch in the Curlin.

Tod Marks

I'm not upset that Bayern's in there."

With a Grade 1 score in the books and a deep pedigree, Mr Speaker has nothing to lose by running in the Travers.

"It's not why we're doing it but if he were to win his value would go through the stratosphere. His future is in front of him," McGaughey said. "I can see a huge difference in him from the first of July to now. I've had the Travers on my mind for a while."

McGaughey's Hall of Fame neighbor Bill Mott knows exactly how long he's been thinking Travers with Charge Now.

"I said it in March," Mott said. "Everybody's worried about the Derby, I said if we're going to have a big goal it better be the Travers."

At the time, Charge Now had made one start, finishing second in a mile turf maiden at Gulfstream Park. As the other 3-year-olds flew close to the sun of the Triple Crown races, Charge Now wasn't going near it. Could he have gotten there?

"Not the right way. Not the right way," Mott said Thursday morning. "He wasn't ready for that."

The half-brother to Derby winner Super Saver broke his maiden going 1 1/16 miles March 20 at Gulfstream before rolling through an allowance win in May at Belmont. Shipped to Prairie Meadows in Iowa, Charge Now failed to make any impact, finishing seventh. A month later, he re-

emerged as a possible summer 3-year-old with a big effort in the Curlin.

Mott appreciates Charge Now's stamina and loves the timing of the Travers.

"The horse is on his game," he said. "Now we just have to find out if he's good enough. He wasn't ready for the Derby or those kinds of races at that time, but I think he's ready for it now, ready to try it. It won't set him back because he's ready for it, he's ready to step up. This is his opportunity as a 3-year-old to have a big day. This is his Derby. His chance."

The Travers, frequently and unofficially referred to as the "Midsummer Derby" but not really resembling the first Saturday in May version, is a race that Christophe Clement targeted for Tonalist within minutes of the big bay colt putting his name in the 3-year-old championship picture in the Belmont Stakes.

Tonalist was 4-5 in the Jim Dandy but couldn't put a dent in Wicked Strong in the stretch, finishing 2 1/4 lengths back after chasing the bay colt the whole way. The pace of the Travers — with Bayern expected on the lead and Wicked Strong chasing — could play into Tonalist and Joel Rosario's hands.

A wet track wouldn't hurt his chances either; he won the Peter Pan nearly gate-to-wire by 4 lengths over the subsequently injured eventual Belmont runner-up Commissioner.

Tonalist is listed as the 3-1 second choice.

Legitimate cases can be made for many of the race's double-digit entrants, including Commanding Curve and Viva Majorca.

Commanding Curve turned in his best race at 10 furlongs when he finished second to California Chrome in the Kentucky Derby at nearly 38-1.

The son of Master Command was no threat to the winner in Louisville, but made a steady run through the stretch at Churchill Downs to be a clear second.

The margin was 1 3/4 lengths, probably not a true indicator since Victor Espinoza is in full celebration mode in the final strides and gearing down on California Chrome as the wire approached.

Trained by Dallas Stewart, Commanding Curve was fourth in the Jim Dandy without much of an excuse.

Marylou Whitney Stable's Viva Majorca deserves an excuse for his fourth-place finish in the Curlin. The Tiago colt encountered some traffic issues around the far turn and at the top of the stretch and lost by only a length.

Viva Majorca has thrived in his training since, so much so that Wilkes said the colt was "so high, almost too high" after he and Ulbanator schooled in the starting gate on a wet morning Thursday.

"He's full of himself," Wilkes said after his wife Tracey galloped Viva Majorca in the slop Thursday. "He's high, but he doesn't do a thing wrong."

Kid Cruz brings a resume that includes four stakes victories — the most of any member of the field — into the Travers. The son of Lemon Drop Kid won the Private Terms and Federico Tesio in Maryland earlier this year to earn a trip to Baltimore for the Preakness, where he finished a lackluster eighth after trailing the field most of the way.

Trained by Linda Rice, Kid Cruz rebounded with back-to-back wins in the Easy Goer on the Belmont undercard and the Grade 3 Dwyer, both at 1 1/16 miles. Irad Ortiz Jr. rode Kid Cruz in those two stakes and in his third-place finish in the Jim Dandy. He rides again today and Kid Cruz is 12-1 on the morning line.

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Quick Dream

Speedy homebred Fast Anna takes jump in class for Grade 1

RYAN JONES

Standing tall and motionless like an immaculate statue cast across a sloppy track, Fast Anna embodied professionalism as he waited for a jog around the track early Friday morning in preparation for today's \$500,000 Grade 1 Ketel One King's Bishop.

On the walk to the main track a few minutes earlier, trainer Kathy Ritvo followed Fast Anna as he tossed his head, evidently excited to hit the sloppy track.

"He'll just stand over here like an old lady," Ritvo said, pointing to a spot on the track not far from the gap by the Morning Line Kitchen. "He's a professional, 100 percent. He just does everything right."

KING'S BISHOP PREVIEW

"Be good you big clown," Ritvo called to Fast Anna as exercise rider Nick Petro Jr., Ritvo's nephew, started their lap.

Fast Anna took off around the clubhouse turn, his broad shoulders and burgeoning muscles standing out. Friday's jog was one of the last bits of work before the 7-furlong King's Bishop, where Fast Anna enters as the least raced of the eight entries with just two starts on his resume, both wins.

"This is why we're here," Ritvo, who bases her operation at Gulfstream Park, said. "We pointed towards this race. His last race set him up real-



Leslie Martin

Fast Anna streaks into the King's Bishop off two wins in Florida.

ly well for this one. We got a late start this year not wanting to push him. When they get started it's tough, [you don't want to] run too many times. It's not the right thing to do."

Fast Anna, a son of 2002 Travers winner Medaglia d'Oro out of 2006 champion 2-year-old filly Dreaming of Anna, has proven himself against older horses in both wins earlier this year at Gulfstream. He gets the op-

portunity to prove his worth against some of the best 3-year-old male sprinters in the King's Bishop. He's taken to the Saratoga surface well, turning in two impressive works since arriving earlier this month, including a bullet 5 furlongs in :58.60 Aug. 16.

"He worked 7-furlongs the week we came in," Ritvo said. "It was his

See **KING'S BISHOP** page 20 ►

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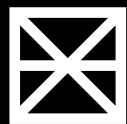
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King's Bishop —

■ Continued from page 18

first time working over this race-track. I think he went in :28 and change. It's a very good distance for him. He started [racing] at 6 furlongs, then 6 ½. He works good. It's just the way he does it."

Fast Anna gets John Velazquez and if history is any indication, he's due for a good ride. Tied with Mike Smith for the most wins in the 30-year history of the King's Bishop with three, Velazquez has won the race every fourth year for the past 12 years with scores in 2002, 2006 and 2010. It's a tradition Ritvo hopes to see continue.

"I'm going to tell Johnny, 'good luck'," Ritvo said of the Hall of Famer. "He's a professional, he knows what to do. The horse is a very kind horse, and he's smart. I believe that he doesn't have to be in front. In his other races, that's just where he was."

The King's Bishop always features plenty of early speed and there's potential for a tough battle on the front end with 5-2 second choice The Big Beast breaking just to the outside of Fast Anna.

Tony Dutrow took over training of The Big Beast from Steve Hobby for Alex and JoAnn Lieblong earlier this year and the Yes It's True colt comes in off consecutive wins. The latest was his most impressive performance to date in a 6-furlong allowance race earlier in the meet.

"The horse has matured and gained confidence in his last two races," Dutrow said while standing next to The Big Beast as he played with a red ball tied outside his stall Friday morning. "I've been doing this all my life and I don't know that I worry. I don't worry about too much of any of it, but I'm concerned with it all. There's some brilliant speed in the race and that's why I'm so happy that our post position is just outside of the speed."

Javier Castellano hops aboard The Big Beast again and aims for his third straight win on the colt.

Third choice on the morning line at 4-1 is Kentucky Derby and Haskell Invitational veteran Wildcat Red, breaks from post No. 2 for trainer Jose Garoffalo.

With plenty of Grade 1 experience and trips at seven distances in 10 ca-

reer starts, Salvatore and Josie Delfino's D'wildcat colt is undoubtedly the most versatile in the field.

"When he ran this distance at Gulfstream, he won the Hutcheson," Garoffalo said while standing inside the John Kimmel compound of barns 33 A, B, and C, where Wildcat Red is stabled. "He ran behind the speed for a little while, ran a little bit, and then went after [the leader]. He's got no problem with speed. He's got versatility. He can run on the lead or behind it, [as long as he's] close to the speed, not too far off ... It's going to be a decision that the jockey is going to have to make right at the start."

Luis Saez will be the one left to make that decision after riding Wildcat Red to a third-place finish in the Haskell behind 2-1 Travers morning-line favorite Bayern.

It wouldn't be the King's Bishop without nobility in the race. Noble Cornerstone and Noble Moon break from adjacent postpositions in the middle of the pack with the Brothers Ortiz riding the two longshots in the field.

Noble Cornerstone enters the race for trainer Tom Morley off an allowance/optional claiming score the first week of the meet.

Jose Ortiz rides the lone gelding and New York-bred in the field for My Meadowview Farm.

To his right will be older brother Irad Ortiz on Virginia-bred Noble Moon for Leah Gyramati.

Unraced since a sixth-place finish in the Grade 1 Wood Memorial in April, the Malibu Moon colt cuts back to a sprint for the first time since breaking his maiden going 6 furlongs in his debut last September at Belmont.

The 2-1 morning-line favorite, Coup de Grace, aims to repeat his performance in the Grade 2 Amsterdam July 26. Unbeaten in two starts transferring to Larry Jones' barn from Chad Brown's in June, Coup de Grace's stalking, predatory running style poses a significant threat to anyone on the lead as the field makes its way down the stretch. Rosie Napravnik gets the return call.

Rounding out the field are the Nick Zito-trained C. Zee, second in the Amsterdam and on the rail for a second straight start, and Myositis Dan, a close third in the Grade 3 Derby Trial two starts back for trainer Tom Proctor.

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Sir Alfred James Munnings (*British, 1878-1959*),
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Inscribed front on panel 1 "Study of Silvo",
Inscribed verso panel 2 "Studies at Snailwell near Newmarket" AJ Munnings,
Oil on panel, 12 ¼" x 7 ½" each

"Silvo was a big powerful horse, disfigured by a hog mane."
Munnings, Sir Alfred James. *Autobiography: An Artist's Life;*
Second Burst; London, Museum Press Limited. 1950-1951, v.2 p.249.

Sir Alfred Munnings fondly recalls spending time and dining with his friend, famed British trainer George Blackwell, on his farm in Snailwell near Newmarket. Speaking of the farm *"There are moments when the artist's soul is lifted up with sheer joy at something seen."* and of Blackwell's *"keen eye," "an artist in thought."*

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Building Block

My Miss Aurelia back in Grade 1 stakes for first time since 2012

BY TOM LAW

BALLERINA PREVIEW

Todd Pletcher watched a few replays of the restricted Shine Again Stakes on a monitor in the back corner of the clubhouse's first floor a few minutes after My Miss Aurelia finished third in her belated comeback at Saratoga Race Course July 21.

He wasn't thrilled with what he saw, nobody reaches the level of success Pletcher has in his 18-plus years as a trainer if they're content with close thirds, but he wasn't exactly broken up about it. My Miss Aurelia was third in a race where she ran hard the whole way, got bumped a few times in the stretch and lost by a half-length to Better Lucky.

Pletcher called the race something the three-time Grade 1 winner and two-time champion could "build off." Now he hopes the building blocks are

in place to add a fourth Grade 1 win in today's \$500,000 Ballerina Stakes immediately preceding the Travers Stakes at Saratoga.

"We'll trade the Shine Again for the Ballerina," Pletcher said this week, after talking about the progress the 5-year-old Smart Strike mare has made since her comeback race.

My Miss Aurelia, the 3-1 favorite against eight others in the 7-furlong Ballerina, breezed three times since the Shine Again. The last one was in company with 2013 Belmont Stakes and 2014 Metropolitan Handicap winner Palace Malice a week ago on the main track. She didn't give an inch to the classic-winning stablemate and they finished on even terms, a half-mile on the main track in :48.90.



Tod Marks

My Miss Aurelia looks to build on her third here July 21.

Pletcher said it was, "as good as I've seen her breeze."

My Miss Aurelia's appearance in the Shine Again was her first race since March 2013. Transferred from Steve Asmussen to Pletcher by owner Stonestreet Stables after she made just one start at 4, My Miss Aurelia shed a frog three days before a scheduled comeback race in the fall. The issue proved particularly troublesome, Pletcher and his team couldn't get her quite right for six to seven weeks and

My Miss Aurelia was eventually sent to Stonestreet's farm in Ocala to recover. She didn't miss a beat when she finally returned to Pletcher's care this spring.

"Hopefully the race and her subsequent breezes have her at her best," Pletcher said earlier this week.

My Miss Aurelia meets Godolphin Racing's Better Lucky again, in the Ballerina.

See **BALLERINA** page 24 ►

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Cherokee's Boy	Oratory
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Eastern Echo	Rush Bay
Elusive Charlie	Same Day Delivery
Eternal Star	Scipion
Fantasticat	Secret Firm
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Lion Hearted	Wayne County (IRE)
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Ballerina —

■ Continued from page 22

The 5-year-old Ghostzapper mare, already a multiple Grade 1 winner on the grass, is just as tough on the main track. Her connections' belief that she's just as good if not better running an extended sprint or middle distances on the main track was proven in the Shine Again.

Javier Castellano, the meet's leading rider with 44 wins through Friday, gets the return call on the 4-1 third choice behind My Miss Aurelia and 7-2 second choice La Verdad.

Fourth choice on the line is the 3-year-old New York-bred filly Artemis Agrotera.

Mike Hushion wasn't thrilled when the Roman Ruler filly drew the rail for her return to Grade 1 company — she won last year's Frizette at Belmont — but he took it in stride.

"Ugh," Hushion said when asked to recount his reaction to the rail draw. "I don't know how you spell that though."

"Seriously though, sometimes you worry and worry about the 1 hole and things are fine. There's going to be horses that go out there in front of her. Hopefully she'll track good and he'll (Rajiv Maragh) be able to work his way out. Rajiv is riding really, really well right now. He's making all the right moves and hopefully he'll continue to do that."

Artemis Agrotera is one of seven winners, all homebreds, at the meet for Chester and Mary Bro-



Dave Harmon

Better Lucky (6) seeks her second stakes win of the meet.

man. She won a 7-furlong allowance/optional for state-breds by 10 1/4 lengths July 23.

The Grade 1 Test against 3-year-olds Aug. 2 came back too quick, so Artemis Agrotera takes on older fillies and mares for the first time in stakes company.

"It's that time of year," Hushion said, seemingly not overly concerned. "I think she's special."

The co-fifth choices at 6-1 are also New York-breds, two-time Saratoga winner Willet for Jimmy Iselin and Grade 3 winner Hot Stones for Bruce Levine. Voodoo Tales, the winner of two straight for Nick Esler, Monmouth shipper and recent Regret Stakes winner Geeky Gorgeous for Danny Lopez and South Florida shipper Kipling's Joy for Marty Wolfson complete the field.

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MONDAY • 9/8

- 7 c. **STREET CRY** – Lady Lochinvar
Half to two GSWs and G1-placed winner; family of AL MAMOON (G1), LA GUERIERE (G1), etc.
- 52 f. **CONGRATS** – Lucky Soph
Half to LUCKY PULPIT (SW, G2-pl); family of UNBRIDLED'S SONG
- 181 c. **BLAME** – Quipperry
Second foal from daughter of multiple GSP half-sister to STREET BOSS

TUESDAY • 9/9

- 195 c. **WAR FRONT** – Red Hot Buddha
Second foal from SW and half to two stakes horses; family of GSWs ALLAMERICAN BERTIE, HURRICANE BERTIE
- 284 f. **SCAT DADDY** – Stayclassysandiego
First foal from SP half to SEAN AVERY (Vanderbilt H-G1, etc.), etc.

WEDNESDAY • 9/10

- 385 c. **SKY MESA** – Westling
By 2nd Leading 2YO Sire in 2014, out of half to champion PEAKS AND VALLEYS, SW ALTERNATE (dam of GSW ALTERNATION), etc.
- 390 f. **ARCH** – Whisper to Me
Half to 2014 G2 SW OVERHEARD, won/placed in five graded stakes
- 406 c. **CANDY RIDE** – Winsome Ways
Out of \$166,799 earner and half-sister to three stakes horses; family of MS. ELOISE (G1), etc.
- 444 c. **ELUSIVE QUALITY** – Ansong
First foal from SP half to three SWs; family of RUSH BAY (G3), BELIEVE YOU CAN (G1)

THURSDAY • 9/11

- 615 c. **DISTORTED HUMOR** – Emptythetill
Half to GSW CONVEYANCE and SP Atlantic Bull; Family of SILENT ACCOUNT, PLUM PRETTY, etc.

SATURDAY • 9/13

- 865 f. **COLONEL JOHN** – Repeat
First foal from Bernardini daughter of G2 winner LETGOMYECHO
- 868 c. **TRAPPE SHOT** – Revel in the Win
Half to 2YO Graded SW, POKER PLAYER, also SP in 2014
- 909 c. **ARCHARCHARCH** – Silk Briefcase
Half to G2 winner, G1-placed BRIECAT (10 wins, \$683,263)
- 912 f. **TAPIT** – Silver Wolf
Out of half to G1 SW CORINTHIAN (by Pulpit), by 2014 Leading Sire
- 945 f. **SKY MESA** – Tap Mate
Out of sister to G2 SW, G1-placed TAP DAY (11 wins, \$784,897); by 2nd Leading 2YO Sire in 2014
- 983 f. **CONGRATS** – Winter Forest
Out of half/full sister to two SWs; family of champion BIG DRAMA
- 1150 c. **LEMON DROP KID** – Hi Beautiful
Half to undefeated 2YO and stakes-placed at 3, MALIBU HIGH
- 1171 f. **HARD SPUN** – Kauai Calls
Out of half to G2 SW and successful young sire OLD FASHIONED

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Tod Marks

Centre Court has been coming to Saratoga for turf stakes since 2012.

Full Court Press

Centre Court tries to get back on track as she nears seven figures

BY SEAN CLANCY

Rusty Arnold stood outside his tack room Friday morning and offered four words about today's \$250,000 Ballston Spa.

"It's a tough spot," Arnold said, as he waited for a set to jog in the rain on the sloppy Oklahoma Training Track.

Arnold's Centre Court, a seven-time winner who is one win away from becoming a millionaire certainly adds depth to the Grade 2 turf stakes for older fillies and mares. Just seven entered the Ballston Spa and Centre

BALLSTON SPA PREVIEW

Court reigns as the leading earner. She also has questions to answer.

The seven-time winner won the Grade 2 Honey Fox at Gulfstream Park in her 5-year-old debut before finishing fifth in the Grade 1 Jenny Wiley and fifth in the Grade 2 Churchill Downs Distaff Turf. Owned by G. Watts Humphrey Jr., the daughter of Smart Strike has not run since losing a glue-on shoe in the Distaff.

See **BALLSTON SPA** page 28 ►



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LOSSES	RUNS	STAKE	AGE	DISTANCE	PURSE
Thu., Aug. 28	Sat., Sep. 6	Thirty Eight Go Go	F&M 3 & Up	1 Mile	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Aug. 28	Sat., Sep. 6	Dave's Friend	3 & Up	6 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Aug. 28	Sat., Sep. 6	Japan Racing Association	3 & Up	1 1/16 Miles (T)	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Aug. 28	Sat., Sep. 6	All Brandy (Reg. MD-bred/Sired*)	F&M 3 & Up	1 1/8 Miles (T)	\$125,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 4	Sat., Sep. 13	Jamestown (Reg. VA-bred/Sired**)	2-y-o	5 1/2 Furlongs (T)	\$60,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 4	Sat., Sep. 13	Punch Line (Reg. VA-bred/Sired**)	3 & Up	5 1/2 Furlongs (T)	\$60,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 4	Sat., Sep. 13	Oakley (Reg. VA-bred/Sired**)	F&M 3 & Up	5 1/2 Furlongs (T)	\$60,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 4	Sat., Sep. 13	Bert Allen (Reg. VA-bred/Sired**)	3 & Up	1 1/16 Miles (T)	\$60,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 4	Sat., Sep. 13	Brookmeade (Reg. VA-bred/Sired**)	F&M 3 & Up	1 1/16 Miles (T)	\$60,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 18	Sat., Sep. 27	Laurel Futurity	2-y-o	5 1/2 Furlongs (T)	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 18	Sat., Sep. 27	Selima	Fillies 2-y-o	5 1/2 Furlongs (T)	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 18	Sat., Sep. 27	Lady Baltimore Stakes	F&M 3 & Up	1 1/16 Miles (T)	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 18	Sat., Sep. 27	Laurel Dash (Listed)	3 & Up	6 Furlongs (T)	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 18	Sat., Sep. 27	Laurel Turf Cup (Listed)	3 & Up	1 1/2 Miles (T)	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 18	Sat., Sep. 27	Jameela (Reg. MD-bred/Sired*)	F&M 3 & Up	6 Furlongs (T)	\$125,000 Guaranteed

Thursday, October 9 - Pre-entry Deadline for Maryland Million Day, Saturday, October 18[^]

Thu., Nov. 6	Sat., Nov. 15	Frank J. De Francis Mem. Dash (Listed)	3 & Up	6 Furlongs	\$350,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 6	Sat., Nov. 15	James F. Lewis III	2-y-o	6 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 6	Sat., Nov. 15	Smart Halo	Fillies 2-y-o	6 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 6	Sat., Nov. 15	Richard W. Small	3 & Up	1 1/16 Miles	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 6	Sat., Nov. 15	City of Laurel	3-y-o	7 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 6	Sat., Nov. 15	Safely Kept	Fillies 3-y-o	7 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 27	Sat., Dec. 6	Willie on the Move	F&M 3 & Up	6 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 27	Sat., Dec. 6	Marylander	2-y-o	7 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 27	Sat., Dec. 6	Gin Talking	Fillies 2-y-o	7 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 27	Sat., Dec. 6	Jennings Hcp. (Reg. MD-bred/Sired*)	3 & Up	1 Mile	\$125,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Dec. 18	Fri., Dec. 26	MD Juvenile Filly Ch. (Reg. MD-bred/Sired*)	Fillies 2-y-o	7 Furlongs	\$125,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Dec. 18	Sat., Dec. 27	MD Juvenile Futurity (Reg. MD-bred/Sired*)	2-y-o	7 Furlongs	\$125,000 Guaranteed

MD-Bred & MD-Sired runs for \$125,000; MD-Bred Only runs for \$100,000. **Includes \$10,000 from the VA-Bred Fund. ^Restricted to MD-Million nominees.



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Ballston Spa—

■ Continued from page 26

"I have some who could run barefoot, she's not one of them," Arnold said. "It wasn't a horrible race, but it was against horses that it looked like she should beat."

Arnold backed off, walked her in the shedrow for three weeks and brought her to Saratoga a week before the meet to get ready for the Ballston Spa and a fall campaign that should include a stakes start at Keeneland and another at Churchill Downs.

"She's done well, her works were on the days they were supposed to be, the times they were supposed to be. She's ready to go," Arnold said. "We'll see if she's back on her game, she doesn't have to win, but if she's back on her game, she'll be right with these fillies."

There was a time when Centre Court was ahead of these fillies. She strung wins in the Grade 2 Mrs. Revere, Grade 2 Honey Fox and Grade 1 Jenny Wiley to close her 3-year-old year and open her 4-year-old season. Last summer, bettors knocked her down to favoritism in the Grade 1 Diana but she wound up fifth behind Laughing. She flopped again in the Ballston Spa, went back to the farm

to recover from a hind end issue and rejoined Arnold in Florida. She won the Honey Fox before missing by three quarters of a length in the Jenny Wiley and then lost her shoe in the Distaff.

"It's been frustrating, because I thought she was really good again," Arnold said. "She won her first race back, not by a lot, but still coming off a long layoff to win a Grade 2 at Gulfstream in a good race. I got her to Keeneland, it looked like she had that race won and finished fifth. She made the lead at the eighth pole and didn't go on, maybe her feet were bugging her enough then or maybe she just got outrun. I took her to Churchill to get her back going, then that happened, it's been wasted."

With a deep pedigree and a Grade 1 stakes score to her credit, Centre Court would have been a natural to join Humphrey and his wife Louise's broodmare band at the end of last year. Instead, she took a hiatus during the fall and rejoined Arnold.

"It's his decision, I'll have some input and tell him what I think we can get done, the soundness level and he'll weigh what she's worth as a broodmare. This one, it was probably a sportsman's decision. Her value as a broodmare, because of her pedigree, is incredible. He

See **BALLSTON SPA** page 30 ►



Owner G. Watts Humphrey Jr. (left) and trainer Rusty Arnold hope for another strong run from turf mare Centre Court.

Tod Marks

TRIVERS STAKES

wager guide

THE CONTENDERS

Most eyes – and bets – will be on #2 BAYERN, #6 TONALIST and #7 WICKED STRONG. Each is a millionaire Grade 1 winner and if all 3 run as well as they're capable of, we're in for a treat. BAYERN should benefit from being the field's only frontrunner. The California speedball won last month's Haskell Invitational in wire-to-wire fashion, but he's never competed at today's 1 ¼-mile distance and they won't gift-wrap the race for him. WICKED STRONG added blinkers last time out to improve his focus, and he responded with a powerful victory in the Grade 2 Jim Dandy over Belmont Stakes winner TONALIST, who was compromised by the slow pace and wide trip that afternoon. He should run big today.

VALUE PLAYS

#5 VIVA MAJORCA will start as a 20/1 outsider after belatedly closing to finish 4th in last month's Curlin Stakes. Traffic down the stretch hindered his chances and this is his second start off a layoff and his second race around two turns. He's poised to outrun his odds. #10 MR SPEAKER beat an impressive next-out winner, Adelaide, in the Grade 1 Belmont Derby on turf, but his lone dirt start was a disappointment. And you can trust that his connections aren't here for the free seats. #8 KID CRUZ rarely fails to unleash his closing kick, and his sire, Lemon Drop Kid, won the Travers in 1999.

HOW IT PLAYS OUT

BAYERN holds the cards early. He drew inside and his speed should ensure that he's the one to catch. WICKED STRONG, with blinkers on once again, figures to be forwardly placed and TONALIST, who appeared rusty in the Jim Dandy, should be much sharper this afternoon. Once BAYERN starts to tire, look for TONALIST and WICKED STRONG to engage and kick for home, with the best closers, KID CRUZ, VIVA MAJORCA and MR SPEAKER, hot on their heels.

THE BOTTOM LINE

TONALIST should move forward off a decent run in the Jim Dandy and the Belmont Stakes winner will excel at today's distance. WICKED STRONG and BAYERN will run well, and MR SPEAKER, KID CRUZ and VIVA MAJORCA will be heard from late.

OUR PICKS

1. TONALIST
2. WICKED STRONG
3. VIVA MAJORCA
4. BAYERN

\$10 WAGERING STRATEGY

- \$2 Win, Place #6 TONALIST (\$4)
- \$2 Exacta Key #6 TONALIST / #2 BAYERN, #7 WICKED STRONG (\$4)
- \$2 Show #5 VIVA MAJORCA (\$2)

\$50 WAGERING STRATEGY

- \$6 Win #6 TONALIST (\$6)
- \$1 Trifecta Key #6 TONALIST / #2 BAYERN, #5 VIVA MAJORCA, #7 WICKED STRONG, #8 KID CRUZ, #10 MR SPEAKER (\$20)
- \$2 Exacta Box #2 BAYERN, #6 TONALIST, #5 VIVA MAJORCA, #7 WICKED STRONG (\$24)

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Ballston Spa—

■ Continued from page 28

gave up one year of that,” Arnold said. “We had such a good 3-year-old year and her 4-year-old year started out so good it looked like the sky was the limit. Hopefully I can reward him for that through the fall.”

A couple of barns over from Arnold, Shug McGaughey sounded like the same trainer, searching for a breakout performance for a consistent mare. Phipps Stable’s Abaco has lost five in a row – by a grand total of 7 3/4 lengths. That’s turf racing.

The daughter of Giant’s Causeway sports five wins from 23 starts, including a stakes win in the Grade 3 Cardinal Handicap at Churchill to close out her 2013 campaign. She’s been as good or better than ever this year but has yet to crack the code in five graded stakes, finishing fourth in the Marshua’s River, third in the Swanee River, third in the Jenny Wiley, second in the Sheephead Bay and fourth in the Diana.

“Abaco is really doing good. She looks as good and is training as good as I’ve ever seen her,” McGaughey

said. “I hope to get some pace, that’s really the reason we’re running her a mile and a sixteenth. She had a really good work the other day and is about to jump out of her skin. We have her in pretty good order.”

Abaco ripped a half mile on the Oklahoma turf in :48 five days ago. Ten days before that she posted another bullet half-mile move in 48.30.

“I tried to work her sharp, trying to get her mind on it,” McGaughey

said. “That part worked. I’m looking forward to running her.”

Two shedrows over from McGaughey’s, fellow Hall of Famer Bill Mott analyzed the race for Juddmonte Farm’s 2-1 favorite Filimbi.

The daughter of Mizzen Mast won the restricted De La Rose here Aug. 2. Mott originally thought about waiting, then changed his mind, partly because of how she was doing, partly because of the short field and partly because of timing for fall stakes. He thinks she’s bounced back well, but won’t know until they turn for home and she either kicks like she did the last time or falters because of a three-week turnaround.

“She ran fast, she kicked on and to me it looked like she did it the right way, but you never know sometimes how much it takes out of them,” Mott said. “I’ve seen horses run like that, come back good, work well enough and you run them back and they’re maybe just a little dull. You can’t always have it perfect. There are a lot of what ifs. You want one more work, one more week. Sometimes you have to rely on the horse to do it for you. I just trained her, worked her once, just a half-mile breeze on the dirt, she was fine.”



Tod Marks

Filimbi aims to duplicate her win in the De La Rose.

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Tod Marks



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SARATOGA ENTRIES

Saturday, August 23.

1ST (11:35AM). \$98,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

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

1	.....2	.....Prince Bernardini	.....E. Prado	.....H. Motion	.....10-1
1a	.....5	.....Hard to Handle	.....L. Saez	.....M. Matz	.....10-1
2	.....1	.....Hidden Candy	.....R. Napravnik	.....A. Stall, Jr.	.....6-1
3	.....3	.....Marble Falls	.....J. Alvarado	.....W. Mott	.....15-1
4	.....4	.....Summit Moon	.....J. Ortiz	.....J. Kimmel	.....12-1
5	.....6	.....Three Alarm Fire	.....J. Rosario	.....T. Albertrani	.....3-1
6	.....7	.....Lucid	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....K. McLaughlin	.....8-1
7	.....8	.....Liam's Map	.....J. Velazquez	.....T. Pletcher	.....5-2
8	.....9	.....Cosmic Gold	.....J. Castellano	.....M. Trombetta	.....7-2

2ND (12:05PM). \$98,000, MSW, 2 YO, 1 1/16M (TURF)

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

1	.....1	.....Incremental	.....J. Alvarado	.....A. Stall, Jr.	.....4-1
1a	.....2	.....Dispersion	.....J. Castellano	.....C. Brown	.....4-1
2	.....3	.....Face the Music	.....J. Rosario	.....C. McGaughey III	.....5-2
3	.....4	.....Imperia	.....R. Maragh	.....K. McLaughlin	.....8-1
4	.....5	.....The Truth Or Else	.....M. Luzzi	.....K. McPeck	.....10-1
5	.....6	.....Blazing Truth	.....J. Lezcano	.....W. Mott	.....6-1
6	.....7	.....Tariff	.....M. Franco	.....W. Mott	.....12-1
7	.....8	.....Vogner	.....L. Saez	.....D. Lukas	.....20-1
8	.....9	.....Fowler Avenue	.....C. Lanerie	.....D. Schettino	.....20-1
9	.....10	.....Potthast	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....H. Motion	.....3-1

3RD (12:37PM). \$90,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....Poliziotto	.....J. Rosario	.....C. Brown	.....6-1
2	.....2	.....Saltine Warrior	.....J. Rocco, Jr.	.....G. Weaver	.....15-1
3	.....3	.....Ocala Jim	.....J. Lezcano	.....D. Donk	.....4-1
4	.....4	.....Charity Reins	.....J. Bravo	.....P. Serpe	.....10-1
5	.....5	.....Sunnysider	.....B. Hernandez, Jr.	.....M. Wilson	.....20-1
6	.....6	.....John Bailey	.....J. Velazquez	.....M. Dilger	.....5-1
7	.....7	.....Hidden Vow	.....J. Castellano	.....B. Brown	.....7-2
8	.....8	.....Balderdash	.....J. Ortiz	.....K. Feron	.....30-1
9	.....9	.....Iced Over	.....M. Franco	.....M. Lauer	.....15-1
10	.....10	.....Blue Pigeon	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....C. Clement	.....3-1

4TH (1:09PM). \$98,000, MSW, 2 YO, 6F

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

1	.....1	.....Bird Humor	.....J. Bravo	.....N. Zito	.....15-1
2	.....2	.....Ludicrous	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....C. Brown	.....3-1
3	.....3	.....Bridget's Big Luvy	.....J. Ortiz	.....J. Englehart	.....20-1
4	.....4	.....Tap It Off	.....J. Lezcano	.....T. Albertrani	.....12-1
5	.....5	.....Frosted	.....R. Maragh	.....K. McLaughlin	.....6-1
6	.....6	.....Waging War	.....J. Rosario	.....A. Stall, Jr.	.....7-2
7	.....7	.....Bayerd	.....R. Napravnik	.....S. Asmussen	.....5-1
8	.....8	.....Today's Agenda	.....J. Castellano	.....A. Dutrow	.....4-1
9	.....9	.....Lemon Royal	.....S. Bridgmohan	.....A. Tarrant	.....12-1

5TH (1:43PM). \$100,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....Enchanting Lisa	.....J. Lezcano	.....C. LoPresti	.....4-1
2	.....2	.....Chat	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....J. Sheppard	.....5-1
3	.....3	.....Stock Fund	.....J. Castellano	.....C. Martin	.....6-1
4	.....4	.....Ireland	.....L. Saez	.....D. Lukas	.....15-1
5	.....5	.....Palace Dreams	.....J. Ortiz	.....D. Duggan	.....7-2
6	.....6	.....Luna Time	.....R. Maragh	.....H. Motion	.....8-1
7	.....7	.....Funny Money	.....E. Prado	.....S. Klesaris	.....20-1
8	.....8	.....Strike Accord	.....J. Alvarado	.....J. Kimmel	.....12-1
9	.....9	.....Divine Luck	.....J. Velazquez	.....C. McGaughey III	.....3-1

6TH (2:17PM). \$100,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....MTO	.....Dyker Beach	.....J. Castellano	.....D. Jacobson	.....5-2
1a	.....MTO	.....Mr. O'Leary	.....J. Castellano	.....D. Jacobson	.....5-2
2	.....1	.....Picozza	.....J. Velazquez	.....T. Pletcher	.....7-2
3	.....3	.....Santa Elf	.....M. Franco	.....B. Brown	.....15-1
4	.....4	.....Shatak	.....R. Maragh	.....G. Weaver	.....8-1
5	.....5	.....Cashmere Cat	.....C. Lanerie	.....D. Romans	.....12-1
6	.....6	.....Powerful Instinct	.....J. Castellano	.....C. Brown	.....4-1
7	.....7	.....Excellent Royale (IRE)	.....J. Rocco, Jr.	.....G. Weaver	.....20-1
8	.....8	.....McIlroy	.....J. Ortiz	.....C. Brown	.....3-1
9	.....MTO	.....Wizardly	.....	.....S. Asmussen	.....7-2
10	.....10	.....Lawyer Jim	.....R. Albarado	.....L. Lewis	.....5-1
11	.....11	.....Charlie's Picnic	.....J. Rosario	.....M. Hennig	.....20-1
12	.....12	.....Adirondack Dancer	.....C. Velasquez	.....L. Rice	.....8-1
13	.....MTO	.....Giant Fox	.....	.....L. Gyarmati	.....4-1

7TH (2:51PM). \$100,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 7F

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

1	.....1	.....Dear Mama (ARG)	.....J. Castellano	.....E. Kenneally	.....5-1
2	.....2	.....Shayjolie	.....R. Maragh	.....G. Contessa	.....4-1
3	.....3	.....Pretty Fancy	.....R. Napravnik	.....G. Arnold, II	.....7-2
4	.....4	.....Predicate	.....J. Alvarado	.....M. Hennig	.....8-1
5	.....5	.....Cora Mesa	.....B. Hernandez, Jr.	.....D. Stewart	.....20-1
6	.....6	.....Eddy Gourmet	.....J. Rocco, Jr.	.....H. McMahon	.....8-1
7	.....7	.....Whispering	.....M. Franco	.....T. Bush	.....30-1
8	.....8	.....Madre Ditutticapi	.....A. Arroyo	.....J. Antonucci	.....12-1
9	.....9	.....Holiday's Jewel	.....J. Ortiz	.....M. Friedman	.....20-1
10	.....10	.....Divided Attention	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....K. McLaughlin	.....3-1

8TH (3:25PM). \$105,000, AOC \$62,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....MTO	.....For the Luv of Lil	.....	.....G. Contessa	.....5-2
1a	.....MTO	.....Conspiracy	.....	.....G. Contessa	.....5-2
2	.....1	.....North Slope	.....J. Ortiz	.....K. McLaughlin	.....7-2
3	.....2	.....Brickyard Kitten	.....J. Velazquez	.....A. Dutrow	.....10-1
4	.....3	.....Bad Debt	.....J. Castellano	.....D. Jacobson	.....3-1
5	.....5	.....Seton Hall	.....B. Hernandez, Jr.	.....I. Wilkes	.....8-1
6	.....6	.....Star Channel	.....J. Lezcano	.....E. Kenneally	.....4-1
7	.....7	.....Shining Copper	.....R. Napravnik	.....S. Asmussen	.....10-1
8	.....8	.....Dream Man	.....J. Rosario	.....D. Carroll	.....15-1
9	.....9	.....Royal Blessing	.....L. Saez	.....T. Albertrani	.....10-1
10	.....10	.....Top Striker	.....J. Alvarado	.....A. Kingsley, Jr.	.....8-1

9TH (3:59PM). \$250,000, STK - THE BALLSTON SPA, 3&UP, F & M , 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....1	.....Nellie Cashman	.....F. Boyce	.....F. Abbott, III	.....15-1
2	.....2	.....Centre Court	.....J. Leparoux	.....G. Arnold, II	.....5-1
3	.....3	.....Abaco	.....J. Ortiz	.....C. McGaughey III	.....4-1
4	.....4	.....Strathnaver (GB)	.....J. Velazquez	.....H. Motion	.....6-1
5	.....5	.....Dayatthespa	.....J. Castellano	.....C. Brown	.....5-2
6	.....6	.....Night Song	.....M. Franco	.....A. Tarrant	.....30-1
7	.....7	.....Filimbi	.....J. Rosario	.....W. Mott	.....2-1

10TH (4:33PM). \$500,000, STK - THE KETEL ONE KING'S BISHOP, 3 YO, 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....C. Zee	.....J. Rosario	.....N. Zito	.....10-1
2	.....2	.....Wildcat Red	.....L. Saez	.....J. Garoffalo	.....4-1
3	.....3	.....Myositis Dan	.....J. Lezcano	.....T. Proctor	.....12-1
4	.....4	.....Noble Cornerstone	.....J. Ortiz	.....T. Morley	.....20-1
5	.....5	.....Noble Moon	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....L. Gyarmati	.....15-1
6	.....6	.....Fast Anna	.....J. Velazquez	.....K. Ritvo	.....6-1
7	.....7	.....The Big Beast	.....J. Castellano	.....A. Dutrow	.....5-2
8	.....8	.....Coup de Grace	.....R. Napravnik	.....J. Jones	.....2-1

SARATOGA ENTRIES

11TH (5:08PM). \$500,000, STK - THE BALLERINA, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 7F

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

1	.....1.....	Artemis Agrotera.....	R. Maragh.....	M. Hushion.....	5-1
2	.....2.....	Better Lucky.....	J. Castellano.....	T. Albertrani.....	4-1
3	.....3.....	Kipling's Joy.....	J. Alvarado.....	M. Wolfson.....	30-1
4	.....4.....	My Miss Aurelia.....	J. Velazquez.....	T. Pletcher.....	3-1
5	.....5.....	Willet.....	J. Rosario.....	J. Iselin.....	6-1
6	.....6.....	La Verdad.....	J. Ortiz.....	L. Rice.....	7-2
7	.....7.....	Voodoo Tales.....	M. Franco.....	N. Esler.....	15-1
8	.....8.....	Hot Stones.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	B. Levine.....	6-1
9	.....9.....	Geeky Gorgeous.....	A. Serpa.....	D. Lopez.....	20-1

12TH (5:45PM). \$1,250,000, STK - THE TRAVERS, 3 YO, 1 1/4M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1.....	Commanding Curve.....	S. Bridgmohan.....	D. Stewart.....	15-1
2	.....2.....	Bayern.....	M. Garcia.....	B. Baffert.....	2-1
3	.....3.....	Charge Now.....	J. Alvarado.....	W. Mott.....	15-1
4	.....4.....	V. E. Day.....	J. Castellano.....	J. Jerkens.....	15-1
5	.....5.....	Viva Majorca.....	J. Leparoux.....	I. Wilkes.....	20-1
6	.....6.....	Tonalist.....	J. Rosario.....	C. Clement.....	3-1
7	.....7.....	Wicked Strong.....	R. Maragh.....	J. Jerkens.....	7-2
8	.....8.....	Kid Cruz.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	L. Rice.....	12-1
9	.....9.....	Ulanbator.....	B. Hernandez, Jr.....	I. Wilkes.....	30-1
10	.....10.....	Mr Speaker.....	J. Lezcano.....	C. McGaughey III.....	10-1

13TH (6:20PM). \$100,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	.....1.....	More Than Less.....	R. Napravnik.....	S. Asmussen.....	20-1
2	.....2.....	Can't Explain.....	J. Alvarado.....	J. Kimmel.....	15-1
3	.....3.....	Invading Humor.....	J. Castellano.....	B. Levine.....	4-1
4	.....4.....	Fizzy Pink (GB).....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	C. Brown.....	5-2
5	.....5.....	Sky Painter.....	L. Saez.....	K. McLaughlin.....	3-1
6	.....6.....	Equilateral.....	M. Franco.....	R. Ribardo.....	6-1
7	.....7.....	Ear D' Rhythm.....	R. Maragh.....	R. Rodriguez.....	15-1
8	.....8.....	My One and Only.....	C. DeCarlo.....	J. Milne.....	50-1
9	.....9.....	Weave.....	J. Rosario.....	H. Motion.....	8-1
10	.....10.....	Bartiromo.....	C. Velasquez.....	R. Barbara.....	10-1

14TH (6:53PM). \$90,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	.....1.....	King Dix C.....	A. Arroyo.....	G. Gullo.....	50-1
2	.....2.....	Macagone.....	L. Saez.....	M. Wilson.....	8-1
3	.....3.....	Thurgood.....	J. Leparoux.....	C. Clement.....	7-2
4	.....4.....	Flash Bullett.....	L. Mejias.....	M. Conkey.....	50-1
5	.....5.....	Morning Calm.....	J. Castellano.....	M. Nihei.....	3-1
6	.....6.....	Wake Up in Malibu.....	J. Rocco, Jr.....	G. Weaver.....	4-1
7	.....7.....	Noosh's Tale.....	T. Rice.....	P. Kelly.....	20-1
8	.....8.....	Toy Cannon.....	J. Ortiz.....	J. Toscano, Jr.....	8-1
9	.....9.....	Trainingforsuccess.....	R. Maragh.....	M. Friedman.....	12-1
1010.....	Bluegrass Flash.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	C. Clement.....	6-1
1111.....	Prophet's Cat.....	M. Franco.....	G. Sciacca.....	15-1

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**Tom
Law**



**Charles
Bedard**



**Chad
Summers**

Race #

1

Liam's Map
Cosmic Gold
Three Alarm Fire

Three Alarm Fire
Liam's Map
Cosmic Gold

Three Alarm Fire
Cosmic Gold
Liam's Map

Cosmic Gold
Three Alarm Fire
Liam's Map

Liam's Map
Three Alarm Fire
Cosmic Gold

2

Potthast
Klaravich entry
Face the Music

Dispersion
Face the Music
Potthast

Face the Music
Potthast
Imperia

Blazing Truth
Potthast
Klaravich entry

Face the Music
Imperia
Potthast

3

Ocala Jim
Hidden Vow
Saltine Warrior

Blue Pigeon
Poliziotto
John Bailey

Ocala Jim
Hidden Vow
Poliziotto

Hidden Vow
Ocala Jim
Blue Pigeon

Poliziotto
Ocala Jim
Blue Pigeon

4

Ludicrous
Frosted
Today's Agenda

Waging War
Ludicrous
Today's Agenda

Waging War
Today's Agenda
Frosted

Today's Agenda
Bayerd
Frosted

Waging War
Frosted
Lemon Royal

5

Stock Fund
Palace Dreams
Luna Time

Palace Dreams
Divine Luck
Stock Fund

Chat
Enchanting Lisa
Divine Luck

Divine Luck
Stock Fund
Palace Dreams

Chat
Luna Time
Divine Luck

6

Santa Elf
Powerful Instinct
Jacobson entry

Jacobson entry
McIlroy
Picozza

Shatak
Picozza
Powerful Instinct

Picozza
Powerful Instinct
McIlroy

Shatak
Powerful Instinct
McIlroy

7

Shayjolie
Pretty Fancy
Predicate

Divided Attention
Shayjolie
Predicate

Divided Attention
Pretty Fancy
Predicate

Dear Mama
Madre Ditutticapi
Eddy Gourmet

Dear Mama
Divided Attention
Shayjolie

8

Brickyard Kitten
North Slope
Bad Debt

North Slope
Winning Move entry
Bad Debt

Brickyard Kitten
Bad Debt
Star Channel

Bad Debt
Dream Man
Star Channel

North Slope
Dream Man
Shining Copper

9

Filimbi
Strathnaver
Abaco

Filimbi
Dayatthespa
Abaco

Filimbi
Abaco
Centre Court

Strathnaver
Dayatthespa
Abaco

Filimbi
Centre Court
Dayatthespa

10

Coup de Grace
Myositis Dan
Wildcat Red

Coup de Grace
The Big Beast
Fast Anna

Coup de Grace
Fast Anna
Wildcat Red

Coup de Grace
The Big Beast
Fast Anna

Coup de Grace
Noble Cornerstone
The Big Beast

11

Better Lucky
Artemis Agrotera
La Verdad

La Verdad
Artemis Agrotera
Willet

My Miss Aurelia
Artemis Agrotera
Better Lucky

Artemis Agrotera
La Verdad
Hot Stones

My Miss Aurelia
Willet
Artemis Agrotera

12

Wicked Strong
Tonalist
Mr Speaker

Bayern
Wicked Strong
Tonalist

Wicked Strong
Mr Speaker
Tonalist

Bayern
Kid Cruz
Wicked Strong

Tonalist
Mr Speaker
Wicked Strong

13

Sky Painter
Fizzy Pink
Weave

Fizzy Pink
Invading Humor
Sky Painter

Fizzy Pink
Sky Painter
Invading Humor

Weave
Fizzy Pink
Bartiromo

Sky Painter
Can't Explain
Fizzy Pink

14

Morning Calm
Thurgood
Macagone

Wake Up in Malibu
Morning Calm
Thurgood

Bluegrass Flash
Wake Up in Malibu
Morning Calm

Thurgood
Morning Calm
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87/313

71/313

68/313

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\$200,000	(\$200 nomination Fee)
Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up	1 Mile

RIVER CITY HANDICAP (GIII)

Runs Sat., Nov. 8	Closes Oct. 22
\$100,000	(\$100 nomination Fee)
Three Year Olds & Up	1 1/8 Miles Turf

MRS. REVERE (GII)

Runs Sat., Nov. 15	Closes Oct. 29
\$200,000	(\$200 nomination Fee)
Fillies, Three Years Old	1 1/16 Miles Turf

COMMONWEALTH TURF (GIII)

Runs Sat., Nov. 15	Closes Oct. 29
\$100,000	(\$100 nomination Fee)
Three Year Olds	1 1/16 Miles Turf

CARDINAL HANDICAP (GIII)

Runs Sat., Nov. 22	Closes Nov. 5
\$100,000	(\$100 nomination Fee)
Fillies and Mares, Three Years Old & Up	1 1/8 Miles Turf

FALLS CITY HANDICAP (GII)

Runs Thurs., Nov. 27	Closes Nov. 12
\$200,000	(\$200 nomination Fee)
Fillies and Mares, Three Years Old & Up	1 1/8 Miles

CLARK HANDICAP (GI)

Runs Fri., Nov. 28	Closes Nov. 12
\$500,000	(\$300 nomination Fee)
Three Year Olds & Up	1 1/8 Miles

KENTUCKY JOCKEY CLUB (GII) 2015 KY Derby Point Race

Runs Sat., Nov. 29	Closes Nov. 12
\$200,000	(\$200 nomination Fee)
Two Year Olds	1 1/16 Miles

GOLDEN ROD (GII)

2015 KY Oaks Point Race

Runs Sat., Nov. 29	Closes Nov. 12
\$200,000	(\$200 nomination Fee)
Fillies, Two Years Old	1 1/16 Miles

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KEVIN "Brooklyn Cowboy" COX'S PLAY OF THE DAY

Saratoga Race Course Feature Race

RACE 12: Well here we go, the marquee race of the meet, The G-1 Travers Stakes. You know, early on in the winter, I felt that the **#10 MR. SPEAKER** could be my Derby horse, but little did I know it would be the "Midsummer Derby"! In his lone start on the dirt, he had a Tim Burton-esque trip in the Holy Bull, and went back to the green stuff afterwards. Always hoped he would get another crack on the dirt, and feel he can make a big splash here. Would love to see him forwardly placed in a race devoid of much early speed. **#2 BAYERN** will be on the choo choo from "Go", and if no one nags him early, could be loooong gone. His race to lose. I'm sure the connections of **#3 CHARGE NOW** would love to see a ground saving tuck early, and a nice "show dough" check of \$125,000 late. #'s are low, but some 3YO's take more time to bloom.

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Race 9

The Ballston Spa

Grade 2. \$250,000. Fillies and mares. 3-year-olds & up. 1 1/16 miles on the turf.



Abaco



Centre Court

1. Nellie Cashman

Pennsylvania-bred earner of \$214,421 seeks her first win of 2014 after rising from maiden to graded stakes winner in 2013. Daughter of Mineshaft crossed the line first in Grade 2 Lake Placid here last summer, but was disqualified for interference after drifting out in the stretch. Winless in three tries this year for Sycamore Racing, but opted for this vs. the Grade 3 Violet at Monmouth Park today. Exits a fourth behind Assateague in the Grade 3 James Penny at Parx July 8.

Trainer Tres Abbott: "I'm seeing a little bit of an upward curve in her so that's why we chose to take our shot here instead of a 14-horse field at Monmouth. Progressively her works are getting better and better. The first part of the season she was just a little ring rusty. Physically and mentally, she seems to be in a better place now. Her race in the Penny was a return to where she was last year in her better races. She broke and put herself in the race early on and sat close. That's a little bit her running style. She's not one with a big turn of foot by any means. She's a big, galloping filly that covers a lot of ground. I know those fillies are going to be running at her late."

2. Centre Court

Seven-time winner returns for her first start since finishing fifth in the Churchill Downs Distaff Turf in early May. Daughter of Smart Strike won the Grade 2 Lake George here in 2012, finished fifth in the Grade 1 Diana last summer. G. Watts Humphrey homebred opened her 5-year-old season with a win in the Honey Fox at Gulfstream before fifths in the Jenny Wiley and Distaff.

Trainer Rusty Arnold: "She blew a shoe coming out the gate in her last start, she wears those glue-ons, she beat up her feet. We gave her some time, walked her around the shedrow for about three weeks and got them good. She's pretty good right now but it's a tough spot to come off a three-, four-month layoff. She was eligible for two races, the Diana and the Ballston Spa. I think I have this filly pretty good again."

3. Abaco

The oldest entrant in the race, 6-year-old mare tries to snap a five-race losing streak dating back to a win in the Cardinal Handicap at Churchill Downs in November. A losing streak in name only, daughter of Giant's Causeway has posted strong efforts – fourth, third, third, second and fourth – in consecutive graded stakes starts. She closed stoutly to finish fourth in the Grade 1 Diana earlier in the meet.

Trainer Shug McGaughey: "Abaco is really doing good. She looks as good and is training as good as I've ever seen her. I hope to get some pace, that's really the reason we're running her a mile and a sixteenth. She had a really good work the other day and is about to jump out of her skin. I think we have her in pretty good order. Shorter field should help the trip and I tried to work her sharp, trying to get her mind on it, I think that part worked."

See page 40 ►

Interviews by Tom Law, Sean Clancy, Joe Clancy, Kristin Brennan, Ryan Jones, Dan McDonough. Photos by Tod Marks.



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Race 9

The Ballston Spa

Grade 2. \$250,000. Fillies and mares. 3-year-olds & up. 1 1/16 miles on the turf



Dayatthespa



Filimbi

■ Continued from page 38

4. Strathnaver

Returned to trainer Graham Motion's Fair Hill base after placing sixth in Grade 1 Diana to prep for return. Second by a nose to Coffee Clique in Grade 1 Just A Game on Belmont Stakes undercard, daughter of Oasis Dream is seeking first win since Lady Baltimore last September at Laurel.

Assistant trainer Alice Clapham: "She gets turned out and stuff down there, that gives her a nice break. She seems in good form, we're very happy with her. Any of these kinds of races on days like this are going to be tough. That's what they're there for, you know? There's never an easy Grade 1 or Grade 2 stakes, or there shouldn't be. The only thing is if it stays soft and whether we run her or not. She doesn't like it soft. If the sun came out I think it would dry out, but the sun just does not want to come out."

5. Dayatthespa

Grade 1 winner is cross-entered in Sunday's \$200,000 Yaddo for New York-breds. Trainer Chad Brown is keeping an eye on the weather and condition of the turf course for City Zip mare who suffered first loss on Saratoga grass last time to Filimbi in De La Rose.

Trainer Chad Brown: Two things, the weather for one. I'd like to run on firmer turf. Second, I need to look at the Ballston Spa and at the Yaddo and see what the pace looks like for both races."

6. Night Song

Midnight Lute filly stretches out after finishing off the board in 5 1/2-furlong turf sprint earlier in the meet for owner/trainer Amy Tarrant. Four-year-old filly makes her fifth career start and has won only once, taking a Gulfstream Park maiden on the turf in March.

Owner/trainer Amy Tarrant: "This has been the summer of upsets. There's been a lot of upsets. I'm mainly putting her in because her last race she got a really bad trip, wasn't able to run, got trapped on the rail and that was pretty much the race."

7. Filimbi

Morning line favorite breaks from the outside in the short field. The daughter of Alabama winner Flute was born in Kentucky, raced seven times in France before returning to America, where she's flourished. Juddmonte's homebred finished second to future Grade I winner Somali Lemonade in April, won a three-other-than allowance at Belmont in May and collared Dayatthespa late to win the restricted De La Rose in August. She returns in three weeks.

Trainer Bill Mott: "She bounced back good. It was coming up a shorter field, we thought it was a good opportunity. Initially I had scheduled the race at Belmont which was in the middle of the month and that would have given us a lot of time. That being said, if she does prove out to be good enough, that would have squeezed her for her next race, the First Lady at Keeneland. This way, if we run here, and run well, we can still take a look at that and that gives us five or six weeks, from this race until then. Sometimes the spacing isn't ideal and maybe this isn't ideal, but you have to space them properly for the most important one."



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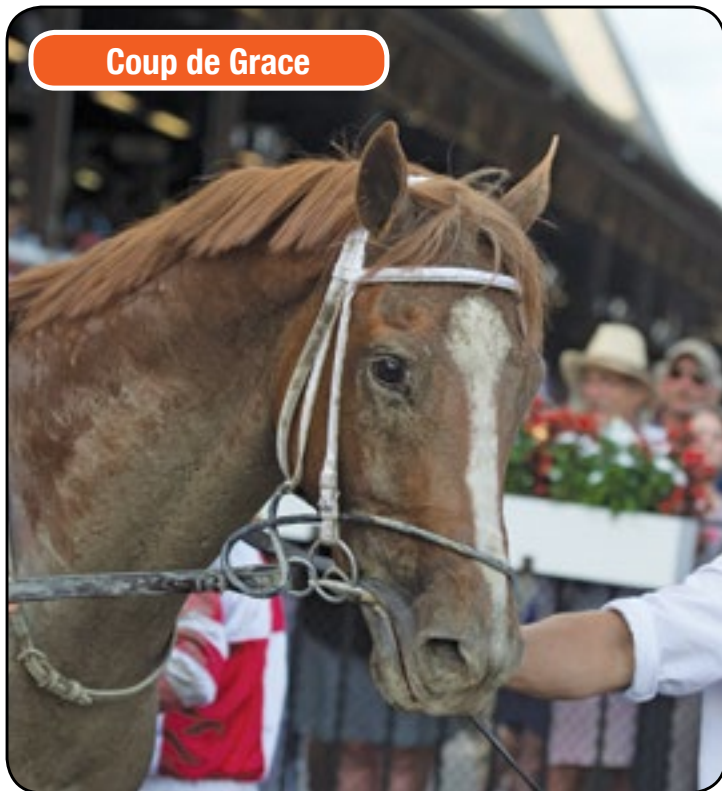
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Race
10

The King's Bishop

Grade 1. \$500,000. 3-year-olds. 7 furlongs.

Coup de Grace



1. C. Zee

Homebred for Fred Brei's Jacks or Better Farm finished game second in Grade 2 Amsterdam after breaking from inside post in first start since switch from trainer Stanley Gold to Nick Zito. Son of little known Elusive Quality stallion Elusive Bluff drew the rail again.

Trainer Nick Zito: "He's a terrific horse. They do an unbelievable job, Fred Brei and Stanley Gold. This is the third one in a row. I had Jackson Bend for them, Fort Loudon and now this one. Every one seems to do well. The guy knows what he's doing. He's kind of a freaky breeder. It's in the mares and he proves it. Someone said to me, 'who is Elusive Bluff?' I don't know who Elusive Bluff is. It's his mares. The guy is amazing and those horses compete on a high level."

2. Wildcat Red

Won Grade 3 Hutcheson at 7 furlongs and Grade 2 Fountain of Youth at 1 1/16 miles earlier this winter to put himself in field for Kentucky Derby. Finished 18th in Louisville but bounced back with victory in small stakes at Gulfstream and a third last time in Grade 1 Haskell Invitational. Son of D'wildcat reverts to a sprint for the first time since winning the Hutcheson.

Trainer Jose Garoffalo: "He's a natural miler. He can go through the mile and up to a mile-and-an-eighth. I changed the way he was training before because he was very fast. I tried to change that pattern so I decided to give him more gallops and less breezes. He ended up being a horse with some stamina. He's got the [ability] to go longer. Nobody thought that he was going to go that long, but he made it. He has a lot of class. Mentally, he is more mature now. He doesn't have the anxiety that he had when he was a baby and that's why he can go longer now."



3. Myositis Dan

Brereton Jones homebred visits his fifth track in his last five tries, shipping to Saratoga after an easy win on Arlington Park's Polytrack in July. Trained by Tom Proctor, the son of Istan breezed 5 furlongs over the track eight days ago and seeks his fourth career win and first takes win. Late-running colt just missed nabbing the Derby Trial going a mile in April.

Trainer Tom Proctor: "He's doing fine, he's a nice little horse, we'll see if he's good enough. He beat stakes winners last time, he's going to have to step up, his numbers are good, I think he'll run good. I brought him here and all I've seen is rain. I'm not worried about the slop but we need some sunshine. He runs fine on the dirt, the Derby Trial was a good race, another jump and he wins."

See page 44 ►

Noble Cornerstone



Interviews by Tom Law, Sean Clancy, Joe Clancy, Kristin Brennan, Ryan Jones, Dan McDonough. Photos by Tod Marks.

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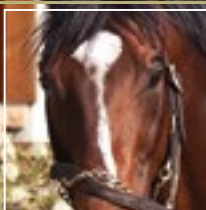
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The King's Bishop

Grade 1. \$500,000. 3-year-olds. 7 furlongs.

■ Continued from page 42

4. Noble Cornerstone

Returns to graded stakes competition off back-to-back victories against New York-breds, including a win here July 25 going 6 ½ furlongs. Noble Causeway gelding was off the board earlier this season in Grade 3 Sam F. Davis and Grade 3 Gotham while in Wesley Ward's barn. Switched to Tom Morley's barn this spring, he's won two of three but has yet to win against open company.

Trainer Tom Morley: "This is an opportunity for him to see where he fits with his own age group rather than having to run against seasoned, more experienced horses in the allowance ranks. He ran a huge number last time but seems to have moved forward from that. We're a 20-1 shot with a confident trainer. I wouldn't be running the horse in there if I didn't think he fit in with that group of horses."



5. Noble Moon

Winner of the Grade 2 Jerome in January, son of Malibu Moon has only been seen once since that victory. Plagued by a hoof issue, the Virginia-bred finished sixth behind Wicked Strong in the Grade 1 Wood Memorial and has been on the shelf since. Trainer Leah Gyarmati entered him earlier in the meet but scratched because of a hoof abscess.

Trainer Leah Gyarmati: "I'm finally ready, he's sound, I better put him in the entries before something else happens. The abs-

cess cleared up right after I had to scratch the last time, he's been great and once again I'm not ready to go long after all that. Hopefully we come running and get a piece of it. I don't know if it's going to be too fast a race for him or maybe it'll set up perfectly for him and he comes running. I've got to start somewhere, hopefully we can stretch him out after this. He's bred to go long, he trains like he wants to go long. It's a steppingstone."

6. Fast Anna

Unbeaten colt by Medaglia d'Oro out of champion Dreaming of Anna filled a big void in stable following retirement of Breeders' Cup Classic winner Mucho Macho Man. Scourged Gulfstream Park with two flawless performances against maidens and allowance horses, winning by 13 lengths in a July 6 allowance test. Shipped to Saratoga in early August, dark bay colt breezed 7 furlongs in 1:28 2/5 and returned with a dart, going 5 furlongs in :58 3/5 one week ago.

Trainer Kathy Ritvo: "He's a neat horse and he's bred really well. He has the mind for it and he likes his job. He won't want to come off the track when he's done training. I'm very blessed to be in the situation I'm in, to have Mucho Macho Man and then have a horse like this come in."



The Big Beast

7. The Big Beast

Blew away allowance field earlier in the meet, overcoming an inside post to win a 6-furlong event by 6 ¼ lengths in 1:09. Speedy Maryland-bred son of Yes It's True looks to give owners Alex and JoAnn Lieblong and trainer Tony Dutrow another graded stakes victory at the meet. Aptly named, he's second choice on the Morning Line.

Trainer Tony Dutrow: "Because of the amount of speed in the race and because our horse possesses speed himself, the post position is fantastic for us because we're not going to have to take the heat. Someone else is going to have to take the heat."

8. Coup de Grace

Unbeaten in two starts since switching from trainer Chad Brown to Larry Jones, the Tapit colt overwhelmed the Grade 2 Amsterdam here July 26 for Fox Hill Farms. Chestnut has fired two bullet works at Delaware Park since and looks to be rolling through the stretch in first Grade 1 start. Keeneland September graduate was busy munching on a late breakfast while set up in trainer Wayne Catalano's Saratoga barn Friday morning, after galloping with exercise rider Larry Melancon.

Trainer Larry Jones: "We were a little concerned he'd run such a good race at Delaware on the (Ragozin) number that he might bounce. Hopefully that (the powerhouse Amsterdam performance) was his bounce and he'll move forward off that race. That's what we keep telling ourselves anyway. The horse is really doing well. He's so much keener in his works now. You have to throttle him down to go 59 and 2 (for 5 furlongs) where you used to have to call on him to work down there in a minute. I feel like he might want more ground than we're giving him so we might stretch him out someday to see what he can do, but this was the fastest way to get him to Grade 1 company. There's a fair amount of speed in there and we got about as lucky as we could get with the outside post."

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Race 11

The Ballerina

Grade 1. \$500,000. Fillies and mares. 3-year-olds & up. 7 furlongs.



Artemis Agrotera



My Miss Aurelia

1. Artemis Agrotera

Winner of last year's Grade 1 Frizette at Belmont Park returns to open and graded stakes company after a powerful win earlier in the meet going 7 furlongs. Three-year-old daughter of Roman Ruler is 2-for-2 at Saratoga but must overcome inside draw. Bred in New York, she returns to Grade 1 stakes company.

Trainer Mike Hushion: "If they can go :44 and change in front of her and she can nudge out that would be great. She likes to run the turn. There's certainly plenty of speed in there. You know Linda's (Rice) order is going to be 'go,' after her filly's performance in her last race."

2. Better Lucky

Multiple Grade 1 winner on the turf handled return to dirt last time with victory over small but deep field that included former champion My Miss Aurelia in 7-furlong Shine Again. Three of her six career wins came on dirt and she's 2-for-2 on wet tracks.

Trainer Tom Albertrani: "That race showed us that she can really handle any type of surface, so we're optimistic that she can hopefully do it again tomorrow. She's training great."

3. Kipling's Joy

South Florida shipper exits second-place finish in small stakes July 5 at Gulfstream Park. Daughter of Kipling makes 10th start of the season seeking her third win. Purchased for \$40,000 at Keeneland January Sales this year, she's won once on the turf and once on the dirt since.

Trainer Marty Wolfson: "If there's enough speed in there she should close well. She's very laid back in the barn, but she's very, very difficult to gallop. She settled in good up there but she's a very tough to gallop. She's really developed into a very nice come-from-behind sprinter."

4. My Miss Aurelia

The 2011 champion 2-year-old filly tries to earn her way back to the top after missing action from March, 2013 to July, 2014. Switched from Steve Asmussen to Todd Pletcher, the 5-year-old daughter of Smart Strike returned with a sharp effort, finishing third in the restricted Shine Again. Beaten a half-length by Better Lucky that day, she's had nearly five weeks to rebound.

Trainer Todd Pletcher: She's trained better since the race, she had been off for a long time, it was an oddly run race, short field, you had to worry about a couple of horses getting in front of you and three of them went at it and set it up for the one closer. More than anything, she just needed the race, she got tired the last part. She's come back with good breezes since then, her last breeze in company with Palace Malice was as good as I've seen her breeze. Hopefully, she's at her best. We'll trade the Shine Again for the Ballerina."

See page 48 ►

Interviews by Tom Law, Sean Clancy, Joe Clancy, Kristin Brennan, Ryan Jones, Dan McDonough. Photos by Tod Marks.



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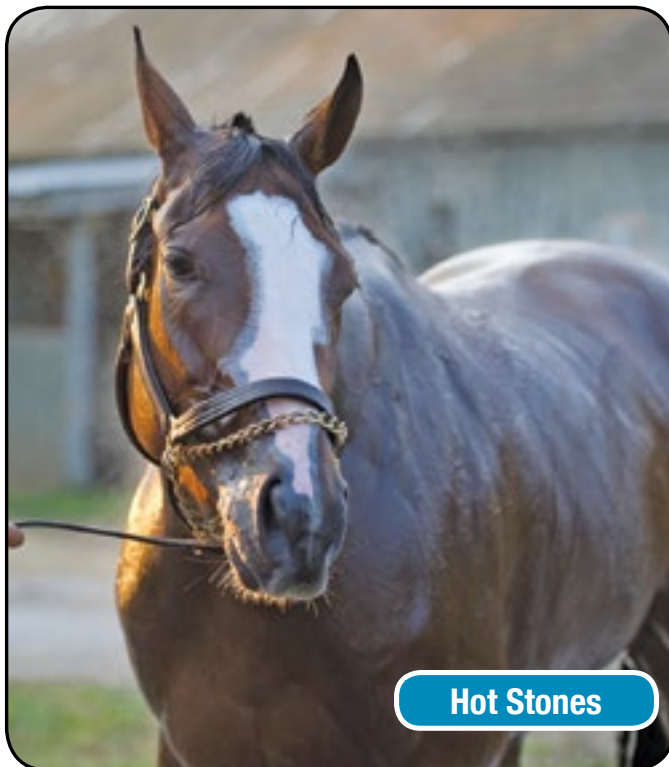
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Race 11

The Ballerina

Grade 1. \$500,000. Fillies and mares. 3-year-olds & up. 7 furlongs.



Hot Stones



Willet

Continued from page 46

5. Willet

New York-bred stakes winner seeks first graded victory. Joel Rosario rode 6-year-old daughter of Jump Start in her last two starts, including a win against New York-bred allowance foes this meet. She's never been worse than second in five Saratoga tries.

Trainer Jimmy Iselin: "We're honored and excited to be able to get Joel here. That's a big, big contributing factor, in addition to the fact that she's a great horse. Jimmy Jones was my mentor. I'm going to give Rosario the same orders Jimmy Jones, who trained Citation, gave to Eddie Arcaro, 'Ride Willet to suit yourself.' "

6. La Verdad

Tries to bounce back from worst performance in her career when fifth of six in Grade 2 Honorable Miss July 28. New York-bred daughter of Yes It's True took back off the lead from her inside post and made no progress on winner R Free Roll over a sloppy track.

Trainer Linda Rice: "Things didn't unfold very well for us in the last one. She was in the one post in the mud, and she was trying to get out off the rail because there was kind of a river of water down there. We are hoping things rebound in the Ballerina. We're in the six hole and hoping it turns out much better."

7. Voodoo Tales

Former \$20,000 claimer turned things around this summer with back-to-back sprint wins at Belmont Park, including allowance romp July 10. Daughter of Tale Of The Cat owns five career wins, she makes her second career start at Saratoga.

Trainer Nick Esler: "The groom calls her 'the bull.' That says a lot about her. She loves her job, loves training, loves running. She's got a huge heart, gives you everything every time she goes to the races. When you run in these sort of races you need something that's going to lay it down on the line for you and she certainly will."

8. Hot Stones

One of four New York-breds in the field, Hot Stones cuts back in distance after finishing third behind Personal Ensign starters Antipathy and Stanwyck in Grade 2 Shuvee going 9 furlongs. Won Belmont's Grade 3 Bed o' Roses two starts back against open company at today's 7-furlong distance.

Trainer Bruce Levine: "I feel good a turn-back will help her. I don't think the distance really hurt her (in the Shuvee), I think the slop hurt her more than anything. The pace will be fast and she'll come running. She'll probably be three or four off, she's got a good post so she should get a good trip."

9. Geeky Gorgeous

New Jersey-bred daughter of Devil His Due is a four-time stakes winner in her home state and Pennsylvania and jumps to graded stakes company for the first time. Bought for \$5,000, 5-year-old mare has earned \$424,220 in 18 starts. Stabled at Monmouth, she crushed three rivals in the Regret Stakes July 26.

Trainer Danny Lopez: "Last year all the guys that do the numbers and (Joe) Bravo kept saying she needs to run in better company. I was kind of against it, because I didn't plan on it. I like to ease into things and this year I kept it in the back of my mind. Her last race was her best race and I know she's going to run better than that, so might as well take a shot. If she's graded stakes placed that means a lot."



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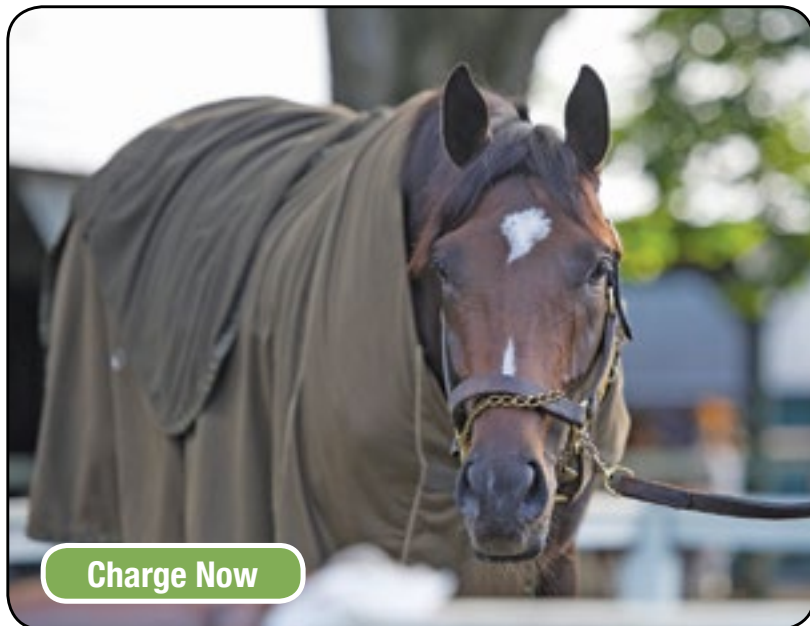


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Race 12

The Travers

Grade 1. \$1,250,000. 3-year-olds. 1 1/4 miles.



Charge Now



V.E. Day

1. Commanding Curve

West Point Thoroughbreds runner has won just once in nine starts, but adds some spice to the record with a runner-up effort behind California Chrome in the Kentucky Derby at nearly 38-1. Gets back to 1 1/4 miles and looks to move forward off a fourth in the Jim Dandy last month.

Trainer Dallas Stewart: "I feel as good about him going into this race as any race. He's trained well here. We made a few changes in his training, just trying to get him to do better. We picked it up down the stretch. I brought another exercise rider in and he's a little more aggressive. He's a lazy horse, real lazy. We have to work him in company, he's better to gallop around company. That's what we've done the last three weeks, and I think it's helped him some. His weight's good. His appetite's great. His soundness is there, all the things we like to build upon are there."

2. Bayern

Morning-line favorite comes in off powerful victories going 7 furlongs in Grade 2 Woody Stephens and Grade 1 Haskell Invitational going 1 1/8 miles for Bob Baffert. Son of Offlee Wild and assistant trainer Jimmy Barnes made their fifth trip to the East Coast since early April and figures to be controlling speed.

Exercise rider Simon Harris: "He's smart though and he takes it all in stride. I was telling Jimmy he actually feels better to me than he did at Belmont. I got on him before he won the Woody Stephens and he feels better. More serious now. He handled that track fine. He's class. He backs up, he stands, does whatever you want him to do. When it comes to being an exercise rider, he's perfect. Pleasant ride, I wish they were all like him."



3. Charge Now

Half-brother to Kentucky Derby winner Super Saver makes his first attempt against Grade 1 stakes horses for trainer Bill Mott. Son of Tiznow made his career debut on the turf in February, won two straight, finished seventh in the Grade 3 Iowa Derby before rebounding to just miss in the restricted Curlin here July 25.

Trainer Bill Mott: "He's doing great. The horse is on his game. Now we just have to find out if he's good enough. There's a possibility he is, I believe in him until he proves me otherwise. I think this is his cup of tea, you can work this horse five-eighths of a mile and you can't get him pulled up. There's no quit in him, there's no stamina limitations. Just the way he runs, he seem to keep going, but you still need to see it."

See page 52 ►

Interviews by Tom Law, Sean Clancy, Joe Clancy, Kristin Brennan, Ryan Jones, Dan McDonough. Photos by Tod Marks.

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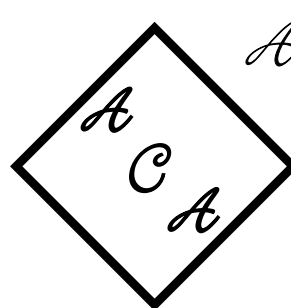
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Race 12

The Travers

Grade 1. \$1,250,000. 3-year-olds. 1 1/4 miles.



Viva Majorca



Kid Cruz

■ Continued from page 50

4. V. E. Day

Joins Jim Dandy winner Wicked Strong in a 1-2 punch for trainer Jimmy Jerkens. Son of English Channel upset the Curlin with a resolute rally to nail Charge Now in the final strides. Rides a three-race win streak into the Travers, posting a win on the Belmont slop, the Belmont turf and the Saratoga dirt.

Trainer Jimmy Jerkens: "I thought the Curlin was an ideal time to try the dirt again, against 3-year-olds. I thought we'd give it a shot if he worked good. He worked fantastic before the Curlin, he worked like any stakes horse, he went a mile in like 41, went great and he ran good. Outside Wicked, Tonalist and Bayern, he's every bit as good as the other ones on paper. He's been moving up a notch each time, maybe some of the other ones will too, but he's doing good."

5. Viva Majorca

Marylou Whitney Stables homebred endured a troubled trip and still managed to finish fourth, beaten only a length by V. E. Day and Charge Now, in restricted Curlin. Before his stakes debut, son of Tiago won two of four starts, including an impressive score going short in the mud at Churchill Downs.

Trainer Ian Wilkes: "That's racing. That's why they run. Don't take anything away from the winner. He's full of himself, that horse. He's trained unbelievably well since that last race. He got a lot of seasoning in that last race."

6. Tonalist

Upset winner of the Belmont Stakes as California Chrome's bid for the Triple Crown fizzled in the stretch. Second last time to Wicked Strong in Grade 2 Jim Dandy, son of Tapit should benefit from added distance today.

Trainer Christophe Clement: "He's doing great, we are very happy with him so let's try for the best. It's called the Travers Stakes and it's a very tough race unfortunately, but that's the way it is. It's going to be very competitive. He's been doing well since the Belmont and he's doing very well at the moment."

7. Wicked Strong

Promised big things and finally delivered with a facile score in the Jim Dandy. Jimmy Jerkens added blinkers after stop-and-start fourth-place efforts in the Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes. One of three millionaires in the field (joining Tonalist and Bayern), son of Hard Spun hinted at big things, winning the Wood Memorial in April and delivered in the Jim Dandy. Another furlong shouldn't matter to the big, long-striding colt.

Trainer Jimmy Jerkens: "I can't see anything that says he's not doing good. We didn't know what to think before the Jim Dandy, really, his last two races were OK, but he had to move forward, that's for sure. And he did. He seems to be happy, he's still a pain in the ass, but in a good way."

See page 53 ►

Race 12

The Travers

Grade 1. \$1,250,000. 3-year-olds. 1 1/4 miles.



Ulanbator



Mr Speaker

■ Continued from page 52

8. Kid Cruz

Winner of Grade 3 Dwyer looked done around the far turn of Jim Dandy before re-rallying to finish third, beaten 6 lengths, behind Wicked Strong and Tonalist. Four-time stakes winner this season gets the meet's second leading rider Irad Ortiz Jr. for return call.

Trainer Linda Rice: "He ran well enough in the Jim Dandy to move forward to the Travers. Obviously it's the best 3-year-olds in the country and we're excited about it. Hopefully we will have a big day Saturday."

9. Ulanbator

Finished fifth at 38-1 in Grade 2 Jim Dandy last time out after placing in Grade 3 Matt Winn and Dwyer in back-to-back starts. Brian Hernandez Jr. picked up mount from Julien Leparoux, who rides stablemate Viva Majorca. Owned and bred by Mary Ann Charlston, son of Offlee Wild will drop back and try to make one run.

Trainer Ian Wilkes: "I rode him to win the race instead of letting him do it. I think I took his strength away from him. You look at all of these other races, I think he only got beat 8 or 9 lengths and I took his strength away. He just wants to be ridden quietly and come running. There wasn't a lot of speed that day, so I'm thinking, 'let's put him in the race a little bit.' I just should have rode him to his strength. Sometimes you do that, you make a mistake, you learn something and you just move on. He's eligible for an a-other-than, but you know, Mary Ann, she's from up here, one-horse stable, chance to run in the Travers and said, 'as long as it doesn't hurt him. I'd like to run.' It's all about the horse."

10. Mr Speaker

Phipps homebred returns to the dirt for the first time since failing in the Grade 2 Holy Bull, his one and only try away from turf or synthetic. Son of Pulpit upset the Grade 1 Belmont Derby on the turf, going today's distance, in July. Dark bay colt owns four wins from nine starts, a modest check sends him over the \$1 million mark.

Trainer Shug McGaughey: "I'm excited to run him, I don't really know what to expect, I know he's done very well up here and very well since his last race. His works over there on the main track have been as good as you can want, but they're holding him together. Who knows what's going to happen in the race when he turns his head loose and sees; a lot of times grass horses go to spinning their wheels then. The one thing I am encouraged about is in his works when Lena (Lorieul) would drop her hands at the wire to let him gallop out, he always galloped out strong. The other thing is, obviously, he's bred to go a mile-and-a-quarter, he's won going a mile-and-a-quarter and he'll run a mile-and-a-quarter."

Case Closed

Close Hatches destroys Grade 1, secures milestone for Juddmonte



Tod Marks

Close Hatches gears down while running away with the Personal Ensign Friday.

BY SEAN CLANCY

Irad Ortiz Jr. took back. Close Hatches took over.

Rarely does the defining moment come so early. Rarely do we see the likes of Close Hatches.

Juddmonte Farm's 4-year-old filly dominated the Grade 1 Personal Ensign. Trained by Bill Mott and ridden by Joel Rosario, Close Hatches toyed with six rivals, including four-time Grade 1 winner Princess Of Sylmar who faltered to be fifth in the \$500,000 stakes.

Breaking from the rail, Ortiz cued Antipathy to the lead while Rosario allowed Close Hatches to stalk. For a furlong, it played out like just like it looked on paper. Then Ortiz attempted to slow it down, bracing against the third choice.

Close Hatches scoffed. Rosario laughed. And it was all over.

Using her natural speed like a pyromaniac uses a

PERSONAL ENSIGN PREVIEW

match, Close Hatches rushed past Antipathy, opening up 3 lengths before turning down the backstretch. The daughter of First Defence posted the first quarter mile in :23.05 and a half in :46.61.

Ears flicking, mud splashing, Close Hatches rolled along as Antipathy tried to stay within her wake. Wearing blinkers for the first time and trying to snap a two-race losing streak, Princess Of Sylmar stayed wide as California shipper Fiftyshadesofhay slipped through on the rail. Leaving the backside, Close Hatches led comfortably by 2 lengths as John Velazquez pumped away on Fiftyshadesofhay, Ortiz tried to rev up Antipathy and Javier Castellano implored Princess Of Sylmar.

Nothing happened.

After three quarters in 1:11.12, Close Hatches turned for home without a concern. Rosario

pumped lightly, threw one cross as Close Hatches sailed past the eighth pole. Rosario peaked under his right arm once, pumped a few more times for good measure and then wrapped up like a frog on a warm rock.

Close Hatches finished 9 furlongs in 1:50.62. As Close Hatches eased her momentum to a walk, Rosario leaned over and kissed her on the neck. It was that good.

On the way back to the jocks' room, Rosario explained the defining moment, a moment where it was more important to do nothing rather than something.

"It was just a reaction at the moment, I could see Irad go to the lead and then take a little hold, my filly wanted to be there and I don't want to fight her, just let her do what she wants to do to be happy," Rosario said. "Around the first turn, she want-

See **PERSONAL ENSIGN** page 55 ►

Personal Ensign —

■ Continued from page 54

ed to be in front and then I just tried to slow it down after that. Hopefully, turning for home, she doesn't get tired. She's improving. She's figured it all out now."

Close Hatches made her career debut in January 2013, drawing off to win a 7-furlong maiden by 7 lengths. She swept to an easy win going 1 1/16 miles in her next start, then vanquished Princess Of Sylmar in the Gazelle. A month later, she finished seventh, 10 3/4 lengths behind Princess Of Sylmar in the Kentucky Oaks. The Oaks was the first and last time she finished worse than second.

She closed to be second in the Acorn behind Midnight Lucky. She trounced four foes in the Mother Goose. She traveled to Parx and earned her second Grade 1 score in the Cotillion. Shipped west, she chased champion Beholder, finishing second in the Breeders' Cup Distaff.

Freshened for the winter, she's unbeaten in four graded stakes tries this year. Loping on the lead in the Azeri, she won her 4-year-old debut in March. A month later, she ticked off the Apple Blossom. Two months later, she won a battle royale of the five best older fillies and mares when she earned a head win over Princess Of Sylmar, Antipathy, Beholder and Belle Gallantey.

After that, they went their separate ways. Belle Gallantey upset Princess Of Sylmar in the Delaware Handicap, Antipathy took the Shuvee and Beholder hasn't done anything but breeze. Mott chilled with Close Hatches, waiting six weeks to breeze the hard-charging filly. She worked four times at Belmont Park before shipping to Saratoga where she breezed a half-mile in :47.72 over the Oklahoma track six days before the Personal Ensign. Since the Phipps, where they finished within a head of each other,

Princess of Sylmar breezed six times and raced once while Close Hatches breezed five times and didn't race.

Rosario felt the difference.

"She's improved a lot, she'll go in :46 and change now, skipping and then finish. She's stronger, more powerful. Physically, she's stronger. Mentally, she's always been like that," Rosario said. "When she's in front, all she's thinking about is not letting any horses go by, that's it. I was very confident because I know she's got another gear if they come to her."

They weren't coming to her.

After the race, Ed Stanco, whose King of Prussia Stable owns Princess Of Sylmar waited for Mott to exit the winner's circle.

"Congratulations Bill, good job, that was spectacular," Stanco said.

"I'm sorry your filly didn't... didn't..." Mott offered.

"I think she may have showed us she's had enough," Stanco said. "You have the Horse of the Year."

Mott smiled, thanked him, tried to dismiss the thought and walked to a TV to watch the replay.

"I thought she was going fast but doing it easily, she's reaching out, I guess you have to reach out to go in :46 and change. He never uncocks his whip does he?" Mott said. "She's really good right now. Really good."

Earlier in the week, Garrett O'Rourke texted Mott to tell him Juddmonte was sitting on 199 Grade/Group 1 wins.

"Put the pressure on me," Mott said.

Close Hatches took it off.



Tod Marks
Garrett O'Rourke (left) and Bill Mott (right) greet Close Hatches.

Fort Larned Winning the Homecoming Classic



CHURCHILL DOWNS

2014 September Stakes Schedule

POCAHONTAS (GII)

2014 "Win and You're In Juvenile Fillies Division"

2015 KY Oaks Point Race

Runs Sat., Sept. 6

\$200,000

Fillies, Two Years Old

Closes Aug. 20

(\$200 nomination fee)

1 1/16 Miles

IROQUOIS (GIII)

2014 "Win and You're In Juvenile Division"

2015 KY Derby Point Race

Runs Sat., Sept. 6

\$100,000

Two Year Olds

Closes Aug. 20

(\$100 nomination fee)

1 1/16 Miles

ACK ACK HANDICAP (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 6

\$100,000

Three Year Olds and Up

Closes Aug. 20

(\$100 nomination fee)

1 Mile

LOCUST GROVE

Runs Sat., Sept. 6

\$100,000

Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up

Closes Aug. 20

(\$100 nomination fee)

1 1/16 Miles

OPEN MIND

Runs Sat., Sept. 13

\$100,000

Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up

Closes Aug. 27

(\$100 nomination fee)

6 Furlongs

DOGWOOD (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 20

\$100,000

Fillies, Three Years Old

Closes Sept. 3

(\$100 nomination fee)

7 Furlongs

HOMEcoming CLASSIC

Runs Sat., Sept. 27

\$125,000

Three Year Olds & Up

Closes Sept. 10

(\$125 nomination fee)

1 1/8 Miles

JEFFERSON CUP (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 27

\$100,000

Three Year Olds

Closes Sept. 10

(\$100 nomination fee)

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Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS	1ST
Todd Pletcher	22
Chad Brown	15
Bill Mott	12
Graham Motion	10
Bruce Brown	9
Rudy Rodriguez	9
Bruce Levine	8
Mike Maker	8
George Weaver	8
Gary Contessa	7
Jimmy Jerkens	7
Linda Rice	7

JOCKEYS	1ST
Javier Castellano	44
Irad Ortiz Jr.	40
John Velazquez	30
Joel Rosario	25
Jose Ortiz	24
Rajiv Maragh	18
Cornelio Velasquez	15
Junior Alvarado	14
Luis Saez	13
Jose Lezcano	11
Manuel Franco	11
Rosie Napravnik	10
Corey Lanerie	5

Owners	1st
Repole Stable	10
Ken & Sarah Ramsey	8
Chester & Mary Broman	7
Klaravich Stable	6
& Bill Lawrence	
Darley Stable	5
M. Dubb, Bethlehem Stable	5
&The Elkstone Group	

Through Friday



Tod Marks

Joel Rosario reached 25 wins Friday.

SARATOGA RESULTS

Friday August 22.

FIRST \$67,000, CLAIMING \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

2	Bernie the Maestro	R. Napravnik	\$8.00	\$5.80	\$3.70
1	Metaurus	M. Franco		\$10.60	\$5.00
6	Twin Engine	J. Leparoux			\$4.70
Dk B/ Br Gelding 2007, by Bernstein - Horah for Bailey by Doneraile Court					
Owner: Brier Creek Farm LLC. Trainer: David Cannizzo.					
Breeder: Sabine Stable (FL). Late Scratches: Moments Notiz					
Claimed: Doubledown Again claimed by J.W. Singer LLC for \$50,000					
Time: 1:10.67					
Exacta (2-1), \$110.00; Trifecta (2-1-6), \$347.50					

SECOND \$50,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$50,000, 2 YO, 6F

8	Know It All Anna	M. Franco	\$5.30	\$3.10	\$2.90
6	Arctic Ocean	J. Ortiz		\$6.60	\$4.50
7	Nejma	R. Albarado			\$5.00
B Filly 2012, by Midnight Lute - Legion of Merit by Danzig					
Owner: Dubb, Michael, Bethlehem Stables and The Elkstone Group.					
Trainer: Rudy Rodriguez. Breeder: Liberation Farm & Brandywine Farm					
(KY). Claimed: Know It All Anna claimed by Ramsey, Kenneth L. and Sar-					
ah K. for \$50,000, Zarleeza claimed by Rice, Linda for \$50,000					
Time: 1:12.11. Daily Double (2-8), \$38.60; Exacta (8-6), \$45.40; Quinella					
(6-8), \$33.80; Superfecta (8-6-7-3), \$1,782.00; Trifecta (8-6-7), \$344.50					

THIRD \$100,000, STAKES - TALE OF THE CAT S., 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

6	Bern Identity	P. Lopez	\$5.40	\$3.60	\$2.70
4	Mewannarose	J. Velazquez		\$9.20	\$4.60
3	Bahamian Squall	J. Castellano			\$3.30
B Colt 2010, by Bernstein - Maddalena by Good and Tough					
Owner: George and Lori Hall. Trainer: Kelly Breen.					
Breeder: Galleria Bloodstock, Crosshaven Bloodstock, Petaluma Bloods					
(KY).Late Scratches: Candyman E, Sensational Slam. Time: 1:10.05					
Daily Double (8-6), \$15.60; Exacta (6-4), \$57.50; Superfecta (6-4-3-2),					
\$622.00; Trifecta (6-4-3), \$233.00; Pic 3 (2-8-6), \$112.00					

FOURTH \$83,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

1	(dh)Running Wild	C. DeCarlo	\$3.10	\$2.70	\$2.20
6	(dh)Savvy Star	J. Rosario	\$6.00	\$5.70	\$4.00
2	Keri Belle	J. Alvarado			\$4.20
B Filly 2011, by Indian Charlie - Race Artist by Mr. Prospector					
Owner: Peter E. Blum Thoroughbreds LLC. Trainer: James Jerkens.					
Breeder: Peter E. Blum Thoroughbreds, LLC (KY).					
Dk B/ Br Filly 2011, by Medaglia d'Oro - She's a Winner by A.P. Indy					
Owner: WinStar Farm LLC. Trainer: William Mott. Breeder: WinStar Farm,					
LLC (KY). Late Scratches: Via Strata. Time: 1:18.14					
Daily Double (6-1), \$7.90; Daily Double (6-6), \$23.00; Exacta (1-6),					
\$15.60; Exacta (6-1), \$19.20; Quinella (1-6), \$17.00; Trifecta (1-6-2),					
\$81.00; Trifecta (6-1-2), \$109.50; (8-6-1), \$24.40; Pic 3 (8-6-6), \$103.00					

FIFTH \$93,000, AOC \$80,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

5	Pick of the Litter	R. Albarado	\$13.60	\$5.20	\$3.10
4	Cigar Street	J. Velazquez		\$3.00	\$2.10
3	Awesome Vision	J. Castellano			\$2.40
Ch Colt 2010, by Kitten's Joy - Eagle Sound by Fusaichi Pegasus					
Owner: Crossed Sabres Farm. Trainer: Dale Romans.					
Breeder: Gabriel Duignan, Crosshaven Bloodstock & Vision Thoroughbre					
(KY). Late Scratches: Praetereo, Spa City Fever Time: 1:51					
Daily Double (1-5), \$22.60; Daily Double (6-5), \$37.80; Exacta (5-4),					
\$35.00; Superfecta (5-4-3-2), \$158.50; Trifecta (5-4-3), \$109.50; (6-1-					
5), \$57.00; Pic 3 (6-6-5), \$217.00; Pic 4 (8-6/7-1/4/6-5), \$336.50; Pic 5					
(2-8-6/7-1/4/6-5), \$2,395.00					

Attendance: 24,088
On Track Handle: 4,285,022
Inter-State Handle: 9,463,023

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SIXTH \$42,000, CLAIMING \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

10	Z Lucky	W. Garcia	\$11.00	\$5.20	\$3.70
12	Succesful Brothers	L. Saez		\$4.30	\$3.10
2	Cosmic Coincidence	M. Franco			\$4.70
Gr/ro Colt 2011, by Zensational - Undercover Angel by Distorted Humor					
Owner: Zayat Stables, LLC. Trainer: D. Lukas. Breeder: Zayat Stables (KY).					
Late Scratches: Belly of the Whale, Professor Chaos, Gridley Here,					
Rack'em Earl, Hard Rumor, Honor the Kitten, Special Dinner					
Time: 1:52.30. Daily Double (5-10), \$67.50; Exacta (10-12), \$33.60; Su-					
perfecta (10-12-2-6), \$772.00; Trifecta (10-12-2), \$304.50; (1-5-10),					
\$93.00; Pic 3 (6-5-10), \$126.50					

SEVENTH \$83,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 6F

3	Paulassilverlining	J. Ortiz	\$8.70	\$5.10	\$3.30
6	Skipalute	J. Leparoux		\$10.20	\$5.50
1	Gap Year	J. Rosario			\$3.00
B Filly 2012, by Ghostzapper - Seeking the Silver by Grindstone					
Owner: Scuderi, Vincent, S.. Trainer: Michelle Nevin.					
Breeder: Vince Scuderi (KY).					
Late Scratches: Bonnet Plume, Clothes Fall Off. Time: 1:11.46. Daily Dou-					
ble (10-3), \$66.00; Exacta (3-6), \$98.50; Superfecta (3-6-1-8), \$2,679.00;					
Trifecta (3-6-1), \$279.00; Pic 3 (5-10-3), \$313.50					

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

9	Away Game	M. Luzzi	\$12.20	\$4.40	\$3.30
4	Sinistra	J. Rosario		\$3.50	\$2.80
7	Perfect Title	R. Albarado			\$4.60
B Ridgling 2011, by Lemon Drop Kid - Tasha's Delight by Afternoon					
Deelites. Owner: Evans, Ralph, M.. Trainer: Richard Violette, Jr..					
Breeder: Gaillardia LLC (KY).					
Late Scratches: Mr. Viber, Crushing. Time: 1:50.80					
Daily Double (3-9), \$59.50; Exacta (9-4), \$31.20; Superfecta (9-4-7-1),					
\$676.00; Trifecta (9-4-7), \$199.50; Pic 3 (10-3-9), \$335.50					

NINTH \$500,000, STAKES - PERSONAL ENSIGN S., 3 & UP, 1 1/8M

6	Close Hatches	J. Rosario	\$5.90	\$3.30	\$2.70
4	Fiftyshadesofhay	J. Velazquez		\$11.00	\$5.60
2	Stanwyck	R. Maragh			\$4.00
Dk B/ Br Filly 2010, by First Defence - Rising Tornado by Storm Cat					
Owner: Juddmonte Farms, Inc.. Trainer: William Mott.					
Breeder: Millsec, LTD. (KY). Time: 1:50.62. Daily Double (9-6), \$35.60;					
Exacta (6-4), \$75.00; Superfecta (6-4-2-1), \$1,488.00; Trifecta (6-4-2),					
\$361.50; Pic 3 (3-9-6), \$194.00					

TENTH \$61,200, CLAIMING \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

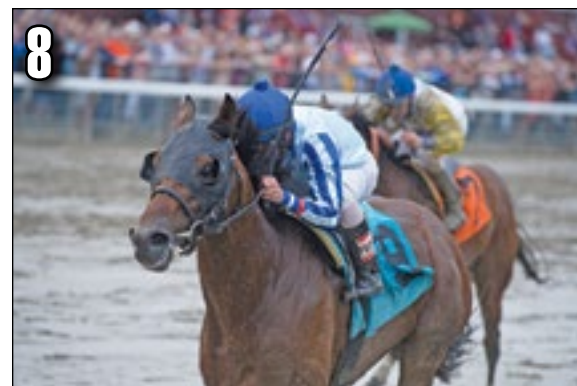
11	Unbridled Logic	R. Maragh	\$12.20	\$6.20	\$3.70
1	I'm Wide Awake	A. Worrie		\$15.20	\$5.90
5	Ithastobegeorge	J. Castellano			\$2.60
B Gelding 2010, by Lion Heart - Aheadnotail by Unbridled					
Owner: Repole Stable. Trainer: Bruce Levine.					
Breeder: Meg Buckley & Mike Buckley (KY). Late Scratches: Mop Head,					
Film Shot, Media Kid, Just Foolin Around.					
Claimed: Overton Square claimed by Peace Sign Stables for \$50,000.					
Time: 1:53.04. Daily Double (6-11), \$39.80; Exacta (11-1), \$201.50; Su-					
perfecta (11-1-5-9), \$4,854.00; Trifecta (11-1-5), \$667.00; Pic 3 (9-6-					
11), \$258.00; Place Pix Nine (1/3/4/6-2/4/6/7/9-2/4/6-11), \$41.20					

ELEVENTH \$55,000, STARTERS ALLOWANCE \$50,000, 3 & UP, 7F

10	Jigsaw	J. Rosario	\$8.90	\$3.50	\$2.50
8	Pecorino	C. Velasquez		\$3.00	\$2.10
11	Giant Fox	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$2.20
B Colt 2011, by Ghostzapper - Memories of Gold by Time for a Change					
Owner: Ye Ole Posse Stable. Trainer: Gary Contessa. Breeder: Pamela					
Gartin, John W. Phillips & Adena Springs (KY).					
Late Scratches: Distorted Dream, All Over Me, Mr Maybe, Permanent					
Campaign, Aripeka, Smokey Brown. Time: 1:24 Daily Double (11-10),					
\$63.00; Exacta (10-8), \$26.00; Superfecta (10-8-11-12), \$158.00; Trifecta					
(10-8-11), \$45.00; Pic 3 (6-11-10), \$164.00; Pic 4 (9-6-11-10), \$998.00;					
Pic 6 (10-3-9-6-11-10), \$310.50; Pic 6 (10-3-9-6-11-10), \$30,488.00					

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No Crisis

2012 Sanford winner Bern Identity returns to Spa to win Tale of the Cat



Tod Marks

Bern Identity holds off Mewannarose in the slop for second Saratoga stakes win in Tale of the Cat.

BY RYAN JONES

Navy blue suit, white button-down, matching fedora, vibrant pink tie and a pair of shades. Kelly Breen looked just as spotless as George and Lori Hall's 4-year-old colt Bern Identity, who for 6 furlongs threw mud in the faces of his opponents en route to victory in the \$100,000 Tale of the Cat Stakes during Friday's Personal Ensign undercard.

"This one's for my dad," Breen said after the race, a gentle mist wafting from the clouds, an enigmatic presence filling the winner's circle.

Two years ago, Bern Identity was poised for the bright lights of the Kentucky Derby trail. After breaking his maiden in June 2012, Bern Identity cruised to victory in the Grade 2 Sanford, an occasional starting point for horses whose connections dream of the Derby. Third Grade 1 Hopeful to eventual champion Shanghai Bobby, the Breen team packed their bags and headed to Delta Downs.

FRIDAY RACING RECAP

"We had a thing on [our] bucket list ... the Delta Jackpot, going for \$1 million, and you're automatically in the Kentucky Derby," Breen said. The path to the Derby has since changed, but in 2012 the Delta Jackpot was worth \$600,000 to the winner and a virtual automatic berth in the Derby field was an easy sell.

Irascible as a 2-year-old, especially in the paddock, Bern Identity finished second behind Goldencents in the Jackpot to conclude his 2-year-old campaign.

Then misfortune struck.

"Everyone has hopes and dreams of the Derby and his first race as a 3-year-old in the Holy Bull he gets hurt and stumbles out of the gate and we didn't know if we'd ever get him back to the races again," Breen said. "[It] hurt us...we were going to possibly

have a horse that year that was going towards the Derby."

Bern Identity went to the sidelines for more than 18 months as Breen plotted the colt's return.

The return came in the My Frenchman Stakes at Monmouth three weeks ago. On a sloppy and sealed track in a race originally scheduled for the turf, the Bernstein colt proved he still had it, even if it was against a shortened field of five.

There must be something attractive about the slop because for the second consecutive race, Bern Identity has found traction in less than ideal conditions.

With Paco Lopez aboard for the ride, Bern Identity bolted from the gate like lighting from a bottle in the Tale of the Cat. Maybe he just hates getting dirty because the bay colt never let a contender get in front of him, leading by more than a length the

See **FRIDAY** page 59 ►

Friday —

■ Continued from page 58

entire trip.

"I didn't give him any instructions, none," Breen said of his conversation with Lopez before the race. "I said, 'do your thing,' and they went wire-to-wire ... I'm not sure, Paco may have tapped him on the shoulder once or twice, but this horse is great."

From the Derby trail, to injury, recovery and redemption, Bern Identity has crafted a story of trial, tribulation, misfortune and subsequent success.

"I've seen it all," said Breen, taking a pass on watching the replay. "This horse really matured. He looks unbelievable. Now we're two-for-two and I don't really know what we're going to point for. I'll talk to George and Lori from here, but it's just so nice to have a horse of this caliber back to the track. He's a true gem."

- Away Game feels right at home with jockey Mike Luzzi aboard.

Luzzi, the only jockey to ride the 3-year-old Lemon Drop Kid ridgling



Tod Marks

Running Wild (right) and Savvy Star finish in a dead heat in Friday's fourth race for older fillies and mares.

in 11 starts, won for the second and third time in five starts in the eighth race. Away Game rated off the pace of Evan Shipman winner Sinistra, took the lead with a furlong to run in the 1 1/8-mile allowance/optional and drew off to win by 2 1/2 lengths.

"He's just a cool horse," said Luzzi, who rode Away Game to victory July 26 in a 1 1/8-mile allowance race for trainer Rick Violette. "He's grown up a lot. I've ridden him in every start and he started out green and not willing to learn. He's put it together."

Bred and owned by Ralph Evans, Away Game won an off-the-turf maiden race April 26 at Aqueduct for his first win after starting his career with six losses.

— Katie Brush

See **FRIDAY** page 60 ►

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Tod Marks

Pick of the Litter charges home to win the fifth for trainer Dale Romans.

Friday —

■ Continued from page 59

• Z Lucky provided the good fortune Wilmer Garcia needed to pick up his first win in his 27th ride of the meet in the sixth. Garcia rode the 3-year-old Zensational colt in the off-the-turf claiming race going 1 1/8 miles.

“I worry about this,” Garcia said of getting his first win. “I work hard. I want to put them in the right position, try to get my winners you know, I try hard.”

Garcia’s efforts were rewarded as he rode Z Lucky to his first win since a maiden claiming race Jan. 20 at Oaklawn Park. He lost five straight after that including getting pulled up in an allowance race May 8 at Churchill Downs in his last start.

“Thank God I broke my maiden with Wayne Lukas,” Garcia said. “Thank you to him, thank you to everybody. I really enjoyed it.”

— Kristin Brennan

• Dale Romans picked the right spot to collect his first winner of the meet when Pick of the Litter won the fifth, a 1 1/8-mile allowance/optional on the sloppy main track.

“I’ve come here, I think 21 years, and always won at least one,” Romans said as he made his way through the clubhouse, shaking hands and accepting compliments from fans and friends. “I was getting worried.”

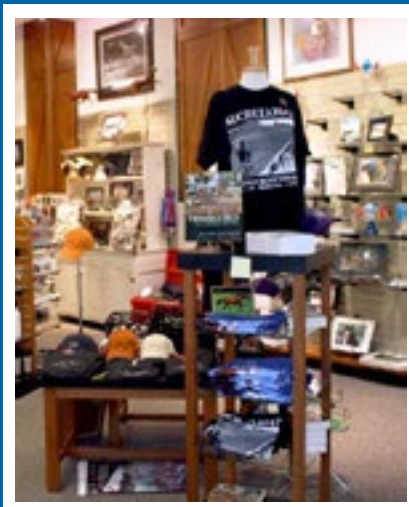
Pick of the Litter’s victory came at the expense of highly regarded Cigar Street, who was making his first start since March 30, 2013. Pick of the Litter, a 4-year-old son of Kitten’s Joy, won by a half-length.

“I think he likes the mud,” Romans said before reevaluating. “I just think he’s a good horse. This horse is so close to being a really top horse and one of these days he’s going to reach a tipping point and go over the edge and be a really good one. Today was a good day, he beat a good horse there.”

— Katie Brush

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Tod Marks

Wilmer Garcia brings Z Lucky back after his first Saratoga win this year.

THE PADDOCK CONVERSATION

Presents

Owner: Mike Repole

Mike Repole thrives on being the underdog. He was an underdog when he co-founded Glaceau, maker of Vitaminwater and Smartwater, in his 30s and he was an underdog when he started Repole Stables less than 10 years ago. He's in the midst of starting another sports drink, Body Armor, which has some of the sport's worlds biggest names on board and his Repole Stable is clicking right along. He won last weekend's Alabama Stakes with Stopchargingmaria, the latest Grade 1 success for the man who still thinks of himself as "Mike from Queens." The 45-year-old's horses run in his distinctive royal blue and orange silks and can be seen all over the New York circuit with several trainers. Repole won the Saratoga owners' title in 2012, 2011 and 2010. He was the leading owner in New York for 2009. He and his wife Maria live on Long Island and are regulars at Saratoga Race Course.

Repole Stable had five starters and earned about \$4,000 in purses in 2005. In 2012 and 2013 the stable earned more than \$4.3 million each year. How did you do it?

Everyone wants to come into the game and have a top stable. I was a fan of the game for over 20 years. I dreamed of being in the big races. You need to learn about the game. Learning the game as a fan is way different than learning the game as an owner. I started off very slow. I started off with a few horses, claiming horses. I wanted to learn about trainers, the tracks, jockeys, veterinarians. I wanted to learn about the business. To me, my first four years in horse racing from 2005 to 2009 was like going to college.

I educated myself about the game. I see too many owners come in and want to spend \$10, \$15 million the first couple of years and they buy 25 horses and then three years later they're out

of the game. They just want to win the Travers, they just want to win the Alabama, they just want to win the Breeders' Cup. It doesn't work that way. Many of these guys are super successful entrepreneurs and they didn't start their businesses and build them overnight either.

How do you run Repole Stable?

I run Repole Stable as a business. I think that so many entrepreneurs, successful CEO's and businesspeople that are in this game, they take every single principle they had in business and when it comes to horse racing they throw it out the window. It doesn't make any sense. They got successful because they had a system, because they were patient, because they were disciplined, and then when it comes to horse racing they throw all that out the window. I run Repole Stable like I run Body Armor, like Vitaminwater. I want to hire



Mike and Maria Repole lead in Grade 1 winner and Keeneland graduate Stopchargingmaria at Saratoga.

Tod Marks photo

great people, a great team. It starts with Jim Martin my racing manager, Jim Crupi at Crupi's New Castle, Ed Rosen my pedigree guy, Todd Pletcher my trainer, Johnny Velazquez and Javier Castellano my jockeys. There's a system here. I'm a very blessed individual and trust me, I thank God every single day for what's gone on in horse racing and everything else, but it's not lucky. It's not luck. Uncle Mo might be luck but when you start looking at Stay Thirsty, Unlimited Budget, Stopshoppingmaria and Stopchargingmaria, Overanalyze, Micromanage, it's more than just one horse.

In addition to your team you always have a big group at major races. What does it mean to bring family and friends to the races?

Before I owned horses I can't say that my grandmother or my parents were big fans of horse racing. When I used to go to the track my Mom used to say, 'please don't lose all your money.' I always knew I wanted to be a horse owner and be in the big races, but the one thing I didn't realize was so special about the game is how special it is for others. Success is better shared. To me Repole Sta-

ble is owned by 100 of my friends and family. I pay all the bills and they have all the fun. That's what I always joke about. They're great partners. At the end of the day, for us to all be together, a Grade 1 or a big race is like adding a holiday to the calendar. You have Easter, Thanksgiving or Christmas and then you have Uncle Mo running in a big race, Stay Thirsty has a big race or Stopchargingmaria has a big race. It's like an unexpected holiday when you get a bunch of friends and family over.

You like an open-door policy in business and a lot of input from members of your team. Does the same apply to Repole Stable?

I've got a horse named Overcommunication, that's one of my mantras. You go to a sale and I've got Jim Martin with his opinion, Ed Rosen telling me about his third dam, Jimmy Crupi telling me about whether he walks great or not and Todd who looks on video at the 2-year-old sales and what he sees on the gallop out. Then I finally get all those opinions. I'm not that smart. If everybody loves it, there's no reason for me not to love it. I listen to what my people say.

To read the complete interview with leading owner Mike Repole, visit thisishorseracing.com

The Chase

Shug McGaughey watched his first Travers, or at least the first one he recalls, from a tack room at Belmont Park.

It was 1978. Laz Barrera had Affirmed. John Veitch had Alydar. McGaughey had nothing but a TV. Affirmed bumped Alydar, got disqualified and everybody left empty.

"The Whiteleys only brought a small string up here and I stayed down below," McGaughey said. "I was friends with Veitch and pulling for Alydar. I didn't see all that mess. Thinking back on it, that's probably the first."

There have been 35 renewals of the Travers since. McGaughey walked over with a runner for some. Others, he watched, grudgingly. Three he won.

You never forget your first. It was 1984, McGaughey sent out Pine Circle for Loblolly Stable. A son of Cox's Ridge, he had tried all three legs of the Triple Crown, finishing sixth in the Derby, fifth in the Preakness and second in the Belmont. McGaughey prepped him for the Travers in an allowance race two weeks before the big one.

"In the Travers, he was making a move behind Track Barron and he stopped. We got stopped about the eighth pole," McGaughey said. "Not a throw-your-head-up but he got stopped."

Thirty years later, it's still unsettled.

McGaughey tried again in 1986, 1987 and 1988.

"I ran Personal Flag in it, finished third, beaten a length and a half. He got a bad trip, even Mr. Phipps said later, 'You should have won the Travers,'" McGaughey said. "Then I ran Polish Navy in it in the mud, he finished third to Java Gold, who was a really nice horse and loved the mud."

Seeking the Gold made it three straight defeats, losing by a desperate nose to Forty Niner in 1988.

Loss fuels desire.

In 1989, McGaughey unleashed Easy Goer at the

Travers.

"I was sitting on ready. I remember telling Pete Axthelm standing right out there," said McGaughey, pointing to the courtyard between his barn and the Oklahoma track. "He said something about the purse, I said, 'I ain't worried about the purse, I just want to win the race.'"

The 1989 Travers was worth \$1,088,500. It hasn't changed much, worth \$1,250,000 today.

Fresh off of winning the Whitney against older horses two weeks earlier, Easy Goer toyed with Clever Trevor, Shy Tom, Doc's Leader, La Voyageur and Roi Danzig. No wonder McGaughey was confident.

"Knowing you're running the best horse, it was just a matter of it happening," McGaughey said. "I went with a lot of confidence. That was a big thrill. That was the first one."

A year later, McGaughey did it again, this time with Rhythm. Third in the Haskell three weeks earlier, Rhythm didn't instill the same confidence as Easy Goer.

"I was disgusted with him, he wasn't having that good a 3-year-old year. I went to the Haskell thinking we had a pretty good chance and he finished third," McGaughey said. "I wanted to change tactics, I told (Craig) Perret to take him back that day and it worked. It wasn't a real strong race but he won."

Eight years later, McGaughey returned with a horse he believed could win the Travers. With Coronado's Quest, belief was one thing, confidence was another. Owned and bred by Stuart Janney III, the mercurial son of Forty Niner had won the Wood Memorial, Riva Ridge, Dwyer and Haskell in a row before the Travers. Still, there were questions as he took on Belmont winner Victory Gallop and five others.

"The thing with him was would he get the mile and a quarter and would he act all right?" McGaughey said. "We schooled him over here in the paddock and he acted up. I made up my mind that I was going to take him over there and put him in that Clark barn, so I didn't have to walk him so far."

Coronado's Quest handled the atmosphere and Mike Smith handled the rest, staving off Victory Gallop and Raffle's Majesty in a three-horse, two-nose photo.

"Mike Smith rode an unbelievable race on him and got him to go a mile and a quarter. He opened up and they came after him, but they just didn't get there," McGaughey said. "That really was a thrill, it was one of the first big races I had won for Stuart. He was excited. I was excited. I remember going into the Trustees' Room and seeing how excited Mr. Phipps was for his nephew."

Since then, 15 editions of the Travers have been run, 16 horses have won (remember the dead heat between Alpha and Golden Ticket) and 15 trainers have won.

McGaughey has been involved. Congrats finished fifth in 2003 and Orb finished third last year.

There might have been others, McGaughey has forgotten.

Today, McGaughey goes for his fourth win in the Travers, sending out Mr. Speaker. He'll tie Elliott Burch with four wins and move one closer to the all-time leader, Bert Mulholland who leads with five.

Win or lose, McGaughey wants to be in the game.

"It disturbs me on big days when we don't have something in. Saturday, we have four, that suits me just fine," McGaughey said. "Whether it's the Travers or whatever, if I'm sitting in my office watching it on TV it doesn't suit me too good. Once you get a taste of these big races...it's just the bait."




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