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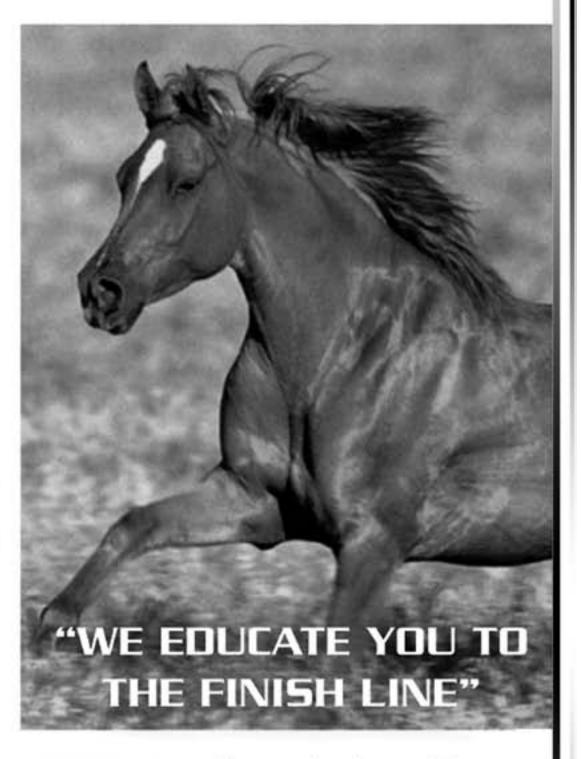
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here&there... at Saratoga



Connie Bush

Timeless. In a photo from 2011 or 1911, a horse walks at the Oklahoma Annex this week.

WORTH REPEATING The Special's quotes from Saratoga

"Would you like to saddle one, Joe? I'll make sure you get the crazy one."

Trainer Jonathan Sheppard, who ran four, to The Special's

Joe Clancy (who declined) before Thursday's Turf Writers

"He's very thrifty with his words."

Steeplechase fan George Mahoney, on trainer Tom Voss

"I've got to be the only owner in history to lose a Grade I winner on the flat (General Quarters) by claim and a Grade I winner over jumps by claim."

Owner Ken Ramsey, former owner of Thursday's

New York Turf Writers Cup winner Mabou

"One of the best parts about them is if they mess up, they'll dog cuss themselves. Sometimes I have to warn my owners."

Trainer David Donk, on jockeys John Velazquez and Ramon Dominguez

"As long as you're not doing it with rent money . . ."

Advice from a handicapper, on getting split in an exacta

"That's what they call Country Salsa."

NYRA's Bow White on the music at Chico's Shoeshine Stand, which had a Nashville flavor Thursday morning "No program mooching allowed."

Sign stuck to a tree next to trainer Merrill Scherer's barn

"I don't think that would be good for business."

Jock's agent Doc Danner, on the blond David Lee Roth wig worn by Freddie Lenclud at the jockey karaoke night

"I was very nervous at the end, screaming my head off, then it was a thrill."

Trainer Rodrigo Ubillo, when asked if it was a thrill to win the Albany

"Trying to keep Saratoga beautiful."

Gary Sciacca, while shoveling dirt around his barn

"Must be the earthquake."

Colleen Cummings, while watching Sciacca do physical labor

"Read it cover to cover already."

Roger Horgan, when asked if he needed a paper early Thursday morning

"The days are getting shorter."

Trainer Jimmy Baker, first thing Thursday morning

"Every day, it's a little darker."

Trainer Scott Everett, first thing Thursday morning

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THE SARATOGA SPECIAL FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2011

here&there...

Continued from previous page



Connie Bush

Aging Gracefully. A Nelson Avenue barn stands the test of time.

NAMES OF THE DAY

Calmafterthestorm, first race. Three-year-old filly is Broken Vow out of Storm Front.

Show Time, fifth race. Just sounds good.

Ballyclough, fifth race. Named after a village in County Cork in Ireland. Ask owner Peter Callahan if that's his hometown.

BY THE NUMBERS

1: Yankees hat on a trash can at the rec. center Thursday morning

11: Charging golf carts in the grandstand Thursday morning.

On a pallet in the clubhouse Thursday morning

1: Box of red sweet peppers (25 pounds).

1: Box of green sweet peppers (25 pounds).

3: Bags of red potatoes (50 pounds each).

4: Boxes of "Fresh Seafood;" lobsters, mussels, clams or oysters (no checkmarks).

WEATHER

Today: Partly cloudy. High, 82. Low, 60. Travers Day: Mostly cloudy. High, 80. Low, 66. Sunday: Rain. High, 69. Low, 61. Monday: Few showers. High, 71. Low, 55.



JUST SAYIN'

"He debated putting the horse in because it was way over our head. What's the difference, I've got so many."

> Owner Chester Broman after Rodrigo Ubillo pulled off a stunner in the Albany with Bigger Is Bettor

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Public Syndicate Groups - Stakes Stats for 2011							
_	GS Wins	GS Wnrs	Stk Wins	Stk Wnrs			
Team Valor International	5	4	10	8			
Starlight	3	1	4	2			
Peachtree	3	1	4	2			
Blinkers On	2	1	2	1			
Dogwood	2	1	2	1			
West Point	1	1	2	2			
Thoroughbred Legends	1	1	1	1			
Class Racing	_	_	7	4			
Fantasy Lane	_	-	2	1			
Pinnacle Racing	_	_	2	1			
Centennial	_	-	1	1			
Majestic Stable	_	_	1	1			
Bongo	_	_	_	_			
Elite Racing	_	_	_	_			
Funky Monkey Stable	_	-	_	_			
IEAH	_	_	_	_			
Parting Glass	_	-	-	_			
Pewter	_	_	_	_			
Sackatoga Stable	-	-	-	-			
Sovereign	_	_	_	_			
Starview	-	-	-	-			
Team Stallion	_	_	_	_			
Team Victory	-	-	-	-			
Three Chimneys	_	_	_	_			
Victory Thoroughbreds	_	_	_	_			
Source: TVI statistician Kathleen Jones, from reports from Bloodstock Journal and TDN. Stats are current through July 29, 2011 at 1 p.m. ET							
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(they did.)



FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2011 THE SARATOGA SPECIAL 5

Storm Brewing

Get Stormy aims to repeat score in Grade II turf test

BY KATIE BO WILLIAMS

At 5:30 a.m., it's pitch black on the main track except for the grandstand lit up yellow across the infield and a swath of light cut by a pair of headlights. Get Stormy jogs out of the dark and into the belt of bright, massive and unmistakable. The white stretched up his legs and bled into the whites of his polos, picking up the beacon of his face.

"I normally don't like that when it comes up on the knee," Tom Bush said, watching from the gap with a smile on his face. "They look more like a cow than a horse."

The chrome obviously hasn't bothered Get Stormy, who took an easy gallop Thursday morning before today's Grade II Bernard Baruch at 1 1/8 miles. The thing that's so striking about the dual Grade I winner is his size: loping around the track, there is something giant about the rich-colored son of Stormy Atlantic.

"He has a nice big round foot and he needs it be-See **BARUCH** page 8

Tod Marks

Get Stormy strolls into today's Bernard Baruch with four wins in five starts on the turf at Saratoga.

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Moryba (left) and Beau Choix exit placings in the Fourstardave here July 31.

Baruch —

■ Continued from page 6

cause he's a heavy horse, he wears a size 8 behind," Bush said. "He's easy on himself galloping, he doesn't gallop at too high of a clip and he's a tremendous doer, so he takes a little training to keep that flesh off of him."

Sullimar Stable's 5-year-old has been training since his last start, a third in the Grade III Monmouth June 12. The layoff wasn't intended, but a small knock on the outside of a tendon just before the Fourstardave here July 31 necessitated a 10-day break.

"We thought we were going to run at the end of July, which would have been perfect," Bush said. "We didn't really lose any time but it's just a little further away from the races. I'm more worried about the whole length of time between races going 1 1/8 miles rather than having lost any time."

Bush reflected on how fortunate he has been to have a sound charge: Get Stormy has started five times this year, finishing in the money four times (including wins in the Grade I Woodford Reserve and the Grade I Makers Mark). Last year, the bay went 3-for-6, including back-to-back scores in the Fourstardave and the Bernard Baruch.

"He really hasn't any hiccups in all the races I've gotten him ready for in the last couple of years, he's spoiled us," Bush said. "He's been pretty free of any speed bumps, that was the difference

Tod Marks

See **BARUCH** page 10 ▶

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Turallure won a turf stakes at Churchill Downs in June and was beaten 3 lengths in the Fourstar-

Baruch —

■ Continued from page 8

this time. We had to regroup after we lost that 10 days."

Get Stormy cantered past, size 8 shoes playing a staccato on the damp

"Track's a little tighter this morning, it's a little firmer," Bush said. "Doesn't sound quite as soft, I think they put a hell of a seal on it last night with the rain possibly coming."

Even with spitting showers all through Thursday morning (and more forecasted), Bush showed none of the worry of a trainer with a horse in on the grass.

"He's won on soft ground, even when he won the Grade I on Derby Day, for whatever reason, Churchill had the turf listed as firm and it was far, far, far from firm," Bush said. "Not even close. We had lots of rain the two weeks leading up to the Derby, so I don't know why they wanted to put that label on it. I would have called it somewhere between soft and yielding."

Get Stormy trotted back from his gallop on his toes. Taking a few turns before his bath, the colt stopped to bury his nose in his water bucket on every pass of the shedrow. He practically glowed with good health.

"He loves water, that's one of the reasons why he has such a beautiful coat," Bush said. "He drinks water like an elephant."

A winner of more than \$1.1 million, 3-1 favorite Get Stormy will break from the outside post in a field of 11. Ramon Dominguez rides for the third consecutive time.

Stuart Janney's Hymn Book breaks from the 8-hole for Shug McGaughey. Second in the Suburban, the son of Arch won an off-the-turf stakes at Belmont earlier this spring. Historically a turf horse, the 5-year-old is 2-for-3 in offthe-turf events. The Suburban was his first carded dirt start.

"I put him in that little stake main track only because I had Boisterous and I thought I'd try (Hymn Book) in the Suburban, see what happens, and he was a good second, he just caught a horse that was awfully good that day," McGaughey said of Suburban winner Flat Out. "I thought about bringing him up here to run in the Whitney but it just didn't come up the way I liked it so I decided to pass and go to this race on the grass.'

Hymn Book, who competed in allowance company for the last two years, has come back much improved as a 5-year-old. In addition to the stakes win and the Suburban second, the gelding was second in a turf allowance at Keeneland in his 2011 debut.

McGaughey doesn't attribute any master plan to Hymn Book's forays to the dirt this year.

"I knew he liked an off track, if that stake race he won at Belmont had been on the dirt I wouldn't have entered him, but I entered him main track only because I knew if it rained and came off, he would like an off track," Mc-Gaughey said. "How he was going to like the dirt, I didn't know but he liked

See **BARUCH** page 11 ▶

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Baruch —

■ Continued from page 10

it and we ran him back in the Suburban. It's more been taking-a-shot-type stuff and seeing what happened more than any kind of huge ideas."

Hymn Book has not started since the Suburban July 2.

"When he goes over there, he puts everything he has into it, and it takes him a little while to bounce back," Mc-Gaughey said. "The grass might be a little bit easier on him than the dirt."

McGaughey expects to see Hymn Book sitting off the pace under John Velazquez, a deviation from his comefrom-behind approach to his 2011 debut.

"I think he'll be just off," Mc-Gaughey said. "I was a little surprised, especially when he ran that off-the-turf race, how close he was. I commented to myself, he ain't ever been up this close before. He's showing a little bit of diversification there. He's always been a trier, but I think he's gone to a little bit different level."

Later Thursday morning, with rain spattering with purpose, George Weaver hoped for a firmer turf course more for his own sanity than for Boots Ahead.

"I would prefer not to have extremely soft turf, not because he won't handle it but because I'll be worried about him handling it," Weaver said. "He has run here before on yielding turf but I would prefer if it would rain less than more."

Boots Ahead, a 5-year-old son of Storm Boot, comes into the Baruch on the back of a \$100,000 optional-

claiming win here July 28. Winner of the \$65,000 Restoration in 2009, Boots Ahead was a close third in an overnight stakes at Belmont July 7.

"The horse is doing very well, he's run through his conditions and he had an excellent race here earlier in the meet," Weaver said. "It would never surprise me if he were to win a race as good as the Bernard Baruch, he's always acted like he had some quality to him. He's a hard-knocking horse and we thought we'd give it a try. Every once in a while you have to test your horse and ask him the question, 'are you good enough?' "

Weaver means "hard-knocking" literally.

"He's a rowdy horse, he likes to squeal and kick and every once in a while he'll get a little wound up in his stall and start destroying his stall," Weaver said. "He breaks a lot of boards. You just have to get him out and graze him or do something. When you put the saddle on him, he's a forward-training horse and likes his job. He's no church mouse. He lets you know he's there."

Mike Maker enters 12-1 Baryshnikov, winner of a \$50,000 overnight stakes at Turfway in March. The 5-year-old son of Empire Maker enters the race on the back of a third in the Grade III Oceanport July 31.

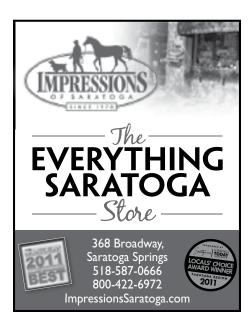
"He's on the up and up, he's on the rise," assistant trainer Jordan Blair said. "This will be his fourth graded stake and he keeps getting better and better. It's a challenge, he's going to have to bring his A game, but he's very talented, classy horse. We keep him fresh here, we don't do a whole lot with him."

Connie Apostelos and Jeffrey Columbro's charge will go to post under Corey Lanerie.

Seven others complete the 11-horse field including co-third choices at 6-1 Moryba and Beau Choix, second and third behind Sidney's Candy in the Fourstardave.

Trained by Bill Mott for Correas Thoroughbreds, the former seeks his second American win and will be ridden by Rajiv Maragh. Trained by Barclay Tagg, 4-year-old Beau Choix aims for his sixth lifetime win for Belle Meadows Farm and Lael Stable. The son of Elusive Quality won a stakes here last summer. Jose Lezcano rides from post 4.

The Bernard Baruch is carded as the ninth race on the day.



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FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2011 THE SARATOGA SPECIAL



The Special, ask for it!

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10 10

Ballyclough

Santo Gato

Show Time

Pervis

Hurling

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

Medieval Sword

Adam Rides Again

Saratoga Squier

Logical Order

Avenging

Smart Farming

Binks Forest

Cosmic King

Soultown Shoutout

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FRIDAY'S SARATOGA ENTRIES 1ST (1:00PM). \$50,000, SHP, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 1M (INNER TURF) Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double Spring Party E. Prado 2 2 C. Martin 5-1 J. Espinoza Centrina G. Contessa 3 3 Classical Fashion J. Castellano 12-1 Deanaallen'skitten J. Lezcano C. Brown 3-1 5 5 12-1 Kittvlicious R. Dominauez G. Sciacca 6 My Sunshine Gal R. Maragh D. Ryan Tutti Va Bene J. Leparoux G. Sciacca 8-1 K. McLaughlin 8 8 Calmafterthestorm A. Garcia 5-1 MTO Celebrity Sighting R. Dominguez 2-1 2ND (1:33PM). \$42,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 7F Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double First Penny R. Curatolo F. Martin, Sr. 15-1 G. Contessa 2 2 Hot Danger J. Castellano 3-1 3 C. Baker Little Larky R. Dominguez 7-2 J. Jerkens Evan's Rocket J. Leparoux 12-1 5 R. Ubillo 5 Turf and Roses A. Lezcano 8-1 Northern Warrior 6 I. Ortiz, Jr. W. Badgett, Jr. 5-1 M. Hennia Page by Page J. Lezcano 2-1 3RD (2:06PM). \$45,000, SHP, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double K. McPeek 6-1 Lucas Brady M. Cruz 2 **Unbridled Heat** E. Castro H. Jerkens 4-1 3 Frazil C. Velasquez L. Rice 3-1 Seniors Pride 4 J. Castellano D. Jacobson 10-1 5 Sea Gaze R. Dominguez S. Asmussen 5-1 Caixa Eletronica J. Velazquez T. Pletcher 8-5 4TH (2:39PM). \$75,000, STK - THE EASY N DIRTY, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double Driven by Success C. Velasquez T. Pletcher 8-5 Be Bullish G. Weaver 8-5 1a J. Castellano Law Enforcement 2 J. Lezcano M. Hennig 8-1 T. Pletcher Ibboyee 3 2 J. Velazquez 9-5 C. Englehart 4 Smokin Hero A. Garcia 4-1 J. Espinoza B. Calleias 5 Six Flings 12-1 Shrewd One 6 R. Curatolo P. Serpe 8-1 5TH (3:13PM). \$50,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF) Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Pic 6, Daily Double **Ghost Ride** 6-1 C. Nakatani

M. Cruz

J. Leparoux

R. Maragh

M. Garcia

S. Bridgmohan

R. Dominguez

6TH (3:47PM). \$25,000, CLM \$20,000, 3 & UP, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

C. Velasquez

J. Castellano

R. Dominguez

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15-1

10-1

9-2

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3-1 20-1

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5-1

10-1

12-1 3-1 12-1 5-1 8-1 5-1	5 6 7 8 9	5 6 7 8 9	Hear Me Roar A New Dawn Enrichment Double Foxxy Scootles	D. Cohen J. Espinoza K. Desormeaux J. Lezcano C. Velasquez	J. Kimmel T. Walters T. Albertrani W. Mott J. Hertler	8-1 15-1 6-1 8-1 9-2
2-1			55PM). \$57,000, AO		UP, 1 1/8M	
15-1 3-1 7-2 12-1 8-1 5-1	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	acta, 1 2 3 4 5 6	Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily D Regal Warrior To Honor and Serve Equestrio Slevin Afleet Again Northern Giant Gautier	R. Curatolo	M. Friedman W. Mott N. Zito R. Dutrow, Jr. R. Reid, Jr. D. Lukas K. McPeek	15-1 6-5 5-1 5-1 8-1 15-1 4-1
2-1			30PM). \$200,000, ST	K - THE BERNARD E	BARUCH, 3 YO'S &	UP,
6-1 4-1 3-1 10-1 5-1 8-5 F	Exa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		(TURF) Trifecta, Daily Double Interaction (ARG) Turallure Paris Vegas Beau Choix Baryshnikov Boots Ahead Blues Street Hymn Book Loup Breton (IRE) Moryba (BRZ) Get Stormy	C. Velasquez J. Leparoux A. Solis J. Lezcano C. Lanerie E. Castro K. Desormeaux J. Velazquez J. Castellano R. Maragh R. Dominguez	C. Clement C. Lopresti T. Voss B. Tagg M. Maker G. Weaver T. Pletcher C. McGaughey III T. Pletcher W. Mott T. Bush	10-1 10-1 30-1 6-1 12-1 20-1 8-1 4-1 8-1 6-1 3-1
8-1 9-5	10°	TH (6	: 04PM). \$30,000, CL I Trifecta	M \$35,000, 3&UP, F	&M , 1M (INNER T	URF)
4-1 12-1 8-1	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6	Frontaine Demure Halo Estero Bay Rakehellish Grace Alley Vee	F. Lenclud J. Leparoux C. Velasquez J. Espinoza A. Solis R. Dominguez	W. Phipps M. Maker T. Bush J. Morrison J. Sheppard C. Brown	8-1 6-1 15-1 12-1 12-1 3-1
6-1 5-2 10-1 12-1 7-2 4-1 10-1	11	7 8 9 10 AE AE	Pink Sand J C's Queen Sotique Saucy Jade Sweet Bibby Hey Hey Mama	R. Maragh J. Velazquez I. Ortiz, Jr. J. Castellano J. Sanchez S. Bridgmohan	P. Fout J. Toscano, Jr. R. Ribaudo T. Pletcher R. Rodriguez M. Casse	15-1 8-1 9-2 7-2 12-1 8-1
6-1		Co	pyright 2011 EQUIBA	SE Company LLC. A	II Rights Reserved.	

7TH (4:21PM). \$50,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 5 1/2F (TURF)

I. Ortiz. Jr.

J. Castellano

R. Albarado

J. Leparoux

M. Hennig

C. Brown

D. Lukas

J. Sheppard

15-1

5-2

10-1

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

Four Dreams

Dede's Mouse

Silver Meeting

Too Clever by Half

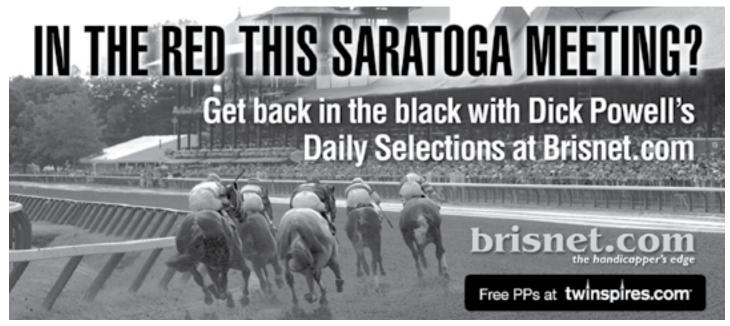
2

3

4

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the Powe grid	John	Gaile	Dean	Erin	Charles
Race #	Shapazian	Fitzgerald	Keppler	Finley	Bedard
1	Celebrity Sighting	Celebrity Sighting	Celebrity Sighting	Deanaallen'skitten	Kittylicious
	Deanaallen'skitten	Deanaallen'skitten	Calmafterthestorm	Calmafterthestorm	Deanaallen'skitten
	Calmafterthestorm	Calmafterthestorm	Centrina	Spring Party	My Sunshine Gal
2	Page By Page				
	Hot Danger	Little Larky	Hot Danger	Little Larky	Little Larky
	Little Larky	Turf And Roses	Northern Warrior	Evan's Rocket	Hot Danger
3	Caixa Eletronica	Sea Gaze	Caixa Eletronica	Caixa Eletronica	Sea Gaze
	Frazil	Caixa Eletronica	Sea Gaze	Sea Gaze	Caixa Eletronica
	Unbridled Heat	Frazil	Unbridled Heat	Frazil	Frazil
4	Repole Entry	Ibboyee	Repole Entry	Repole Entry	Repole Entry
	Ibboyee	Repole Entry	Ibboyee	Ibboyee	Ibboyee
	Smokin Hero	Shrewd One	Law Enforcement	Smokin Hero	Smokin Hero
5	Ballyclough	Santo Gato	Soultown	Show Time	Ballyclough
	Show Time	Ballyclough	Show Time	Ballyclough	Show Time
	Soultown	Soultown	Ghost Ride	Santo Gato	Shoutout
6	Adam Rides Again	Adam Rides Again	Adam Rides Again	Adam Rides Again	Pervis
	Smart Farming	Cosmic King	Pervis	Cosmic King	Medieval Sword
	Binks Forest	Hurling	Cosmic King	Medieval Sword	Avenging
7	Too Clever By Half	Too Clever By Half	Silver Meeting	Too Clever By Half	Hear Me Roar
	Silver Meeting	Silver Meeting	Too Clever By Half	Double Foxxy	Scootles
	Dede's Mouse	Enrichment	Hear Me Roar	Silver Meeting	Double Foxxy
8	To Honor and Serve	Slevin	To Honor And Serve	Slevin	Equestrio
	Slevin	To Honor And Serve	Equestrio	To Honor And Serve	Regal Warrior
	Gautier	Gautier	Slevin	Gautier	Slevin
9	Get Stormy	Hymn Book	Hymn Book	Get Stormy	Turallure
	Moryba	Blues Street	Beau Choix	Hymn Book	Beau Choix
	Hymn Book	Get Stormy	Interaction	Turallure	Paris Vegas
10	Vee	Vee	Grace Alley	Vee	Saucy Jade
	Saucy Jade	Demure Halo	Demure Halo	Sotique	Grace Alley
	Frontaine	Saucy Jade	Frontaine	Saucy Jade	Sotique
Records	78/243	71/243	56/243	64/243	51/243

Handicapper Scorecard

Some heavy showers and a stream of late scratches caused havoc to The Special selection grid, but when the dust settled John Shapazian rebounded with a strong four-win afternoon.

Erin Finley was next best with three in what was a bizarre day of racing that included numerous late scratches and several consolation payoffs in multi-race wagers. There is a pick six carryover of \$192,141 after some of the late races in the pick sequence were removed from the grass, and by rule forcing NYRA to offer the automatic carryover. Finley and Dean Keppler both had first time starter Purely Love (\$16) in race two, and Charles Bedard nailed Gunman (\$10.60) in race 6 as some of the higher-priced winners on the afternoon.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2011 THE SARATOGA SPECIAL 13

Hurricane Mabou

Jacobson claim blows through field to win Grade I steeplechase

BY SEAN CLANCY

Brothers Jacobson stood in the winner's circle, awed by what had just happened.

"This is the front page," David said.
"This is the earthquake," Douglas said.

And suddenly flat racing and steeplechasing at Saratoga had come together.

Flat trainer David Jacobson claimed Mabou Aug. 4 for \$30,000. He put the five-time hurdle winner in his flat program, asked NSA's Bill Gallo to find a jockey and entered him in the Grade I New York Turf Writers Cup three weeks later.

Front page. Earthquake.

Robbie Walsh parked the free-running 8-year-old in the back of the nine-horse field, produced him nearing the last hurdle and Mabou drew off to win by 5 3/4 lengths over Irish invader Dirar and Dynaski. Jonathan Sheppard's four horses failed to hit the board in a race where two horses fell on the flat and another fell at the last (all horses and jockeys were OK).



Tod Marks

Mabou (4) catches Dirar at the last fence of Thursday's Grade I New York Turf Writers Cup.

Since returning to training in 2007, Jacobson had wanted to claim a jumper. When he and his brother saw Mabou's form Aug. 4, they knew they had their

Mabou, owned by Ken and Sarah Ramsey and trained by Tom Voss, exited an 82-length victory at Radnor. The Jacobsons licked their chops. The steeplechase crowd scoffed at the margin, knowing the only horse in with a chance that day lost his jockey, handing Mabou an inflated victory over two overmatched rivals. Sometimes too much information leads to misinformation.

The Jacobsons stood outside the racing office before dropping the slip.

'I saw him the night before and said we've got to have this horse. I said to my brother right here, 'We have to claim this horse. Don't get nervous. We've got

See **TURF WRITERS** page 16 ▶

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 - 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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Turf Writers —

■ Continued from page 14

to claim him,' " said Douglas, racing manager for Jacobson Racing. "We love long distance, there aren't many horses who can do this, most are sprinters. It's unbelievable. It's a new experience for us, our father was successful in it and we did it."

Mabou finished fifth in an optional claimer, burning up on the front end at Saratoga for the third time in his career. Drawing on his dad's success with

claiming jumpers decades ago, Jacobson claimed Mabou for himself and Drawing Away Stable.

"I've been wanting to claim a jumper for the last couple of years here at Saratoga, mostly to get a real distance horse to run during the year, not really to claim a jumper, a lot of jumpers are well-bred, big, goodlooking, sound hors es, sometimes you tweak them with my Trainer David Jacobson. flat training meth-

ods and it works," David Jacobson said. "Bill Gallo convinced me to go in this race, I figured I didn't have anywhere to run him on the flat until Belmont, let's take a shot and we took our best shot, today it worked."

Jacobson and Walsh met in the paddock and discussed trying to rate Mabou somewhere in mid-pack. Walsh eased Mabou away from the flag and met the first hurdle in mid-pack. Mabou jumped boldly, landing on the heels of Straight To It and then bounced into Dirar. That's one way to rate a front-runner. The miscue worked to perfection, anchoring Mabou in the back of a wellbunched group.

Decoy Daddy led the field through a slow tempo with favorite Divine Fortune fourth on the inside and second-choice Dirar just off his flank. Mabou met the third hurdle short, which again helped the cause, helping Walsh keep him in the back. Switched off completely after a circuit, Mabou sat about 10 lengths off Straight To It who had overtaken Decoy Daddy for the pace chores.

Under the wire with a circuit to go, Straight To It led, Decoy Daddy and Dynaski tracked, Divine Fortune and Dirar cruised and Mabou simply galloped along in the back, following a three-wide trio of Sweet Shani, Sermon Of Love and Nationbuilder.

Leaving the backside, Brian Crowley gunned Divine Fortune through on the inside of Decoy Daddy. They bounced off each other strides before the secondlast. Dirar ranged on the outside as Walsh sat, on the inside, like a librarian over a good book, tracking in the slipstream of Divine Fortune.

Midway on the final turn, Straight To It still led with Dirar pouncing on him from the outside, Divine Fortune ranging

> on the inside, Decoy Daddy churning to his right, Dynaski still hanging tough three-wide Mabou locked and loaded still directly behind Divine Fortune. Nationbuilder, Sermon Of Love, Sweet Shani were under pressure.

Midway on the turn, Crowley

angled out a lane and Decoy Daddy clipped his heels, Love fell over him and the race sud-

past Straight To It as Walsh tapped the brakes yet again in fifth and switched out a lane. Turning for home, Dirar kicked to a clear lead, Walsh pulled Mabou four wide and rolled past Dynaski, Divine Fortune and Straight To It. Dirar led to the last, flew it but suddenly had company. Mabou met the last perfectly, folded his knees like a showhorse, accelerated on landing and was gone. Long gone. He won like a fresh horse, finishing 2 3/8 miles in 4:40.72.

Asked about his background in steeplechasing, Jacobson hesitated and thought of his father, the late Howard "Buddy" Jacobson who was five-time leading trainer in New York and used to claim jumpers, including Lake Delaware who won 12 races including the Lovely Night and Promise Hurdle Stakes at

ing is my foundation in training on flats, my father was very successful, Lake Delaware, he taught me little things to do which are family secrets and I'm not going to let anybody know," Jacobson said, only half-kidding. "Just training

See **TURF WRITERS** page 18 ▶



"This is it. My background in jump-

Andrew J. Mollica, Esq.

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Writers —

■ Continued from page 16

flats generally is a different method to training jumpers, I trained him like I would train any other horse, any other flat horse, again, he just responded to my different type of training. The trainer who had him before did a great job, I saw that he won by 82 lengths, any horse who can win by 82 lengths in any race I want to have in my barn and that's why I claimed him."

And that's partly why Walsh rode him. Without a ride in the Turf Writers, Walsh jumped at the opportunity when Gallo called, made sure he could do the bottom weight of 138 and introduced himself to Jacobson in the paddock.

"They said they wanted a good rider who could do the weight. Bill asked me, I was open in the race," Walsh said. "'Yeah, I'll ride him.' I guess I was the only one who was sure he didn't have a ride in the race. The trainer told Gallo he wasn't going to school him in the meantime and I figured he didn't really need to."

While most of the Turf Writers field was schooling Monday and Wednesday, Mabou was going around like any other flat horse, in a white saddle towel from the middle of Clare Court. Jacobson didn't see any point in schooling him.

"No reason to, he knows how to jump," Jacobson said.

He certainly does. Somewhat overshadowed by the craziness of a flat trainer claiming a jumper and winning the Turf Writers was Mabou's performance. The 8-year-old son of Dynaformer rated kindly for a change, jumped



Mabou passes Dirar near the wire of Thursday's Turf Writers.

S.

with precision and skipped home. He pulled as much galloping back as he did in the race.

"His jumping was unbelievable, too good. I was like 'whoa, whoa, whoa.' I got a great trip, tucked away on the inside, his jumping kept him in that spot," Walsh said. "I was blinded a couple of times, he never saw the hurdle but he picked up and jumped it fine. Very quick over his fences, rapid. Turning for home I was waiting for him to get tired. I pulled him out and it was like the race was over. He pulled away. I couldn't pull him up afterward, he tried to run off with me coming back. Unbelievable."

Jacobson wasn't the first trainer to

write Mabou's name on a claim slip. Bred by Ironwater Farm, he made his debut for steeplechase/flat owner/trainer Michael Moran in 2006 at Delaware Park.

In a race that produced future jumpers Sword Of Dubai and The Price Of Love, Mabou finished seventh and was claimed for \$50,000 by Tim Ritchey for Bean Counter Stable. Mabou won four races for Ritchey before he lost him in the Ramsey dragnet of Dynaformers (one of the best jump sires in history) in August, 2008. Ramsey claimed Mabou for \$20,000 and won five races in 10 starts before Jacobson decided to get in the jump game.

Saratoga Leaders

Through Thursday Jockeys 1st John Velazquez43 Javier Castellano39 Ramon Dominguez34 Julien Leparoux......22 Rajiv Maragh......17 Cornelio Velasquez.....14 Jose Lezcano 13 Eddie Castro......12 Kent Desormeaux......10 Irad Ortiz Jr. 10 David Cohen.....9 Corey Nakatani......9 Alex Solis 8 Trainers......1st Todd Pletcher......28 Chad Brown 16 Rudy Rodriguez12 Steve Asmussen9 Bill Mott9 Mike Hushion.....8 Kiaran McLaughlin7 Shug McGaughey.....6

It's a little more nerve-wracking than flat racing.

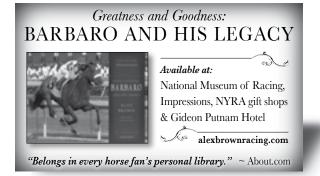
"The first jump I was nervous, then I was like wow he's good at this," Jacobson said. "Then I saw him coming out of the turn and said, 'all he's got to do is make the last fence and we got second.' To win? I was jumping up and down like a little kid. I never act like that."

Additional reporting by Joe Clancy.





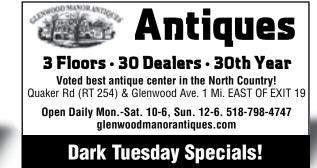
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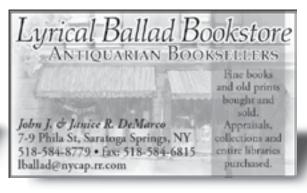






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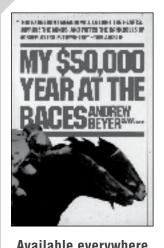
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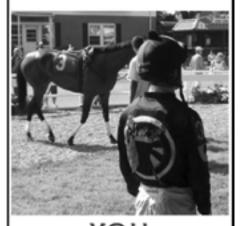
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 Mabou
 R. Walsh
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 \$14.00
 \$8.50

 3
 Dirar (IRE)
 B. Geraghty
 \$4.90
 \$4.00

 8
 Dynaski
 P. Young
 \$7.20

B Gelding 2003, by Dynaformer - Royal Dove (IRE) by Royal Academy Owner: Drawing Away Stable, Jacobson, David. Trainer: David Jacobson. Breeder: Ironwater Farms Joint Venture (KY).

Late Scratches: Spy in the Sky Time: 4:40.72

Exacta (4-3), \$274.50; Trifecta (4-3-8), \$2,268.00

SECOND \$30,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$50,000-\$40,000, 3 & UP, 6 1/2F

6 Purely Love J. Velazquez \$16.00 \$7.90 \$4.00
1 Thunder Lilly R. Maragh \$4.30 \$3.10
4 Dattts Appealing A. Solis \$3.80

B Filly 2008, by Belong to Me - Love Factor by Royal Academy Owner: Wayne L. and Juanita Morris. Trainer: Michael Trombetta. Breeder: Wayne Morris & Juanita Morris (MD).

Daily Double (4-6), \$346.50; Exacta (6-1), \$66.50; Quinella (1-6), \$26.80; Trifecta (6-1-4), \$304.00

THIRD \$52,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 5F

1 Alydarla K. Desormeaux \$8.20 \$4.60 \$3.60 4 Holiday Broad J. Lezcano \$11.40 \$6.40 6 Well Kept A. Solis \$6.60 Ch Filly 2009, by Henny Hughes - Mamboalot by Kingmambo Owner: Chapman, James, K., Chapman, Sonia. Trainer: James Chapman.

Owner: Chapman, James, K., Chapman, Sonia. Trainer: James Chapman. Breeder: Dapple Bloodstock (KY).
Time: :58.51
Daily Double (6-1), \$103.00; Exacta (1-4), \$68.50; Superfecta (1-4-6-3),

\$2,296.00; Trifecta (1-4-6), \$762.00; Pic 3 (4-6-1), \$1,668.00

FOURTH \$55,000, ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

 2
 Fire With Fire
 J. Lezcano
 \$7.20
 \$4.30
 \$3.10

 1
 Nine O Wonderful
 R. Maragh
 \$7.50
 \$5.00

 5
 Bakhoor
 E. Castro
 \$4.20

5 Baknoor E. Castro Gr/ro Colt 2008, by Distorted Humor - Cosmic Fire by Capote

Owner: WinStar Farm. Trainer: William Mott.

Breeder: Patricia Pavlish (KY).

Late Scratches: Global Power, Sam Sparkle, Rein King Time: 1:38.02

Daily Double (1-2), \$40.40; Exacta (2-1), \$50.50; Quinella (1-2), \$28.20;

Superfecta (2-1-5-7), \$1,247.00; Trifecta (2-1-5), \$327.00; Pic 3 (6-1-2), \$374.00

FIFTH \$25,080, CLAIMING \$15,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

4 Metrology J. Castellano \$7.90 \$3.70 \$3.10 6 Cinder Cone R. Maragh \$3.30 \$3.00 5 Elder Skatesman K. Desormeaux \$5.90 B Gelding 2007, by Purge - Victory Thrill by Victory Gallop Owner: Dubb, Michael, Aisquith, Gary. Trainer: Rudy Rodriguez. Breeder: Nicholas M. Lotz (KY).

Claimed: Awesome Review claimed by McKillop, Daniel for \$15,000

Daily Double (2-4), \$29.00; Exacta (4-6), \$19.60; Superfecta (4-6-5-3), \$1,025.00; Trifecta (4-6-5), \$211.50; Pic 3 (1-2-4), \$160.00; Pic 4 (6-1-2-4), \$1,860.00

SIXTH \$30,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

1 Gunman E. Prado \$10.60 \$4.70 \$3.00 7 Lindell A. C. J. Leparoux \$3.80 \$2.70 8 Last Hurrah A. Solis \$6.50

Gr/ro Gelding 2007, by El Prado (IRE) - Crown Me by Rahy

Owner: Adam, Donald, A.. Trainer: James Baker.

Breeder: Courtlandt Farm (KY). Late Scratches: Mr. Popps, Angel's Sea, Writethatdown

Time: 1:42.12
Daily Double (4-1), \$50.50; Exacta (1-7), \$43.40; Superfecta (1-7-8-3), \$4,554.00; Trifecta (1-7-8), \$506.00; Pic 3 (2-4-1), \$191.00

SEVENTH \$22,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

5 Margo Verge A. Garcia \$2.90 \$2.10 3 August Gala I. Ortiz, Jr. \$3.30

9 Miss Alondra J. Castellano

B Filly 2008, by El Corredor - Legion of Merit by Danzig Owner: Valente, Roddy, J., Lemme, Tom. Trainer: Bruce Levine. Breeder: Liberation Farm (KY).

Late Scratches: Justleavemealone, Swim, Le Grand Fromage, Hopeoverexperience, Pleasant Heiress, Patine, Rennina, Margaro

Daily Double (1-5), \$17.00; Exacta (5-3), \$6.70; Consolation Double (1-1/2/4/8), \$11.60; Pic 3 (4-1-5), \$58.00; (4-1-1/2/4/8), \$40.60

EIGHTH \$48,000, CLAIMING \$50,000-\$40,000, 3 YO, 7F

3 Bert B Don J. Castellano \$5.30 \$3.10 \$2.40 5 The Man Uptown J. Velazquez \$4.50 \$2.80 6 Argentine Talisman J. Leparoux \$2.40

B Colt 2008, by Harlan's Holiday - Dixie Maintenance by Dixieland Band

Owner: My Monarch Stable. Trainer: David Fawkes. Breeder: Starlight Stables 1, LLC (KY).

Late Scratches: David the Great, J Isle, Sensational Slam, Cat Sweep Claimed: Argentine Talisman claimed by Ramsey, Kenneth L. and Sarah K. for \$50,000

Time: 1:23.68

Daily Double (5-3), \$10.20; Exacta (3-5), \$24.00; Superfecta (3-5-6-4), \$209.00; Trifecta (3-5-6), \$67.50; Pic 3 (1-5-3), \$210.50; (1-1/2/4/8-3), \$133.00

NINTH \$24,000, CLAIMING \$20,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

4 No La Hace C. Nakatani \$4.40 \$3.40 \$2.80 7 Check the Cites J. Velazquez \$3.70 \$2.90 6 Tennis Racket R. Albarado \$2.80 B Colt 2007, by Forestry - Effectual by Carson City

Owner: Southern Equine Stables. Trainer: Eric Guillot. Breeder: Gainesway Thoroughbreds Ltd. &George Bolton (KY). Late Scratches: Yesterday's Story, Strictly Society, Freudian Dilemma,

Petey Cramer, Great Aztec, Assorted Colors, Lubango, Saratoga Steve, Structural Change, Zaahy Claimed: No La Hace claimed by Drawing Away Stable for \$20,000, Tennis

Racket claimed by Simek, Judy for \$20,000

Time: 1:04.65

Daily Double (3-4), \$10.80; Exacta (4-7), \$19.60; Pic 3 (5-3-4), \$16.40; Pic 4 (1-ALL-ALL-ALL), \$10.80; Pic 6 (2-4-1-ALL-ALL), \$69.50

Attendance: 11,750 On Track Handle: 1,776,840 Intra-State Handle: 1,254,317 Inter-State Handle: 4,407,851

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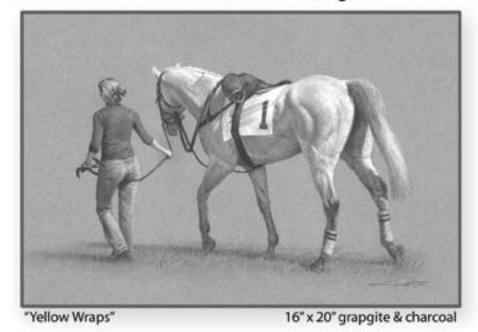








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Maryland-bred Purely Love rolls to maiden score

BY KATIE BO WILLIAMS

Thursday's first flat race, a 6 1/2-furlong maiden claimer, was a triumph for the Mid-Atlantic, with Maryland-bred Purely Love drawing away to win her debut by 6 1/2 lengths. The win was the first at Saratoga for owners/breeders Wayne and Juanita Morris. The couple

THURSDAY RACING RECAP

stood beaming in the winner's circle.

"I'm still shaking," Juanita said.

"It really gets the heart pumping,"

"It really gets the heart pumping," Wayne said. "There's nothing like that thrill when you see, particularly one of your own, cross the finish line first."

The 3-year-old daughter of Belong To Me attracted her fair share of buzz in the paddock, due in part to trainer Mike Trombetta's high opinion of the filly.

"He said, 'I think we've got something here, she looks real nice, she does well, I'll be surprised if she doesn't show up well,' " Juanita said. "She showed us that she's got it."

Purely Love broke sharply under John Velazquez and took the lead without hesitation. Velazquez niggled at her a little coming into the turn, then asked her in earnest. The bay filly zipped to a 5-length lead in the stretch. Velazquez kept at her, and Purely Love extended her lead to 6 1/2 by the time she hit the wire.

The mating that produced Purely Love, Belong To Me to the Royal Academy mare Love Factor, was one that impressed the Morris' enough to try it again.

"We liked the Royal Academy and we have always been in awe of Belong To Me and it appeared to be a good fit,"

See THURSDAY 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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CLOSES RUNS

STAKE

Fire With Fire glides to the finish line with a turf score for jockey Jose Lezcano and trainer Bill Mott.

Thursday —

■ Continued from page 22

Wayne said. "We sent that mare back this breeding season and didn't get in foal, but we'll try it again."

• Bill Mott and WinStar Farm teamed up to produce the narrow winner of the fourth, a 1-mile inner turf allowance. The race went off in the sudden deluge that had threatened all morning, but the sheets of rain didn't bother Fire With Fire and Jose Lezcano, who sat neatly off the pace throughout and edged clear in the stretch.

The 3-year-old son of Distorted Humor made his debut in October of last year, running fourth over 6 furlongs on the dirt. Shelved until March, the \$290,000 Keeneland September purchase ran twice more on the dirt, over 7 furlongs and a mile, finishing no closer than fourth. Fire With Fire made his turf debut over a yielding course May 5, running seventh.

"Just soft ground, got in the back and didn't go," Mott said. "We tried him on the dirt just to make sure. We thought he was better, he's a half-sibling to a pretty good grass horse. We went that way and it worked out. It didn't work out the first time we put him on it, but we still believed that's where he was going to wind up."

The half-brother to Cosmonaut fared better in his second try on the weeds June 22, winning by 4 lengths.

Mott put a hand on the gray colt in the winner's circle, the hood of a green rain slicker draw-stringed tight around his face. It was the kind of downpour that you avoided if at all possible: Jimmy Bond stood on the stairs under the Clubhouse cover and simply called down to Rajiv Maragh, who rode the hard-closing second-placed Nine O Wonderful. Mott ducked in out of the rain to watch the replay, grateful the race was carded early in the day.

"I'd worry about it if our race was about two races

DISTANCE

See THURSDAY page 26 ▶

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9/19/10Jameela (Reg. MD-breds)	F&M 3 & Up	6F (T)	\$60,000 Guaranteed
9/2210/1MD Million Classic	3 & Up	14,M	\$150,000 Guaranteed*
9/2210/1MD Million Nursery	2-y-o	6 F	\$100,000 Guaranteed*
9/2210/1MD Million Sprint	3 & Up	6 F	\$100,000 Guaranteed*
9/2210/1MD Million Lassie	Fillies 2-y-o	6 F	\$100,000 Guaranteed*
9/2210/1MD Million Distaff			
9/2210/1MD Million Starter Hcp	3 & Up	1 M	\$50,000 Guaranteed*
9/2210/1MD Million Distaff Starter Hcp			
9/2210/1MD Million Oaks			
9/2210/1MD Million Turf Sprint	3 & Up	5/,F(T)	\$100,000 Guaranteed*
9/2210/1MD Million Turf			
9/2210/1MD Million Ladies			
9/2910/8Laurel Futurity			
10/610/15Selima			
10/1310/22Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash			
10/1310/22Twixt (Reg. MD-breds)			
10/1310/22Lady Baltimore			
10/2010/29Laurel Dash	3 & Up	6F (T)	\$75,000 Guaranteed*
10/2711/5Find Hcp. (Reg. MD-breds)	3 & Up	14,M (T)	\$60,000 Guaranteed
11/3	F&M 3 & Up	7F	\$60,000 Guaranteed
11/1011/19Smart Halo	Fillies 2-y-o	6F	\$75,000 Guaranteed*
11/171/26 Dave's Friend	2-y-o	6F	\$75,000 Guaranteed*
11/2412/3Jennings Hcp. (Reg. MD-breds)	3 & Up	1M	\$75,000 Guaranteed
12/112/10Geisha Hcp. (Reg. MD-breds)			
12/812/17MD Juvenile Ch. (Reg. MD-breds)			
12/812/17MD Juvenile Filly Ch. (Reg. MD-breds)	Fillies 2-y-o	7/,F	\$75,000 Guaranteed
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AGE

*Includes \$25,000 from the MD-bred Fund. ARestricted to MD Million nominees.



Thursday —

■ Continued from page 24

later because they would probably have taken it off, but we got it done in time," he said.

• Jimmy Baker spent the day worrying about the weather. The deluge that almost washed Mott away two races prior probably didn't help the trainer's nerves. But the sixth race, a 1-mile maiden claimer (\$35,000) on the inner turf, went off on the planned course, the last grass race of the day.

Gunman, a 4-year-old gelding by El Prado, did what Baker expected him to: take advantage of his experience over a yielding course to cruise home in front.

"I wasn't too worried about soft turf because he ran on it in Chicago and ran well," Baker said. "I was kind of hoping it might hurt some other horses and help us. Soft turf, sometimes they need experience to run over it and he's had it."

Gunman made his debut as a 2-yearold at Kentucky Downs in 2009, but wasn't able to find the winner's circle in seven subsequent starts. The slate gray gelding had come close twice this year: a second in the yielding-course start at Arlington June 1 and a second here Aug. 1.

"He was kind of a, not a difficult horse, but an erratic-running horse earlier," Baker said. "It took him awhile to settle down and really focus on what he was doing. He was just too aggressive and didn't really focus. Once we gelded him, he slowly started learning."

The Courtlandt Farm homebred broke with the speed under Edgar Pra-



Tod Marks

Gunman pulls away from the field to win the sixth for jockey Edgar Prado and trainer Jimmy Baker.

do, but dropped back quickly to sit on the hedge at the back of the pack. Asked coming out of the turn, Gunman hovered for just a moment behind the leading three in the stretch, then shot past on the outside.

• It was daylight at dusk when Eric Guillot's No La Hace sped across the wire 11 1/2 lengths in front of the rest in the nightcap, a \$20,000 conditioned claimer.

The 4-year-old son of Forestry entered the 5 1/2-furlong race off of his sole start July 21, a 13-length tour de force at Evangeline over 6 furlongs. The \$265,000 Keeneland September purchase has been with Guillot since his yearling year.

"He's one of those ones that's been in my program for the last three years, that I haven't seen under tack but for the last three weeks because this horse is trying to get past his issues," said Guillot, who brought the Gainesway-bred colt north to Saratoga with the intention of getting him claimed.

Guillot accomplished his goal. The striking bay colt came in the property of Southern Equine but left with the telltale red tag clipped to his halter, claimed by David Jacobson for Drawing Away Stable (a bookend to a day where the owner/trainer combination won the Grade I New York Turf Writers Cup steeplechase to start things).

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26 THE SARATOGA SPECIAL FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2011



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Bits & Pieces



by Joe Clancy

Thoughts and observations . . .

Rain can turn everything to chaos.

Horses will stop and stare at almost anything.

Irish trainer Gordon Elliott's team brought Dirar to the paddock for Thursday's Turf Writers with a shamrock brushed into his hindquarters.

Get Stormy looks like he'd be a fun ride, except for the bit where he tries to knock you off.

It's darker in the morning than it used to be.

A golf cart will get you pretty much anywhere you want to go at Saratoga Race Course.

A golf cart won't necessarily get you anywhere you want to go outside the gates.

Somebody in racing ought to buy the Saratoga Sleigh bed and breakfast. It would make a great restaurant, clubhouse, newspaper office, haunted house,

Ditto for the Pepper's Market building, only smaller. That gas station on the corner of Union and East

really isn't a gas station anymore.

Mike Hushion is having some meet.

There are parts of the racetrack none of us will ever

Tea is better than coffee, in the long run.

After four weeks with kids in Saratoga, a week without kids in Saratoga is kind of lonely.

You don't have to be a steeplechase expert to cash tickets on the steeplechase races.

Jockey – jump or flat – is a dangerous career choice. Americans panic over weather, probably because we have too much information.

All schools and universities should start after Labor Day, and it's got nothing to do with Saratoga.

It would be nice to eat lunch in the trustees room, in the back or out on that little porch, once.

The street lights on Union Avenue could turn off at a reasonable time of night – rather than first light.

Someday, I'm going to get a table on the third floor and have lunch with my wife - without a newspaper deadline to worry about.

Central air is a must for an office, no matter the temperature outside.

It's great to see jockeys get along like co-workers, moments after competing like warriors.

There's way more to a valet's job than we know.

David Jacobson, Jonathan Sheppard and Jack Fisher have each won at least one jump race and one flat race at the meet.

Only Sheppard was expected to.

Mornings at Saratoga are far less harried than afternoons at Saratoga.

The city could make a fortune with a Union Avenue speed trap from 8 p.m. to midnight.

The racetrack is the only place on the planet where a newspaper will save a seat.

It would be great if some of the reserved seats could be opened to the general-admission crowd, especially on rainy days.

Next year, The Special wants to play a charity softball game against somebody.

Jeremiah Englhart is on our team.

A friendly dog will make anyone smile.

If you need to buy an umbrella, buy a big one. Saratoga doesn't do rain gutters.

John Kimmel's courtyard might be my favorite barn on the grounds. Just think of the history in that place.

Clare Court was originally called Surcingle and used to be August Belmont Jr.'s private training facility. He built it in 1902, a year after the Sanfords constructed their private training barns across the street (now the receiving barn).

The tunnel used to be the only way into Clare Court, which once included tennis courts and gardens.

Clare Court is named after Tom and Anne Clare, track superintendents from 1924 to 1960.

The cast-iron touches around the grandstand and clubhouse are amazing if you really take the time to look at them.

Ditto for the horse heads carved out of wood.

Lots of people probably have no idea where Campfire Court, Du Pont, Madden Court and Millionaire Row are on the backside.

Barn 76 (the outriders' barn) and Building 69 (which used to be an ice house) in Horse Haven are two of the oldest structures on the grounds – dating to pre-1850.

Horses used to pass through the clubhouse on the way from the paddock to the track.

The Oklahoma training track and stable area got its name because it was a long way from the main racetrack and back in 1903, "Oklahoma seemed as remote as Mars."

All this history stuff came out of a new book, "The Spa, Saratoga's Legendary Race Course" by Paul Roberts and Isabelle Taylor, that's pretty cool.

NYRA sent me a copy. Thanks.



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Chasing Dad



by Sean Clancy

"Hey, record keeper, has it ever been done?" Steve Asmussen asked.

"Come on, that's never happened before," Richard

"They were yelling and yelling, I said 'Why are they yelling for a jump race?' A flat guy in a jump race... no way," Angel Cordero said.

Oscar Barrera's name was raised. Bobby Frankel's name was bandied about. And then a guy named Buddy Jacobson and horses like Lake Delaware, Scarlet River and Barras.

Leave it to David Jacobson, Buddy's son, to know the history of steeplechasing in Saratoga.

"They used to have at least one, sometimes two, jump races every day, it was just part of the card," Jacobson said. "I have a picture, when I was this big, my mother has it, with a horse called Barras, he was a jumper, that's the earliest back I can remember."

Jacobson's dad, Howard "Buddy" Jacobson, trained Barras, somewhere in the midst of a five-year reign as leading trainer in New York.

Before he rocked the establishment, before he was convicted of second-degree murder, before he went to Attica Prison, before he escaped prison and lived on the lam for 40 days, before he got nabbed making a call from a phone booth in California, before he died of bone-marrow cancer in 1989, still in prison, still declaring his innocence.

David Jacobson worked for his dad at the track, worked for Frankel, went out on his own, won races, got in trouble and quit the track for 25 years.

"Never watched a race, never touched a horse, never watched a Kentucky Derby," Jacobson said.

He and his brother Douglas bought real estate in Manhattan.

"We went through the good times, the bad times, the great times in the real estate market," Jacobson said. "Then in April of '07, I claimed a few horses because I could afford to, I invested my own money, just a challenge to see if I could do it, I'm competing against the best in the world – whether on the flat or over the jumps."

Jacobson, 56, slowly built up his claiming stable, he won 60 races last year to finish seventh in the NYRA standings. Thursday, Jacobson won the New York Turf Writers Cup with a horse he claimed 21 days ago.

It was his first steeplechase win. His first steeplechase stakes. His first stakes ever.

"This is a big story, right?" Jacobson said, still in disbelief.

Yeah, pretty big. Google Howard "Buddy" Jacobson and you'll see a big story. It's hard to build a convicted murderer into a hero.

I don't know if Buddy Jacobson did it. Don't care. Frankel, who worked for him before embarking on his Hall of Fame career, told me he just couldn't believe he did it. People who knew him say he was too slick for a sloppy murder.

All I know is what's in the record books, Mabou won the 2011 New York Turf Writers Cup and David Jacobson trained him. And there's one simple reason why Jacobson claimed Mabou.

And it wasn't just the horse.

"He was a successful flat trainer and when he came up here he dabbled with the jumpers and he was successful, I guess I dabbled with them and so far it's working," Jacobson said of his father. "I don't remember how many jumpers he had, I was a little kid. Not very many. When he ran a horse, it won."

David Jacobson watched the New York Turf Writers Cup by himself, upstairs, to the right of the escalator, behind the back row of clubhouse boxes, behind the second box in.

"You know where I watched the race, I never did this before, I watched it behind Daddy's box, upstairs," Jacobson said to his brother Douglas, to me, to anyone listening. "These kids are in front of me and I'm jumping up and down like a kid. I stood, I didn't sit, right behind Daddy's box. That's where I used to have to stay when I was a little kid, I wasn't allowed to leave, so I wouldn't get lost, grandmom would be there, Mr. Frankel would be there, other people, I wasn't allowed to leave the box. I had my suit on, you couldn't get in there without a suit jacket."

Jacobson spent every summer in Saratoga until he was 12. He came back when he was 53. Forty-one years in between.

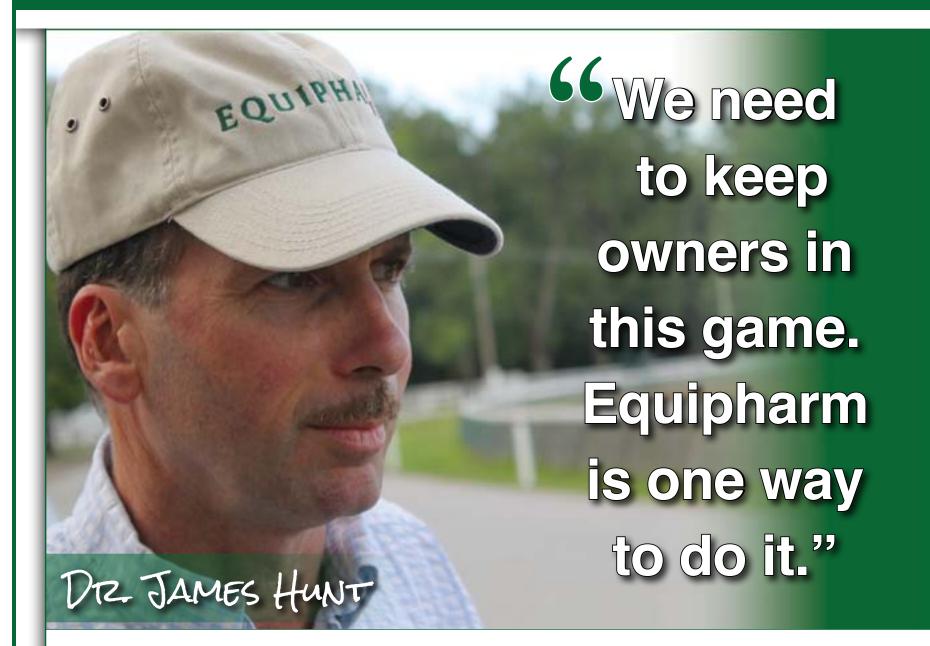
"He's saying something right now to me," Jacobson said. "It's . . . great . . . amazing. This is more exciting than winning any race to me, like winning the Kentucky Derby, to win a jump race in Saratoga, a Grade I, \$100,000 stakes race . . ."

By the end of the day, Jacobson had a fall steeplechase condition book in his hand and his dad in his heart. It was an unlikely match.



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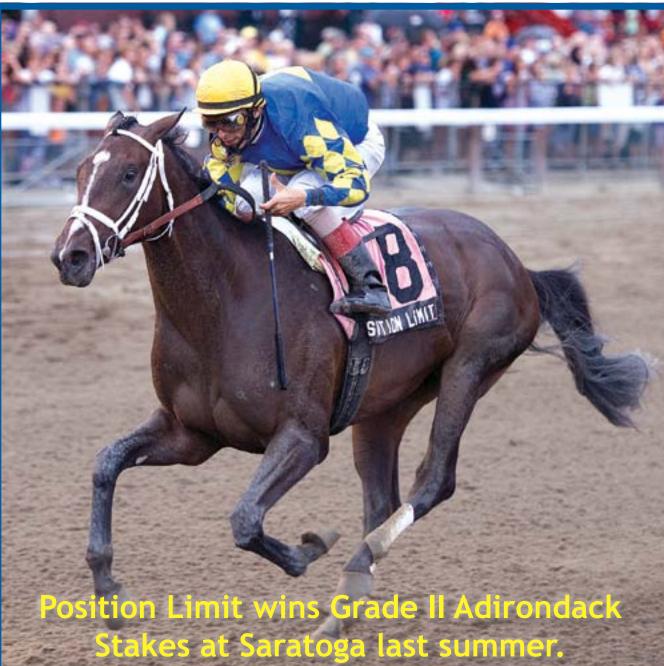
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...and share the light.





Harlan's Holiday Ashado Purge Octave Take The Points Monba Position Limit Hilda's Passion Ailalea Keyed Entry Caminadora

Donn Handicap Spinaway Breeders' Cup Distaff Florida Derby Blue Grass **CCA Oaks** Kentucky Oaks Secretariat **Mother Goose** Go For Wand Beldame Jamaica Ogden Phipps Cigar Mile Fair Grounds Oaks Cotillion Demoiselle Peter Pan Jim Dandy Adirondack Schuylerville Pennsylvania Derby Vagrancy Inside Information **Tempted** Raven Run

16 Grade I stakes wins since 2001

Racing Stable Record

	ar	Starts	Wins	Places	Shows	Stakes Wins	Stakes Places	Purse Earnings	Win %	% in the Money
20)11	45	16	5	2	4	2	\$729,637	35.56 %	51.11 %
	010	72	13	6	12	6	4	\$1,127,321	18.06 %	43.06 %
	009	66	14	5	8	4	8	\$1,098,854	21.21 %	40.91 %
20	800	66	11	12	8	3	3	\$970,677	16.67 %	46.97 %
20	007	62	13	13	7	4	13	\$1,778,494	20.97 %	53.23 %
20	006	53	14	12	6	2	6	\$1,255,959	26.42 %	60.38 %
20	005	40	10	5	7	5	7	\$1,600,815	25.00 %	55.00 %
20	004	58	15	7	9	7	10	\$3,135,138	25.86 %	53.45 %
20	003	79	20	17	11	5	6	\$2,674,742	25.32 %	60.76 %
20	002	48	7	12	6	3	4	\$1,832,540	14.58 %	52.08 %
20	001	31	5	9	2	4	1	\$438,401	16.13 %	51.61 %
То	tals	620	138	103	78	47	64	\$16,642,578	22.26 %	51.45 %

STARLIGHTRACING

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