Year 12 • No. 28 SARATOGA'S DAILY NEWSPAPER ON THOROUGHBRED RACING Friday, August 24, 2012





#### By Such Sires as:

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Awesome Again Offlee Wild
Broken Vow Parading
Candy Ride Political Force
Distorted Humor Proud Citizen

Dynaformer Pulpit
First Samurai Sky Mesa
Flatter Speightstown

Langfuhr Stroll
Medaglia d'Oro Tiznow
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# here&there... at Saratoga



Tod Marks

Wash Day. There's always laundry to be done – at the track and at home.

#### WORTH REPEATING The Special's quotes from Saratoga

"It's like NASCAR, they go round and round."

Sean "The Wandering Lieutenant" O'Connor, on steeplechasing

"He got up swearing and cursing, which must mean he's OK." Jump-side photographer, on the reaction of jockey Brian Crowley to a fall at the last fence Thursday

"It's a bit early. I hope I'm looking good at 1:10 this afternoon."

Crowley, when told he looked good first thing Thursday morning (he was picking himself off the ground at 1:10)

"It's just a grass wound."

Jump jockey Paddy Young, whose face was scraped up in a fall with Left Unsaid Thursday

"I was starting to worry."

Young, when seeing steeplechase fan Richard Hutchinson for the first time at the meet

"At least you didn't call me William 'The Fridge' Perry."

Tom Bellhouse, after being compared to Larry Csonka in Thursday's Special

"Do you need to talk to Mr. Mott?"

Trainer Christophe Clement, trying to pass off a reporter

"You are the story, Christophe."

Mott, deflecting the pass

"She is the smallest filly in my barn, maybe on the track."

Clement, about Ballston Spa starter Ruthenia

"I ordered more Earl Grey tea."

Lucy Abreu, keeping The Special hopping, at the Morning Line Kitchen Thursday morning

"If it wasn't for me, there'd be no coffee or tea to sell."

Ivan Maira, Morning Line Kitchen supply officer (and all around nice guy)

"I like Hoe better."

Ralph Theroux, with input on Ivan's last name (see above)

"I think he saw me."

Trainer Nick Zito, on why Jackson Bend got up off the track after colliding with another horse last week

"Brian looks like he's thinking, which is always a little scary." Exercise rider/assistant Anne Sinchak about

a morning photo of Brian Crowley and Divine Fortune

"We haven't gotten to the Middle East or global warming yet, but we're good on everything else."

Doc Richardson, about solving problems in a backstretch morning pow-wow

"That's the smallest state in America, isn't it?"

Jump jockey – and Irishman – Brian Crowlev about Long Island; it's RHODE Island



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3 THE SARATOGA SPECIAL Friday, August 24, 2012



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# here&there... Continued from previous page



Connie Bush

Kitty Corner. A backstretch resident speeds around a curve Thursday morning.

#### **WORTH REPEATING**

"So proud."

Trainer Charlie Lopresti, as Fourstardave winner Wise Dan jogged past Thursday morning

"A few years younger."

Exercise rider Rob Massey, when asked if Alpha felt like 2000 Saratoga hurdle winner Flasher

#### BY THE NUMBERS

**25:** Straw bales in the shedrow at Graham Motion barn (no sense putting them in the loft at this point) Thursday morning.

**13:** Years since a horse swept the A.P. Smithwick and New York Turf Writers Cup steeplechases at Saratoga; Campanile (trained by Janet Elliot) turned the double in 1999.

1: Dinner at The Wishing Well for Harry Rice as payment for securing his cousin a picnic table in the backyard Thursday.

1: E-mail received by The Special in support of moving the New York Turf Writers Cup steeplechase to a spot near the end of the card.

#### NAMES OF THE DAY

**Bluegrass Rumor, 10th race.** The 3-year-old filly is by Bluegrass Cat out of Reason To Talk.

**Isthmus**, **eighth race**. The 4-year-old colt is by Flower Alley out of Dancing Water.

#### WEATHER

Day before Travers: Mostly sunny. High 86, low 60. Travers Day: Partly cloudy. High 83, low 62. Day after Travers: Mostly sunny. High 84, low 63. Monday: Partly cloudy. High 81, low 65.



#### JUST SAYIN'

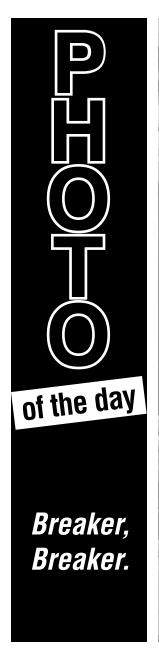
"He ships up on Wednesday in a box stall, he gets here, he rolls, (assistant Laird George) takes the stuff out of the truck, throws him his feed and he has his feed done by the time Laird comes back in the barn."

> Trainer Richard Valentine, on the easy-traveling Demonstrative

800-523-8143



THE SARATOGA SPECIAL FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2012







#### The Chief... Day 28 "Admiral Vee had a great groom. Top, top. Jimmy Harris. He would be tough to hold while he was washing him, and I'd be holding him while he washed him, he'd look at me and say, 'I wish there was a post here.' I'd say why? He said, 'To tie him to it, because he might as well be tied to a post with you holding him.' He rubbed Beau Purple too, he was the top. One day we run a horse, late in the fall, he was a bad maiden, didn't run any good, he knew I lived out in Huntingdon and he lived in Connecticut. He said, 'Boss man, why you waiting around here?' I said, 'Don't you want me to take you home?' He said, 'I might want to go up on the avenue.' He stayed with me until he retired, then he'd come visit us. I had some of those old guys, they were the absolute tops. Some of those horses would eat you up, they would tie a rag around their nose. I didn't want to rub them." - Trainer Allen Jerkens The New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

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Demonstrative powers to the finish line with a Grade 1 win in the New York Turf Writers Cup Steeplechase.

# One for the Books

Demonstrative provides Grade 1 win, history lesson

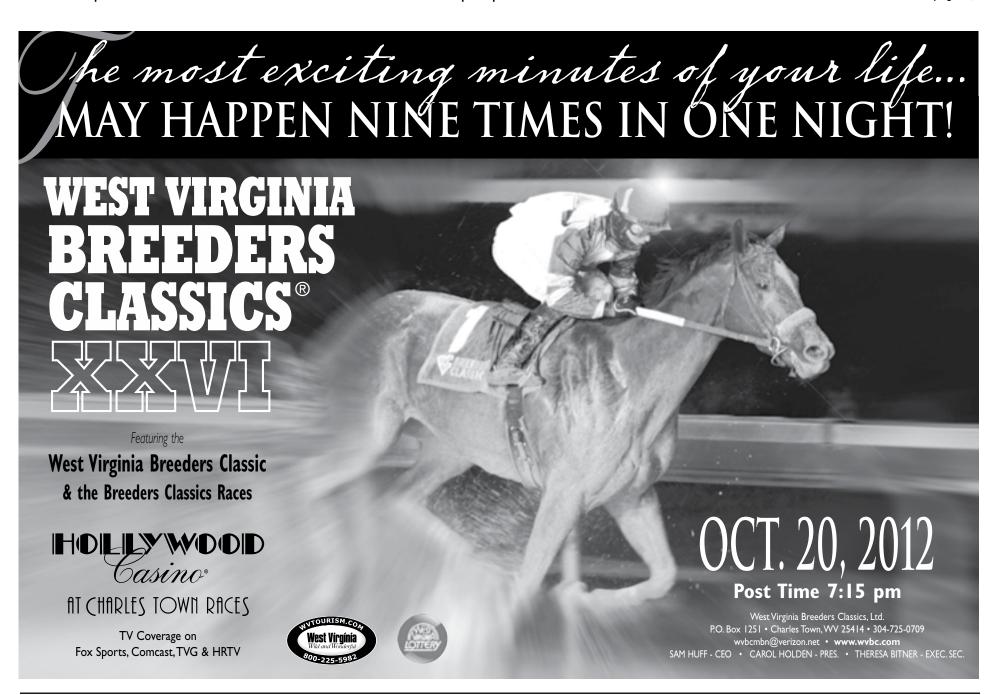
#### **BY JOE CLANCY**

The names in the books at Ann Barker's house always impressed Richard Valentine. The horses sounded like legends – Ancestor, Nautilus, Exhibit A, Soothsayer, Life's Illusion, Happy Intellectual, Leaping Frog – and they all won the New York Turf Writers Cup.

First run in 1938, the Grade 1 steeplechase caught Valentine's attention through Barker's library. She was a Daily Racing Form journalist. He was her neighbor, a kid who wanted to ride, wanted to train. Back then, he read books and dreamed.

"Whenever I went there, I would look at her steeplechase books and see the races and the horses," Valentine said Thursday, after winning the Turf Writers with Demonstrative. "The Turf Writers was always a good one, always won by good horses, always one she talked about. When you're a little kid and you hear all the grown-ups talking about Saratoga you picture great racing and wild parties. Now that I'm here, it's pretty special. It's hard to believe I won it."

See **NY TURF WRITERS** page 8 ▶







Dave Harmon

Trainer Richard Valentine (right) and assistant Laird George greet Demonstrative and Robbie Walsh after the Turf Writers win.

#### NY Turf Writers —

#### ■ Continued from page 6

The parties are another story, but Valentine's horse lived up to the past - charging over the final furlong and through a mess at the last fence to win the \$150,000 stakes by a length over Charminster. A.P. Smithwick winner Spy In The Sky settled for third as the winner covered 2 3/8 miles in 4:33.89 for jockey Robbie Walsh. Divine Fortune fell while in contention at the last fence, and Left Unsaid fell over him but neither horse nor jockeys Brian Crowley and Paddy Young were injured.

Owned by Jacqueline Ohrstrom, Demonstrative won for the second time at the meet, after capturing the restricted Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes July 26, and improved his Saratoga mark to two wins and two seconds in four

The Turf Writers brought back the first five finishers from the Aug. 12 Smithwick, plus Demonstrative, recent English import Charminster and veteran Nationbuilder. Beaten a nose when second in the Smithwick, Left Unsaid started as the 3-2 favorite with Divine Fortune and Nationbuilder second choice at 2-1 in the eight-horse field. Third choice at almost 6-1, Demonstrative broke from the inside and didn't leave until late. The 5-year-old son of Elusive Quality sat sixth, covered up, tucked away as Nationbuilder and then Decoy Daddy set a mild pace. With a circuit remaining, All Together pulled toward the front and the tempo increased. Down the backside, Decoy

Daddy led All Together. Divine Fortune eased into fourth, then third. Left Unsaid followed. Spy In The Sky pulled out and advanced from eighth. Demonstrative kept jumping, resolutely stalking the leaders from the cones.

Midway on the final turn, one fence from home, seven horses – separated by maybe 2 lengths - remained in contention. The winner caboosed the group, still inside, still unasked, looming and battling for room. Divine Fortune and Spy In The Sky pounced at the top of the stretch as All Together backed off. Walsh eased outside, cleared heels and asked. His horse responded, locked on to a takeoff spot coming to the last and landed full of run. To his outside, Divine Fortune started to take off, then went for another stride and fell heavily - interfering with the winner and Spy In The Sky slightly. Behind them, Left Unsaid tripped over the fallen horse and went down. Always traveling well in the middle, Charminster emerged from the last with a lead, but was no match for Demonstrative who powered past in the final yards and won going

"Great trip early, perfect, delighted, they didn't go very quick, just a nice gallop," said Walsh, who also won the Turf Writers in 2011. "Then I kept getting wracked up from the second-tolast home, I just got wracked, wracked, wracked. I had to take two or three pulls, even going to the last I had to take a pull, but he was right there every time. Then I saw a little window going to the last, he just pinged it, there wasn't much to see of the hurdle, he

See **NY TURF WRITERS** page 10 ▶

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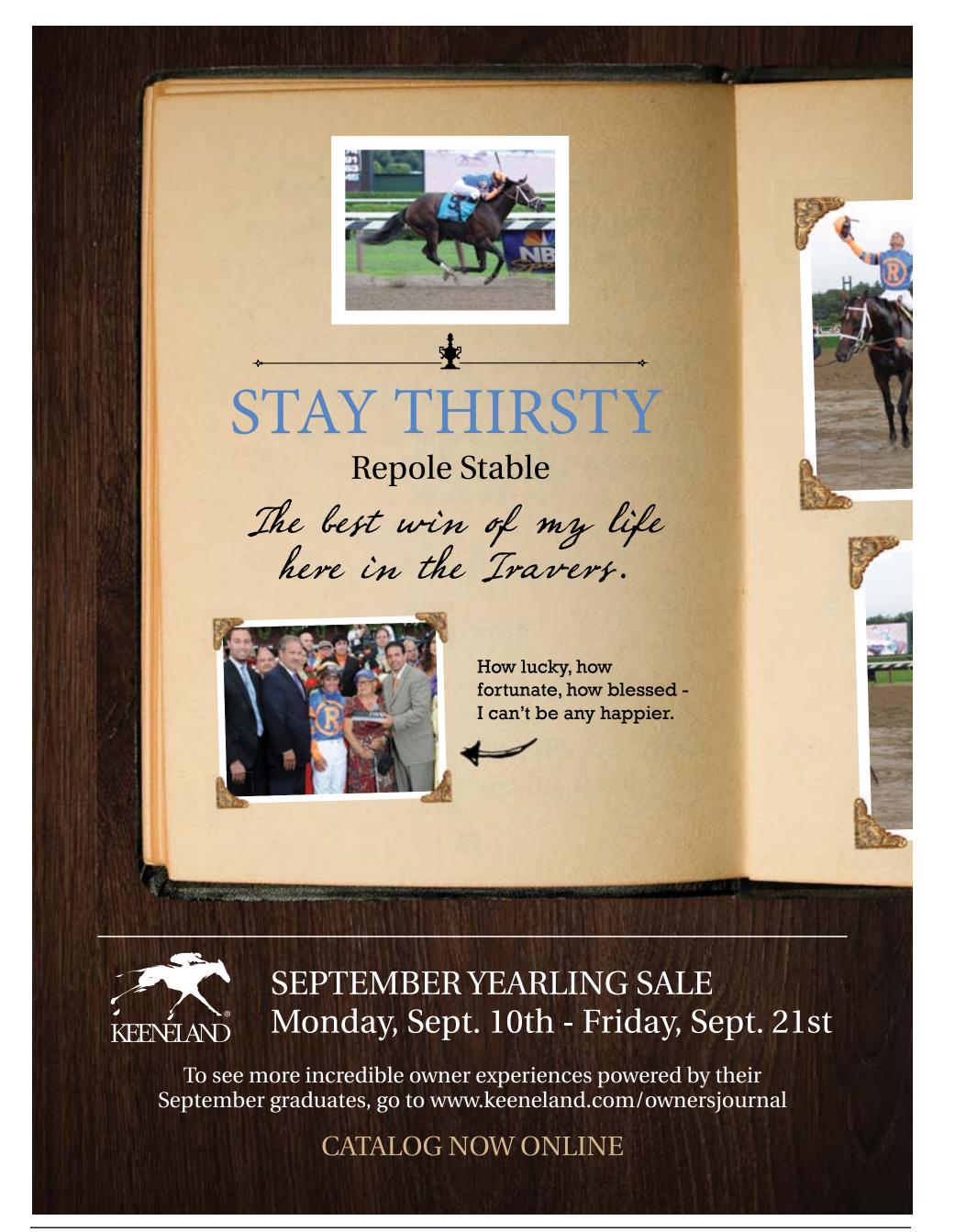
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#### **2012 IRISH YEARLING SALES DATES**

25-26 Sept Tattersalls Ireland September Yearling Sale

Goffs Orby Sale 3-4 Oct 5 Oct Goffs Sportsman Sale



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#### **NY Turf Writers —**

#### ■ Continued from page 8

caught Brian's horse somewhere, it backed him up a touch, he lost his hind end for a split second but picked up straight away."

Valentine watched and worried.

"I thought he wasn't going to get out, I was worried he wasn't going to get out," he said. "As soon as he got daylight, he started going and passing horses, he worked his way through. I thought (Charminster) was going well throughout and what happened at the last kind of takes the wind out of you. I was glad to see the horses and riders are OK.'

Bred in Kentucky by Gainsborough, Demonstrative raced on the flat in England before finding a spot in the Tattersalls July Sale of 2010. A regular at English sales, Valentine spent 25,000 guineas on the jump prospect. The bay gelding won his debut that October, won again in November and was steeplechasing's champion 3-year-old. Last year, he won twice more and finished second four times. His 2012 started out rocky, parting company with Walsh at Charlotte in April and finishing a dull sixth at Colonial Downs. Diagnosed (and treated) for the infection EPM after that race, he's come back stronger than ever - graduated from the novice condition in the Kiser and becoming a Grade 1 winner in the Turf Writers. He's now made \$253,800 over fences and will be in the discussion for championship honors this fall.

Valentine was impressed with his

horse's return in the Kiser, and looked for another step forward four weeks

"I hoped there was improvement and we were confident but how can you be too confident coming here with the Sheppard and Voss horses, all of them really," said the trainer, who bases his stable at the Ohrstrom family's Whitewood Farm in The Plains, Va. "I am never confident, but he worked really well the other day. We were happy with him."

Demonstrative has been putting in the miles this summer, shipping to Saratoga three times - the Open House July 15, the Kiser July 26 and then the Turf Writers. Unlike the Smithwick starters, the Turf Writers winner had four weeks between races - which Valentine called a plus. Demonstrative spent four days turned out doing nothing, then hacked for a few days with some younger horses, returned to galloping and had two works – one on the turf at Whitewood and a 5-furlong move on the 6 1/2-furlong dirt training track at nearby Hickory Tree Farm.

'He actually put on weight between races," said Valentine. "It was nice to have that week where I didn't have to put pressure on him. He had four days off, doing nothing. Then he just went for a hack for a few days, we just kept him entertained, he's like that. He kind of needs to be entertained. I worked him once on the grass at home and he worked five-eighths on Sunday at Hickory Tree – 1:04, which is good for that track. It's a beautiful track, but it's small and 1:06 is a good move there."

The rest is in the books.



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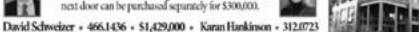
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Thursday August 23.

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3 Demonstrative R. Walsh \$13.60 \$6.30 Charminster (IRE) C. Rafter \$3.70 \$5.60 Spy in the Sky D. Hodsdon \$5.10

B Gelding 2007, by Elusive Quality - Loving Pride by Quiet American Owner: Ohrstrom, Jr., Mrs. George, L.. Trainer: Richard Valentine. Breeder: Gainsborough Farm LLC (KY).

Late Scratches: Sermon of Love, Dynaski Time: 4:33.89

Exacta (3-1), \$103.00; Trifecta (3-1-4), \$545.00

#### SECOND \$67,000, STARTER HANDICAP \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

\$2.10 6 Saginaw D. Cohen \$2.40 \$2.10 Private Tale R. Dominguez \$4.20 \$2.80 Indy Scent J. Velazquez B Gelding 2006, by Peruvian - Devilzene by Devil's Bag

Owner: Drawing Away Stable and Jacobson, David. Trainer: David Jacobson. Breeder: Ted Taylor (NY).

Late Scratches: Strapping Groom

Time: 1:22.05 Daily Double (3-6), \$19.40; Exacta (6-4), \$13.00; Quinella (4-6), \$11.40; Trifecta (6-4-5), \$27.20

#### THIRD \$42,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

Original Art I. Ortiz, Jr. \$2.60 \$2.10 Crooked as Can Be K. Desormeaux \$2.80 Romolo's Friar C. Montalvo

B Gelding 2009, by Distorted Humor - La Galerie (ARG) by Southern Halo Owner: South Elkhorn Stable. Trainer: Kiaran McLaughlin. Breeder: Darley (KY).

Late Scratches: Espiritu Libre, Curve Ball, He Ain't Bluffing Claimed: Original Art claimed by Ramsey, Kenneth L. and Sarah K. for \$35,000, Crooked as Can Be claimed by Moss, Maggi for \$35,000

Daily Double (6-4), \$3.80; Exacta (4-7), \$7.70; Pic 3 (3-6-4), \$35.00

#### FOURTH \$37,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP. 5 1/2F

Black Ace J. Lezcano \$23.80 Torment \$3.20 J. Castellano D'tiger J. Alvarado \$2.20

Dk B/ Br Gelding 2009, by Bandini - For the Wire by More Than Ready Owner: Kupferberg, Saul J. and Max. Trainer: John Parisella. Breeder: Dwain Keel & Mark Toothacre (KY).

Late Scratches: Two and Twenty, Star Walk

Claimed: D'tiger claimed by Winning Move Stable for \$25,000

Daily Double (4-1), \$43.80; Exacta (1-8), \$108.50; Quinella (1-8), \$52.00;

Superfecta (1-8-4-7), \$523.00; Trifecta (1-8-4), \$233.00; Pic 3 (6-4-1),

#### FIFTH \$38,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

Wandering Kitten J. Castellano \$4.20 \$3.20 \$2.70 Bundestag (GB) C. Velasquez \$9.90 \$5.00 Current Design R. Dominguez \$2.80 Ch Colt 2009, by Kitten's Joy - Personal Odyssey by Lemon Drop Kid

Owner: Repole Stable. Trainer: Bruce Levine.

Breeder: Kenneth L. Ramsey & Sarah K. Ramsey (KY).

Late Scratches: Sokitumi Samurai, Bake Shop

Claimed: Wandering Kitten claimed by Hui, Michael M. for \$25,000, Current Design claimed by Midwest Thoroughbreds, Inc. for \$25,000 Time: 1:48.97

Daily Double (1-8), \$103.00; Exacta (8-6), \$54.50; Superfecta (8-6-3-10), \$2,283.00; Trifecta (8-6-3), \$144.50; Pic 3 (4-1-8), \$199.00; Pic 4 (2/6-1/2/3/4-1-8/11/12), \$330.50

#### SIXTH \$80,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 5 1/2F

\$4.00 2 Central Banker R. Napravnik \$7.80 \$3.20 R. Maragh \$3.40 Hightail Mico Margarita J. Rosario \$4.70 B Colt 2010, by Speightstown - Rhum by Go for Gin Owner: Klaravich Stables, Inc. and Lawrence, William H.,

Trainer: Albert Stall, Jr., Breeder: WinStar Farm, LLC (KY). Late Scratches: Sayaad, Coldblack, Never the End

Time: 1:02.21

Daily Double (8-2), \$19.80; Exacta (2-3), \$26.00; Superfecta (2-3-7-4), \$1,122.00; Trifecta (2-3-7), \$203.00; Pic 3 (1-8-2), \$620.00

#### SEVENTH \$95,000, AOC \$75,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

4 Lunar Victory J. Alvarado \$2.90 \$3.80 \$2.50 Golden Gulch \$2.80 J. Lezcano Praetereo E. Prado \$4.10

B Horse 2007, by Speightstown - Lunar Colony by A.P. Indy Owner: Juddmonte Farms, Inc.. Trainer: William Mott. Breeder: William Parsons Jr. & David S. Howe (NY)

Daily Double (2-4), \$17.80; Exacta (4-3), \$16.20; Superfecta (4-3-2-5), \$335.50; Trifecta (4-3-2), \$135.00; Pic 3 (8-2-4), \$44.80

#### **EIGHTH \$87,000, ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M**

\$3.00 8 Pianist J. Castellano \$2.40 Antonia Autumn R. Dominguez \$3.80 \$2.50 Kitty Wine \$2.60 J. Lezcano

Ch Filly 2009, by More Than Ready - Red Piano by Red Ransom Owner: Hidden Brook Farm and Zucker, Dan. Trainer: Chad Brown.

Breeder: Grapestock LLC (KY). Late Scratches: Welcome Guest

Time: 1:34.15

Daily Double (4-8), \$10.40; Exacta (8-5), \$14.00; Superfecta (8-5-1-2), \$121.00; Trifecta (8-5-1), \$31.80; Pic 3 (2-4-8), \$43.20; Place Pix Nine (3/6/8-2/3/7-2/3/4-8), \$16.80

#### NINTH \$42,000, CLAIMING \$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M

Yes She Rules J. Leparoux \$6.50 \$3.70 \$2.90 Donttangowithmango R. Dominguez \$11.60 \$7.30 Strikealinethruit E. Prado \$5.30

B Filly 2008, by Monarchos - Hello Barbara Sue by Dehere Owner: Lake Lonely Racing. Trainer: Chad Brown.

Breeder: John C. Oxley (KY) Late Scratches: Scenic Gulch, Flashy American, File Gumbo

Time: 1:41.83

Daily Double (8-5), \$20.20; Exacta (5-1), \$73.50; Superfecta (5-1-7-6), \$3,836.00; Trifecta (5-1-7), \$601.00; Pic 3 (4-8-5), \$31.60; Pic 4 (2-4-8-5), \$191.00; Pic 6 (1-8-2-4-8-5), \$68.00; Pic 6 (1-8-2-4-8-5), \$18,299.00

> Attendance: 14,712 On Track Handle: 2,361,694 Intra-State Handle: 1,552,085 Inter-State Handle: 5,533,281

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Ten Most Wanted (Gr. I) • Little Mike (Gr. I) • Toccet (Gr. I) • Bella Bellucci (Gr. I)

Acey Deucey (Gr. I) • Moon Catcher (Gr. I) • Weekend Magic (Gr. 1)

# Streaker

#### Lunar Victory keeps on rolling for Juddmonte, Mott

#### **BY TOM SANTOMARCO**

With a Grade 1 steeplechase leading off the card and holding down the spot as the feature, Thursday's seventh race provided the late heroics as Lunar Victory won his fifth consecutive race for Juddmonte Farm and trainer Bill Mott.

The 5-year-old New York-bred added a three-other-than allowance to his steadily improving American resume which includes state-bred wins at Aqueduct in December and February, an open-company allowance at Aqueduct in March and the restricted Evan Shipman Stakes here July 23. Ridden by Junior Alvarado and sent off at just short of even money, the son of Speightstown sat third early as Joan's Choice opened a quick early lead. Golden Gulch led briefly, but was soon swarmed by the winner who drew off in the lane to score by 3 ½ lengths.

Lunar Victory made eight starts in England for Juddmonte and trainer John Gosden before joining Mott's string.

 You could've called it a Tale of Two Davids as Saginaw took over the lead at the stretch in the sec-

First there was part-owner and trainer David Jacobson, sweating it out, wondering whether his horse had enough to finish the job.



Lunar Victory floats across the finish with his fifth consecutive win.

"I was worried there for a while," Jacobson admitted after the race, a 7-furlong starter handicap on the main track.

Then there was jockey David Cohen, who confidently laughed off Jacobson's concern.

"This is a horse that saves his running for the final three-sixteenths and he showed it today," the jockey

Indeed he did.

Starting from the outside post in the five-horse field, the 6-year-old waited his turn in the middle of the pack most of the race, letting 10-1 shot Itsagoodtendollars lead the way.

See THURSDAY RECAP page 16 ▶

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"Ashado"

#### SHAWN FAUST

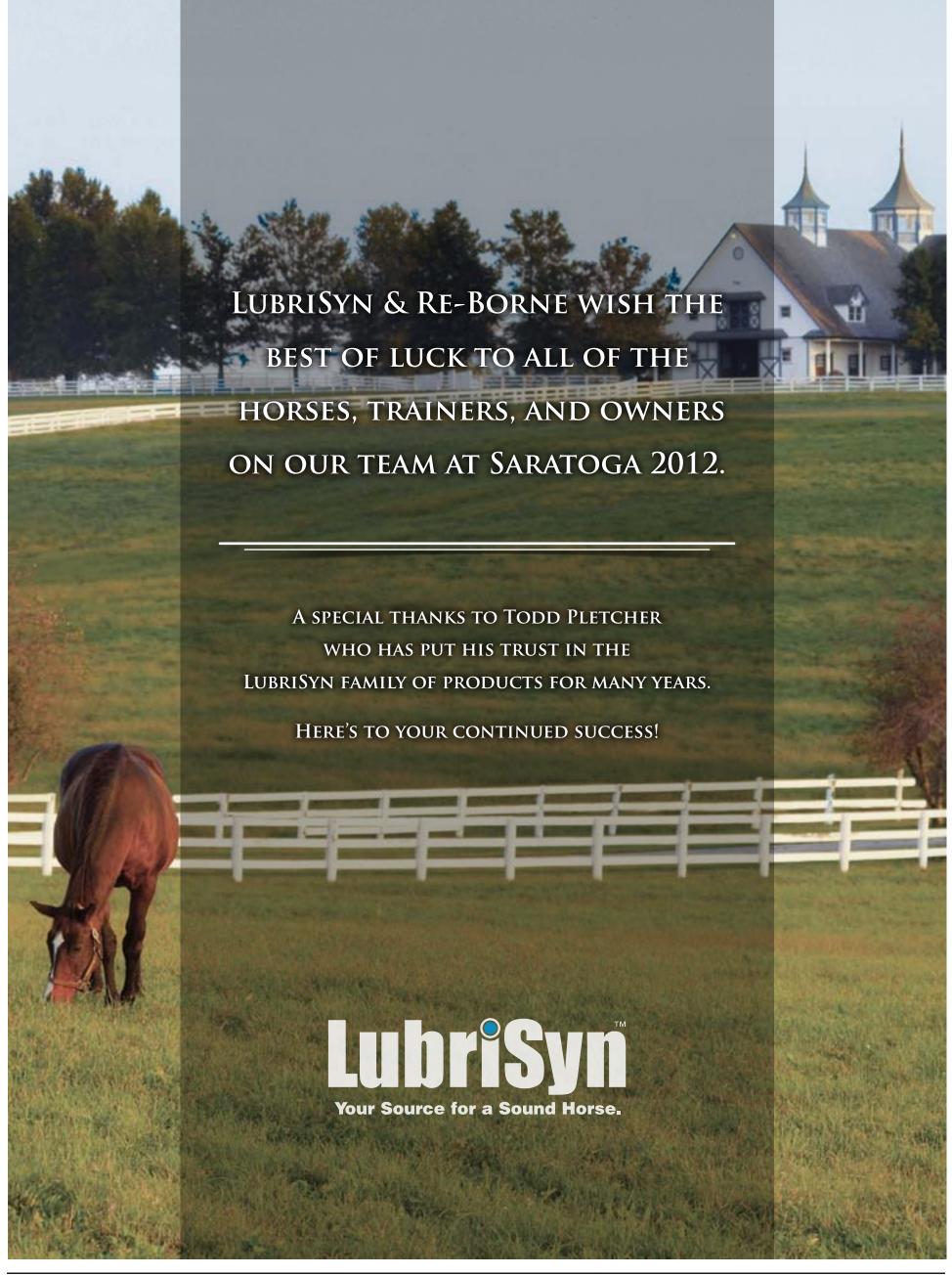
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#### Thursday Recap —

#### ■ Continued from page 14

The heavily favored gelding took over in the stretch and never looked back, holding off Private Tale to win by 1 ½ lengths in 1:22.05.

"He carried a lot of weight today," Jacobson said of the 128-pound impost. "It made the race competitive and it definitely wasn't an easy one."

Backing up his jockey's opinion about his late speed, Saginaw seemed to be ready to keep going even after the win was in the books, barely keeping still long enough for the post-race photo. The New York-bred has won seven of eight starts since March, including a victory in the John Morrissey Stakes here Aug. 1.

• All trainer John Parisella could do after Black Ace broke his maiden in the fourth was smile.

Parisella got the 3-year-old to do something two other trainers couldn't do.

Just how the gelding won the 5 ½-furlong turf race was something even Parisella couldn't explain.

"It shows you how many geniuses we have in this game. This horse worked terrible on the grass," said Parisella. "He's a big and beautiful horse, but he never showed me anything in the morning and just ran wild today."

The son of Bandini didn't start Thursday's race, a \$25,000 maiden claimer, particularly well though that may have been an asset through a quick opening quarter-mile in 21.67 seconds

and a half in 44.47. He started to make his move in the stretch and found a gear he'd never hit before as they neared the finish, breaking ahead to win by three-quarters of a length over Torment with D'tiger third in 1:02.47.

To say his trainer was caught off guard by the gelding's performance wouldn't have done his reaction justice.

"It was a total surprise," Parisella said. "I really couldn't understand this horse. Sometimes you throw your arms up and give up, but I didn't with this one."

• Trainer Al Stall could be overheard praising jockey Rosie Napravnik after she and Central Banker won the sixth, a 5 ½-furlong turf race for 2-year-old maidens.

"She rode him great," he excitedly said to anyone who'd listen.

Tongue in cheek, Stall was singing a different tune once Napravnik made it to the winner's circle.

"She earned her keep that time," he jokingly understated. "She'll get another mount."

"Oh, come on," the jockey said, smiling.

This one wasn't a joking matter just minutes before. The Klaravich Stables and William Lawrence-owned colt was locked in a tight battle with Hightail. The two favorites battled as they headed for home, with Central Banker rallying to win by a head, and Mico Margarita a neck back in third after 1:02.21.

Asked about the turnaround from the colt's first career start just three weeks ago, Stall said he wasn't concerned.

"He's a tough, robust horse and his See **THURSDAY RECAP** page 18 ▶



Tod Marks

David Cohen checks the big screen for competition with Saginaw in the second.

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# Saratoga Leaders Through Thursday

Jockeys	1st
Ramon Dominguez	49
Javier Castellano	36
Jose Lezcano	27
John Velazquez	23
Joel Rosario	20
Junior Alvarado	19
Julien Leparoux	18
Rajiv Maragh	14
Irad Ortiz, Jr	13
Rosie Napravnik	13
Cornelio Velasquez	11
Wilmer Garcia	9
	1et
Todd Pletcher	
Chad Brown	
Steve Asmussen	
George Weaver	
Gary Contessa	
Bruce Levine	
William Mott	
Rudy Rodriguez	
Christophe Clement	

#### Thursday Recap —

#### **■** Continued from page 16

works on the Oklahoma turf over the last week gave me the indication that he was ready," Stall said. "Sooner or later his pedigree was going to kick in."

The winner is by Speightstown out of \$300,000 earner Rhum.

• One and done. That's how Bruce Levine put it after his colt Wandering Kitten was claimed after breaking his maiden in his first race with the trainer.

"He did his job and I lost him, that's just how it goes sometimes," Levine said.

While their time together was short, it didn't lack in excitement.

Repole Stable's 3-year-old was consistent, sitting fourth most of the way through the 1 1/8-mile turf race for \$25,000 maiden claimers. It was a three-horse race at the end, with Wandering Kitten emerging victorious over Bundestag and Current Design in 1:48.97.

It was Javier Castellano's first time on Wandering Kitten, but the jockey said he'd seen a replay of the horse's second last time out at Belmont and thought it gave him good insight into how he'd run.

"He gave me some good kick and made a good run at the end," said the jockey. "He responded well when I asked him to get it done."

• Trainer Chad Brown won the last two on the day – Pianist making it look easy in the eighth, a 1-mile filly/mare allowance on the inner turf. Castellano



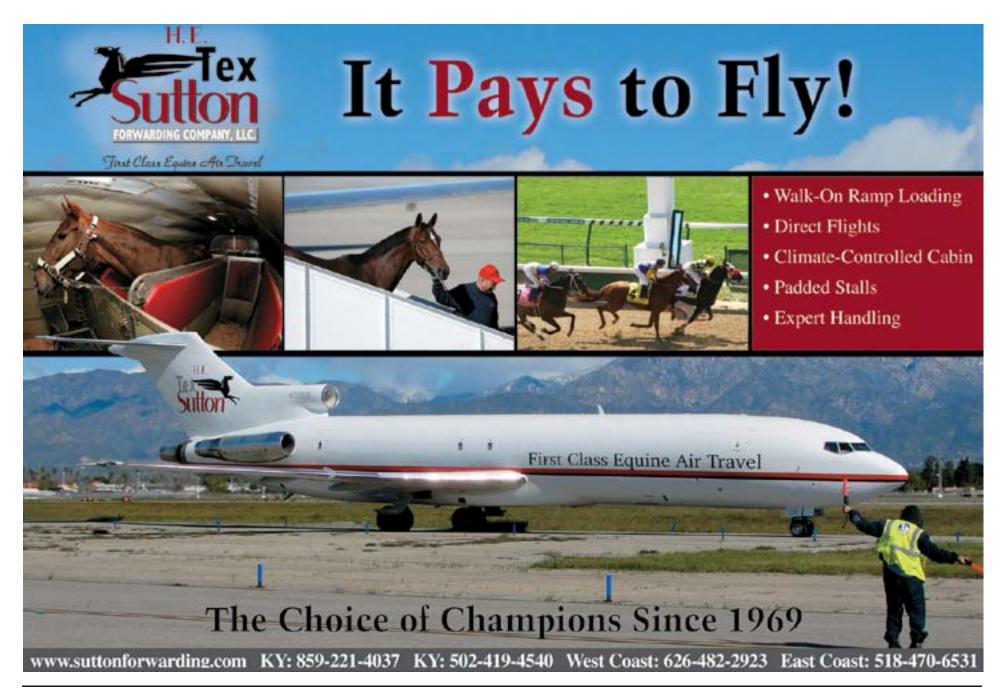
Tod Marks

Black Ace shows the way late in Thursday's fourth race.

and the 3 year-old sat just off the pace most of the way, with the filly doing what she needed at the finish to win by 3 lengths.

The ninth wasn't so easy. Four-yearold Yes She Rules sat in fifth in a tight pack before making a move. Jockey Julien Leparoux and Lake Lonely Racing's filly ended up winning by a nose over Donttangowithmango, sending Brown home happy.

"Both horses finished really well and both jockeys rode terrific races," he said. "The jocks made the difference."





Flying Solo. Divine Fortune, who fell at the last fence of the New York Turf Writers Cup Thursday, flies a fence without jockey Brian Crowley just past the finish line.

Lynn M. Grabowski

These seven Thoroughbreds retired from the racetrack at different ages and stages in training. All found their way to New Vocations and all were adopted and now reside at the Gallop On program in Garrettsville, Ohio. The program provides equestrian and educational opportunities to disadvantaged young riders while providing second careers for retired racehorses.



Left to right.

**Is It for Me Or U**, a 4-year-old California bred retired prior to his first start

**Peahi,** 6-year-old son of Pleasantly Perfect had eight starts and \$80,000 in earnings

**Captain Hawk**, 5-year-old son of Lemon Drop Kid retired prior to his first start

**Oops,** 3-year-old out of grade one winner Behaving Badley trained but never raced

**Russian Bear**, 3-year-old son of Medaglia d'Oro retired after one start

**Crossed Sabres**, 6-year-old son of E Dubai made 16 starts and \$17,000 in earnings

**Dancing Luca**, 6-year-old son of Pulpit made six starts and earned \$5,000

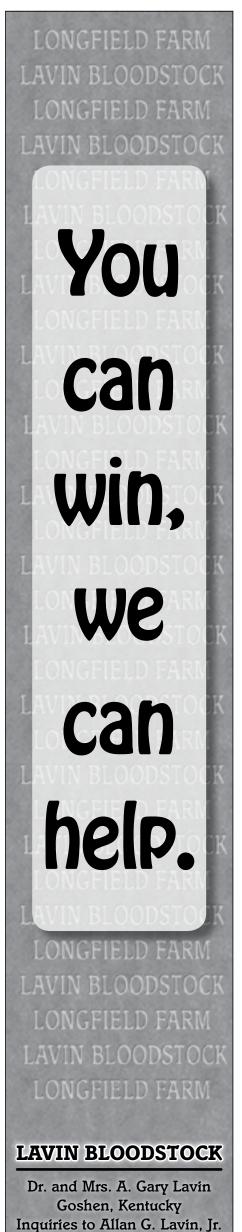
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#### FRIDAY'S SARATOGA ENTRIES

	IDAI 3 SA	INATOGA	LIVITAL						
•	August 24.				7TH (4: (INNER	21PM). \$37,000, CLM Turf)	\$20,000, 3 YO'S	& UP, F & M , 1 1	1/16M
1ST (1:0	DOPM). \$80,000, MSW,	2 YO, F, 5 1/2F	(TURF)			Trifecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, D	aily Double		
Exacta,	Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Doι	ıble			1 1	Forever Vow	E. Prado	I. Wilkes	5-2
1 1	Runway Ready	R. Maragh	G. Contessa	3-1	2 2	Katy's Office Girl	W. Garcia	E. Barker	30-1
2 2	Aussieaussieaussie	J. Rosario	E. Harty	8-1	3 3	Frivolous Alex	J. Rosario	G. Weaver	6-1
3 3	Magical Moon	R. Napravnik	A. Stall, Jr.	5-2	4 4	Grisaille	R. Napravnik	S. Benzel	15-1
4 4	Grenoble	J. Lezcano	N. Zito	10-1	5 5	Little Red Rider	I. Ortiz, Jr.	J. Parisella	3-1
5 5	Poultney	J. Castellano	M. Hennig	6-1	6 6	Sally's Dream	R. Maragh	M. Hennig	8-1
6 6	Lighthouse Bay	E. Castro	G. Weaver	4-1	7 7	Audington	S. Bridgmohan	M. Scherer	15-1
7 7	K to the Croft	K. Desormeaux	K. McPeek	8-1	8 8	Skips Prospect	C. Velasquez	L. Rice	12-1
8 8	Wickapecko	I. Ortiz, Jr.	B. Brown	12-1	9 9	Zeenut	J. Leparoux	G. Arnold, II	7-2
9 AE	Sensational Appeal	J. Rosario	M. Matz	8-1	10 10	Robinera's Afleet	K. Desormeaux		30-1
10 AE	Judy G	J. Alvarado	B. Tagg	6-1	11 MT(		R. Napravnik	P. Walder	5-1
11 AE	Speaking Role (GB)	J. Leparoux	H. Motion	4-1		5 Oypiooo ioio	ri. Hapraviiii	1. Waldoi	0 1
12 AE	Emotional Kitten	K. Desormeaux	W. Ward	2-1	8TH (4.	55PM). \$37,000, CLM	\$20 000 3 70'S	& IIP 5 1/2F (TII	RF)
13 AE	Indian Splendor	R. Dominguez	A. Dutrow	5-1		Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Do		u 01, 0 1/21 (10	,
14 AE	Jane of All Trades	R. Dominguez	K. McLaughlin	5-2	1 5	Isn'tlovejustgrand	J. Castellano	B. Levine	5-2
IT AL	balle of All Trades	11. Dominiguoz	ix. MicLaugiiiii	0 2	1a MT(		J. Rosario	B. Levine	5-2
2ND (1.	33PM). \$42,000, MCL \$	25 NNN 2 VN E	6E		2 1	Silver Timber	R. Dominguez	C. Brown	3-1
	Quinella, Trifecta, Pic 3,				3 2		E. Castro	G. Weaver	15-1
				E 1	4 3	Coronation Day	R. Napravnik	N. Zito	12-1
1 1	No More Fives	J. Castellano	R. Rodriguez	5-1		French Fury			
2 2	Star Black	A. Lezcano	R. Persaud	20-1	5 4	I Ain't No Saint	J. Espinoza	J. Imperio	30-1
3 3	Should Make It	C. Montalvo	G. Contessa	6-1	6 6	Chernobyl's Hero	C. Velasquez	L. Rice	10-1
4 4	Chifa	J. Rosario	M. Trombetta	2-1	7 7	Bear Heart	J. Alvarado	S. Benzel	6-1
5 5	Desert Traveler	I. Ortiz, Jr.	W. Badgett, Jr.	10-1	8 8	Rudy Rudy Rudy	W. Garcia	R. Rodriguez	5-1
6 6	Bozique	A. Garcia	R. Ribaudo	5-1	9 9	Saints Alive	I. Ortiz, Jr.	G. Gullo	6-1
7 7	Go the Distance	J. Alvarado	J. Aquilino	4-1	10 AE	Wishingonastar	D. Cohen	E. Barker	20-1
8 8	Pure Treasure	W. Garcia	D. Green	8-1	11 AE	Luigi P	A. Lezcano	A. Bizelia	6-1
					12 AE	Fastest Magician	W. Garcia	A. Quartarolo	15-1
	06PM). \$45,000, CLM \$		& UP, 6 1/2F		13 AE	Tawaared	I. Ortiz, Jr.	R. Barbara	5-1
	Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Dοι				14 AE	All Class	C. Velasquez	C. Englehart	15-1
1 1	Big Creek	A. Lezcano	R. Persaud	20-1	15 MT(	O Chasing Moonlight	R. Maragh	T. Albertrani	3-1
2 2	P J's Magical Wink	K. Desormeaux	D. Green	12-1					
3 3	Perfect Trippi	J. Rosario	D. Romans	6-1		30PM). \$500,000, STI	K - THE BALLERINA	A, 3 & UP, F & M	, 7F
4 4	Professor Fate	J. Lezcano	E. Kenneally	7-2		Trifecta, Daily Double			
5 5	Dangerous Trick	R. Maragh	T. Pompay	6-1	1 1	Island Bound	J. Leparoux	I. Wilkes	10-1
6 6	Fusa Code	J. Leparoux	S. Asmussen	8-1	2 2	All Due Respect	J. Rosario	R. Dutrow, Jr.	20-1
7 7	Matty's Avenger	J. Velazquez	D. Stewart	12-1	3 3	It's Tricky	E. Castro	K. McLaughlin	8-5
8 8	Charlie's Quest	A. Garcia	R. Dutrow, Jr.	4-1	4 4	Belle of the Hall	I. Ortiz, Jr.	T. Albertrani	15-1
9 9	Reserved Quality	R. Dominguez	R. Dutrow, Jr.	3-1	5 5	Nicole H	R. Dominguez	M. Hushion	4-1
		_			6 6	Turbulent Descent	J. Velazquez	T. Pletcher	9-5
	39PM). \$35,000, MCL \$		& UP, F & M , 6F		7 7	Derwin's Star	D. Cohen	S. Klesaris	5-1
Exacta,	Quinella, Trifecta, Pic 3,	Daily Double							
1 1	Carrot Thief	M. Studart	P. Quick	6-1	10TH (6	6:04PM). \$38,000, MC	L \$25,000, 3 YO'S	& UP, F & M , 1	1/16M
2 2	My Zealous Storm	W. Garcia	P. Chin	12-1	(INNER				
3 3	Azasecret	J. Leparoux	J. Carroll	5-2	Exacta,	Trifecta			
4 4	Esthers Classy Las	S. Husbands	D. Farrell	8-1	1 1	Let the Kitten Run	J. Castellano	M. Maker	3-1
5 5	Kellster	C. Montalvo	G. Contessa	10-1	2 2	Ginagain	W. Garcia	B. Tagg	10-1
6 6	Dontrainonmyparade		P. Kelly	20-1	3 3	Picture Book	R. Dominguez	C. Brown	7-2
7 7	Sucre	D. Davis	J. Jobidon	30-1	4 4	Shewreckstheplace	S. Husbands	G. Goodwin	30-1
8 8	Bridgetta	R. Napravnik	B. Brown	6-5	5 5	A New York Phillie	A. Lezcano	R. Ubillo	20-1
0 0	Briagotta	ri. Napraviiii	B. Brown	0 0	6 6	Londoness	M. Studart	W. Cesare	50-1
5TH (3·1	13PM). \$69,000, AOC \$	25 NNN 3 & 11P	1 1/16M (INNER	TIIRF)	7 7	Controlled Neglect	C. Velasquez	J. Day	10-1
	Trifecta, Pic 3, Pic 6, Dai		,	,	8 8	Fun and Gains	R. Maragh	I. Wilkes	4-1
1 1	Hear the Footsteps	R. Dominguez	L. Rice	5-1	9 9	Maggie R	E. Castro	G. Weaver	15-1
2 2	Gimme Credit	J. Castellano	C. Brown	7-2	10 10	Bluegrass Rumor	J. Rosario	D. Romans	5-1
3 3	Barrel of Love	W. Garcia	J. Hertler	10-1	11 11	Any Given Moment	J. Leparoux	J. Baker	20-1
4 4	Fortissi More	E. Castro	M. Aro	15-1	12 12	Difficult Creek	E. Prado	R. Nicks	20-1
5 5	The Thinker	J. Lezcano	C. Brown	2-1	12 12 13 AE	Romolo's Juliet	W. Garcia	K. Streicher	50-1
					14 AE	Comment	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	6-1
	Power Blast	R. Napravnik	L. Rice	12-1 15-1	14 AE 15 AE	Irish Wedding	J. Lezcano	R. Rodriguez	6-1
	Image of Disco	E. Prado	J. Ryerson		15 AE 16 MT(			S. Benzel	8-1
8 8	Ampersand	A. Garcia	R. Violette, Jr.	3-1	IO WIT	FUUII GUITIEI	R. Napravnik	J. DELIZEI	0-1

#### 6TH (3:47PM). \$85,000, AOC \$50,000, 3 & UP, F & M, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double 1 MTO North Freeway A. Dutrow R. Rodriguez 1a MTO Victoria Lynn 6-1  $\hbox{C. Velasquez}$ Precision Farming 2 15-1 L. Rice 3 Revenue J. Alvarado W. Mott 5-2 4 **Button Girl** R. Dominguez R. Nicks 3-1 R. Napravnik 5 **Ballistic Sue** G. Contessa 6-1 Catinatree M. Hushion 6 W. Garcia 5-1 J. Velazquez Purely Love M. Trombetta 15-1 Pleasant Heiress 12-1 8 R. Maragh B. Parboo 7-2 Madame Giry E. Castro C. Gambolati 10 MTO I. Ortiz. Jr. Curlina G. Gullo 6-1 5-1 11 MTO Bessie M J. Castellano D. Galluscio 12 MTO Hot Roots J. Lezcano E. Kenneally 4-1 13 MTO Smokin' Alice C. Velasquez G. Weaver 6-1 14 MTO Media Starlett J. Castellano G. Contessa

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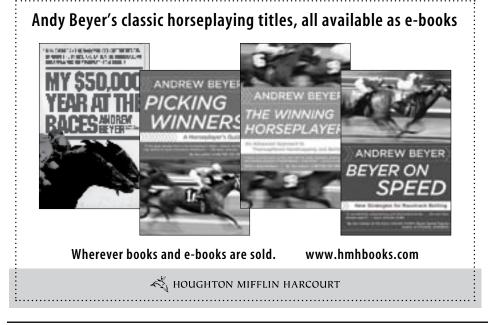
the <b>Powe</b> l gric	John	Gaile	Erin	Dean	Charles
Race #	Shapazian	Fitzgerald	Finley	Keppler	Bedard
1	Lighthouse Bay	Jane Of All Trades	Emotional Kitten	Magical Moon	Runway Ready
	Speaking Role	Lighthouse Bay	Lighthouse Bay	Aussieaussieaussie	Magical Moon
	Magical Moon	Magical Moon	Magical Moon	Runway Ready	Speaking Role
2	Chifa	Chifa	Chifa	Chifa	Chifa
	No More Fives	Should Make It	Go The Distance	Go The Distance	No More Fives
	Go The Distance	No More Fives	No More Fives	No More Fives	Go The Distance
3	Professor Fate Reserved Quality Perfect Trippi	Professor Fate Reserved Quality Perfect Trippi	Professor Fate Reserved Quality Charlie's Quest	Charlie's Quest Reserved Quality Perfect Trippi	Reserved Quality Fusa Code Professor Fate
4	Bridgetta	Bridgetta	Bridgetta	Azasecret	Bridgetta
	Azasecret	Azasecret	Azasecret	Bridgetta	Carrot Thief
	Kellster	Kellster	Carrot Thief	Esthers Classy Las	Esthers Classy Las
5	The Thinker	The Thinker	The Thinker	The Thinker	Ampersand
	Gimme Credit	Hear The Footsteps	Gimme Credit	Gimme Credit	Hear The Footsteps
	Ampersand	Ampersand	Ampersand	Ampersand	The Thinker
6	Button Girl	Button Girl	Revenue	Revenue	Media Starlett
	Catinatree	Revenue	Madame Giry	Button Girl	Purely Love
	Ballistic Sue	Catinatree	Button Girl	Madame Giry	Ballistic Sue
7	Zeenut	Frivolous Alex	Forever Vow	Zeenut	Little Red Rider
	Forever Vow	Forever Vow	Little Red Rider	Sally's Dream	Skips Prospect
	Frivolous Alex	Zeenut	Frivolous Alex	Forever Vow	Forever Vow
8	Isn'tlovejustgrand	Repole Entry	Silver Timber	Repole Entry	Fastest Magician
	Silver Timber	Silver Timber	Isn'tlovejustgrand	Rudy Rudy Rudy	Isn'tlovejustgrand
	Saints Alive	Saints Alive	Saints Alive	Silver Timber	Silver Timber
9	Turbulent Descent	Turbulent Descent	lt's Tricky	It's Tricky	It's Tricky
	It's Tricky	It's Tricky	Turbulent Descent	Turbulent Descent	Derwin's Star
	Nichole H	Nicole H	Nicole H	Belle Of The Hall	Nicole H
10	Let The Kitten Run	Picture Book	Picture Book	Fun And Gains	Ginagain
	Fun And Gains	Let The Kitten Run	Let The Kitten Run	Picture Book	Let The Kitten Run
	Picture Book	Bluegrass Rumor	Fun And Gains	Let The Kitten Run	Picture Book
2012 Records	88/269	95/269	76/269	69/269	59/269



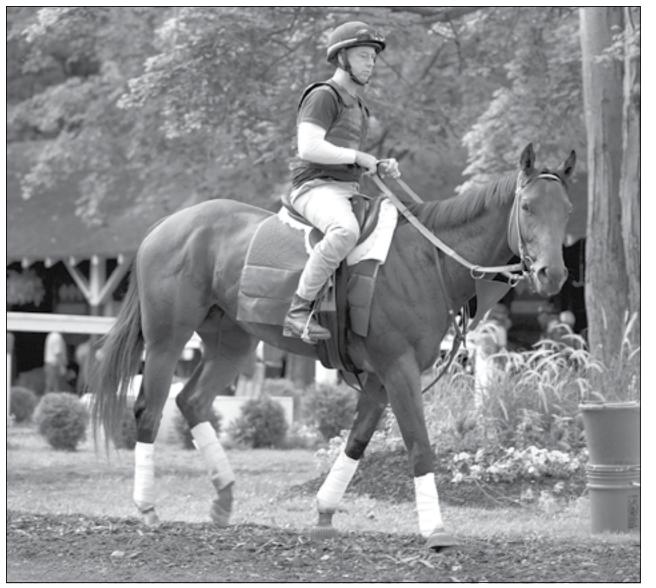
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Turbulent Descent (taking a Saratoga stroll last summer) makes her first start for trainer Todd Pletcher today.

# Welcome to New York

Pletcher, Coolmore unveil Turbulent Descent in Grade 1 sprint

#### BY RYAN JONES AND SEAN CLANCY

So far, so good.

After two months and and six breezes for Todd Pletcher, Turbulent Descent makes her long-anticipated East Coast return, taking center billing in today's Grade I Ballerina. The 4-year-old daughter of Congrats has impressed Pletcher so far, handling the emigration from Mike Puype's California barn to Pletcher's Saratoga barn with ease.

Purchased by the Coolmore team of Mrs. John Magnier, Michael Tabor and Derrick Smith after an allowance win to start her 2012 campaign, Turbulent Descent has settled into her routine and comes into the 7 furlong stakes as the morning line favorite and clear choice. Seven fillies and mares were entered but trainer Kiaran McLaughlin confirmed that It's Tricky will run in Sunday's Personal Ensign rather than the Ballerina. Her defection leaves a void in early speed, class and competition for Turbulent Descent.

See **BALLERINA** page 24 ▶



# Two For THE MONEY!

Mrs. Walter M. Jeffords Filly & Mare Stakes highlights two jump races on final Steeplechase Thursday program on Aug. 30.

There's more to come: Steeplechase Festival at Saratoga on Sept. 15 and Belmont Park's \$150,000 Lonesome Glory Stakes (Gr. 1) on Sunday, Sept. 23.



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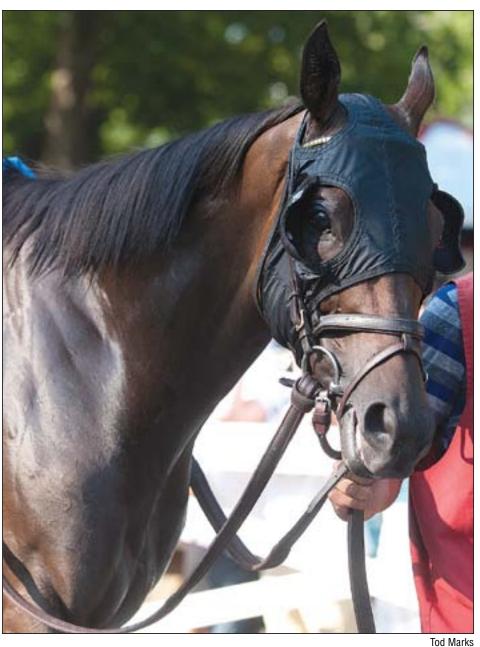
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Late-running Island Bound gets another furlong to work with in today's Ballerina.

#### **Ballerina** —

#### ■ Continued from page 22

A winner of seven races from 11 starts, including last year's Grade 1 Test here, Turbulent Descent has earned \$901,640 in her illustrious career.

"We're pretty excited about running her, she's training very well, from her PPs, we know she's a top class filly and we're lucky to have her," said Pletcher. "If you didn't know her at all from before, she would surprise you in how laid back she is, how push button she is, how off the bridle she can be."

Pletcher flew to California to watch Turbulent Descent train and get a tutorial from Puype.

"I watched her train, got to know her a little bit, he told me a lot about her, knowing that, we kind of knew what to expect," Pletcher said. "If you looked just at her PPs, you'd say, 'Wow, this is a fast filly,' and expect her to go out every day like that. But, she's a very, very professional, laid back, kind filly to be around."

Pletcher began working the Floridabred 4-year-old with a 4-furlong breeze over the main track July 14 and she's worked every Saturday since, completing her preparation with a 4-furlong breeze in 47.91 seconds Aug. 18. Pletcher tabbed John Velazquez for the ride and has had the Hall of Famer work her in the mornings.

"The first time Johnny worked her, he was going along, thinking, 'Is she here?' He kind of chirped to her and she dropped him in the backseat, he was like, 'OK, now turn it back off.' It's cool that she has that kind of mindset," Pletcher said. "Mike Puype said she's

very straightforward and professional, one you can turn on or off, he basically just told me to point her in the right direction."

• Eight months ago, 5-year-old mare Island Bound was running in her third consecutive \$30,000 claiming race. Fresh off a win and a second, a month prior, she finished last, beaten by 18 lengths at Gulfstream. She wasn't claimed. That turned out to be blessing in disguise for trainer Ian Wilkes and owner Bob Manfuso, as today Island Bound competes in her first Grade 1 stakes

"I guess I got lucky she didn't get claimed," said Wilkes with a chuckle. "I wish I could tell you that I'm a genius and all that, but I'm not quite."

For Island Bound, her career has already been filled with triumphs and defeats, seemingly never-ending winless streaks, and a rise to the top worthy of a movie deal. Her story is akin to Rudy mixed with a little bit of Rocky.

Island Bound's story began with seven consecutive losses. Wilkes ultimately lowered her into the maiden claiming ranks, after a pair of sevenths, where she finally picked up her first win. It took 15 months, but Island Bound was on the board with a win, but her struggles continued. After repeatedly failing in allowance races, the trainer again lowered her to the claiming ranks, only this time, the daughter of Speightstown had enough.

After a seventh in a claimer at Gulfstream, Wilkes took her to Tampa Bay Downs for a first-level allowance. She won by 6 lengths and from there Island Bound had stolen the show, finishing worse than second once in eight starts.

See *BALLERINA* page 26 ▶



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#### **Ballerina** —

#### ■ Continued from page 24

"We tweaked just a couple little things on her," said Wilkes. "We got her figured out and then away she went. She got a little better each time."

Island Bound rose through the ranks, placing in three stakes and winning the Grade 3 Winning Colors at Churchill Downs in early June. After a narrow loss to C C's Pal in the Honorable Miss here Aug. 3, Island Bound attempts to complete her rise from the depths in a claiming race to the winner's circle of the Grade 1 at Saratoga.

"Any time you've got a filly and you can get a Grade 1-placed or win on their pedigree that just means a lot for the owner," said Wilkes. "That's one of the

reasons. We always had this race in our mind to give her a shot at it when she got good because like I said, if you can be on the board or win a grade one, that means a lot to the owner, because Mr. Manfuso is a breeder."

As for the race, Julien Leparoux gets the mount for the second straight time. It's fitting he gets the ride seeing as he was with the filly when she ran in claiming races eight months ago.

"She won't have to be as far back as she was before," said Wilkes. "They went 43 (seconds) the first half and she just couldn't stay up with them, she couldn't kick in. It just depends on the pace scenario. You don't have to have a game plane. Julien knows her, he knows how to ride this filly."

At Wilkes' barn, deep in Clare Court, the dark bay mare stood in the corner of her stall and peered through a screen into the adjacent stall Thursday morning

ing.

"How you doing girl?" asked Wilkes as he walked up and leaned into the stall. "You looking at the pony next door?"

Island Bound paused for a second, craned her neck and stared straight at her trainer. The moment only lasted a second, but in that second you could tell.

"She's ready," said Wilkes.

See **BALLERINA** page 27 ▶



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#### **Ballerina** —

#### **■** Continued from page 26

• Mike Hushion sends out Nicole H for her first start since finishing second in the Grade 1 Princess Rooney at Calder in early July. Owned by Gem Inc, the daughter of Mr. Greeley has lost five straight, including tough losses in the Grade 2 Barbara Fritchie, Vagrancy and the Princess Rooney, beaten a half-length or less in all three. Ramon Dominguez rides.

Former claimer Derwin's Star breaks from the outside post for trainer/coowner Steve Klesaris and other owner Marcia Cohen. The 5-year-old daughter of Wildcat Heir won the Bed O' Roses at Belmont July 1 before finishing seventh while trying two turns in the Molly Pitcher. David Cohen rides for the first time

West Point Thoroughbreds' Belle Of The Hall finished behind Island Bound and Nicole H in her two recent starts. Trained by Tom Albertrani, the daughter of Graeme Hall began the year with an allowance score at Gulfstream before trying five consecutive stakes starts. Irad Ortiz rides.

Rick Dutrow ships in All Due Respect from her Aqueduct base, searching for her first win since a restricted stakes score last March. The daughter of Value Plus returns from two turf starts where she finished off the board for Paul Pompa and Taylor Brothers Properties.



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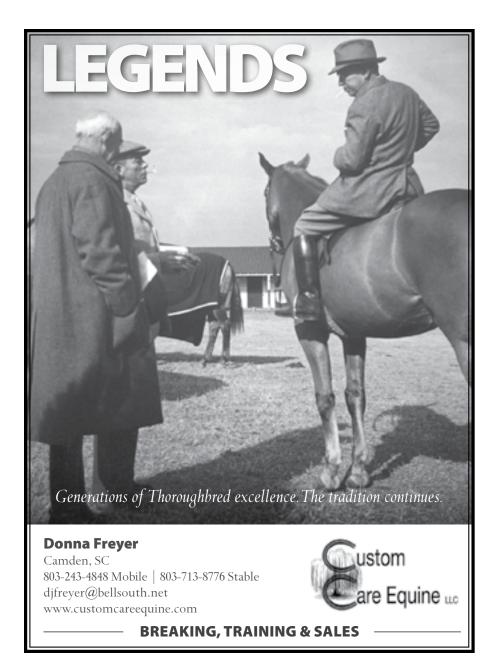
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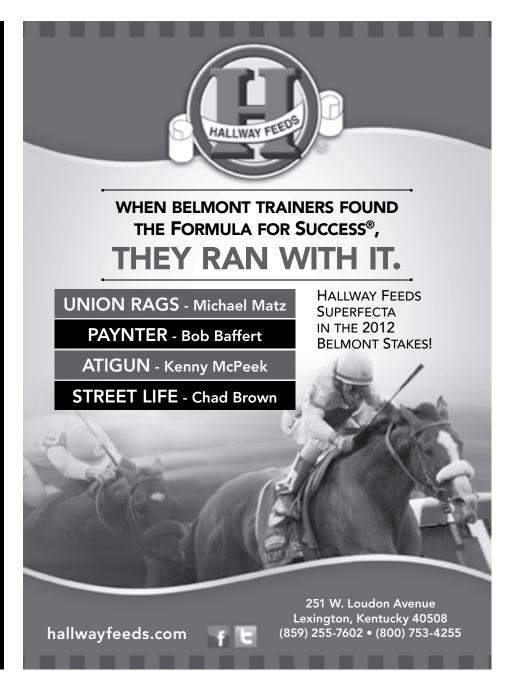
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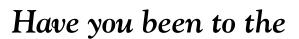
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Team Valor International	9	6	4	3	
Eclipse TB Partners	5	4	2	1	
Pinnacle Racing	4	2	3	2	
Peachtree	3	3	2	2	
Starlight	3	3	2	2	
Dream Team Stable	2	2	1	1	
Donegal Racing	1	1	1	1	
Class Racing	1	1	1	1	
Let's Go Stable	1	1	1	1	
Thoroughbred Legends	1	1	1	1	
West Point	1	1	1	1	
Three Chimneys	1	1	0	0	
Dogwood	1	1	0	0	
IEAH	1	1	0	0	
Live Your Dreams	1	1	0	0	
Majestic Racing	1	1	0	0	
Summit Racing	1	1	0	0	
Blinkers On	1	1	0	0	
Bongo	0	0	0	0	
Centennial	0	0	0	0	
Fantasy Lane Stable	0	0	0	0	
Funky Monkey Stable	0	0	0	0	
Magdalena Racing	0	0	0	0	
Parting Glass Racing	0	0	0	0	
Sackatoga Stable	0	0	0	0	
Sovereign	0	0	0	0	
Starview	0	0	0	0	
Thoroughbred Futures	0	0	0	0	
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# In Defence



by Joe Clancy

Thursday's steeplechase was not pretty.

Two horses, both well bet, fell at the last fence – skidding and sliding into harm's way and nearly causing more damage to others in the Grade 1 New York Turf Writers Cup.

Sorry. The horses didn't mean to fall. The trainers didn't mean for them to fall. The jockeys didn't drag their mounts to the turf.

In addition, this just in, the world did not reverse on its axis, cats and dogs did not start living together and it did not rain frogs.

The Turf Writers (I didn't name it, but somebody – probably a journalistic legend – thought it was a good idea back in 1938) was not a signal to ban jump racing, just like Wednesday's fall by a flat horse at Saratoga was not an alarm to stop flat racing. Unless you're unreasonable, some kind of zealot. It's part of the game; nobody likes it but there's no getting around it – not entirely anyway. Horse racing, like auto racing, bicycle racing, dog racing, walking across the street, will never be without accidents.

And an accident shouldn't overshadow the performance of race winner Demonstrative, who covered 4 7/16 miles and 19 fences at the meet – winning twice, earning \$150,000 and showcasing another of the Thoroughbred's unique talents. Imagine being able to

do what these horses can.

I talked to trainers Tom Voss and Jonathan Sheppard Thursday night, and Left Unsaid and Divine Fortune emerged from Thursday's race with no injuries. The same goes for jockeys Paddy Young and Brian Crowley. All were angry, scared, disgusted at lost opportunities. Divine Fortune even went down to the next fence and jumped it – without Crowley – just to show everyone he could do it.

When the horses hit the ground, in front of 14,712 spectators at the track and the world via HRTV, TVG, the OTB Channel and the Internet, I braced: for the evening news, the morning newspapers (not this one), the social-media fallout. Before I finished interviewing winning trainer Richard Valentine, my Twitter account buzzed – frequently. It started with a "Paging @stpublishing . . ." and went from there. One early opinion compared the race to a scandal.

Racing has its fair share of scandals, a fall in a steeplechase is not one. It's an accident. Like the one on the training track this week. Like the one on the main track this week. Like all the accidents.

This is not a steeplechase newspaper. It's a Saratoga racing newspaper and since pretty much forever jump racing has been part of Saratoga. So we cover it like we do the other races, with the horses and the people in mind. Spring and fall, we cover jump racing for our newspaper Steeplechase Times, so we've seen our share of falls. Sean rode steeplechase horses in races. I galloped them, saddled them. Our father trained them. We've seen horses win, lose, fall, run for a decade, die in their first starts.

Sometimes it's not easy, and nobody – anywhere, ever – gets comfortable with horses falling down or

getting hurt. We won't say Thursday was a shining example of sport, but we won't condemn it either.

So, sure, I'll defend the game – as a second career for a Thoroughbred, as a chance to see something phenomenally athletic (equine and human), as a link to the past, as something a little different.



You want to know why jump racing exists?

Because it always has. It's different, another path, another career. Like flat racing, it's not perfect. But it's here. Look at Thursday's chart: the eight runners were between 5 and 10 years old. They're all geldings, all still productive, all still racing.

Demonstrative, a son of Elusive Quality, was bred in Kentucky by Gainsborough. He raced in England for Sheikh Hamdan. His sister ran for Darley and Tom Albertrani. Thusday's steeplechase winner is as Thoroughbred as any other horse on the grounds.

Demonstrative won once in England, in a cheap race at Southwell, then washed out, sold at auction and became a jumper. With Thursday's win, he passed \$253,000 in steeplechase earnings.

Think about where he'd be without jump racing, then do the same for the 10-year-old Decoy Daddy, 9-year-old Divine Fortune, 8-year-old Nationbuilder and Spy In The Sky, 7-year-old Left Unsaid and All Together, 6-year-old Charminster.



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# **cup**of**coffee**

# Turf Walsh



by Sean Clancy

Robbie Walsh paused and thought about the achievement, the moment. Sweat pouring down his face, mouth parched, still in Jacqueline Ohrstrom's yellow and blue sashed silks, four minutes of pressure released. Walsh smiled widely – part jockey, part

said. "To come here and ride here, for 11 years, and finally win it last year and again this year, it kind of puts a stamp on it, 'You know what? It took me a lot of years, but I've made it.' I think."

Walsh won last year's New York Turf Writers Cup aboard Mabou, an outlandish claimer-turned-stakeswinner he met in the paddock. This year, Walsh rode his best horse, Demonstrative, kayaking through a rough and tumble edition of the Grade I \$150,000 stakes to run down Charminster after the last hurdle.

Born in Ireland, Walsh gallops for Graham Motion in the morning and rides races on the weekends. This year, Walsh won the first race of the year in March, didn't win another one until Demonstrative in July. The Turf Writers made three on the year.

Winning the venerable stakes at Saratoga provides a moment of legitimacy, a moment of worthiness for any jockey. Being a jump jockey will make a man question his soul. Long days, hard falls, missed meals. fickle clients . . . it takes a daft man to not wonder

what he's doing with his life.

Winning erases any wonderment.

"It meant so much last year, it meant everything. I won some novice stakes, but that was my first grade one," Walsh said. "It's the Turf Writers, it's Cheltenham or Punchestown to me, I've been lucky enough to ride at Punchestown, to win this, people at home are glued to this, it's the Turf Writers, it's a name that's synonymous everywhere, back in Ireland. It's the race that's talked about, this and the Colonial Cup, those were the only two I knew about growing up.'

Walsh has yet to win the Colonial Cup. He and De-"It's the Turf Writers. The Turf Writers," Walsh monstrative can do that in November. Walsh and Demonstrative have teamed up for 12 consecutive voyages. The American-bred, British-raced gelding and the Irish-born, American-based jockey have produced four wins, four seconds, two thirds, a sixth and a lost rider in 12 starts, dating back to March, 2011. They have combined for polished wins, suffered through bad trips and parted company when disagreeing like a married couple in a parking lot.

Trainer Richard Valentine never panicked, sticking

"You always worry. You always worry when something doesn't go right, he's such a good horse, you always worry a little bit," Walsh said. "Richard has been good to me, he's been very honest with me and I've been very honest with him. We talk about it if mistakes are made and try not to make them it, learned a lot from it, he learned a lot and I learned

On Demonstrative's form, no other jockey's name Writers."

appears, Walsh's name runs the length of the chart, from Aiken to Saratoga. Loyalty and longevity were rewarded Thursday.

"To know him that well, to know him to the inch, how good or bad he is each day, he's run so well when he's not right that people think he's spot on and he hasn't been, he'll run better than he should, he's so tough," Walsh said. "He was awkward last year, green. Maybe it's the best thing for him, he made that mistake, I came off him and he's been more technical, not nearly as long and guessy at his fences. That's helped coming up against these horses."

It wasn't pretty Thursday as Demonstrative lacked room on the final turn and searched for room coming to the last, somehow finding a handhold around the falling Divine Fortune at the last. Demonstrative came back bleeding from his right hind leg, clipped as he navigated past - through - Divine Fortune at the last. In a game of inches, an inch or two one way or the other and this column is about Carl Rafter and Charminster instead of Walsh and Demonstrative.

"Last year was a fluke. This year, I came in thinking I had a real good chance, but you try not to put pressure on yourself, just go out and ride your race," Walsh said. "I got in trouble, 'Don't panic, don't panic.' It's always there for him. He was sharp today, he switched on and off. He's quick touch, you have to be careful, he's so quick."

Walsh took a cup of Gatorade from his valet and again, I made mistakes on this horse, I learned from smiled one last time, holding onto the moment, knowing they don't come often.

"It's the Turf Writers," Walsh said. "The Turf

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