Year 11 • No. 27 SARATOGA'S DAILY NEWSPAPER ON THOROUGHBRED RACING

Thursday, August 25, 2011





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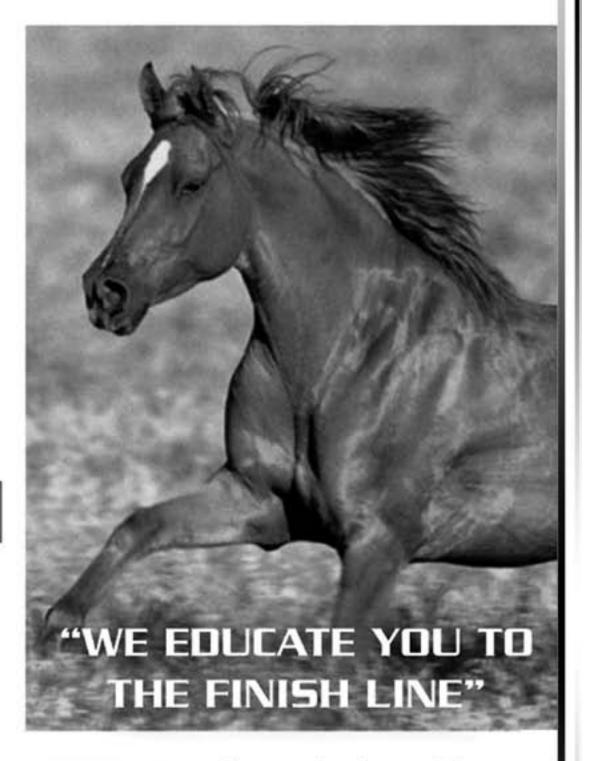
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here&there... at Saratoga



Connie Bush

New Horse, Old Trick. Irish raider Dirar scratches his back at the Oklahoma Annex Wednesday.

WORTH REPEATING The Special's quotes from Saratoga

"Barry's so high after that maiden win that it took the pressure off the rest of the meet."

Trainer Mike Hushion, who won a maiden with Barry Schwartz's B Shanny, about being relieved when Lovely Lil won the Union Avenue

"I guess I don't have to go to work for Matt after all."

Hushion, after winning his eighth race at the meet and prolonging the move to work for former assistant Matt Groff in the financial industry

"That's the picture I'm talking about."

Saul Castellanos, assistant for trainer Mark Hennig, when seeing the cover of The Special Wednesday

"I need that photo. That goes on the tack room wall."

Anthony Bonomo, when seeing the photo of a soaking-wet Dominick Schettino

"You can lose that one."

Schettino, on the same photo

"The Darley Flying Start Program to handing out newspapers?"

Trainer Rusty Arnold, questioning the career choice of The Special's Katie Bo Williams

"Where's your underling?"

Jock's agent Matt Muzikar to Katie Bo Williams, minutes later

"It took me two days to read it."

Jock's agent Mike Gonzalez, about the New York Times' three-page feature on Todd Pletcher

"I'm not exactly working on my SAT vocabulary here."

Catherine Toner, talking about her education while working for her father Jimmy Toner

"That's never happened before."

Equipharm's John Post, as an earthquake hit Pennsylvania

"I just thought we lived in an old house and it was falling down."

Keegan Shields, nephew to the Special, on the earthquake

"I think this building shakes all the time, that's why we didn't feel it."

The Cupcake Lab's Elizabeth Phillips, on why
no one at 517 Broadway felt the quake

"He looks like Stevie Van Zandt, from the E Street Band."

Valet Harry Rice, on bandana-wearing jockey/karaoke star Mike Luzzi



here&there...

Continued from previous page



Country and Western. Ramon Dominguez (left) and Alex Solis were a little bit country at jockey karaoke, which raised money for the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund.

NAMES OF THE DAY

Stay Composed, third race. Good advice.

Luck, fifth race. What we all need.

Yesterday's Story, ninth race. Reminds us of today's Special.

BY THE NUMBERS

1: Taxi cab parked in Horse Haven Wednesday morning

WEATHER

Today: Scattered thunderstorms. High, 76. Low, 63.

Friday: Partly cloudy. High, 79. Low, 60.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy. High, 78. Low, 66.

Sunday: Rain. High, 67. Low, 59.



JUST SAYIN'

"Sometimes you just can't make them do it, they've got to be willing to do it and she wasn't willing to rate that day, it took him threeeighths of a mile to get her back in behind them, if you have to fight them for three-eighths of a mile it takes a lot out of them. When I used to ride races, I used to try and do everything real easy . . . "

> - Trainer Bill Mott, who definitely never rode races, discussing Royal Delta's trip in the CCA Oaks

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THE SARATOGA SPECIAL THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2011

At The Helm

Sheppard steers four players into Grade I jump race

BY KATIE BO WILLIAMS

"I'm not sure it's even necessary, I'm probably doing it for myself as much as them," Jonathan Sheppard said.

The trainer led two of his phalanx of entries in today's Grade I Turf Writers to the Oklahoma infield to school over fences Wednesday morning. It's a little like crossing a busy highway with a kindergartner: there's a traffic cop, but you probably still ought to hold someone's hand. The horses don't really mind – crossing the busy dirt track or jumping in the infield.

"The older horses, they know how to jump, you just make sure they get their eye in," Sheppard said. "This will be the first fence Nationbuilder has jumped



Tod Marks

Trainer Jonathan Sheppard sends out four horses with eyes on a 14th Turf Writers win today.

since he ran in the Smithwick three weeks ago."

Sheppard released Sweet Shani and Brian Crowley, and the rangy gray mare cantered off with Nation-builder and Darren Nagle just behind.

"Shall we let Darren lead over the warm-up fence?" Sheppard called. "Try not to go racing around too much after you get over."

Thirty minutes, two sets, four horses, all entered in the same Grade I stakes: it's a fine art, strategizing that kind of assault force, but Sheppard has won four of the six Saratoga jump races this year – and 13 Turf

Writers – for a reason.

"They all have somewhat similar styles of running, to be honest," Sheppard said of today's quartet. "They all kind of sit in the back or the middle of the pack and make a run at the end. I was a little concerned about that, but I don't want to sacrifice one of the horses. They are all contenders in their own different ways."

The contenders: Nationbuilder and Sweet Shani

See **TURF WRITERS** page 8 ▶

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Smithwick winner Divine Fortune and Brian Crowley head back to the barn Wednesday morning.

Turf Writers —

■ Continued from page 6

(coupled at 4-1 on the morning line), Divine Fortune and Sermon Of Love (the 9-5 favorites).

Nationbuilder wheeled over the two schooling fences like a horse who has his eye well in. Mary Ann Houghland's runner looks for his first win in open company. Third in the Grade I Iroquois and third in the Grade II Smithwick in his two 2011 starts, the son of Came Home will carry Danielle Hodson to the post at 142 pounds, 14 less than Divine Fortune.

"I think he's in with a shot," Sheppard said. "He's had a run up here, I think he likes the longer distance. Whether he's quite good enough, it's still his first year in open company. Last year he was running in novice company, but he did well. He won a big race at Far Hills, \$100,000, beat a horse called All Together who's established himself. He's a tough horse. He's a little keen, gets a little headstrong sometimes, but not bad."

Hodsdon and Nationbuilder fell while schooling at Sheppard's Pennsylvania farm this summer, leaving the jockey with shoulder and rib injuries.

"He was a little bit keen going down over three hurdles on the farm," Sheppard recalled. "She's purposely holding back on him because she knows he's going to go into high gear. Brian was holding his horse back waiting for her, looking over his shoulder and

See **TURF WRITERS** page 10 ▶

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Sean Clancy

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2011 THE SARATOGA SPECIAL

Turf Writers —

■ Continued from page 8

all of a sudden, choo, she just flies by. Her horse is going a little bit too rapidly and being chased by another horse from behind. He stands a little too far back and falls."

Nationbuilder was fine and ran in the Smithwick a few weeks later. Hodsdon returned to riding races last week, finishing fourth aboard One Giant Step for Sheppard.

Sweet Shani made her 2011 debut at the Iroquois meet in May, winning a \$50,000 filly/mare stakes at 2 1/4 miles. The New Zealand-bred came to Sheppard after winning major jump races in Australia and bears the indelible grayblue brand of a southern hemisphere horse on her shoulder. The striking mare is 11, and strolling around the jogging loop out back at the Annex, she looked like a settled and dignified matron compared to the fussy filly she was upon her American arrival.

"Nice old mare, isn't she?" Sheppard said. "First thing she did when she got over here, she seemed a little bit on guard, sort of pinned her ears when you approached her. One evening, I think when they started to set out the feed, the back wall of the stall she was in is cinderblock and she kicked it really hard. I thought, she just bruised it, she'll be fine. Four or five days later, she still was really sore, the vet said we better take some pictures, she had fractured her cannon bone back there. Now we've gotten to know one anoth-



Sean Clancy

Smithwick runner-up Decoy Daddy zips through a blowout in the Oklahoma infield Wednesday.

er a little better, she seems more trusting and seems happy."

Sweet Shani ran in the Turf Writers four years ago and has placed in sev-

eral Grade I stakes vs. males including placings to champions McDynamo and Good Night Shirt over the years. She retunites with jockey Xavier Aizpuru, aboard for several quality starts in 2008 and 2009.

See *TURF WRITERS* page 11 ▶

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Turf Writers —

■ Continued from page 10

Divine Fortune won his second consecutive Smithwick last out, defeating Nationbuilder and today's rival Decoy Daddy. He was fourth to Sermon Of Love in the Turf Writers last year. Crowley will take the ride on Bill Pape's 8-year-old, who bids for the first sweep of the major Saratoga jump races since Campanile's double in 1999.

"I would imagine he would be up fairly close to the pace because Brian is a fairly aggressive rider," Sheppard said. "Going the longer distance, they usually go a little bit slower."

Pape also owns Sermon Of Love, who was pulled up by Crowley in the Grade I Iroquois over 3 miles in May. Nagle will ride today. The son of Pulpit won the Turf Writers last year, running twice since: the Iroquois and a seventh in the Grade I Helen Haskell Sampson at Monmouth in September.

"He had a splint that was bothering him all summer so he's had a rather hurried preparation," Sheppard said. "Ideally I would have liked him to have at least had a training flat race at the Open House to get him tuned up. There could be a fitness factor involved."

The 30-minute schooling slot ends, four horses back safely in their stalls, one more hurdle cleared. It's a lot accomplished, four Grade I contenders in such a short time.

"It doesn't give you a lot of time, 30 minutes, when you've got to get two sets out," Sheppard said. "You have to

be prepared. Preparation is 50 percent of genius."

After the Sheppard entries, Irv Naylor's ultra-consistent Decoy Daddy comes in off a second to Divine Fortune in the Smithwick. The chestnut has been first or second in his last five and took a commanding lead into the stretch before being caught late last time. Tom Foley shipped the 9-year-old up from Maryland and gave him a final tightener of some schooling and a quarter-mile blowout at Oklahoma. Ross Geraghty rides at 3-1 on the morning line.

Irish raider Dirar (see sidebar) checks in at 5-1 off a third in the Galway Hurdle for trainer Gordon Elliott and jockey Barry Geraghty (Ross' brother). Armata Stable's Dynaski (8-1,

Paddy Young) was a well-beaten fifth in the Smithwick, his first jump finish out of the exacta in eight tries. Trainer Jack Fisher goes for his third jump win of the meet with Straight To It, seventh behind stablemate All Together here July 28. Second in a stakes at Colonial Downs in late June, the 5-year-old gets Willie Dowling and is 12-1. Trainer David Jacobson makes his steeplechase debut with Mabou, whom he claimed for \$30,000 out of a jump race here Aug. 4. Racing for Voss, the 8-year-old won five of 10 jump starts over the past two seasons, but makes his first open stakes start. Robbie Walsh rides at 20-1. Spy In The Sky, the 2009 Turf Writers winner, is a likely scratch.

The Turf Writers goes as the first race, with a 1 p.m. post.





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THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2011 THE SARATOGA SPECIAL



The Special, ask for it!

THURSDAY'S SARATOGA ENTRIES

1ST (1:00PM). \$100,000, STK - THE NEW YORK TURF WRITERS CUP, 4 YO'S & UP, 2 3/8M (HURDLE)

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double X. Aizpuru J. Sheppard Sweet Shani (NZ) Nationbuilder D. Hodsdon J. Sheppard 4-1 1a 8 9-5 2 5 Divine Fortune B. Crowley J. Sheppard Sermon of Love D. Nagle J. Sheppard 9-5 Dirar (IRE) B. Geraghty G. Elliott R. Walsh Mabou D. Jacobson 20-1 Straight to It W. Dowling J. Fisher 5 12-1 Spy in the Sky J. Murphy J. Day 20-1 Decoy Daddy (IRE) R. Geraghty T. Foley 3-1 P. Young 8-1 Dynaski T. Voss

2ND (1:35PM). \$29,000, MCL \$50,000-\$40,000, 3 & UP, F & M. 6 1/2F

ĽΧ	acta,	, Quillella, Illiecta, Pi	C 3, PIC 4, Daily Dol	inie						
1	1	Thunder Lilly	R. Maragh	R. Nicks	5-2					
2	2	Zero Yield	R. Dominguez	C. Brown	2-1					
3	3	Skiddles n' Bob	J. Espinoza	S. Hough	5-1					
4	4	Dattts Appealing	A. Solis	M. Hennig	8-1					
5	5	Fast Fantasy	J. Castellano	G. ladisernia	8-1					
6	6	Purely Love	J. Velazquez	M. Trombetta	7-2					
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Ex	acta	Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily	Double		
1	1	Alydarla	K. Desormeaux	J. Chapman	7-
2	2	Stay Composed	J. Castellano	B. Brown	7-
3	3	Krissy Kat	C. Nakatani	R. Nicks	6-
4	4	Holiday Broad	J. Lezcano	E. Kenneally	5-
5	5	Tap a Bay Yankee	J. Leparoux	R. Hess, Jr.	6-
6	6	Well Kept	A. Solis	L. Gyarmati	15-
7	7	Barbados Beauty	R. Dominguez	S. Asmussen	5-
4T	H (2	:41PM). \$53.000. AL	.W, 3 YO'S & UP, 1N	/I (INNER TURF)	

411	T (Z.4	FIFIVI). ֆᲔᲔ,UUU, ALV	ν, ο το ο α ο Γ , τινι ((INNER TURF)	
Exa	icta, (Quinella, Trifecta, Pic	3, Pic 6, Daily Double	ė	
1	1	Nine O Wonderful	R. Maragh	H. Bond	
2	2	Fire With Fire	J. Lezcano	W. Mott	
3	3	Missinglisalewis	J. Velazquez	C. Domino	
4	4	Targhee Pass	I. Ortiz, Jr.	H. Jerkens	
5	5	Bakhoor	E. Castro	K. McLaughlin	
6	6	Irish Lion	C. Velasquez	G. Bennett	
7	7	Solvent	A. Solis	G. Weaver	1
8	MTO	Rein King	E. Castro	J. Terranova, II	
9	MTO	Global Power	J. Castellano	C. Brown	
10	MTO	Sam Sparkle		G. Contessa	

5TH (3:15PM). \$23,000, CLM \$15,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

Ex	Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double								
1	1	Awesome Review	C. Velasquez	J. Baker	5-2				
2	2	Hurricane Heat	I. Ortiz, Jr.	G. Sciacca	10-1				
3	3	Smart Enuf	J. Velazquez	D. Donk	5-1				
4	4	Metrology	J. Castellano	R. Rodriguez	7-2				
5	5	Elder Skatesman	K. Desormeaux	W. Allyn	15-1				
6	6	Cinder Cone	R. Maragh	C. Englehart	2-1				
7	7	Luck	A. Lezcano	R. Hernandez	15-1				

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EXC	ıcıa,	itilecia, Pic 3, Pic 4, i	Jally Double		
1	1	Gunman	E. Prado	J. Baker	6-1
2	2	Writethatdown	C. Hill	E. Coletti, Jr.	12-1
3	3	Exchangingmemories	J. Espinoza	T. Walters	12-1
4	4	Allen's Star	M. Cruz	K. McPeek	5-1
5	5	Go to the Net	I. Ortiz, Jr.	G. Sciacca	10-1
6	6	Bundestag (GB)	J. Castellano	J. Day	8-1
7	7	Lindell A. C.	J. Leparoux	S. Asmussen	7-2
8	8	Last Hurrah	A. Solis	W. Higgins	15-1
9	9	Tell Grant	J. Velazquez	L. Rice	3-1
10	10	Lion Prince	R. Curatolo	R. Lerman	12-1
11	MTO	Mr. Popps	K. Desormeaux	M. Scherer	7-2
12	MTO	Angel's Sea	J. Castellano	G. ladisernia	6-1

7TH (4:23PM). \$22,000, MCL \$25,000, 3 & UP, F & M , 5 1/2F (TURF)

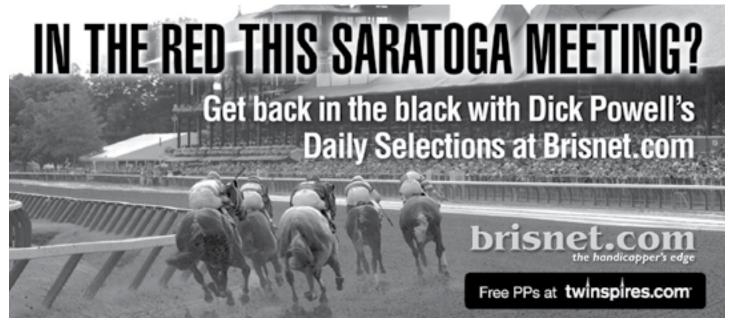
EX	icta,	Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily D	ouble		
1	1	Le Grand Fromage	C. Velasquez	L. Rice	6-
2	2	Margaro	A. Lezcano	G. Sciacca	30-
3	3	August Gala	I. Ortiz, Jr.	W. Badgett, Jr.	12-
4	4	Rennina	R. Dominguez	H. Bond	5-
5	5	Margo Verge	A. Garcia	B. Levine	5-2
6	6	Swim	M. Mena	W. Cesare	20-
7	7	Hopeoverexperience	D. Cohen	R. Violette, Jr.	6-
8	8	Pleasant Heiress	E. Castro	B. Parboo	3-
9	9	Miss Alondra	J. Castellano	G. ladisernia	8-
10	10	Sucre	J. Samyn	J. Jobidon	20-
11	MTO	Justleavemealone	I. Ortiz, Jr.	W. Badgett, Jr.	8-
12	MTO	Patine	J. Castellano	B. Levine	3-

8TH (4:57PM). \$46,000, CLM \$50,000-\$40,000, 3 YO, 1M (INNER TURF)

EX	acta,	Trifecta, Daily Double			
1	1	Ahgogo	J. Chavez	P. Kelly	10-1
2	2	Kid Curry	A. Solis	S. Hough	6-1
3	3	Bert B Don	J. Castellano	D. Fawkes	8-1
4	4	Dual Citizen	R. Maragh	D. Duggan	6-1
5	5	The Man Uptown	J. Velazquez	C. Brown	5-2
6	6	Argentine Talisman	J. Leparoux	M. Matz	7-2
7	7	J Isle	E. Castro	K. Schwartz	4-1
8	8	Z Appeal	R. Dominguez	M. Maker	12-1
9	MTO	Sensational Slam	•	T. Pletcher	2-1
10	MTO	Cat Sweep		J. Terranova, II	6-1
11	MTO	David the Great	F. Lenclud	M. Nihei	7-2

9TH (5:31PM). \$24,000, CLM \$20,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)									
Exa	acta,	Trifecta							
1	5	Strictly Society	R. Curatolo	P. Serpe	7-2				
1a	ΑE	Yesterday's Story	R. Curatolo	C. Martin	7-2				
2	1	Zaahy	J. Leparoux	C. Clement	5-1				
3	2	Petey Cramer	C. Velasquez	L. Rice	3-1				
4	3	No La Hace	C. Nakatani	E. Guillot	6-1				
5	4	Boston Pop	E. Castro	G. Weaver	15-1				
6	6	Tennis Racket	R. Albarado	R. Werner	10-1				
7	7	Check the Cites	J. Velazquez	L. Rice	10-1				
8	8	Old Kit Bag	A. Lezcano	R. Ubillo	30-1				
9	9	Freudian Dilemma	J. Rodriguez	C. Doran	20-1				
10	10	Structural Change	R. Dominguez	T. Bush	4-1				
11	ΑE	Saratoga Steve	J. Castellano	J. Terranova, II	12-1				
12	ΑE	Assorted Colors	R. Maragh	T. Hills	15-1				
13	ΑE	Great Aztec	L. Colon	D. Kobiskie	15-1				
14	MTO	Lubango	J. Castellano	C. Englehart	7-2				

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6-1

4-1

the Powe grid					
Race #	John	Gaile	Dean	Erin	Charles
	Shapazian	Fitzgerald	Keppler	Finley	Bedard
1	Pape Entry	Pape Entry	Decoy Daddy	Pape Entry	Pape Entry
	Houghland Entry	Decoy Daddy	Pape Entry	Houghland Entry	Dirar
	Dirar	Nationbuilder	Houghland Entry	Decoy Daddy	Houghland Entry
2	Zero Yield	Zero Yield	Purely Love	Purely Love	Thunder Lilly
	Purely Love	Thunder Lilly	Zero Yield	Zero Yield	Skiddles N' Bob
	Skiddles N' Bob	Dattts Appealing	Skiddles N' Bob	Thunder Lilly	Purely Love
3	Barbados Beauty Stay Composed Holiday Broad Global Power	Barbados Beauty Alydarla Well Kept	Barbados Beauty Stay Composed Holiday Broad Global Power	Barbados Beauty Alydarla Holiday Broad Global Power	Alydarla Stay Composed Holiday Broad
4	Fire With Fire Targhee Pass Metrology	Global Power Targhee Pass Fire With Fire Metrology	Nine O Wonderful Fire With Fire Luck	Bakhoor Fire With Fire Metrology	Missinglisalewis Bakhoor Fire With Fire Awesome Review
5	Cinder Cone Awesome Review Tell Grant	Awesome Review Cinder Cone Lindell A. C.	Cinder Cone Metrology Mr. Popps	Cinder Cone Awesome Review Lindell A. C.	Metrology Smart Enuf Gunman
6	Lindell A. C.	Mr. Popps	Tell Grant	Allen's Star	Tell Grant
	Allen's Star	Tell Grant	Gunman	Writethatdown	Go To The Net
	Pleasant Heiress	Patine	Patine	Margo Verge	Pleasant Heiress
7	Hopeoverexperience	Pleasant Heiress	Pleasant Heiress	Pleasant Heiress	Rennina
	Margo Verge	Rennina	Margo Verge	Hopeoverexperience	Le Grand Fromage
	David The Great	David The Great	David the Great	The Man Uptown	Kid Curry
8	The Man Uptown	The Man Uptown	Argentine Talisman	Sensational Slam	Argentine Talisman
	Argentine Talisman	Argentine Talisman	Dual Citizen	Dual Citizen	Dual Citizen
9	Petey Cramer Strictly Society No La Hace	Strictly Society Structural Change No La Hace	Lubango Petey Cramer Flying Zee Entry	Tennis Racket Petey Cramer No La Hace	Strictly Society Check The Cites Old Kit Bag
Records	74/234	69/234	54/234	61/234	49/234

Handicapper Scorecard

Gaile Fitzgerald closed to within five wins of John Shapazian with four victories Wednesday afternoon. There are only nine days left for The Special staff members (excluding the two remaining Monday dark days for the paper), and plenty of time for it to go any direction in what is sure to be an exciting finish.

Charles Bedard had three wins, and like Fitzgerald also selected Majestic Hope (\$11.80), She Drives Me Wild (\$5.50) and Buckleupbuttercup (\$5.50).

There is a pick 6 carryover of \$58,602 on today's card after Bigger Is Bettor (\$54.50) and Staff Sargeant (\$43.80) lit up the toteboard in what was a very difficult sequence.



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2011 THE SARATOGA SPECIAL 13

Irish horse Dirar launches U.S. bid

BY JOE CLANCY

Irish raider Dirar completed a schooling session and short blowout on the turf at Oklahoma Wednesday morning, had a bath and hit a turnout paddock at the Annex. The small bay gelding trotted around, checked out the scene, laid down for a good roll.

And made himself right at home. Gordon Elliott took it all in and smiled.

"If he was a hand higher, we wouldn't have him, he'd be a proper flat horse or someone else would have bought him," said the trainer of the £35,000 Doncaster Sales graduate in 2008.

Instead, Dirar is a hurdler and heads to today's \$100,000 New York Turf Writers Cup as an international factor against the Americans. Owned by Michael White, Marcus Reeder and Emma Johansen-Wooder, the 6-year-old arrived in Saratoga this week and looks like he belongs in the field of nine.

Dirar comes off a third in the Galway Hurdle July 28 at the Galway Festival in Ireland. Held each summer, Galway attracts top-class horses and normally produces fast ground. Dirar's 7-length defeat in the 2-mile race came on ground labeled good. Winner Moon Dice cov-

N.Y. TURF WRITERS PREVIEW

ered 2 miles in a quick 3:39 1/5, which ought to compare to Saratoga. Further, Dirar was good enough to win the Ebor Handicap on the flat last summer in England. The son of King's Best owns nine career wins, four over jumps, and lifetime earnings of \$392,482.

He also holds the distinction of winning races on back-to-back days in 2009, taking hurdle races at Uttoxeter July 23 and Southwell July 24 after starting a three-race winning streak nine days earlier at Worcester.

Elliot believes the horse is sitting on a good effort.

"He's a stakes horse on the flat, not an ordinary horse," Elliott said. "I'm not saying he's going to win, I'm not being smart or being cheeky, but if he runs up to his form they have him to beat."

Dirar schooled over the American hurdles - slightly different to those in Ireland - Wednesday and looked quick, agile, comfortable. He hasn't won a jump race since June 2010, however, and must overcome a solid field and the trip from Ireland. Barry Geraghty comes over for the ride.

With eyes on the \$250,000 Grand



Irish horse Dirar gets a taste of an American hurdle at Oklahoma Wednesday.

National at Far Hills, N.J. in October, Elliott plans to leave Dirar in the U.S. for a fall campaign.

"Win, lose or draw tomorrow is not as important to us as the race in October," said Elliott, a former amateur jockey who rode in the Maryland Hunt

Cup. "There aren't many opportunities for the horse in Ireland anymore, he's highly handicapped and he has to have good ground. It's a race we've thought about for the last year so we shall find out. The owners are good people and want to have a bit of fun. Here we are."

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- Overdriven GII Sanford winner at Saratoga for Mike Repole and Todd Pletcher
 - Twelve Hundred at Prairie Meadows for B. Jock Racing and James Divito
 - My Due Process at Saratoga for Priscilla Vaccarezza and Dale Romans
 - Banner Bill won 3 races in a row (including 2 stakes at Woodbine) for Ron Magers, Rob Marcocchio and Ralph Biamonte
 - Zow at Belmont Park for Mike Repole and Todd Pletcher
 - Motion Lounge at Saratoga for Brooklyn Boyz and Dominick Schettino

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Better Bettor

Owner/breeder Broman, horse cash in with stakes victory

BY SEAN CLANCY

Chester Broman bets every horse he runs - win/place, exacta box with the favorite. If he's the favorite, he takes the second choice. That's all he bets, never anybody else's horses.

He had lost 13 races in a row before Wednesday's Albany when he sent out the longest shot on the board, Bigger Is Bettor. Broman boxed the 26-1 shot with favorite Socialsaul.

Ding, ding, ding, we have a winner. Bigger Is Bettor rallied latest of all, devouring Socialsaul in the final strides to win the \$100,000 New York-bred stakes by three quarters of a length over

Gary Contessa's pair of Socialsaul and

Preachintothedevil.

'You have good days and bad days," Broman said from the cashing lane. "The odds don't make any difference, sometimes I'm the favorite, sometimes I'm not. You can't change, you can't out-guess what's going to happen."

Trained by Rodrigo Ubillo and ridden by Abel Lezcano, Bigger Is Bettor took the guessing out of it by rallying when the rest were fading. Bred and owned by Broman and his wife Mary, the son of Grand Reward finished 1 1/8 miles in 1:51.12.

Bigger Is Bettor broke well and found a comfortable spot in fifth along the rail as Bound By Humor opened 4 lengths quickly. Coming out of a 7-furlong race, Bound By Humor streaked to a big lead with Alstom on the rail in second, Socialsaul finding an outside slot in third and Preachintothedevil outside

ALBANY STAKES RECAP

in fourth. Bigger Is Bettor stayed on the rail through a half mile in 46.43 and three quarters in 1:11.25. Lezcano kept in contention leaving the backside, inside four horses. Around the turn, he drifted back into sixth but was still plugging away, passing Alstom on the turn and hitting the stretch in fourth as Socialsaul kicked past Bound By Humor and Preachintothedevil chased him. By the eighth pole, Bigger Is Bettor switched into the middle of the track and began to wear down Socialsaul.

None of the eight starters had tried 9 furlongs. One of them coveted it.

Bigger Is Bettor made his debut here last summer, finishing last on the turf. He lost his next three starts before winning at Aqueduct in April. He finished third in his next two starts, behind Albany foes Sailmate and Socialsaul, then went back to the turf, finishing fourth

"This was the plan all along, we had this race as a target, I was comfortable with it because I wanted a race with distance, that was the main thing," Ubillo said. "We ran him on the turf because he needed a race and he always seemed like he needed the distance."

He got it in the Albany, giving Ubillo his first win of the meet and second career stakes win at Saratoga. Born in Chile, Ubillo worked for Phil Serpe before going out on his own in 2005. He

See **ALBANY** page 18 ▶



Tod Marks

Chester Broman escorts Bigger Is Bettor into the winners circle.

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Albany —

■ Continued from page 16

won his first Saratoga stakes in 2008 when Dr. D. F. C. won the Solomon Northup (going 9 furlongs on the main track). Bigger Is Bettor provided num-

"It's amazing, awesome. It's a great feeling, we haven't done really good here this meet so to win a stakes race is amazing," Ubillo said. "I'm really appreciative of the owners who support me, good help at the barn, it's a good team. For a little guy like me, this is big."

Married to Joe and Ann McMahon's daughter Jane, Ubillo works hard, galloping many of his horses including Bigger Is Bettor.

"He's one of my favorites in the barn, he's a cool horse, always fooling around, always tries, he's fun," Ubillo said. "It's a tough business when you get started, I try my best with whatever horse I get. Mainly everybody wants to send you horses that have already failed with somebody else, so it's nice to get a horse like him."

Chester Broman owns 30 mares and usually starts each year with 25 2-yearolds, utilizing John Kimmel, Tom Albertrani, Mike Hernandez and others. He has four horses with Ubillo.

"I like Rodrigo, he's a good trainer, he needed a little help so I give him a couple of horses every year," Broman said. "He doesn't get my best horses but he does a good job. This horse is just a mediocre horse, but he had him ready to run."



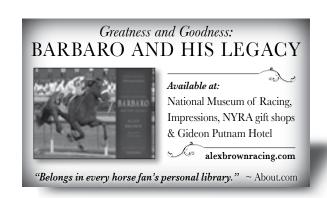
Bigger Is Bettor rolls past Socialsaul late in the Albany.

Tod Marks





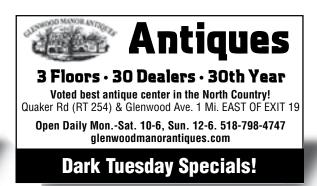
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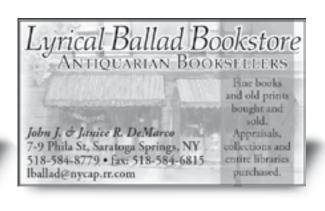
















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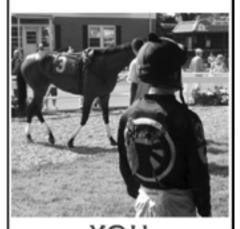
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WEDNESDAY'S SARATOGA RESULTS

Wednesday August 24.

FIRST \$23,160, CLAIMING \$15,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

4 Majestic Hope C. Nakatani \$11.80 \$4.90 \$3.70
7 Worth a Buck R. Maragh \$4.00 \$3.10
8 Take a Walk D. Cohen \$5.80
B Gelding 2008, by Cherokee Run - Martinique by Pleasant Colony

Owner: Lawrence, William, H., Trainer: Nicholas Zito.
Breeder: G. Watts Humphrey Jr. (KY).

Late Scratches: Halo's Thunder

Claimed: Majestic Hope claimed by Contessa, Jennifer for \$15,000, Actlikeyoumeanit claimed by Winpress Stables for \$15,000, Magnet Cove claimed by Ramsey, Kenneth L. and Sarah K. for \$15,000 Time: 1:52.08

Exacta (4-7), \$31.20; Superfecta (4-7-8-1), \$896.00; Trifecta (4-7-8), \$175.50

SECOND \$55,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

7 Missysmoonlitmagic E. Castro \$51.50 \$18.40 \$7.80 9 Crypto Kitten J. Leparoux \$7.80 \$5.00 2 Strikealinethruit R. Maragh \$3.00

Dk B/ Br Filly 2008, by Freud - Secret Cure by Cure the Blues Owner: September Stable. Trainer: Daniel Conway, Jr.. Breeder: September Stable (NY).

Late Scratches: Sugar Beach, Salt Water Lullaby, Bird in Hand Time: 1:37.25

Daily Double (4-7), \$302.00; Exacta (7-9), \$337.00; Quinella (7-9), \$150.50; Superfecta (7-9-2-3), \$4,463.00; Trifecta (7-9-2), \$1,381.00

THIRD \$53,000, ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

3 Most Happy Fella J. Sanchez \$7.20 \$3.90 4 Isn't He Perfect E. Castro \$3.40 1A Avenue B C. Nakatani B Gelding 2007, by Ecton Park - Doyenne by Deputy Minister Owner: Quigley, Robert, J.. Trainer: William Badgett, Jr.. Breeder: Dr. William B. Wilmot & Dr. Joan M.Taylor (NY). Late Scratches: All of the Above Time: 1:51.59

Daily Double (7-3), \$268.00; Exacta (3-4), \$20.80; Pic 3 (4-7-3),

FOURTH \$36,000, CLAIMING \$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

\$1,173.00

\$1,213.00

8 One Note Samba J. Velazquez \$6.60 \$3.70 \$2.80
9 Strong Impact R. Dominguez \$4.00 \$2.90
6 Isn'tlovejustgrand J. Lezcano \$6.40
B Gelding 2007, by Grand Reward - Combanchera by Seattle Slew Owner: Anstu Stables. Trainer: Todd Pletcher.
Breeder: Anstu Farm,llc. (NY).
Late Scratches: Philippe, Temecula Creek, Speight of Hand

Claimed: Strong Impact claimed by La Marca Stable for \$35,000 Time: 1:01.80 Daily Double (3-8), \$28.60; Exacta (8-9), \$21.60; Quinella (8-9), \$13.20; Superfecta (8-9-6-4), \$1,571.00; Trifecta (8-9-6), \$337.00; Pic 3 (7-3-8),

FIFTH \$40,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$100,000, 2 YO, 5 1/2F

\$5.90 3 Hannibal Lecter \$3.60 D. Cohen \$7.90 Demon's Deputy A. Solis \$13.40 \$5.40 My Wahoo S. Bridgmohan \$2.60 B Colt 2009, by Harlan's Holiday - Decadent Designer by Well Decorated Owner: Toscano, Carolyn, Lau, Stephen. Trainer: John Toscano, Jr.. Breeder: John Toscano, Steven Lau &Pat Crapanzano (KY). Late Scratches: Silver Max Time: 1:05.29

Daily Double (8-3), \$88.00; Exacta (3-7), \$143.00; Superfecta (3-7-8-2), \$1,541.00; Trifecta (3-7-8), \$444.50; Pic 3 (3-8-3), \$364.00; Pic 4 (7-3-8-3), \$7,259.00

SIXTH \$27,080, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

5 She Drives Me Wild J. Lezcano \$5.50 \$3.00 \$2.40
4 Eleven of Hearts J. Castanon \$6.60 \$5.10
3 Miss Mexique R. Dominguez \$3.20
B Filly 2008, by Proud Citizen - Nephele by Deputy Commander

Owner: Flying Zee Stables. Trainer: Philip Serpe.

Breeder: Brereton C. Jones (KY).

Late Scratches: Gamecents. Time: 1:38.64

Daily Double (3-5), \$25.60; Exacta (5-4), \$32.40; Superfecta (5-4-3-6), \$432.40; Trifecta (5-4-3), \$135.50; Pic 3 (8-3-5), \$321.50

SEVENTH \$103,000, NY-BRED STAKES - ALBANY S., 3 YO, 1 1/8M

5 Bigger Is Bettor A. Lezcano \$54.50 \$13.20 \$5.60 6 Socialsaul J. Castellano \$2.70 \$2.40 7 Preachintothedevil R. Dominguez \$3.60

Gr/ro Colt 2008, by Grand Reward - Regal Angela by Regal Intention Owner: Chester and Mary Broman, Sr.. Trainer: Rodrigo Ubillo.

Breeder: Chester Broman & Mary R. Broman (NY). Late Scratches: Pin Number

Time: 1:51.12

Daily Double (5-5), \$184.50; Exacta (5-6), \$213.00; Superfecta (5-6-7-9), \$1,546.00; Trifecta (5-6-7), \$554.00; Pic 3 (3-5-5), \$1,108.00

EIGHTH \$56,000, AOC \$75,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

5 Buckleupbuttercup J. Castellano \$5.50 \$3.00 \$2.10
3 Ailalea E. Prado \$3.00 \$2.20
4 Dynazaper J. Velazquez \$2.30

Gr/ro Filly 2007, by Najran - Golden Borders by Conquistador Cielo Owner: Avalon Farms. Trainer: Eddie Kenneally.

Breeder: Avalon Farms, Inc. (KY).

Time: 1:23.76

Daily Double (5-5), \$325.00; Exacta (5-3), \$15.00; Trifecta (5-3-4), \$27.20; Pic 3 (5-5-5), \$895.00

NINTH \$29,000, CLAIMING \$20,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

6 Grace and Courage R. Dominguez \$9.10 \$4.60 \$2.90 3 Dracup A. Solis \$5.50 \$3.50 7 Molly Molly Molly J. Castellano \$2.40 Dk B/ Br Filly 2007, by Roaring Fever - Qian Li Ma by Allen's Prospect

Owner: Songbird Farm, Schlinger, J., Ross. Trainer: Thomas Bush. Breeder: Songbird Farm, Diane Alagna &Paul Alagna (NY). Late Scratches: Just Maid, Sweet Bibby, Smart Farming, Proven Right,

Hey Hey Mama, My Nan Nell (IRE) Claimed: Molly Molly Molly claimed by Ross, Toby for \$20,000

Time: 1:37.73

Daily Double (5-6), \$24.80; Exacta (6-3), \$53.50; Superfecta (6-3-7-8), \$1,225.00; Trifecta (6-3-7), \$112.50; Consolation Double (5-4), \$5.20; Pic 3 (5-5-6), \$1,570.00; (5-5-4), \$287.50; Place Pix Nine (3/4/5-5/6/7-3/4/5-6), \$12.60

TENTH \$29,080, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

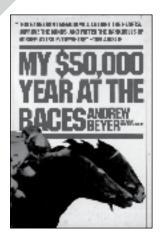
2 Staff Sargeant E. Castro \$43.80 \$18.20 \$9.30 8 Griffin Rock J. Sanchez \$18.60 \$10.60 11 Forty Tears D. Cohen \$6.30 Gr/ro Gelding 2008, by Rockport Harbor - Falconese by Imperial Falcon Owner: Kopaj, Paul, Singhoffer, Karol. Trainer: Paul Kopaj.

Breeder: Lucy G. Bassett (KY). Late Scratches: Cold Precision, Allen's Star, Gunman, Bundestag (GB) Time: 1:50.12

Daily Double (6-2), \$206.50; Exacta (2-8), \$434.00; Superfecta (2-8-11-5), \$12,291.00; Trifecta (2-8-11), \$4,232.00; Pic 3 (5-6-2), \$572.00; (5-4-2), \$107.00; Pic 4 (5-5-6-2), \$31,497.00; Pic 6 (3-1/5-5-5-6-2), \$714.00

Attendance: 16,601 On Track Handle: 2,523,585 Intra-State Handle: 1,745,793 Inter-State Handle: 6,257,369

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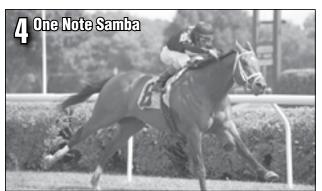
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WEDNESDAY'S SARATOGA WINNERS • PHOTOS BY TOD MARKS & DAVE HARMON











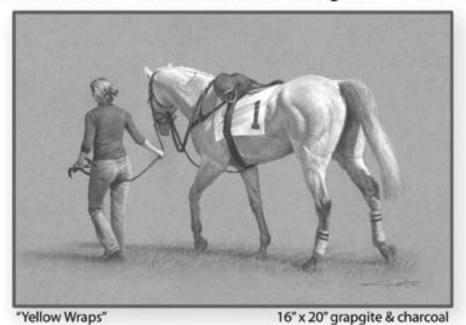








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Chin Music

Kenneally filly erases loss, scores in eighth

BY KATIE BO WILLIAMS

Eddie Kenneally half-ran from the winner's circle to the big screen to catch the replay of Buckleupbuttercup taking command of a competitive group of five in Wednesday's eighth race. The Avalon Farms homebred collared dual Grade III winner Ailalea and stakes winner Dynazaper in the stretch of the 7-furlong optional claimer.

"She's a nice filly, she was ridden with some patience today, the race set up well for her," the trainer said. "She beat some stakes-caliber horses. She's a stakes winner herself, this is a quality field and she won with a little left, so if she runs like this again, she'll win more stakes races."

A 6-length winner of the Grade III Eight Belles last year, Buckleupbuttercup won her 2011 debut in a sec-



Dave Harmon

Buckleupbuttercup powers off with an optional-claiming score for trainer Eddie Kenneally in Wednesday's eighth.

ond-level optional claimer at Churchill before running 45 lengths adrift in the Rachel Alexandra here Aug. 1.

"She got caught up in a speed duel last time and had some trouble in the bumping on the turn and got carried wide, so nothing went right for her last time as the favorite here in the stake," Kenneally said. "She redeemed herself today."

Kenneally, who hardly took his eyes off the replay, wasn't sure going into the race which of the many fac-

tors in the Rachel Alexandra contributed to Buckleupbuttercup's dismal run.

"I didn't know, the last race, she ran so poorly, was it because of the speed duel or was it because she maybe didn't like the track here at Saratoga?" Kenneally said. "But at least she came back and proved that she handles the track just fine if she's ridden like she was

See **WEDNESDAY** page 24 ▶



Magna Graduate was my first purchase, venturing from the Show Jumping World into Horse Racing. Purchased privately by Elizabeth H. Alexander, shortly after breaking his maiden he went on to earn over \$2.5 million. After making 35 starts, running on 16 different tracks on two continents, he retired sound. He currently stands at Darby Dan Farm.

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Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 22

ridden today."

Buckleupbuttercup, a strong gray filly built like a bulldog, sat a few lengths off a pace of 22.93 for the quarter and 45.78 for the half. Javier Castellano left a healthy gap between himself and the leading trio of Hidden Value, The Underling and Dynazaper. Asked to pick it up coming out of the turn, Buckleupbuttercup zipped to the lead on the outside in a matter of strides. That was the last time the 4-year-old daughter of Najran saw dirt, powering into the clear and galloping under the wire for an easy 3-length tally.

"That's what we were hoping, that there would be a couple of horses going that set a legitimate pace in front of her and she would be able to relax behind a pace," Kenneally said. "It set up just like you'd like to have it happen.'

Kenneally will shoot for the Grade II Gallant Bloom over 6 1/2 furlongs in September.

• Bob Quigley stood off by himself in the clubhouse, not once taking his eyes off the big screen. The replay of the third race, a 1 1/8-mile allowance, played once, twice, then the head-on. Every time, Most Happy Fella and Jeffrey Sanchez took the lead out of the gate, found a path on the rail, saw off a surge by Isn't He Perfect, saw off another surge by Isn't He Perfect, and whipped under the wire a gallant a halflength ahead. The win is Most Happy Fella's second consecutive in three starts



Dave Harmon

Missysmoonlitmagic (right) kicks clear in Wednesday's second for trainer Dan Conway.

this meet.

"He's done very well here, and had the benefit of a great ride," Quigley said. "I can't find any fault with anything, I'm amazed how he got him to

the rail so fast from the 4-hole."

The Florida resident is no stranger to the northeastern racing scene. In fact, he helped build it.

"I've been in the racing business my

whole life," he said. "I was general manager of Atlantic City and then was the first employee of The Meadowlands

See **WEDNESDAY** page 26





Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 24

when we built the place, spent 10 years there, then was involved in building Garden State, then went to Texas (to launch Retama Park), and now I'm sitting around doing nothing. I just come to the races and we have a box up there and my wife and I come up every year."

Most Happy Fella, on the other hand, made his first foray to Saratoga this year. The 4-year-old looked promising as a 2-year-old, won his debut in January of his 3-year-old year, then ran sixth to Eskendereya in the Wood Memorial in his fourth start. Dropped back to allowance company thereafter, the Jim Crupi-purchase fractured his right hind cannon bone in the spring of that year, and did not return to the races until April 2011.

More than surgery and rehab were required to get Most Happy Fella back to the races. It also took careful mental management on the part of trainer Billy Badgett.

"He's a terrible gate horse," Quigley said of the New York-bred. "He has to get schooled at least twice a week, still. He was being schooled this morning and he was a wild Indian this morning."

On the replay screen, Isn't He Perfect drew level with Most Happy Fella once again. Heart stops, moment of truth, and Most Happy Fella gave another spurt of speed. Quigley grinned.

"I'm pleased with the vet, I'm pleased with the jock and I think the trainer does a hell of a job."

• Dan Conway apparently means business when he sends a horse to Saratoga from Finger Lakes. The trainer was a good second in Monday's Union Avenue and Wednesday, and caved to pressure from the racing office to start Missysmoonlitmagic in the second – a 1-mile inner turf maiden race. The New York-bred won by 1 1/2 lengths.

"I entered her at Finger Lakes today, a mile, race didn't go," Conway said. "So I'm sitting in my office. My friend Matt (Salvato) calls me, says, 'How 'bout Missy?' He's called me a hundred times for Missysmoonlitmagic, called me a hundred times. He's probably jumping off the upper building. He keeps calling me, wanting me to fill races for him. 'Give me Missy, give me Missy!' "

Conway was thanking Salvato when the daughter of Freud crossed the line in her first start on the grass at 24-1. A diminutive filly owned by September Stable, Missysmoonlitmagic has been looking for the turf as long as she has been in Conway's barn.

"We never had the opportunity to try her on the grass because she's only 14 hands," Conway said. "She's small, but she's strong. We took her to New York last winter, she run on the inner, kind of run mediocre. She's bred both sides for the turf."

Eddie Castro guided the 3-year-old filly to sit neatly off the pace through the opening stages, take the lead in the stretch and earn her 1 1/2-length margin the hard way, one stride at a time. Castro rode the filly to a sixth in her second start at Aqueduct and stepped in Wednesday for Conway's first-call

rider at Finger Lakes, Nazario Alvarado (who's out for the summer with a broken leg).

• Hannibal Lecter – the horse, not the movie villain – is a family affair.

When the 2-year-old son of Harlan's Holiday came into the winner's circle after Wednesday's fifth race, the Toscano family tree was waiting for him, minus one: Owner Carolyn Toscano and breeder/brother John Toscano III represented trainer/father John Toscano Jr., who is recovering from surgery at home.

"We bred him, we've had him since he was a baby," Toscano III said. "We tried to sell him once, we tried to sell him twice and now we're winning a maiden race at Saratoga."

Toscano is the pedigree guru of the family, designing the mating of Decadent Designer to Harlan's Holiday, but wears a lot of other hats as well.

"That's my thing, I do the matings," Toscano said. "Five years old, I've been coming to the racetrack, my dad was bringing me here since I was five years old. Basically been coming up through the ranks, owned horses for a while."

The Toscanos entered Hannibal Lecter in a maiden special weight, but the race didn't go, and wound up in the 5 1/2-furlong \$100,000 maiden claimer instead. The bay colt shipped in from Belmont Tuesday and came out on the racetrack Wednesday afternoon bucking and feeling good.

Hannibal Lecter got off to an unconventional start, popping toward the outside rail at the break, but quickly settled down on the correct rail in fifth. The

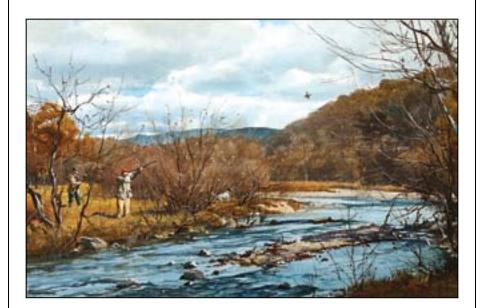
white-faced colt made a professional move on the turn to come abreast of the three side-by-side leaders. He wavered greenly for a stride or two, then made it look easy thereafter, scoring by almost 6 lengths and prompting Tom Durkin to comment that the Toscano firster "had this field for lunch."

Saratoga Leaders

Thurston Madagadas	
Through Wednesday	
Jockeys	1st
John Velazquez	
Javier Castellano	
Ramon Dominguez	
Julien Leparoux	
Rajiv Maragh	
Cornelio Velasquez	
Eddie Castro	
Jose Lezcano	
Irad Ortiz Jr	
David Cohen	
Kent Desormeaux	
Corey Nakatani	
Alex Solis	
Trainers	1st
Trainers	
Todd Pletcher	28
Todd Pletcher Chad Brown	28 16
Todd Pletcher Chad Brown Rudy Rodriguez	28 16 11
Todd Pletcher Chad Brown Rudy Rodriguez Steve Asmussen	28 16 11
Todd Pletcher Chad Brown Rudy Rodriguez Steve Asmussen Mike Hushion	28 16 11 9
Todd Pletcher Chad Brown Rudy Rodriguez Steve Asmussen Mike Hushion Bill Mott	28 16 11 9 8
Todd Pletcher Chad Brown Rudy Rodriguez Steve Asmussen Mike Hushion	28 16 11 9 8 8
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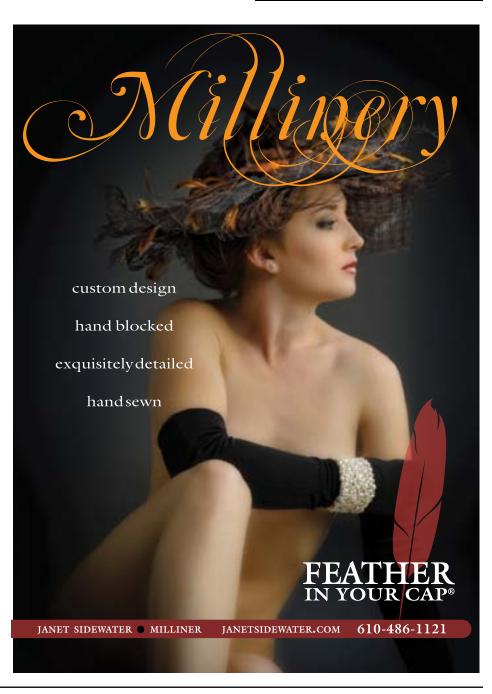
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Two-year-old Hannibal Lecter exits the winner's circle after fifth.





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Horse Work



by Joe Clancy

Ever run a horse? One you rubbed, groomed, walked, cared for like a family member? It's work, real work, but the reward comes when your charge heads to the racetrack and performs the way she can.

Even if you haven't, you know the feeling. Glee, joy, happiness, pride. It comes when something you've put your faith in lives up to the effort, proves worthy of the work, delivers in an arena that matters.

Saturday at Saratoga, Leana Willaford and Kristen Lindsay stood outside the winner's circle and talked about Royal Delta, her mother Delta Princess, working for Bill Mott, the feeling of winning a Grade I with a horse in whom you've invested the last year of your life. Bill Mott's assistants held the filly's red Alabama saddle towel, the one with the big numeral 1 and the filly's name in white letters, the one with the bits of dirt and sweat and hair on it.

And beamed.

"This makes up for a hundred days without winning a race," said Willaford, Mott's Belmont-based assistant who came north to see the Alabama. "It's why we get up every day and go to work."

Willaford has been getting up and going to work for Mott for 11 years. She's seen major wins, major disappointments. She's seen horses come and go. She's seen some win big. She's seen some not handle the mental pressure or the physical demands. She's seen others develop into stars, still others not live up to the hype. Eleven years of early mornings, long afternoons, strong horses, weak horses, fast horses, slow horses, sick horses, healthy horses.

And sometimes, wild horses.

Back in 2005, Royal Delta's dam Delta Princess ran in the Diana Stakes here for Mott and finished a dull sixth, but not before scattering the trainer, two assistants and a valet with some rodeo antics in the paddock. The old photos show a horse on its hind legs, stirring dust over by the saddling stalls, a trainer in harm's way, two grooms on taught shanks.

"She's a little easier than her mother," Willaford said. "We've got those pictures pasted on our window. She was about half the size of this filly, but much more difficult. She was very talented, but a lot of work. Luckily, we won with the other half of the entry (Sand Springs)."

Still, Willaford and Saratoga assistant Lindsay (a Mott employee for seven years) remember Delta Princess and think of Royal Delta and the progress of a generation.

"She's about twice the size of her mother," said Willaford. "We spend a lot of time with her. She's pretty straightforward. She's been headstrong, but very classy. She knows what she wants, does what she wants."

Lindsay remembered her first encounter with the (now) long, graceful dark bay daughter of Empire Maker about a year ago.

"She must have weighed 2,000 pounds," she said. "Just a big, dopey thing. She was funny when she was young. Now she's beautiful. You look at her now. That's what a racehorse is supposed to look like."

It didn't happen overnight, something Willaford and Lindsay know well. They remember the hours, the

work, the care. Anybody who works with horses does.

It takes a barn full of people to produce a racehorse. I remember Lonnie, Holly, George, Les, Sue, Fee (he was Iranian, or so he said), Bob, Ted, Tom, "Every Other Day" Ray, "Two Hour" Lou, Eileen the drag racer and a long list of others who worked at the farm or the racetrack.

We worked early and late, traveled to the races, went on breakfast runs between sets, ate Thanksgiving Dinner at the Laurel Park track kitchen. We cashed tickets, sometimes. We cried when they got hurt, every time. We checked legs, picked feet, dried heels, mucked stalls, wrestled with fans and extension cords, rode in the van, walked them, rubbed them, fed them, bathed them, gave them hay, oats, medicine, vitamins, sweet feed, carrots, beer sometimes, salt, love.

"This is the only job I've ever had on the racetrack," Lindsay said. "You end up being a big family because of the work you do. We're allies, kind of all in it together."

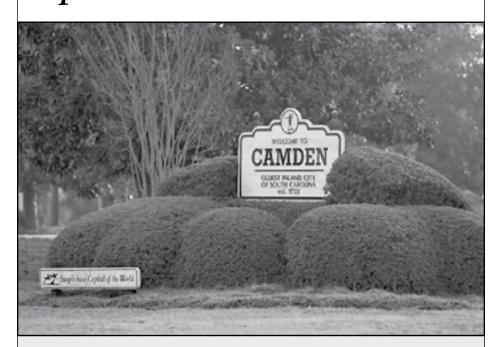
Trainer included. Willaford and Lindsay paid credit to Mott's work ethic when they talked about why they've lasted in their racetrack jobs. He's more than a boss, though he's the boss.

"He's a consummate horseman," said Willaford. "Every day, he goes in, he cares about the horses, he's not just there. They're number one. One thing I learned from Bill is to not ask anybody to do anything you aren't ready to do yourself. And that man will walk in a stall, show you how to knock off a horse, pick their feet properly, whatever."

Listening with a big smile, Lindsay added a more recent note, "He was sweeping the road – sweeping the road – the other morning."

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cupofcoffee



by Sean Clancy

Ian Wilkes bends down on one knee and feels the right hoof, then the left, then the right, then the left. Over and over, the trainer feels the horse's hooves. Hoping for nothing, hoping they feel cold.

Right now, they feel OK. A little warm, no pulse, that's good. Bearpath broke his shoulder in the John's Call at Saratoga Aug. 5.

Horses win. Horses lose. Horses get hurt. Horses die. Then one runs past you on three legs, head up, looking, looking for an answer, searching for what he used to know. It's like they look you right in the eye and ask how did this happen?

Bearpath managed to stay on his feet, skipping on three legs, left leg dangling useless, he skipped for a half-mile, somehow rhythmical. I've never seen a horse stay on his feet like Bearpath. We feared the worst. We've seen the worst. I said goodbye to a horse I had watched since he was a maiden, tried to buy as a steeplechase prospect until he got too good to be one.

Veterinarians met him on the track, Wilkes was there too. They searched his left shoulder, looking, poking, prodding. There wasn't movement, it didn't swing, which was a good sign. It was basically intact. They did not put him down on the track.

Back at Wilkes' barn, in the far end of Clare Court, vets X-rayed his knee, wondering if that was the problem. It wasn't his knee. About an hour after the injury, his left shoulder had swelled, full of blood. It was obviously his shoulder. His gums were good, giving hope

Waiting Game

that broken bones hadn't punctured any arteries. The horse was calm, taking it, another good sign.

"I didn't know what to think," Wilkes says, slowly and deliberately. "I thought the worst, when I saw him running down the outside, just carrying that leg, I'd never seen that before, I didn't want him to fall in front of all the people, but he kept going. Then I'm glad I didn't have to put him down that night. That would have been the hardest thing. These horses, you take your time and develop them . . . they're just fun to be around."

With that, Bearpath pokes Wilkes in the chest, like he heard him. On a perfect Tuesday morning in Saratoga, Bearpath occupies the center stall, number 2, on the far end of Wilkes' barn, it's 18 days since the injury. He stands with his head out over the webbing, picking hay from a net tied to the door, his ears are up, his coat is dappled, he's done up in four white bandages. He's bright, alert, like any horse in any barn. He lets us walk in his stall, nuzzles Wilkes and grabs a notebook from my hands. Just a horse, a healthy horse, being a horse, wondering what we're going to do next. Then he moves, hopping off his right leg and onto his right leg, the noise reverberating off the wooden floor, through the deep straw bedding. He gets around his stall, nimbly, like a dancer doing a trick. He stands with both front hooves on the ground but won't put weight on his injured left leg. Hops. Stands. Hops. Stands. Hops. Stands.

ball, hard to the touch, still full of blood where muscles tore and the injury occurred. Around his elbow, it's already atrophied. Still unable to determine the injury by X-ray, the vets think he has a spiral fracture in his humerus. That's the general diagnosis.

It will heal. In time. If laminitis doesn't kill him.

"He takes care of himself, gets up and down, lies second time.



down all morning," Wilkes says. "It will eventually heal, you just don't know how long, that's the hard part, how long.'

Bearpath nibbles at Wilkes' hands, pushes his chest, then tries me, looking for something, anything.

'You're getting tough now, learning to bite, you're bored, huh? You don't want to be in here do you. Keep taking care of yourself, that's the main thing," Wilkes says to the horse who's won four races, won the Pan American, earned \$380,000 for Lothenbach Stable and the trainer. But it's way more than that.

"You can treat it like a business but we wouldn't The injury juts from his shoulder, like a flat basket- be here if it wasn't for the animal, I wouldn't be here, you wouldn't be here," Wilkes says. "It's a question of, you've got to do what's best for the horse. We don't want him to suffer. You see how happy he is, he's content, not stressed."

I walk out of his stall, glad I was wrong when I said goodbye the first time and hoping I don't have to a



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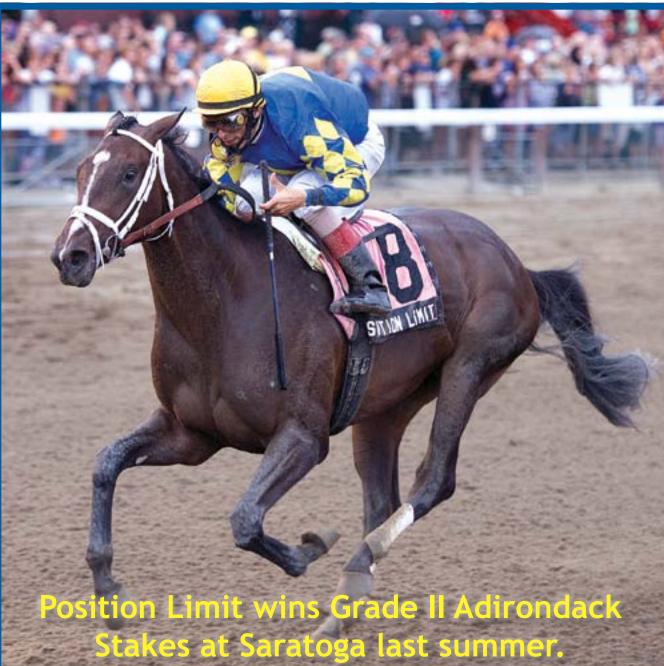
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2010	72	13	6	12	6	4	\$1,127,321	18.06 %	43.06 %
2009	66	14	5	8	4	8	\$1,098,854	21.21 %	40.91 %
2008	66	11	12	8	3	3	\$970,677	16.67 %	46.97 %
2007	62	13	13	7	4	13	\$1,778,494	20.97 %	53.23 %
2006	53	14	12	6	2	6	\$1,255,959	26.42 %	60.38 %
2005	40	10	5	7	5	7	\$1,600,815	25.00 %	55.00 %
2004	58	15	7	9	7	10	\$3,135,138	25.86 %	53.45 %
2003	79	20	17	11	5	6	\$2,674,742	25.32 %	60.76 %
2002	48	7	12	6	3	4	\$1,832,540	14.58 %	52.08 %
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