

# *The* **Saratoga** *Special*



Year 10 • Issue 27

Saratoga's Daily Newspaper on Thoroughbred Racing

Thursday, August 26, 2010

## Storm Surge

Stormy's Majesty (left)  
holds off Ibboyee  
in the Albany



Tod Marks

Turf Writers Preview • Travers Field • Entries/Handicapping



# here&there... at Saratoga



Connie Bush

**Wheeling.** It takes all kinds of wheels to keep the harness track moving.

## WORTH REPEATING The Special quotes from Saratoga

*"I'd start getting depressed the first of August."*

Trainer Tom Voss, on going back to school

*"She was a maiden. Pletcher was in that race, Tony Dutrow was in that race, I knew how good she had been training but I'm saying to myself, 'Jeez, look at this competition here,' when she went 21, 43, I almost fell over backward and then she just went wwwssshhh."*

Trainer Eddie Barker on training Meese Rocks to break her maiden last summer

*"Totally business like. She's calm and cool, does her thing, knows what to do when it's race time."*

Co-owner Joe Terranova about Union Avenue winner Meese Rocks

*"Now, you know everything."*

Trainer Phil Serpe wrapping up an interview Tuesday morning

### Names of the Day

**Soinlovewithuam I**, fourth race. Say it slow now. Got it? The 2-year-old filly, owned by Big Z Thoroughbred Racing, is by Domestic Dispute.

**Chalk Player**, fourth race. The Flying Zee Stable homebred is out of Point Spread.

### By The Numbers

**16:** Geese exiting the Oklahoma turf course as the horses arrived.

**1:** Wooden moose in the back of a pickup truck at the Oklahoma Annex.

The **SARATOGA** *Special*

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— Lee Hills, Pulitzer Prize winner,  
Knight Ridder chief executive, in 1974

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## WORTH REPEATING

The Special quotes  
from Saratoga

*"I told you I was coming back."*

British trainer George Baker, after returning  
to Saratoga a day after missing his original flight home

*"I've got one I'd like to turn loose on Nelson Avenue."*

Trainer when asked if had any to turn loose during the rest of the meet

*"I think I'll turn them all loose and go home."*

Another trainer when asked if had any to turn loose during the rest of the meet

*"The paper."*

Jane Motion, when asked about the most stressful thing in her life

*"Original home of Sing me a Sandwich."*

Slogan on the back of a T-shirt at the track

### License Plates of the Day

TOGA, New York. GOTHOSS, Louisiana.

## Just Sayin'

*"I don't have enough patience for that."*

Trainer Jonathan Sheppard, watching Bob Duncan  
work with young horses at the gate Wednesday morning

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Connie Bush

**Divine Workout.** These racing fans  
need no help picking favorites.

### Weather

**Today:** A few clouds, mainly  
sunny. High 75. Winds  
west at 10-20 mph.

**Tonight:** Clear early, a few  
clouds late. Low 53.

**Friday:** Sunny. High in the  
low 70s and low near 50.

**Saturday:** Sunshine. High  
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Moon Catcher (Gr. 1) • Weekend Magic (Gr. 1)



# Three Amigos

Sheppard jumpers team up for Gr. I showdown with Slip Away

BY JOE CLANCY

Fastest? Sermon Of Love. Most determined? Arcadius. Best mover? Divine Fortune.

Trainer Jonathan Sheppard's three horses in today's Grade I New York Turf Writers Cup steeplechase come at racing from various angles. And all three carry big chances in the \$100,000 stakes, the first of 10 races on the card.

Divine Fortune hails from the deep breeding pool of Sheppard and owner Bill Pape. Sermon Of Love sold at Keeneland as a 3-year-old in 2007, sold again to steeplechase owner Calvin Houghland and moved to Pape's string this year. Hudson River Farm's Arcadius, who raced twice on the flat and twice over jumps in Ireland, was once a \$500,000 yearling in the Coolmore operation.

And all three require different approaches.

"Sermon Of Love has always been a good work horse and he did win a maiden special on the flat up here, but he's not all that genuine," Sheppard said. "He could work with anyone in the barn, he's very well-bred. He's just a little cheeky."



Tod Marks

See **TURF WRITERS** page 6 ►

Divine Fortune, winner of the A.P. Smithwick earlier in the meet for Jonathan Sheppard, is favored in today's New York Turf Writers Cup.

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## Turf Writers —

■ Continued from page 4

"Arcadius is not particularly fast. He was a disappointing flat horse, but he tries. He'll keep running."

"Divine is very steady, has a beautiful way of going, carries himself well, he's got a lovely stride. He's a sensible horse, a joy to be around."

All three spent some time at Sheppard's Pennsylvania farm after their Saratoga starts. Sermon Of Love, a 7-year-old son of Pulpit and \$700,000 earner Plenty Of Sugar, opened the meet with a half-length triumph over Turf Writers rival Virginia Minstrel in a restricted stakes July 29. Racing with blinkers for the first time, he accelerated after the last fence to post his first jump win in more than a year.

Divine Fortune and Arcadius finished 1-2 in the A.P. Smithwick Memorial here three weeks ago. Owned by Pape and coupled with Sermon Of Love, the former looked well on his way to stardom in 2007 before missing two years with a tendon injury. The 7-year-old son of Royal Anthem is 2-for-5 this year and bids to become the first horse since Campanile in 1999 to sweep the two major jump stakes at Saratoga. Hudson River Farm's Arcadius rallied late to lose the Smithwick by three-quarters of a length. The 6-year-old Giant's Causeway gelding opened 2010 with an allowance win, then placed third in the Grade I Iroquois in May.

"Arcadius doesn't do very well here because galloping on the dirt messes up his hind end," said Sheppard, who



Tod Marks

Arcadius finished second in the A.P. Smithwick to Divine Fortune three weeks ago.

shuttles horses through his Oklahoma Annex stalls all meet. "Sermon Of Love is a little bit wild and washy at the race-track. Divine Fortune thrives here so he didn't go home for long. He's very composed and handles all the track stuff well. It benefits him. I also like to keep an eye on him myself as much as possible. I think he's a pretty good horse and I really like him."

The two farm boys had their final preps at home, and arrived in Saratoga Tuesday night. Divine Fortune came

back a week earlier, and aimed for a turf workout Monday morning at Oklahoma. Rain ended that plan, and the leggy chestnut prepped with a half-mile move on the Oklahoma dirt.

Sort of. The work didn't go exactly according to plan.

"The track was a little off and we were way too conservative," Sheppard said. "I thought we could go a nice easy mile, just let him go 14 to the eighth the first part and then scoot along the last half."

Instead, Sheppard said Divine Fortune went the first half-mile in about 1:03 and the full mile in 1:57 (10 or so seconds slower than planned), with the clockers catching a half-mile in 54 seconds — the slowest of 14 on the day. Like a quarterback facing a new formation, Sheppard called an audible.

"Let's make something positive out of this negative thing that's happened," he told exercise rider/assistant/jockey Danielle Hodsdon. "We won't give him the day off, we'll take him back tomorrow."

Tuesday, Divine Fortune galloped a strong 2 1/4 miles (three laps) on the inner turf at Oklahoma. Wednesday, he schooled over two fences, open-galloped around the turn and blew out a furlong — timed by Sheppard in 12 1/5 seconds from the furlong pole to the wire.

"I think he's in good shape," the trainer said. "It might end up the same as that fast work (6 furlongs in 1:12 1/5) before the Smithwick."

Coupled in the wagering, Sermon Of Love (Brian Crowley) and Divine Fortune (Hodsdon) are 2-1 favorite on the morning line. Arcadius (Darren Nagle) is 4-1.

Tactically, the race once again revolves around Slip Away. Ken and Sarah Ramsey's veteran will take the front-running spot and see how far he can gallop. The nine-time winner nearly took the Smithwick, succumbing late in the stretch. He carries top weight of 156 for trainer Tom Voss and is the 5-2 second choice.

"He was so relaxed he was waiting for the horses (in the Smithwick)," jock-

See **TURF WRITERS** page 8 ►

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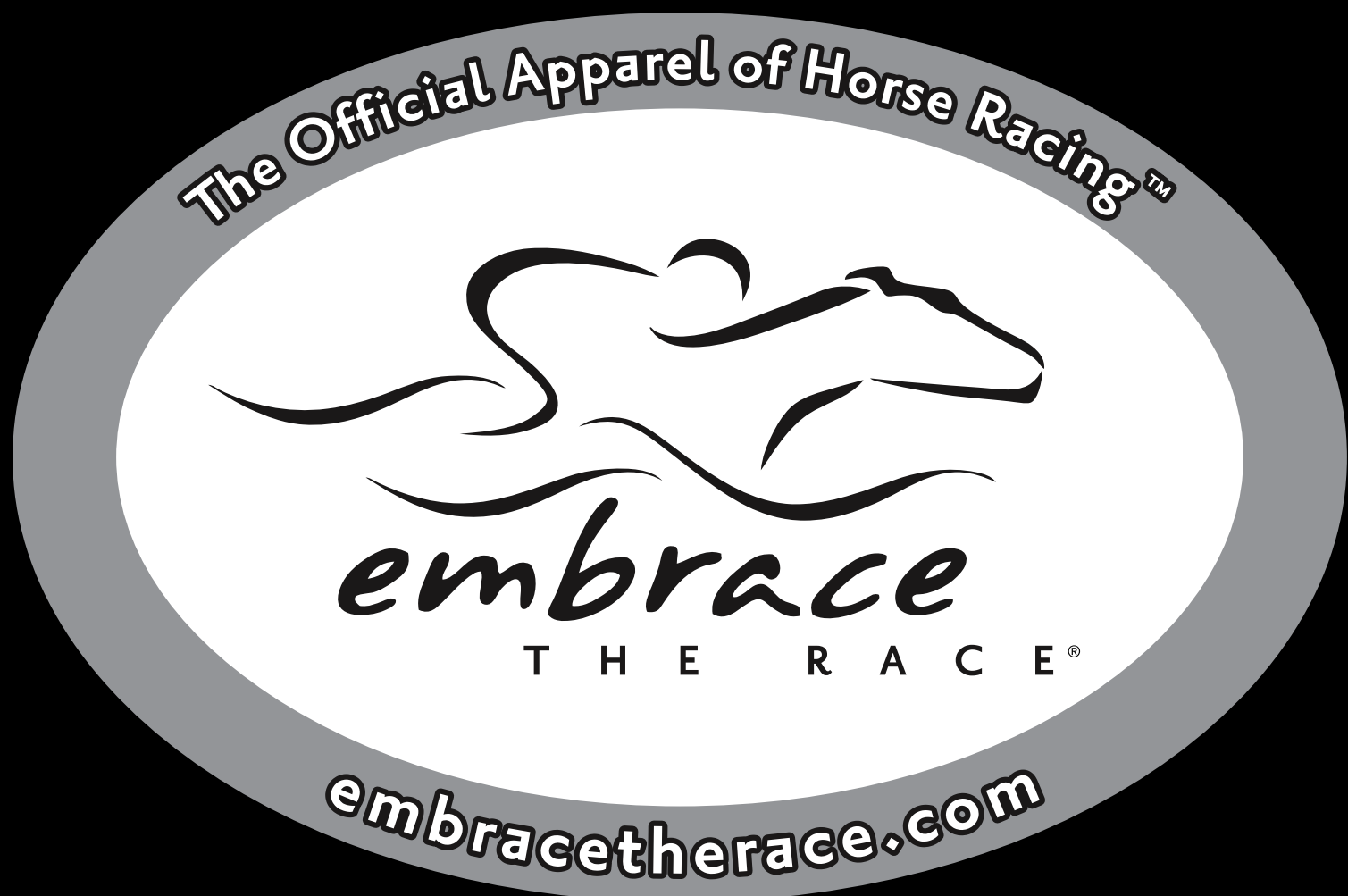
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# Turf Writers —

■ Continued from page 6

ey Paddy Young said. "I thought they were going to swallow him up and all credit to him, he kept digging in. This time I think I'll squeeze him along from the second-last instead of letting him dictate when he's going to go on. I don't want to wait on the others. I want to push him along a little sooner to help him."

Slip Away opened 2010 with a 2 1/2-mile win and finished second in the 3-mile Iroquois (Gr. I) in May. Despite his spot on the lead, he's better at longer distances and the 2 3/8 miles of the Turf Writers helps his cause — especially with two-time champion Young at the controls.

"He's an honest, honest horse," the jockey said. "There are no real tactics to riding him, but the best way to stop a stayer is to go too fast so you have to judge it. Last year, it looked like he went too fast in the Turf Writers and he stopped. It's all about rhythm with him. He's got his gallop and he'll go his gallop and you want to be sitting against him a little bit — you don't want him off the bridle. If he's off the bridle, then you're going too fast."

Oakwood Stable's Virginia Minstrel finished second to Sermon Of Love after taking the lead at the last fence July 29. The 6-year-old son of Pleasant Tap gets 14 pounds from Slip Away and 12 from Divine Fortune for trainer Julie Gomena, but makes his first start in open company. Carl Rafter has the ride at 6-1.



Veteran Sermon Of Love is coupled with Divine Fortune in today's New York Turf Writers Cup.

Tod Marks

Sheila Williams and Andre Brewster's Seer makes his first start since November for trainer Jack Fisher. The 6-year-old son of Pulpit placed in two stakes here in 2008 and closed last year with a restricted stakes victory at Palm Beach. Xavier Aizpuru has the ride at 12-1. The Maryland shipper owns two race-

track jump wins. Fisher also brings veteran Swagger Stick, who leads the field with 25 jump starts (and 25 more on the flat) for owner Gillian Johnston. Willie Dowling rides the 9-year-old, who defeated Arcadius late last year, at 8-1. Owner/trainer Michele Sanger's Birthday Beau, seventh behind Sermon

Of Love here July 29, steps in as the 138-pound lightweight. The son of Silic opened 2010 with an easy allowance win and seeks to duplicate that form. Ross Geraghty rides at 30-1.

The Turf Writers winner in 2008, Dark Equation will scratch with an injury.

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## Grade I winner Dark Equation retired

Veteran steeplechaser Dark Equation, entered for today's Grade I New York Turf Writers Cup, has been retired with the recurrence of an ankle injury.

Owned by Peggy Steinman and trained by Doug Fout, the 9-year-old had ankle surgery last year, but had made three starts this year and was prepping for a return to top competition level. Fout said precautionary X-rays revealed a weakening of the ankle, and made retirement the only choice after four wins and \$245,342 earned over jumps.

"He doesn't owe anybody anything, so he'll retire," said Fout. "It's sad, but I'm glad nothing happened to him. He galloped Tuesday and moved better than he ever has. He's been great – sound, bucking, kicking, happy and we were really looking forward to running him."

Fout had the ankle X-rayed before each of the horse's starts this year, and the set taken this week showed some deterioration.

Fout said Virginia-based veterinarian Dr. Nat White noticed the changes on the X-ray Wednesday morning and helped make the call.



**Dark Equation**

"We have five sets of X-rays to compare it to and where the old fracture is, the bottom part, is getting weak," Fout said. "It's right in the joint and we don't want to take a chance."

Dark Equation won the Turf Writers and finished second in the A.P. Smithwick in 2008, and won an

allowance hurdle at Saratoga in 2007.

Bred in Pennsylvania by Derry Meeting Farm and London Thoroughbred Services, the son of Polish Numbers won twice on the flat (including once at Saratoga) for trainer Christophe Clement and placed fourth in the Grade III Lawrence Realization in 2004. For his career, flat and jump, he raced 35 times, won six and earned \$344,525. He will return to Fout's farm in Virginia as a mount for the trainer's teenage daughter Caroline.

– Joe Clancy

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**Dean  
Keppler**

Race #	John Shapazian	John Panagot	Gaile Fitzgerald	Brian Nadeau	Dean Keppler
<b>1</b>	Sheppard Entry Slip Away Arcadius	Arcadius Sermon Of Love Virginia Minstrel	Sheppard Entry Arcadius Slip Away	Dark Equation Virginia Minstrel Divine Fortune	Slip Away Arcadius Divine Fortune
<b>2</b>	Chris Got Even Stargleam Mizzen's Wake	El Real Madrid Stargleam Dr. D.F.C	El Real Madrid Stargleam Ponzi Scheme	Mizzen's Wake Chris Got Even Stargleam	Chris Got Even Stargleam Dr. D. F. C,
<b>3</b>	Hysterical Cat Never Right Joey Private Rules	Private Rules Never Right Joey Hysterical Cat	Never Right Joey Private Rules Freuds Ana Streak	Hysterical Cat Never Right Joey Private Rules	Never Right Joey Hysterical Cat Private Rules
<b>4</b>	Spa City Lover Ravingaboutkitten Soinlovewithuam I	Thunder Jewel Ravingaboutkitten Blond Halo	Spa City Lover Hessonite Thunder Jewel	Soinlovewithuam I Blond Halo Thunder Jewel	Ravingaboutkitten Hessonite Chalk Player
<b>5</b>	My Two Cents Mardi Belle Eliza Grace	My Two Cents Mardi Belle Thunderin Your Ear	My Two Cents Hear Her Roar Thunderin Your Ear	My Two Cents Eliza Grace Mardi Belle	My Two Cents Mardi Belle Hear Her Roar
<b>6</b>	Exiled Princess Playa Bonita Souper Butterfly	Queen of Protocol Exiled Princess Playa Bonita	Exiled Princess Playa Bonita Queen Of Protocol	Judicial Leader Exiled Princess Playa Bonita	Playa Bonita Judicial Leader Queen of Protocol
<b>7</b>	Fee On Legs Mississippi Too Gracilia	Mississippi Too Hennessy Light It's A Sham	Electra's Ego Hennessy Light Mississippi Too	Royal Rhetoric Mississippi Too Electra's Ego	Mississippi Too Electra's Ego Fee On Legs
<b>8</b>	Spring Elusion Princess Maura Holy Moment	Daily Star Princess Maura Cover Story	Daily Star Holy Moment Hooked On Hope	Daily Star Cover Story Zapparition	E Z Passer Holy Moment Olive Eye
<b>9</b>	Medal Round Macedonian Antrim Shield	Medal Round Antrim Shield Macedonian	Medal Round Antrim Shield Macedonian	Medal Round Macedonian El Primero	Boisterous Macedonian Antrim Shield
Records	<b>84/244</b>	<b>60/244</b>	<b>72/244</b>	<b>51/244</b>	<b>53/244</b>

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## THURSDAY'S SARATOGA ENTRIES

**Thursday, August 26.** Post Time 1 p.m. Entries with program number, post position, jockey, trainer, and morning-line odds.

### 1ST (1:00) NY TURF WRITERS CUP STEEPLECHASE (G1) 2 3/8 MILES 4&UP PURSE: \$100,000

1	4	Sermon of Love.....Crowley B.....	Sheppard Jonathan ..	2-1
1A	4	Divine Fortune.....Hodsdon D.....	Sheppard Jonathan ..	2-1
2	1	Dark Equation.....Murphy J.....	Fout P Douglas.....	10-1
3	2	Seer.....Aizpuru X.....	Fisher Jack .....	12-1
4	3	Swagger Stick.....Dowling W.....	Fisher Jack .....	8-1
5	5	Slip Away.....Young P J.....	Voss Thomas H.....	5-2
6	7	Birthday Beau.....Geraghty R.....	Sanger Michele C ..	30-1
7	8	Arcadius.....Nagle D.....	Sheppard Jonathan ..	4-1
8	9	Virginia Minstrel.....Rafter C.....	Gomena Julie .....	6-1

A-Coupled: Sermon of Love and Divine Fortune  
Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 Races (1-3), Daily Double

### 2ND (1:33) 1 1/8 MILES 3&UP CLM (\$35,000-\$25,000) PURSE: \$41,000

1	1	Stargleam.....Dominguez R A.....	Englehart Chris.....	4-1
2	2	Dr. D. F. C.....Lenclud F.....	Ubillo Rodrigo A.....	6-1
3	3	Ponzi Scheme.....Maragh R.....	Ryan Derek S .....	12-1
4	4	El Real Madrid.....Gomez G K.....	Dutrow, Jr. R E.....	5-2
5	5	Chris Got Even.....Velazquez J R.....	Zito Nicholas P.....	2-1
6	6	Critical Acclaim.....Castellano J J.....	Katz Gary R .....	8-1
7	7	Mizzen's Wake.....Hill C.....	Dollase Wallace.....	10-1

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Super (.10), Pick 3 Races (2-4)  
Pick 4 Races (2-5), Daily Double

### 3RD (2:06) HIGH ROCK SPRINGS STAKES. 6 FURLONGS NY BRED 2YO PURSE: \$70,000

1	1	Firepole.....Castellano J J.....	Weaver George.....	10-1
2	2	Never Right Joey.....Velazquez J R.....	Pletcher Todd A.....	7-5
3	3	Private Rules.....Maragh R.....	Ryan Derek S .....	4-1
4	4	Hysterical Cat.....Cohen D.....	Pletcher Todd A.....	8-5
5	5	Freuds Ana Streak.....Leparoux J R.....	Rodriguez Rudy R ..	12-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 Races (3-5), Daily Double

### 4TH (2:39) 1 1/16 MILES (TURF) NY BRED FILLIES 2YO MDN PURSE: \$41,000

1	1	Soinlovewithuam I.....Garcia Alan.....	Rice Linda .....	5-1
2	2	Lillehammer.....Lenclud F.....	Pugh Peter D .....	15-1
3	3	Thunder Jewel.....Dominguez R A.....	Donk David.....	3-1
4	4	Chalk Player.....Prado E S.....	Martin Carlos F.....	5-1
5	5	Blond Halo.....Espinoza J L.....	O'Brien Keith.....	6-1
6	6	J's Way.....Castellano J J.....	Schettino Dominick A	10-1
7	7	Winter Parade Doll....Bridgmohan J V...	Metivier Richard....	30-1
8	8	August Gala.....Lezcano A.....	Ubillo Rodrigo A.....	15-1
9	9	Ravingaboutkitten.....Leparoux J R.....	Maker Michael J.....	6-1
10	10	Hessonite.....Velazquez J R.....	Donk David.....	6-1
11	MTO	Spa City Lover.....Solis A.....	Ward Wesley A.....	2-1

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Super (.10), Pick 3 Races (4-6)  
Pick 6 Races (4-9), Daily Double

### 5TH (3:13) 6 FURLONGS NY BRED F&M 3&UP MDN CLM (\$20,000) PURSE: \$20,000

1	1	Glance My Way.....Garcia Alan.....	Martin Frank.....	12-1
2	2	Eliza Grace.....Stuart M.....	Barker Edward R ..	12-1
3	3	Thunderin Your Ear...Bridgmohan J V...	Campo John P Jr....	12-1
4	4	Lady Alma.....Espinoza J L.....	Kelly Patrick J.....	8-1
5	5	My Two Cents.....Coa E M.....	Weaver George.....	3-5
6	6	Hear Her Roar.....Lezcano J.....	Martin Carlos F.....	10-1
7	7	Mardi Belle.....Prado E S.....	Schosberg Richard..	6-1
8	8	Karakorum Jete.....Luzzi M J.....	Odintz Jeff.....	15-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Super (.10), Pick 3 Races (5-7), Grand Slam Races (5-8)  
Daily Double

### 6TH (3:47) 1 1/16 MILES (INNER TURF) F&M 3&UP CLM (\$25,000) PURSE: \$29,000

1	1	Our Miss Brookside...Mena M.....	Scherer Merrill R....	20-1
2	2	Judicial Leader.....Solis A.....	Sciacca Gary .....	6-1
3	3	Souper Butterfly.....Castellano J J.....	Violette, Jr. R A.....	10-1
4	4	Queen of Protocol....Velazquez J R.....	Donk David.....	6-1
5	5	Sphinx Key.....Lezcano J.....	Shuman Mark.....	12-1
6	6	Kaleigh Rose.....Maragh R.....	Kimmel John C.....	5-1
7	7	Exiled Princess.....Chavez J F.....	Martin Carlos F.....	5-2
8	8	Dear Contender.....Stuart M.....	Toscano John T Jr..	30-1
9	9	Playa Bonita.....Leparoux J R.....	Dutrow, Jr. R E.....	3-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Super (.10), Pick 3 Races (6-8), Pick 4 Races (6-9)

Daily Double

### 7TH (4:21) 5 1/2 FURLONGS (TURF) NY BRED F&M 3&UP MAIDEN PURSE: \$40,000

1	1	It's a Sham.....Lenclud F.....	Hertler John O.....	30-1
2	2	Electra's Ego.....Dominguez R A.....	Dutrow, Jr. R E.....	3-1
3	3	Mississippi Too.....Castellano J J.....	Weaver George.....	7-2
4	4	Gracilia.....Cohen D.....	Levine Bruce N.....	12-1
5	5	Feather Nestin'.....Espinoza J L.....	Feron Kathleen M....	15-1
6	6	Fee On Legs.....Garcia Alan.....	Rice Linda .....	5-1
7	7	Awakened Beauty.....Velasquez C.....	Brown Bruce R.....	15-1
8	8	Hennessy Light.....Prado E S.....	Schosberg Richard..	8-1
9	9	Voyager.....Maragh R.....	Hills Timothy A.....	15-1
10	10	Royal Rhetoric.....Hill C.....	Aquillino Joseph.....	8-1
11	11	Rennina.....Leparoux J R.....	Bond H James.....	8-1
12	MTO	Salty Little Sis.....Dominguez R A.....	Tagg Barclay.....	6-1
13	MTO	Soldierette.....Lenclud F.....	Hertler John O.....	12-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Super (.10), Pick 3 Races (7-9), Daily Double

### 8TH (4:55) 1 MILE (INNER TURF) F&M 3&UP STARTER ALLOWANCE PURSE: \$49,000

1	1	Unique Citizen.....Espinoza J L.....	Ortiz Paulino O.....	8-1
2	2	Hooked On Hope.....Cohen D.....	Tagg Barclay.....	7-2
3	3	Olive Eye.....Velazquez J R.....	Lostritto Joseph A..	12-1
4	4	Cover Story.....Castellano J J.....	Contessa Gary C.....	4-1
5	5	Princess Maura.....Velasquez C.....	Schosberg Richard..	3-1
6	6	Zapparition.....Mena M.....	Romans Dale.....	12-1
7	7	E Z Passer.....Dominguez R A.....	Miceli Michael.....	5-1
8	8	Holy Moment.....Leparoux J R.....	Maker Michael J.....	6-1
9	MTO	Daily Star.....Hill C.....	Terranova, II John ..	3-1
10	MTO	Lady Etienne.....Mena M.....	Stewart Dallas.....	4-1
11	MTO	Tribeca.....Mena M.....	Donk David.....	8-1
12	MTO	Spring Elusion.....Mena M.....	Rice Linda .....	5-2

Exacta, Trifecta, Super (.10), Daily Double

### 9TH (5:30) 1 3/16 MILES (TURF) 3&UP MAIDEN PURSE: \$51,000

1	1	Antrim Shield.....Garcia Alan.....	Clement Christophe	7-2
2	2	Macedonian.....Desormeaux K J...	Mott William I.....	3-1
3	3	Grand Gift.....Castellano J J.....	Romans Dale.....	12-1
4	4	Boisterous.....Velazquez J R.....	McGaughey III C R...	6-1
5	5	El Primero.....Coa E M.....	Contessa Gary C.....	8-1
6	6	Yankee Scholar.....Cohen D.....	Pletcher Todd A.....	12-1
7	7	Ryvit.....Chavez J F.....	Phipps William.....	8-1
8	8	Zhivago.....Leparoux J R.....	Bond H James.....	15-1
9	9	Call You in Ten.....Hill C.....	Fout P Douglas.....	15-1
10	10	Jadal.....Gomez G K.....	McLaughlin Kiaran	10-1
11	11	Grand Pride.....Dominguez R A.....	Trombetta Michael..	15-1
12	MTO	Megaholtz.....Velazquez J R.....	Pletcher Todd A.....	6-1
13	MTO	Loquacious.....Maragh R.....	Albertrani Thomas...	5-2
14	MTO	Medal Round.....Bridgmohan S X...	Asmussen Steve.....	2-1
15	MTO	Savannah Bay.....Lenclud F.....	Zito Nicholas P.....	12-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Super (.10)

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**ALBANY STAKES RECAP**



Tod Marks

Stormy's Majesty (right) wins the Albany with Edgar Prado.

# Holding On

Galluscio-trainee  
 Stormy's Majesty  
 prevails for win

**BY SEAN CLANCY**

Dominic Galluscio stood at the top of the stairs overlooking the racetrack, arms folded, staring at the replay of the Albany and the blank toteboard in the infield. It was clear Stormy's Majesty had held on in the \$100,000 New York-bred stakes, right? Galluscio walked down the steps and then veered right instead of turning left, burrowing deep in the apron crowd. The trainer squinted and waited.

The numbers – 2, 1, 5, 3 – flashed on the infield toteboard. Galluscio slapped his hands together, then slapped hands with fans and darted to the winner's circle.

Stormy's Majesty held on by a diminishing neck over favorite Ibboyee who looked spent on the turn but re-rallied to make it close. Galluscio's Johannesburg Smile held on for third after 9 furlongs in 1:50.55. Owned and bred by Majesty Stud, Stormy's Majesty won for the fourth time in his five-race career. His only blemish came earlier in the meet when fading in the Grade II Jim Dandy.

The Albany is no Jim Dandy.

Galluscio put a line through the 18-length loss.

"I might have put him against too tough of horses too early," Galluscio said. "He has the talent but he didn't have enough seasoning to run against those horses. As long as they come out sound, I don't worry, I knew he's a nice horse and would be fine."

Prado wrapped up in the Jim Dandy and dismissed the defeat.

"I liked the way he ran the other day, he got beat a ways, but he was trying hard with a different kind of horses," Prado said. "He was there until the quarter pole, he was leg weary the last eighth. He's a big horse and he's doing everything good in the mornings and the afternoons, it's going to take more than that to discourage him."

Owner Bob Vukovich had no qualms about returning 25 days after the drubbing.

"He was green, he had only three races, he had conditioning but not like those guys. He has the genetics and the talent, it was just a matter of conditioning," Vukovich said. "He got tired, Edgar's smart, he didn't beat the horse up, we took him home, his legs were fine, he ate up fine. We knew he was there, it was just a bad day. It certainly tuned him for this one, he'll be even better after this one."

A powerful looking son of Stormy Atlantic, Stormy's Majesty made his career debut in December, whipping 10 rivals in a state-bred maiden at Aqueduct. He returned 26 days later to handle state-bred allowance rivals and then

See **ALBANY** page 15 ►



# Albany —

■ Continued from page 14

hit the shelf until June when he crushed state-bred optional claimers. Winning a mile maiden race at Belmont in his lone start at 3 looked good on paper but it left Stormy's Majesty without the needed foundation for the Jim Dandy. He mixed it up with the likes of A Little Warm, Miner's Reserve and Afleet Express until the quarter pole before re-treating and stamping his ticket to the Albany.

"It's nice to have a New York-bred like him, from day one, he trained nicely," Galluscio said. "He needed a little more seasoning for the Jim Dandy, I wouldn't mind trying them again."

Vukovich mentioned the Pennsylvania Derby as a possible next start but then thought better of thinking too far ahead on an emotional day.

"I don't want to think about what we're going to do next, I just want to enjoy today," Vukovich said. "My partner, Digby Barrios, passed away in April. This horse we bred from a baby, worked hard to bring him here, now that we've got him, we're going to keep him. He's a true winner, a true champion. Racing is about family, friends. When you're a breeder no one understands how much you have to go through from the time the sperm meets the egg to the time you take a picture in the winner's circle."

After the Albany, Barrios' wife Anita saluted the man who loved racing.

"He'd be over the moon," she said. "He would have said, 'I knew this horse could do that.'"



Stormy's Majesty (center with shadow roll), jostles for position in the early going of the Albany.

Tod Marks

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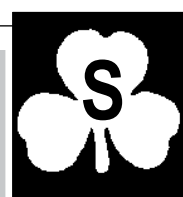
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# Waiting Game

Brown takes stakes with rapidly improving young filly Yawkey Way

BY PHIL JANACK

Hurry up and wait. If Chad Brown learned anything about training from working for Hall of Famers Shug McGaughey and the late Bobby Frankel, it was patience.

When it came to his talented Grand Slam filly Yawkey Way, an impressive maiden winner at Saratoga July 25, the 31-year-old Brown resisted the temptation to run back in the Grade I Spinaway at the end of the meet.

He also considered the \$100,000 Lady Finger Stakes for New York-breds at Finger Lakes Sept. 6 but, in the end, decided to keep Yawkey Way at home. For now.

Favored at 3-5 in an abbreviated field of five, Yawkey Way got boxed in early but found room late and sprinted to a 3 3/4-length victory in the \$68,600 Ann Clare Stakes for state-bred filly sprinters Wednesday.

Owned by Klaravich Stables and William H. Lawrence, Yawkey Way ran 6 furlongs in 1:11.79 on a fast main track.

"We looked at the Spinaway and we looked at the race at Finger Lakes," Brown said. "Actually, we were going to run at Finger Lakes if this one didn't go. When you have a state-bred that's this young and this good, it's hard to pass up on an easier spot. The purse money and the prestige of the other races might have been a factor a little bit, but when you have good young horses, you always want to give them the easiest races you can as you're developing them, and not throw them to the wolves too early. That's the way my two mentors would have approached it. We'll take the easier spots for now, but I'm by no means labeling her a restricted type horse."

Unlike her last race, when she was on the outside all the way around, Yawkey Way found herself in tight quarters on the backstretch, boxed in between pacesetter Watkins Glen (Ramon Dominguez) on the rail and Queen's Harbor (Shaun Bridgmohan).

See **WEDNESDAY** page 18 ►



Tod Marks

Yawkey Way draws off to win Wednesday's Ann Clare Stakes for trainer Chad Brown.



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# Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 19

Castellano was forced to take a strong hold of Yawkey Way until finding a seam near the five-sixteenths pole and sweeping three wide, reeling in Watkins Glen and drawing clear.

"I was tight a little bit, but I'm the horse to beat in the race and the other jockeys keep their eye on my horse," Castellano said. "I had so much horse and I finally covered up and let her settle. My horse was doing everything the right way. She's very professional, very mature. When she saw the spot, not too many horses can do that. She just didn't panic. She did it. She opened the hole and took off, and opened up. She looked great. I was very impressed."

Brown was confident in Yawkey Way, and felt the education would be good for her.

"She was a little on edge in the paddock and in the post parade," he said. "I kind of had her cranked up for a big effort, and I might have had her a touch too sharp. I thought they had her in a bad spot, but Javier did an excellent job, biding his time until Shaun had no horse and then went on through. All things considered, we have a few things to work on because she's still young in her mind, but for most of the race she was professional to handle the adversity. Given all the trouble, you didn't see her best today. I think there's room for improvement. You'll hear from her down the road."

Watkins Glen, trained by Mike Trombetta for Robert Hahn, finished second,



Tod Marks

**Silent Joy (8) scores in the sixth for trainer Michelle Nihei.**

a length in front of Queen's Harbor, owned and trained by Rick Violette. Rosa Salvaje and Readygetsgold completed the field.

"She's a light-framed, leggy filly with a nice stride on her," Brown said of the winner. "The further she goes, I think she's going to get a little bit better."

- Michelle Nihei couldn't imagine a more dramatic way to earn her first career victory as a trainer at Saratoga.

A former exercise rider and assistant for Todd Pletcher, Nihei, 39, broke

her Spa maiden in Wednesday's sixth race with first-time starter Silent Joy, a 2-year-old Kitten's Joy filly owned by Danny Gargan.

Reserved near the back of the pack early, Silent Joy came flying down the stretch to nail Orangeblackandgold at the wire in the 5 1/2-furlong sprint on the Mellon Turf.

"My assistant Dana Antonczak and I both ride in the mornings, and we both breezed her," Nihei said. "We both said the same thing. We just knew. She relaxes well on the outside, and we knew

as long as she had an opportunity to come down the lane, it didn't matter if it was in or out, she was going to run. It was a great thing to have happen, today especially."

Nihei has had three starters at the meet, including another Kitten's Joy, 2-year-old gelding Santo Gato, who was pulled up on the backstretch by jockey Miguel Mena in Wednesday's fourth race and vanned off the track.

"We're wondering if it's an equipment thing," she said. "He's walking around, dragging my people back and forth down the road. He looks like a million dollars. I think we've been anticipating this since maybe April. We aimed both of these two for spots at Saratoga. We knew he was a little bit less of that kind of horse, not as precocious as she was, but, obviously, still prepared to go. She's always given us the indication that she wants to be a good horse, and she can compete at this level."

Nihei began working for Pletcher in 2003, and earned her first victory as a trainer on Jan. 6, 2008. A native of Calgary, Alberta, she holds a Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Kentucky, and was a junior faculty member at Johns Hopkins before turning to horses in 2001.

"It's pretty important," she said of her Saratoga win. "It's about the best thing that could have happened."

- Her meet got off to a slow start, but defending training champion Linda Rice is back in a familiar spot near the top of the standings.

Rice picked up her 16th victory in

See **WEDNESDAY** page 19 ►



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# Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 20

Wednesday's second, when Cheeky Mama (Dominguez) dominated a field of eight maidens, going gate-to-wire to win in 1:05.66 for 5 1/2 furlongs on the main track.

Unlike her debut Aug. 13, when the juvenile daughter of Da Stoops stumbled from the gate, rushed to the lead and faded to fifth, Cheeky Mama got out cleanly and went right for the front. She never looked back after setting fractions of 22.86, 45.65 and 59.03.

"Last time, she hopped away from there, showed some speed and then backed up down the stretch," Rice said. "Ramon said we should have been third that day, but he lost his whip. I was very happy with the way she ran today. I thought she'd run well."

Rick Dutrow claimed the winner for owner Michael Dubb.

Rice trails five-time Saratoga champion Pletcher by seven wins with 11 days remaining. She has put together three multi-win days, with two on Aug. 8 and 12, and three on Aug. 21.

"The first few days we had some rain and I scratched about five horses," she said. "We just couldn't get horses in. We started out a little sluggish, but we're starting to get it together."

• If he had been carrying a white flag, trainer Kieran McLaughlin would have waved it midway down the stretch of Wednesday's opener.

Remark, a well-bred but unlucky filly who had been second or third in five of



Tod Marks

John Velazquez guns Pleasant Strike through on the rail to win Wednesday's seventh.

her first six career starts, had the lead snatched away by Arena Elvira with the wire in sight.

"I thought she was beat," McLaughlin said. "The way the meet's been going, we've had so many seconds, I was surrendering. But, I'm glad we won."

The 3-year-old daughter of Distorted Humor owned by Darley Stable put in a gutsy performance for her first win, rallying on the inside under Dominguez to retake the lead and hold off Arena Elvira by a head.

"It's very nice, because she's very well-bred. It's nice to get their maidens broke," McLaughlin said. "She ran well. She was game. Ramon did a great job. She was drifting on both turns and it looked like [Arena Elvira] got by us

at the eighth pole, but she dug back in. We've lost our share of photos here, so it's nice to win one."

• He has been coming to Saratoga for years, and this year trainer John Parisella came with a goal.

"I wanted to get away with two wins, with what I had coming up here," he said. "We only have one to go. I'm happy."

Tiger Willie, owned by Max and Saul Kupferberg, came roaring up the inside under Castellano to win the fifth, \$25,000 conditioned claimer, in 1:38.48 for a mile on the inner turf.

It was only the second win in 15 lifetime starts for the 3-year-old Tiger Ridge gelding, who was a closing fifth

in a 5 1/2-furlong turf sprint at Saratoga Aug. 7.

Parisella, 65, is 1-for-9 at the meet, and 7-for-93 at Saratoga since 2002. He went winless with a total of 26 starters in 2004, 2007 and 2008, and won two of 10 tries last summer.

"I've got news for you," Parisella said. "Being a bettor myself, to watch Castellano, he's fighting for the [riding] title, and for him to make that rail trip; no matter what the race is worth or what kind of race, I enjoy racing and I enjoy a ride like that. It was special."

• Yes, Pletcher is still leading the trainer standings, but you'd never know it looking at the odds for Wednesday's seventh race.

Pleasant Strike, a 6-year-old Edward Evans homebred entered for a \$75,000 tag, went off at 10-1 for the 1 1/16-mile allowance/optional claiming race on the inner turf. Given a textbook ride by John Velazquez, Pleasant Strike saved ground early and surged up the inside down the stretch to outrun frantic closer Skipadate and win by a half-length. Skipadate had a nose on Followmyfootsteps in third.

The only horse entered for the claiming price (the others all qualified as non-winners of three other than or four), Pleasant Strike won a Grade III stakes back in 2007 and carried more than \$400,000 in career earnings. The winner's 2-year-old full-brother, Curlinello, won here last week.

Of Pletcher's 24 wins, only three have come on grass. He also won with Interactif in the Grade II National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame Aug. 13, and Go Go Pink in the opener Aug. 19.

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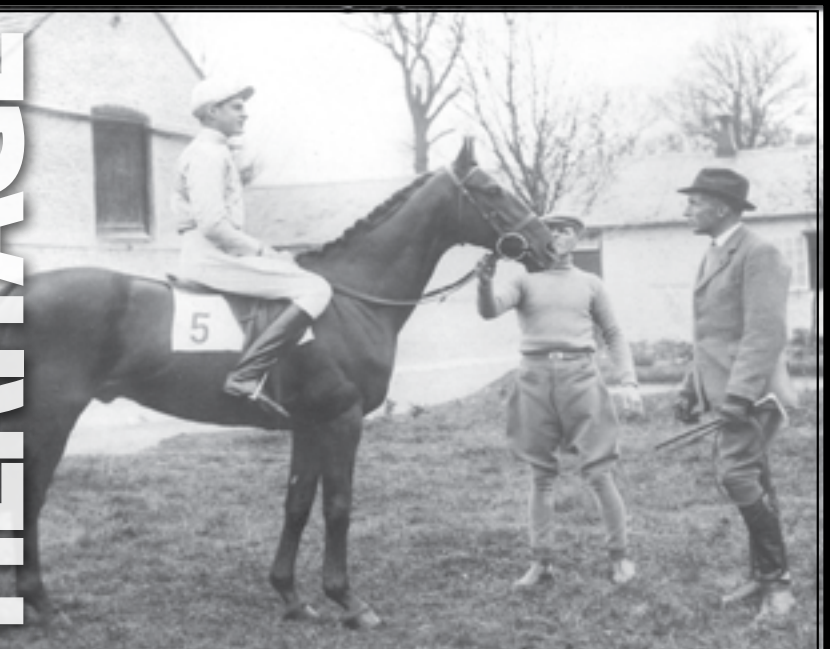
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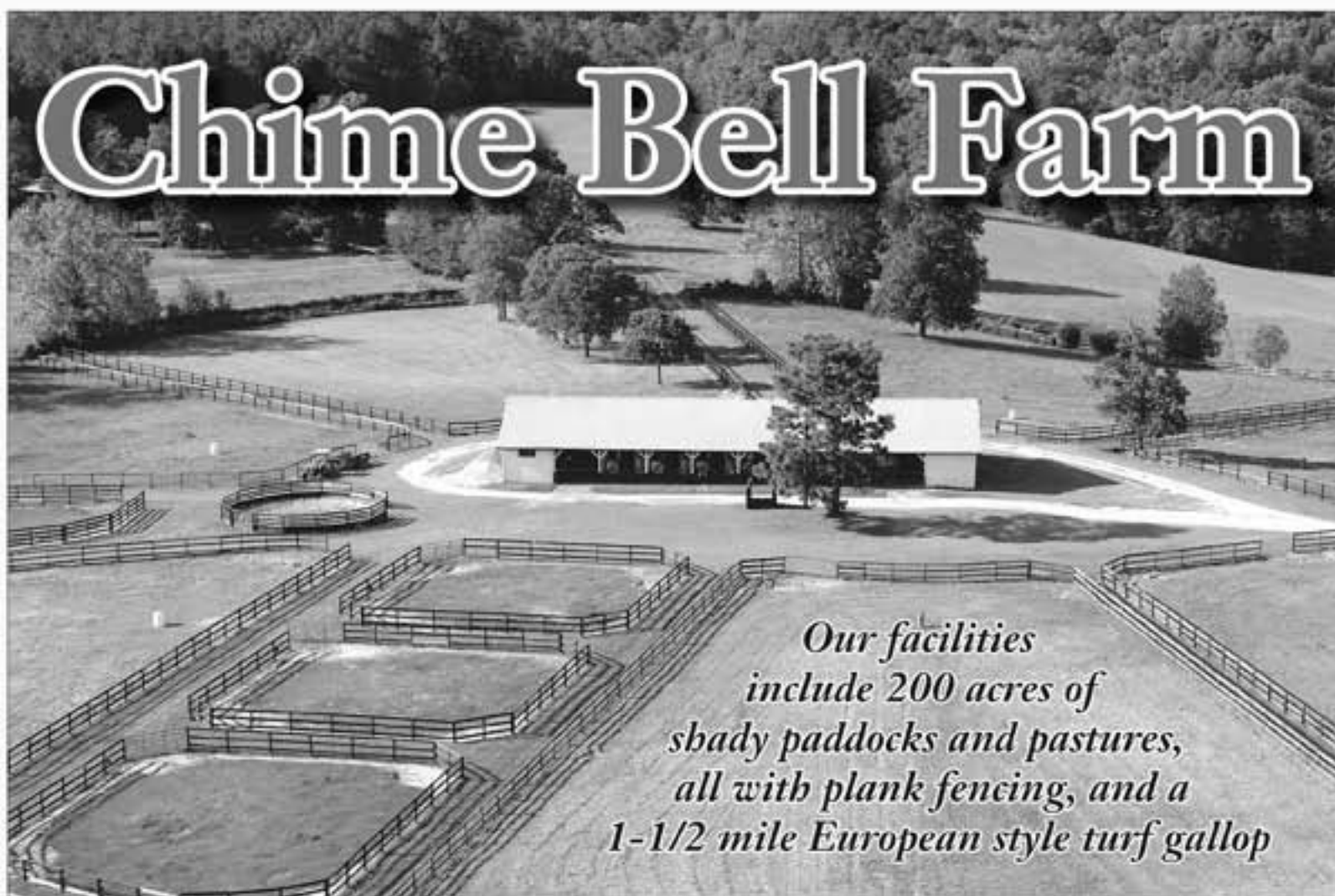
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# WEDNESDAY'S SARATOGA WINNERS • PHOTOS BY DAVE HARMON

**1 Remark**



**2 Cheeky Mama**



**3 Yawkey Way**



**4 Kid Curry**



**5 Tiger Willie**



**6 Silent Joy**



**7 Pleasant Strike**



**8 Stormy's Majesty**



**9 Harlan's Ruby**



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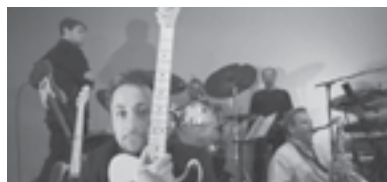
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# WEDNESDAY'S SARATOGA RESULTS

Wednesday, August 25, 2010

## 1ST 1 1/8 MILES 3 & UP MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT PURSE: \$49,980

1	Remark	Dominguez R A	4.50	2.40	2.10
2	Arena Elvira	Maragh R		2.70	2.20
5	Super Espresso	Velazquez J R			2.60

Time 1:53.51

Trainer: McLaughlin Kieran P - Owner: Darley Stable  
Dk. b. or br. f. 3 by Distorted Humor - Krisada by Kris S  
Breeder: Stonerside Stable  
\$2 Exacta (1-2) Paid \$9.80

## 2ND 5 1/2 FURLONGS 2 YO MAIDEN CLAIMING (\$35,000) PURSE: \$25,000

5	Cheeky Mama	Dominguez R A	3.60	2.30	2.10
2	Status Pending	Gomez G K		3.60	3.00
3	Private Escort	Santiago V			3.80

Time 1:05.66

Trainer: Rice Linda - Owner: Slow Roll Stables  
B. f. 2 by Da Stoops - Coogee Co by Delineator. Breeder: 4 M Ranch  
\$2 Exacta (5-2) Paid \$11.40  
\$2 Quinella (2-5) Paid \$8.00  
\$2 Trifecta (5-2-3) Paid \$60.00  
\$2 Daily Double (1-5) Paid \$9.60 Daily Double Pool \$189,928  
\$2 Superfecta (5-2-3-6) Paid \$342.40

## 3RD ANN CLARE STAKES 6 FURLONGS 2 YO PURSE: \$68,600

4	Yawkey Way	Castellano J J	3.20	2.20	2.10
3	Watkins Glen	Dominguez R A		3.30	2.10
5	Queen's Harbor	Bridgmohan S X			3.10

Time 1:11.79

Trainer: Brown Chad C - Owner: Klaravich Stables and Lawrence, W.H.  
Dk. b. or br. f. 2 by Grand Slam - Is Kylie Good by Touch Gold  
Breeder: New Dawn Stud LLC  
\$2 Exacta (4-3) Paid \$9.20  
\$2 Trifecta (4-3-5) Paid \$24.40  
\$2 Pick 3 (1-5-4) 3 Correct Paid \$14.40 Pick 3 Pool \$103,701  
\$2 Daily Double (5-4) Paid \$5.90 Daily Double Pool \$51,728

## 4TH 7 FURLONGS 2 YO MAIDEN CLAIMING (\$75,000) PURSE: \$36,000

5	Kid Curry	Velasquez C	13.20	7.40	4.30
1	Dax	Lenclud F		7.70	5.20
9	Read the E Mail	Cohen D			5.80

Time 1:27.16

Trainer: Hough Stanley M - Owner: Sahn, Robert, I. and Hough, Stanley, M.  
Ch. c. 2 by Posse - Cash Flow by Gilded Time. Breeder: Curtis Green  
\$2 Exacta (5-1) Paid \$98.50  
\$2 Quinella (1-5) Paid \$42.60  
\$2 Trifecta (5-1-9) Paid \$888.00  
\$2 Pick 3 (5-4-5) 3 Correct Paid \$51.00 Pick 3 Pool \$44,939  
\$2 Daily Double (4-5) Paid \$36.20 Daily Double Pool \$61,671  
\$2 Superfecta (5-1-9-3) Paid \$2,423.00

## 5TH 1 MILE (INNER TURF) 3 & UP CLM (\$25,000) PURSE: \$28,000

4	Tiger Willie	Castellano J J	10.00	4.50	3.00
7	Gamblin Fever	Velasquez C		5.00	3.00
1	Lunar Puzzle	Maragh R			3.50

Time 1:38.48

Trainer: Parisella John - Owner: Kupferberg, Saul J. and Max  
Ch. g. 3 by Tiger Ridge - Willie Brook by Montbrook.  
Breeder: Carlos Rafael  
\$2 Exacta (4-7) Paid \$44.00  
\$2 Trifecta (4-7-1) Paid \$158.50  
\$2 Pick 3 (4-5-4) 3 Correct Paid \$161.50 Pick 3 Pool \$72,338  
\$2 Pick 4 (1/5-4-5-4) 4 Correct Paid \$335.00 Pick 4 Pool \$163,356  
\$2 Daily Double (5-4) Paid \$84.00 Daily Double Pool \$50,899  
\$2 Superfecta (4-7-1-2) Paid \$322.00

## 6TH 5 1/2 FURLONGS (TURF) 2 YO MAIDEN PURSE: \$50,000

8	Silent Joy	Castellano J J	12.20	5.30	3.90
3	Orangeblackandgold	Lezcano J		3.50	2.70
2	Drumette	Coa E M			5.20

Time 1:04.36

Trainer: Nihei, Michelle - Owner: Gargan, Danny  
Ch. f. 2 by Kitten's Joy - Silent Emotion by Ghazi  
Breeder: Ken and Sarah Ramsey  
\$2 Exacta (8-3) Paid \$48.40  
\$2 Trifecta (8-3-2) Paid \$376.50  
\$2 Pick 3 (5-4-8) 3 Correct Paid \$631.00 Pick 3 Pool \$64,713  
\$2 Daily Double (4-8) Paid \$72.00 Daily Double Pool \$61,796  
\$2 Superfecta (8-3-2-7) Paid \$990.00

## 7TH 1 1/16 MILES (INNER TURF) 3 & UP ALLOWANCE OC (\$75,000) PURSE: \$57,000

6	Pleasant Strike	Velazquez J R	22.00	8.30	5.10
9	Skipadate	Castellano J J		6.90	3.90
2	Followmyfootsteps	Maragh R			6.20

Time 1:43.40

Trainer: Pletcher, Todd A - Owner: Evans Edward P.  
Dk. b. or br. h. 6 by Smart Strike - Colonella by Pleasant Colony  
Breeder: Edward Evans  
\$2 Exacta (6-9) Paid \$112.50  
\$2 Trifecta (6-9-2) Paid \$1,050.00  
\$2 Daily Double (8-6) Paid \$131.00 Daily Double Pool \$80,630  
\$2 Pick 3 (4-8-6) 3 Correct Paid \$544.00 Pick 3 Pool \$90,259  
\$2 Superfecta (6-9-2-3) Paid \$4,604.00

## 8TH ALBANY STAKES 1 1/8 MILES 3 YO PURSE: \$100,000

2	Stormy's Majesty	Prado E S	5.50	2.90	2.50
1	Ibboyee	Velazquez J R		2.20	2.10
5	Johannesburg Smile	Castellano J J			2.50

Time 1:50.55

Trainer: Galluscio Dominic G - Owner: Majesty Stud  
Ch. c. 3 by Stormy Atlantic - Raffie's Dream by Raffie's Majesty  
Breeder: Majesty Stud  
\$2 Exacta (2-1) Paid \$8.70  
\$2 Trifecta (2-1-5) Paid \$19.80  
\$2 Grand Slam (1,4,7-2,3,8-2,6,9-2) Paid \$55.50  
\$2 Pick 3 (8-6-2) 3 Correct Paid \$295.00 Pick 3 Pool \$62,475  
\$2 Daily Double (6-2) Paid \$62.00 Daily Double Pool \$87,713

## 9TH 1 1/16 MILES (TURF) 2 YO MAIDEN PURSE: \$51,000

6	Harlan's Ruby	Leparoux J R	9.70	5.50	3.80
7	Triune	Garcia Alan		12.80	8.90
9	Mount Holiday	Lezcano J			22.20

Finish Time: 1:44.54

Trainer: McPeck Kenneth G - Owner: Shawnee Racing Stable, Ltd.  
B. f. 2 by Harlan's Holiday - Smiling Eyes by Saint Ballado  
Breeder: Hopewell Investments LLC  
\$2 Exacta (6-7) Paid \$150.50  
\$2 Trifecta (6-7-9) Paid \$4,622.00  
\$2 Superfecta (6-7-9-11) Paid \$25,092.00  
\$2 Daily Double (2-6) Paid \$28.20 Daily Double Pool \$255,503  
\$2 Pick 3 (6-2-6) 3 Correct Paid \$215.00 Pick 3 Pool \$184,245  
\$2 Pick 4 (8-6-2-6) 4 Correct Paid \$1,618.00 Pick 4 Pool \$351,216  
\$2 Pick 6 (5-4-8-6-2-6) 5 Correct Paid \$561.00 Pick 6 Pool  
\$2 Pick 6 (5-4-8-6-2-6) 6 Correct Paid \$96,328.00 Pick 6 Pool  
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PP	ODDS	HORSE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY
1	12-1	Miner's Reserve	Robert LaPenta	Nick Zito	David Cohen
2	4-1	Trappe Shot	Mill House	Kiaran McLaughlin	Alan Garcia
3	12-1	Admiral Alex	Leon Blusiewicz	Leon Blusiewicz	Kent Desormeaux
4	8-1	First Dude	Donald Dizney	Dale Romans	Ramon Dominguez
5	7-2	A Little Warm	Edward Evans	Tony Dutrow	John Velazquez
6	10-1	Ice Box	Robert LaPenta	Nick Zito	Julien Leparoux
7	6-1	Afleet Express	Gainesway Stable	Jimmy Jerkens	Javier Castellano
8	8-1	Fly Down	Richard Pell	Nicholas Zito	Jose Lezcano
9	15-1	Friend Or Foe	Chester & Mary Broman	John Kimmel	Rajiv Maragh
10	30-1	Afleet Again	Cash Is King Stable	Robert Reid	Cornelio Velasquez
11	6-1	Super Saver	WinStar Farm	Todd Pletcher	Calvin Borel





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Tod Marks

Also an amateur jockey, Ben Garner rode a training flat race at the Saratoga Open House in 2009

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MONDAY TO FRIDAY BY APPOINTMENT

## Injured exercise rider Garner improving

Trainer Doug Fout said exercise rider Ben Garner had improved after suffering a concussion in a fall in the Oklahoma stable area Tuesday morning. Garner fell with Fout's horse Scheming while walking back from a workout on the main track and was transported to Albany Medical Center.

Fout said Garner did not have any broken bones or internal injuries, but did suffer the head injury. By early Wednesday morning, he was breathing on his own and had responded to questions. Garner was heavily sedated, but woke up for short periods Wednesday afternoon.

"He was able to talk and give a thumbs up signal - he understood the questions we were asking, which is a good sign," said Fout. "But he's got a bad, bad concussion. He did not recognize me the first time he woke up, but was better the next couple of times, which the doctors say is normal. They hope to see him awake a little longer in the next day or so."

The rider and the unraced Scheming were walking back to Fout's barn at the Oklahoma Annex, when the horse spooked, bolted forward, slipped on a road and fell. The horse landed on Garner, who was treated on the scene by emergency personnel.

"We were walking on the horsepath like normal, Ben had his feet out of the stirrups and everything was fine," said Fout. "There was a huge bang, either a truck hit something or backfired, the horse reared up and bolted down the horse path. He saw horses coming off the (Oklahoma) gap and tried to stop, but slipped on the road, went over backward and landed right on Ben."

An English native, Garner has worked for Fout for the past year and a half - at home in Virginia and at Saratoga.

— Joe Clancy

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of the day

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by Joe Clancy

Pick up your notebook and dump it into the newspaper. My old college professor didn't exactly use those words, but the E-307 (introduction to journalism) lectures did include instructions to that effect.

So here goes.

• Rusty Arnold ran It's Tea Time in the slop Sunday and she rewarded her trainer with a stakes victory in the Woodford Reserve Lake Placid. It wasn't a Grade II turf stakes like it was supposed to be, but the race still paid owner/breeder Alex Campbell \$90,000 and rewarded Arnold with his third win of the meet.

The triple (so far) sure out-does last year's winless campaign. Arnold's horses lost every race they ran at Saratoga in 2009, but added to the frustration by placing second nine times.

Ouch. Based in Kentucky for much of the year, Arnold didn't kick his dog when he got home but probably couldn't wait for Saratoga 2010 to come around.

"Winning races sure beats not winning one, but if you do this long enough it happens to you," Arnold said.

The change in luck made Arnold think about his first season in Saratoga. Summer 1987, the year of Iran-Contra, the year the Dow Jones passed 2,000 for the first time, the year Channing Hill was born.

Arnold got stalls in Saratoga for the first time and went full of expectations.

"I wanted to win a race, I wanted to look good and I had one 2-year-old filly that could really run," said Arnold. "I thought she'd win a maiden race. I bring her up here, get her in a maiden race, they run it and she's third, probably beaten 10 lengths."

Arnold walked out of the track, muttering.

"She's the best filly I got and she got beat 10 lengths? What do I do now? I thought I had her ready."

Arnold's filly, Bippus, turned out to be OK (she won a few races, anyway) – but she had an excuse in her debut loss.

Winning Colors, who won the Kentucky Derby the next year, won the race. Epitome, who won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies that fall, finished second.

"I got beat by two champions in the same race," Arnold said. "Welcome to Saratoga."

• By now you might know Steve Asmussen watches many of his charges' races from the grandstand apron. He stands in front of Section M or so – down by the eighth pole, at the fence, watching his stable stars streak past.

No box seat, no big screen TV in the clubhouse, no racing-office couch. Why? He likes the view from there.

"You ever see (the movie) Casey's Shadow?" Asmussen asked after he wandered into the winner's circle after taking the Saratoga Special with Kantharos Aug. 15. "I grew up watching races at Ruidoso and when you walked out of the paddock, the horsemen's stand was right there, about the eighth pole. Just a huge habit, that's where I want to watch the race from. I've thought about it before, it's where I grew up watching races and I guess I'm stuck to it."



Tod Marks

It's Tea Time gave trainer Rusty Arnold his third win at the meet and caused him to think about the past.

My father used to do the same thing, but it had nothing to do with Ruidoso. Dad liked to get away from his kids, his owners, the pressures and typically watched the races from far down the grandstand. Fourmatt, Rollicking Run, Money By Orleans, Hawaiki, Tattieboggle, they weren't Kantharos, Majesticperfection or Rachel Alexandra but the point was the same – he just wanted to see his horses run without all the fuss.

• Did you see the results of Woodbine's Sky Classic Stakes Sunday? Marsh Side, who was at Saratoga about a week ago, won the Canadian Grade I.

Trained by Neil Drysdale for Robert Evans, the  
See **OUTSIDE RAIL** page 29 ►



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## Outside Rail —

■ Continued from page 28

turf veteran shipped from California in search of soft turf. Drysdale looked at the Sword Dancer; it didn't rain. He looked at the Arlington Million; it didn't rain enough. He chose Canada, where Marsh Side and Edgar Prado won easily.

While waiting, Marsh Side spent a night at Clare Court, a few more at John Hertler's barn on the Oklahoma side and galloped around the Oklahoma track.

• Spring Street Deli, D'Andrea's Pizza, the Stadium Cafes, Uncommon Grounds, Saratoga Coffee Traders, the Bread Basket, Scallions, the Wishing Well, . . . Lil

Red's Coffee Stand, The Fire House, DeRossi's.

The Special and the Clancys go way back when it comes to Saratoga food, but we may have finally arrived in 2010. Isabel's Bistro and the Cupcake Lab, our neighbor at 517 Broadway (actually best accessed via Long Alley), named two menu items after us. Can you believe it?

The Clancy is an egg and cheese sandwich with lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise on homemade French bread. Perfect for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

The Saratoga Special Salad is a combination of the restaurant's three favorite menu items — Mesclun greens salad, chopped walnuts, raisins and gorgonzola with portions of house-made hummus and fresh Albacore tuna salad on the side.

See you in the dining room.



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by Sean Clancy

Wednesday. Twenty-eight cards in the books. Twelve to play. Three jockeys still in the hunt for the most coveted riding title in the world.

John Velazquez leads by one win over Javier Castellano who's six up on the pesky Ramon Dominguez who's hanging around enough to be counted in and not out. After those three, it's a tax bracket to Julien Leproux and Alan Garcia.

Three professionals show up for work; on time every day, punch in, punch out. While some jockeys fall off the tracks, these three hold steady, hands at 10 and 2, straight down the middle lane. They are in the zone.

John Velazquez: 38.

Javier Castellano: 37.

Ramon Dominguez: 31.

Not for long.

Dominguez wins the early double; holding and cajoling Remark to win the 9-furlong maiden in a photo and then keeps the second simple by staying out of trouble aboard Cheeky Mama. Last year's champion ain't dead yet.

Dominguez, 33, has gradually carved his initials on New York. He and his agent Steve Rushing tested the waters here for several summers, then tested the frozen air at Aqueduct before committing for good. They've won 10 titles in a row and would hate to break the streak here in the public's eye. Long hold, uncanny balance, Dominguez gets horses to relax when others can't.

His ride on Avenging, a maiden claimer on the turf for Tom Voss, was patent Dominguez. He stayed off the horse's mouth, allowed him to settle and won while drifting out. The horse enjoyed it. Dominguez rides all morning; Rick Dutrow, Barclay Tagg, Todd Pletcher – whoever needs him, whenever they need him. Sincere and thoughtful, Dominguez drives a Honda to the barn, likes to cook sushi and uses a day in his workshop, making things, as a release.

Castellano counters Dominguez's double by taking the Ann Clare with favorite Yawkey Way who bests Dominguez on maiden Watkins Glen. Castellano pumps his whip underhanded and understated after the wire. It's not his most polished win, but it's a win. That's 38, but who's counting? Hello John Velazquez, nice to see you again.

Velazquez runs out of stamina in the first, winding up third aboard Super Espresso. He finishes next-to-last in the second. He fades to fourth aboard the favorite in the fourth. He's got more ammo to fire.

The VCD Line allows Cornelio Velasquez to win the fourth. Linda Rice scratches Doest from the fifth, demoting Dominguez to the jocks' room along with Velazquez, keeping an eye on Castellano who rides Tiger Willie.

Castellano tries to go for a hole between a tiring Tidal Slam and a rallying Gamblin Fever, can't make that seam, goes back to the rail and skims through to win. That's 39, Castellano is in front, one win above Velazquez. Suddenly Dominguez's double to open the card is old news.

Castellano, 32, has steadily worked onto the speed dial of New York trainers. It seems like he's been here forever; polite, unassuming, steady and finally getting the rides to put him in the thick of a title run. Castellano

and agent Matt Muzikar have formed a solid relationship; they call each other by a mutual nickname, "Partner." They've partnered to become the go-to rider for prolific Saratoga stables George Weaver, Chad Brown, Jimmy Jerkens and stock the shelves with rides from Todd Pletcher and others. Castellano waited his turn while the guard changed from Bailey to Prado to Velazquez and now he's finally one of the guards. He used to just miss up here, whether it was stock or experience, he always held his own in the top 10. Now he's top 3.

Dominguez, Velazquez and Castellano ride the sixth, all aboard first-time starters. Dominguez finishes last and can't see what's happening way off in the distance. Castellano stokes Silent Joy to nail Orange-blackandgold in the final stride. And that makes 40.

"So far, it's gone the right way," Castellano said. "Those guys are tough, they never give up. The more I win, the more they win. Johnny's a good rider. Ramon's a good rider. We are all very competitive, let's all go out and have fun and try to win some races. Hopefully it will come to the end of the meet. For me, it's big. For them, it's nothing, they've won so many leading jockey titles, I say, 'Come on guys, let me just have this meet.'"

Not a chance.

Velazquez didn't win four titles by accident, he offers the ride of the meet, slicing and dicing to get Pleasant Strike home in the seventh. He beats Skipadate, with none other than Castellano. The two-win swing is crucial.

Velazquez, 38, has been here before; battling for a Saratoga title. Velazquez broke Bailey's grip, winning his first title in 1998, the only jockey other than Bai-

See **COFFEE** page 31 ►

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# Coffee —

■ Continued from page 30

ley to win the Saratoga title from 1994 to 2001. Velazquez took two more in 2003-04 while sparring with Prado. He's back in his comfort zone, winning races with alacrity and precision. Velazquez started in New York in 1990, he's made anybody who knows him proud since. Vocal and opinionated, Velazquez stands up and fights for what he believes. Pletcher's first call for so many years, he rides the fortune of that stable, his horses have earned about \$600,000 more than Castellano and \$1 million more than Dominguez at this meet. Velazquez's agent, Hall of Fame jockey Angel Cordero, doesn't spend time in a golfcart like most agents, he's on the back of prospective mounts all day every day. He breezed one for David Donk Wednesday morning, test driving.

"The toughest part is staying on the top, there is no doubt in anybody's mind, staying focused, doing the right thing all the time, trying to make the right decisions all the time. Everything has to fall into the place," Velazquez said. "Javier's riding very well, he's grown a lot over the years, he's getting the momentum, he's been doing well for a long time but he hasn't gotten the breaks to be leading rider, it looks like me, it took me nine years for the first time."

Velazquez nearly re-rallies to win the Albany with Ibbeyee but can't run down Prado aboard Stormy's Majesty. Castellano and Dominguez follow right behind, two, three, four.

Without a ride in the last, Dominguez

## Saratoga Leaders Through Wednesday

### Jockeys

Javier Castellano	40
John Velazquez	39
Ramon Dominguez	33
Julien Leparoux	20
Alan Garcia	17
Kent Desormeaux	14
Garret Gomez	13
Edgar Prado	13

### Trainers

Todd Pletcher	24
Linda Rice	16
Chad Brown	14
Bill Mott	9
Ken McPeck	8

is the first one to leave; he wins two and loses ground to Castellano. Tough game.

Castellano and Velazquez fail to threaten with their rides in the finale.

At the end of the day, Castellano knows the score.

*How many did you win today?*

"Three."

*How many did Ramon win?*

"Two."

*How many did Johnny win?*

"One."

*Who's in front?*

"Me. For now."



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### Saratoga Events Schedule

- Saturday, August 28 — **Handicapping Tournament at Saratoga Racecourse - On the Travers Stakes Card**
- Tuesday, August 31 — **Golf Tournament at Country Club of Troy, Troy, NY**
- Tuesday, August 31 — **Golf Tournament at McGregor Links Country Club, Saratoga Springs, NY**



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