

Year 14 • No. 32

Thursday, August 28, 2014

The Saratoga **Special**

Saratoga's Daily Newspaper on Thoroughbred Racing



Landslide

Partisan Politics rolls in P.G. Johnson

FLORIDA SHIPPER TACKLES WITH ANTICIPATION • ENTRIES & HANDICAPPING

Dave Harmon



Data Link

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Face Wash. Blame Jim gets a sponge bath at trainer Todd Pletcher's barn. The horse is in today's With Anticipation as a main-track-only entrant.

Tod Marks

here&there... at Saratoga

NAMES OF THE DAY

Aggrandizement, second race. Out of Hurricane Love, nothing is as aggrandizing as hurricane love.

Hot Tin Roof, fifth race. Rolls off the tongue.

Stowe, sixth race. Named after our favorite vet, he's out of Secret Crush. Think Caroline named the horse?

Party On, 10th race. Last race of the day, sounds like a plan.

BY THE NUMBERS

2: Heineken Light bottles in a backside tree Sunday morning.

1: Guy doing push-ups in the May I Help You? booth Sunday morning.

4: Cases of Yoo-hoo on a golf cart Sunday morning; Who drinks Yoo-hoo in the morning?

1: Set of Mardi Gras beads hanging up at trainer Merrill Scherer's barn (alongside the front page of the April 18, 2014 Times-Picayune).

4:12: The real 2 3/8-mile steeplechase course record at Saratoga; set by Hokan in the 1998 New York Turf Writers. We're not sure where the 4:31 3/5 one came from, though we do know All The Way Jose ran it in 4:31.57 Wednesday.

SAVE THE DATE

Eric Guillot's second Cajun cookout of the meet to help Moreno get ready for Saturday's Woodward. 10 to noon Friday. Barn 72.

You can count on him

Eight G1 winners. **Ten** 2014 Group or Graded winners. **Two** Travers heroes. The **one-two** in the G2 Adirondack. **Five** 2014 G1 performers. **16** career G1 horses. **Bernardini:** his favorite number is 'won'!



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WORTH REPEATING

"I got one, Bill, I got one. I told you I made the paper one time."
Morning Line Kitchen's Ivan Maira, to Bill Hirsch, about making the paper with a comment about selling beer earlier at the meet; now Maira's got two.

"You got a saddle for me?"
Flat jockey Dylan Davis when asked to ride a jumper

"This is from my brother, 'Jimmy Jerkens is having such a good meet, the only race he hasn't won is the jump race.'"
Jocks' agent Mike Kelly

"It was like a ham and egg sandwich."
Jockey Irad Ortiz, who split horses to win Wednesday's fourth

"I don't know and I don't care."
Michael Velazquez, when asked when school started

"I think I'm the only one to have one run long on the grass. Go figure that, right?"
Graham Motion on Warrior's Reward, sire of With Anticipation second choice Strong Coffee

"Tight as a tiger."
Damien Rock describing two-time Horse of the Year Wise Dan after he trained Wednesday morning

"I've decided, I'm not going to win on Sundays and Mondays because you don't print until Wednesday."
Owner Anthony Bonomo, planning his wins around The Special's publishing schedule (sorry)

"I'll be there Friday."
Trainer Wayne Catalano, about his 2014 debut at Saratoga

"He's the man."
Jack Clancy, while studying at school, when receiving a photo of loyal reader Bow White

"I just want to know who the horse is that you're waiting on for Belmont. Hush hush."
Loyal reader John Fahey, after reading the Cup of Coffee column Wednesday

"The Saratoga Coaster is still the best ride in the park."
Loyal reader and contributor Jimmy Dintino

"We've raised some shekels and pesos."
Ralph Theroux, between sets at the Parting Glass fundraiser for Frank Carcaterra


"I'm not going to be around if she gets beat."
Assistant Laird George, after driving a trotter on a two-race win streak Wednesday at Saratoga

"The crickets have moved in. I'm not sure what that means, but the crickets have moved in."
OTB Channel host Seth Merrow, to some chirping at his outdoor set

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I used to say, 'One day I'll ride in Saratoga.' My family would be watching right now, they're happy. I know they're happy."

Jockey Angel Arroyo, from Panama, after winning the Fleet Indian Stakes Sunday



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Tod Marks

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Horse Smooching

Photo by Connie Bush

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Photo
of the day

The Chief . . . Day 32

"That was another thing years ago, a lot of the horses were owned by the big outfits, they didn't work on horses like they do now, they didn't do any icing, tubbing. We used to jog them a lot too. I had a barn, it had 11 stalls on each side of it, I had the whole barn myself, we would jog them around that barn a lot, we would be running them close. We would run them, walk them two days, jog them three or four days, pony them and then blow them out. I was crazy about blowing them out real sharp. One furlong. If you blow one out one furlong and he goes three-eighths of a mile in 35 before you get him pulled up, you know you have something."

– **Trainer Allen Jerkens**



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Tod Marks photo

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Northern Invasion

Nutty Futtu arrives from Florida for stakes

BY DAN MCDONOUGH

Mere days remain in the 2014 Saratoga Race Course meeting, so it's safe to say some horseman have grown weary and are looking forward to packing up and heading home. On the other hand is Chris Van Culin, the Miami-based trainer who is enjoying his first visit to Saratoga and runs Nutty Futtu in today's \$200,000 With Anticipation Stakes for 2-year-olds on the grass.

"I've worked six months straight without a day off," Van Culin said Wednesday morning. "This is a vacation for me up here."

Van Culin's travel partner is his colt by Johar who arrived in Saratoga last week after a 26-hour



Connie Bush

Florida shipper Nutty Futtu walks the shedrow at Gary Sciacca's barn Wednesday.

van ride from Florida. He has settled nicely into his new accommodations in Gary Sciacca's barn on the Oklahoma Training Track, and looks to provide a strong follow-up effort to his Aug. 16 maiden victory at Gulfstream Park.

"He's loving the weather," Van Culin said. "He's got a window to look out of at the training track.

He's feeling really good. We shipped into Gary Sciacca's barn, which is great because I'd be lost without a little help here. It's tough shipping from Calder so I was really lucky to ship to him."

Van Culin exuded a welcome dose of energy See **WITH ANTICIPATION** page 10 ►

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- Bill Oppenheim, TDN 7/23

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With Anticipation —

■ Continued from page 8

during a week that can feel anti-climactic at times in the wake of last weekend's Travers Stakes, seeming equal parts eager to compete and ecstatic simply to be here.

But it is also very much a business trip, with a colt he believes has Breeders' Cup potential. He's already received several offers from potential buyers interested in his colt and there's a strong chance he might be sold before they leave. Nutty Fuddy was originally bought for \$9,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale.

Nutty Fuddy figures to be a longshot in the Grade 2 With Anticipation, facing 5/2 favorite Designed for War from Todd Pletcher's barn, 3-1 second choice Strong Coffee from Graham Motion, third choice International Star for Mike Maker and 5-1 Startup Nation for Chad Brown.

"We ought to be a good price," Van Culin said. "Nobody knows me. Everybody knows Pletcher. This is big for us. It cost a lot of money coming up here but the risk versus reward is there and I think we'll do great. We're going to run down the speed. There's plenty in front of us for (jockey) Jose (Valdivia Jr.) to come get it at a later point. And he's the only horse in this race that's truly bred for that

distance. There's a lot of speed to run at so the race flow is good for us."

The opportunity to showcase the colt to potential buyers is incentive enough for the trainer to trek here, but it also runs much deeper than racing. Van Culin's father, Peter, the man who inspired him to become a trainer after 25 years as a swimming coach, was a part-owner of the colt as well. The elder Van Culin passed away on Memorial Day.

"I've got to hope that he's looking down on us smiling and we've got to do it for him," the trainer said. "He loved the horses and he's the reason I'm a trainer. I was a swim coach for my past life. I worked my butt to get here for the last five years or so. There are no schools to become a horse trainer. You've got to really want to become a horse trainer."

He's here now, in the most iconic venue the sport has to offer, and Van Culin is reveling in the atmosphere of Saratoga. He got a thrill meeting Bill Mott, who he called "my idol" when the Hall of Fame trainer dropped by to take a look at the colt, adding to the already special feeling Van Culin has being here.

"It's hard to describe," he said. "You can feel the history. It's actually kind of overwhelming. We've got a lot going for us, 12 days (since his last race) and that van ride. If the horse can overcome that he's a serious race horse, so this is the acid test. Depending on how he does he may or may not come home with us."



Tod Marks

Startup Nation aims to repeat his win here Aug. 7.

Some of the speed Nutty Fuddy will chase may come from Creaky Cricket, the Yesbyjimmy colt who comes off a fifth to the highly regarded Hashtag Bourbon on the dirt in the Aug. 2 Mountaineer Juvenile Stakes. Creaky Cricket didn't agree with the surface, so trainer Mike Dini returns him to the turf today for Ballybrit Stable, giving Jose Lezcano a leg up.

"He's just a horse that's a little green still, and he didn't really like the dirt last time so we're trying to go long and put him back on the lead again," Dini of the Florida-bred colt, who blew to an 11 1/2-length win on the Polytrack in his June 6 debut at Arlington Park. "He ran a mile on the dirt, got

See **WITH ANTICIPATION** page 12 ►

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With Anticipation —

■ Continued from page 10

hung wide and when the dirt hit him a little bit he sort of freaked out and backed up some. We figure him going long he should make the lead with his sprint speed then he would relax and keep going.”

Also here for the first time is Russian-born trainer Gennadi Dorochenko, who comes from Gulfstream Park with Kutuzov, a colt by Hold Me Back who broke his maiden Aug. 2 in a 5-furlong race in his seventh career start.

“The top trainers, the top horses in America are here so you see what you have, if you’re good or not,” Dorochenko said. “I feel good. This is an amazing place.”

Designed for War exits a gate-to-wire win going the same 1 1/16-mile trip in an Aug. 9 maiden race for Pletcher and Glencrest Farm and JSM Equine. The son of War Front won by 1 3/4 lengths that day with Javier Castellano aboard and he returns for today’s assignment.

Strong Coffee turned heads with his impressive debut on the Whitney Invitational undercard, running off to a 3-length win going 1 1/16 miles on the turf for owner Albert Frassetto and Motion. The son of Warrior’s Reward defeated Face the Music in his debut and that rival returned to win Travers Day.

“He’s a very cool horse,” Motion said of Strong Coffee. “Very laid back, very straight-

forward kind of horse.”

Motion said he was a caught a little off guard at all the attention for Strong Coffee’s maiden win, not that he hasn’t been high on the colt since he arrived at Fair Hill about a month after Jane Buchanan purchased him on behalf of Frassetto for \$120,000 at the OBS March sale of selected 2-year-olds in training.

“I liked him and he actually worked on the dirt,” Motion said. “It wasn’t until I brought him up here and worked him on the dirt that I kind of thought he struggled a bit. We always thought he’d want the grass but I was inclined to try him on the dirt the first time. Then we took him over to the grass and he was a different horse.”

“Numbers wise (Strong Coffee’s maiden win) was kind of weak, especially the way he did it. I’m a little bit surprised at the attention he’s got. He did do it comfortably and the fact that Shug’s horse (Face the Music) has come back and won does affirm that, right? I do think he did it the right way and he’s done well since.”

Motion will also run Hot Tin Roof, a winner in his debut July 30 sprinting on synthetic at Presque Isle Downs, for Stonestreet Stables.

Brown tries to sweep the turf 2-year-old stakes for Klaravich and Bill Lawrence. They send over Startup Nation, who won his debut Aug. 7. Blame Jim is entered main track only for Pletcher.

— Additional reporting by Tom Law.

Tod Marks
Strong Coffee breaks from the outside for trainer Graham Motion.

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THURSDAY'S SARATOGA ENTRIES

Thursday, August 28.

1ST (12:25PM). \$75,000. MRS. WALTER JEFFORDS STAKES, 4&UP, F&M , 2 3/8M (HURDLE)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....	1	.....	Bittersweetheart (GB).....	P. Young	.....	L. Young	.....	4-1
2	.....	2	.....	Cat Feathers	B. Dalton	.....	K. Dalton	.....	9-5
3	.....	3	.....	Sully's Approach	W. McCarthy	.....	J. Sheppard	.....	15-1
4	.....	4	.....	Opera Heroine	S. Jones	.....	J. Fisher	.....	8-1
5	.....	5	.....	Brilliant Match	D. Nagle	.....	J. Sheppard	.....	6-1
6	.....	6	.....	Kisser N Run	R. Walsh	.....	R. Valentine	.....	2-1

2ND (1:00PM). \$50,000, MCL \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

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

1	.....	4	.....	Curly's Pal	J. Velazquez	.....	A. Iwinski	.....	5-1
1a	.....	6	.....	Mischievously	C. Velasquez	.....	L. Rice	.....	5-1
2	.....	1	.....	Peanutsnopcorn	J. Lezcano	.....	N. Zito	.....	10-1
3	.....	2	.....	Identity Crisis	J. Alvarado	.....	K. McPeck	.....	15-1
4	.....	3	.....	First Bid	J. Rosario	.....	C. Brown	.....	5-2
5	.....	5	.....	Aggrandizement	L. Saez	.....	N. Zito	.....	6-1
6	.....	7	.....	Better Man	J. Ortiz	.....	P. Reynolds	.....	4-1
7	.....	8	.....	Cairo County	J. Rocco, Jr.	.....	W. Hickey	.....	20-1
8	.....	9	.....	Fruit Ludt	J. Castellano	.....	T. Pletcher	.....	3-1

3RD (1:32PM). \$88,000, MSW, 2 YO, 1 1/16M (TURF)

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

1	.....	1	.....	Pronunciation	R. Maragh	.....	M. Hennig	.....	12-1
2	.....	2	.....	Kerjillion	J. Castellano	.....	C. Brown	.....	2-1
3	.....	3	.....	Cosmo Storm	J. Rocco, Jr.	.....	J. Lawrence, II	.....	8-1
4	.....	4	.....	Foxhall Drive	J. Alvarado	.....	D. Schettino	.....	7-2
5	.....	5	.....	Offering Plan	J. Lezcano	.....	C. Brown	.....	6-1
6	.....	MTO	.....	Midnight Nick		.....	G. Contessa	.....	5-1
7	.....	7	.....	The Prez	S. Bridgmohan	.....	B. Brown	.....	20-1
8	.....	8	.....	Come Around	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	H. Motion	.....	5-2

4TH (2:04PM). \$78,000, AOC \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

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

1	.....	3	.....	Writingonthewall	J. Ortiz	.....	M. Nevin	.....	7-2
1a	.....	4	.....	Fiona's Hero	J. Ortiz	.....	M. Nevin	.....	7-2
2	.....	1	.....	Onecats Chance	J. Castellano	.....	A. Quartarolo	.....	5-2
3	.....	2	.....	Saturday Appeal	J. Alvarado	.....	R. Schosberg	.....	3-1
4	.....	5	.....	Ultimate Empire	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	T. Albertrani	.....	6-1
5	.....	6	.....	The Brothers Rap	C. DeCarlo	.....	C. Baker	.....	4-1
6	.....	7	.....	Goodtolook	J. Rosario	.....	G. Contessa	.....	8-1

5TH (2:37PM). \$200,000, STK - THE WITH ANTICIPATION, 2 YO, 1 1/16M (TURF)

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

1	.....	1	.....	Startup Nation	J. Rosario	.....	C. Brown	.....	5-1
2	.....	2	.....	Hot Tin Roof	R. Maragh	.....	H. Motion	.....	6-1
3	.....	MTO	.....	Blame Jim	J. Velazquez	.....	T. Pletcher	.....	1-1
4	.....	4	.....	Kutuzov	S. Bridgmohan	.....	G. Dorochenko	.....	15-1
5	.....	5	.....	Nutty Fuddy	J. Valdivia, Jr.	.....	C. Van Culin	.....	10-1
6	.....	6	.....	Designed for War	J. Castellano	.....	T. Pletcher	.....	5-2
7	.....	7	.....	Creaky Cricket	J. Lezcano	.....	M. Dini	.....	20-1
8	.....	8	.....	International Star	R. Napravnik	.....	M. Maker	.....	7-2
9	.....	9	.....	Strong Coffee	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	H. Motion	.....	3-1

6TH (3:10PM). \$32,000, CLM \$16,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....	1	.....	Maximus Mike	C. DeCarlo	.....	W. Mott	.....	5-1
2	.....	2	.....	The Candidate	J. Castellano	.....	E. Kenneally	.....	3-1
3	.....	3	.....	Grandpa Len	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	D. Donk	.....	5-2
4	.....	4	.....	Successful Brothers	L. Saez	.....	G. Contessa	.....	7-2
5	.....	5	.....	Stowe	L. Mejias	.....	D. Gargan	.....	20-1
6	.....	6	.....	Sunnyinseabrook	T. Rice	.....	L. Gyarmati	.....	15-1
7	.....	7	.....	Navajo Ca Lo	A. Arroyo	.....	N. Zito	.....	8-1
8	.....	8	.....	Birds Gone Wild	R. Maragh	.....	J. Englehart	.....	10-1
9	.....	9	.....	Coldwater Flat	C. Velasquez	.....	L. Miranda	.....	30-1

7TH (3:43PM). \$73,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 1 1/16M (TURF)

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

1	.....	1	.....	Momma Giovanna	J. Ortiz	.....	L. Rice	.....	3-1
2	.....	2	.....	Summersault	R. Maragh	.....	M. Hennig	.....	15-1
3	.....	3	.....	Cool Temper	J. Rosario	.....	D. Romans	.....	20-1
4	.....	4	.....	Jules N Rome	W. Garcia	.....	D. Schettino	.....	20-1
5	.....	5	.....	Smilingsundae	J. Castellano	.....	M. Maker	.....	4-1
6	.....	6	.....	Jadam	R. Napravnik	.....	D. Schettino	.....	15-1
7	.....	7	.....	Amazing Anne	J. Alvarado	.....	T. Morley	.....	8-1
8	.....	8	.....	Moondance Joy	J. Lezcano	.....	T. Albertrani	.....	5-1
9	.....	9	.....	Krista's Persona	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	N. Esler	.....	10-1
10	.....	10	.....	Battle Axe	L. Saez	.....	G. Contessa	.....	7-2
11	.....	MTO	.....	Building Permit	J. Castellano	.....	C. Brown	.....	2-1

8TH (4:16PM). \$67,000, CLM \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....	1	.....	Sheza Heartbreaker	J. Lezcano	.....	D. Duggan	.....	6-1
2	.....	MTO	.....	Majestic Marquet	C. Velasquez	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	3-1
3	.....	3	.....	Wickapecko	J. Velazquez	.....	C. Domino	.....	10-1
4	.....	4	.....	Scenario Analysis	J. Castellano	.....	M. Maker	.....	4-1
5	.....	5	.....	Rock Me Mama	J. Alvarado	.....	R. Metivier	.....	20-1
6	.....	6	.....	Indian Starlight	J. Ortiz	.....	R. Violette, Jr.	.....	5-1
7	.....	7	.....	Lady's Lunar Luck	J. Rosario	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	3-1
8	.....	8	.....	Swakopmund	R. Maragh	.....	G. Contessa	.....	15-1
9	.....	9	.....	Edie	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	C. Englehart	.....	5-2
10	.....	MTO	.....	Lotsa Noodles		.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	8-5

9TH (4:49PM). \$93,000, AOC \$80,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	.....	1	.....	Chart Topper	J. Velazquez	.....	B. Lynch	.....	5-2
2	.....	MTO	.....	Candyman E		.....	D. Jacobson	.....	9-5
3	.....	3	.....	Golden Rifle	J. Castellano	.....	C. Brown	.....	2-1
4	.....	4	.....	Make My Saturday	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	T. Tullock, Jr.	.....	6-1
5	.....	5	.....	Heaven's Runway	J. Alvarado	.....	J. Toner	.....	12-1
6	.....	6	.....	I'm Stoked	J. Ortiz	.....	M. Hushion	.....	8-1
7	.....	7	.....	Triple Cross	T. Rice	.....	K. Rice	.....	20-1
8	.....	8	.....	Stormy Rush	J. Lezcano	.....	L. Richards	.....	7-2

10TH (5:22PM). \$45,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	.....	1	.....	King Gettigan	J. Rosario	.....	G. Gullo	.....	4-1
2	.....	2	.....	Keyaly	E. Prado	.....	G. DiSanto	.....	20-1
3	.....	3	.....	Party On	T. Rice	.....	B. Levine	.....	8-1
4	.....	4	.....	Mineral Water	R. Maragh	.....	M. Hennig	.....	8-1
5	.....	5	.....	American Hero	W. Garcia	.....	P. Quick	.....	15-1
6	.....	6	.....	Hampden Fiveone	J. Velazquez	.....	D. Donk	.....	7-2
7	.....	7	.....	Freddie Freud	D. Davis	.....	J. Antonucci	.....	8-1
8	.....	8	.....	Okey Dokey Smokey	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	5-1
9	9	Tapidor	A. Arroyo	H. McMahon	12-1
10	10	Hardwired	J. Castellano	P. Reynolds	5-1

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Race #

1

Bittersweetheart
Cat Feathers
Kisser N Run

Cat Feathers
Kisser N Run
Bittersweetheart

Cat Feathers
Bittersweetheart
Brilliant Match

Cat Feathers
Kisser N Run
Brilliant Match

Bittersweetheart
Brilliant Match
Cat Feathers

2

Fruit Ludt
First Bid
Mischievously

First Bid
Fruit Ludt
Preferred Pal Entry

Fruit Ludt
Aggrandizement
Peanutsnopcorn

Fruit Ludt
Peanutsnopcorn
Identity Crisis

Preferred Pals entry
Aggrandizement
First Bid

3

Kerjillion
Come Around
Foxhall Drive

Kerjillion
Offering Plan
Come Around

Come Around
Pronunciation
Kerjillion

Midnight Nick
Kerjillion
Offering Plan

Cosmo Storm
Come Around
Foxhall Drive

4

Saturday Appeal
Onecats Chance
Writingonthewall

Onecats Chance
Writingonthewall
Saturday Appeal

Saturday Appeal
Writingonthewall
Onecats Chance

Onecats Chance
Saturday Appeal
Nevin entry

The Brothers Rap
Goodtolook
Nevin Entry

5

Startup Nation
International Star
Designed for War

Designed for War
Strong Coffee
Startup Nation

Strong Coffee
International Star
Designed for War

Blame Jim
Designed For War
International Star

Strong Coffee
Startup Nation
International Star

6

Grandpa Len
The Candidate
Maximus Mike

Grandpa Len
Succesful Brothers
Maximus Mike

Grandpa Len
Sunnyinseabrook
The Candidate

Grandpa Len
The Candidate
Stowe

Grandpa Len
The Candidate
Birds Gone Wild

7

Battle Axe
Moondance Joy
Smilingsundae

Smilingsundae
Momma Giovanna
Battle Axe

Moondance Joy
Battle Axe
Smilingsundae

Building Permit
Momma Giovanna
Battle Axe

Amazing Anne
Moondance Joy
Jules N Rome

8

Edie
Lotsa Noodles
Scenario Analysis

Edie
Sheza Heartbreaker
Scenario Analysis

Wickapecko
Scenario Analysis
Lady's Lunar Luck

Edie
Lady's Lunar Luck
Indian Starlight

Lady's Lunar Luck
Edie
Scenario Analysis

9

Golden Rifle
Make My Saturday
Candyman E

Golden Rifle
Chart Topper
Make My Saturday

Golden Rifle
Stormy Rush
I'm Stoked

Candyman E
Chart Topper
I'm Stoked

Heaven's Runway
Golden Rifle
Stormy Rush

10

Okey Dokey Smokey
King Gettigan
Hampden Fiveone

Hardwired
Hampden Fiveone
King Gettigan

Mineral Water
Hampden Fiveone
Freddie Freud

King Gettigan
Mineral Water
Keyaly

Keyaly
Hampden Fiveone
Hardwired

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Maiden Friendly

Partisan Politics gets first win, stakes win

BY TOM LAW

Chad Brown pegged Partisan Politics a bit of a tweener, as in in-between, when it came to deciding what race to pick for her debut.

The 2-year-old daughter of More Than Ready trained well, but not well enough for Brown to consider running her first time out in a 1 1/16-mile maiden race.

So he opted for a 5 1/2-furlong maiden race on the grass and Partisan Politics finished a game third after a wide trip.

That effort was good enough to convince Brown that not only was she ready for the 1 1/16-mile distance but the 1 1/16-mile distance in stakes com-



Dave Harmon

Partisan Politics leads the charge toward the finish in Wednesday's P. G. Johnson Stakes.

pany. Partisan Politics proved that she belonged in that company and became the fourth maiden to win the P. G. Johnson Stakes in its eight editions Wednesday at Saratoga Race Course.

"She was in between on distance," Brown said. "They don't write flat mile turf races here and for her she was in between 5 1/2 and a mile and a sixteenth. When you're training them, when you have a filly like Lady Eli from the other day or Tammy

the Torpedo (both winners going 1 1/16 miles on the turf at this meet), I can look at them and say, 'ok, if they train the way I want them to train we can debut at a mile and a sixteenth effectively if they're good enough.'"

"With this filly, the way she trained, eh, I just didn't know if a mile and a sixteenth was for her.

See **P.G. JOHNSON** page 18 ►



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CHURCHILL DOWNS

2014 September Stakes Schedule

POCAHONTAS (GII)

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

2015 KY Oaks Point Race

Runs Sat., Sept. 6
\$200,000
Fillies, Two Years Old

Closes Aug. 20
(\$200 nomination fee)
1 1/16 Miles

IROQUOIS (GIII)

2014 "Win and You're In Juvenile Division"

2015 KY Derby Point Race

Runs Sat., Sept. 6
\$100,000
Two Year Olds

Closes Aug. 20
(\$100 nomination fee)
1 1/16 Miles

ACK ACK HANDICAP (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 6
\$100,000
Three Year Olds and Up

Closes Aug. 20
(\$100 nomination fee)
1 Mile

LOCUST GROVE

Runs Sat., Sept. 6
\$100,000
Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up

Closes Aug. 20
(\$100 nomination fee)
1 1/16 Miles

OPEN MIND

Runs Sat., Sept. 13
\$100,000
Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up

Closes Aug. 27
(\$100 nomination fee)
6 Furlongs

DOGWOOD (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 20
\$100,000
Fillies, Three Years Old

Closes Sept. 3
(\$100 nomination fee)
7 Furlongs

HOMEcoming CLASSIC

Runs Sat., Sept. 27
\$125,000
Three Year Olds & Up

Closes Sept. 10
(\$125 nomination fee)
1 1/8 Miles

JEFFERSON CUP (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 27
\$100,000
Three Year Olds

Closes Sept. 10
(\$100 nomination fee)
1 Mile Turf

Ben Huffman, Racing Secretary: 502-638-3820
Dan Bork, Stakes Coordinator: 502-638-3806
Fax: 502-638-3915

P.G. Johnson —

■ Continued from page 16

But here it's either 5 1/2 or a mile and a sixteenth and you have to be right. With her I thought maybe it would be better to start her shorter and then build off it. For this particular horse."

Partisan Politics certainly built off her maiden race the fourth day of the 2014 meet, winning the P. G. Johnson by 2 3/4 lengths under Javier Castellano after a fairly eventful trip.

Ancient Goddess, impressive winner of a maiden race in France privately purchased by Sovereign Stables to race in the U.S., changed the complexion of the race significantly as the field headed into the first turn.

She broke a half step behind the other six 2-year-old fillies, grabbed the bit just as the field went past the finish and pulled Joel Rosario toward Sunday Sonnet in the lead.

Partisan Politics was traveling in a good spot in fourth with cover behind the early leaders as Ancient Goddess came up to her on the inside and was pushed out two paths off the rail heading into the first turn. Rainha Da Bateria and Magnificent Margo got it even worse and were spun seven



Dave Harmon

The P.G. Johnson field breaks from the gate. Winner Partisan Politics is third from the right.

and eight off the inside before a quarter-mile was run.

Castellano said it got "rough a little bit" but was able to get Partisan Politics in a good spot midway around the turn and into the backstretch as Sunday Sonnet led the way with Florida shipper Slava just to her outside. Partisan Politics and Ancient Goddess tracked side-by-side and started to move up as Slava started to retreat not long after a half mile in :49.32.

Partisan Politics hesitated just a bit as she got close to the backpedaling Slava as Ancient Goddess cut into Sunday Sonnet's lead. Partisan Politics quickly accelerated as the field turned for home, passed Ancient

Goddess easily and put away Sunday Sonnet without much trouble to win in 1:43.13. Sunday Sonnet held second and Ancient Goddess was third.

"It was not the trip I wanted but I'm really proud of this horse, for her to go wide the whole way and power home and win convincingly," Brown said. "I wasn't positive she'd want to go a mile and a sixteenth so that's why I debuted her going 5 1/2."

A \$175,000 purchase at last year's Keeneland September yearling sale, Partisan Politics is owned by Seth Klarman's Klaravich Stable and William Lawrence.

Partisan Politics was her owners' seventh win of the meet, putting them

in a tie for fourth in the standings with Darley and behind Repole Stables, Chester and Mary Broman and defending titlists Ken and Sarah Ramsey.

Partisan Politics is also Brown's third straight winner of the P. G. Johnson, following Watsdachances in 2012 and Granny Mc's Kitten last year. Granny Mc's Kitten came into the race as a maiden, finishing a close second in her only other start earlier in the Saratoga meet. The other maidens to win the Johnson are May Night, who took the inaugural in 2005 when she was winless in two starts, and Fancy Point, who was winless in one start before she won in 2010.



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Way Cool

Sheppard collects first jump win of meet

Nobody came to Saratoga on a roll like Willie McCarthy. The jump jockey won 13 races, including the best hurdle and best timber stakes, through the spring and early summer, flying to a commanding lead in the standings.

Then McCarthy went winless in the first 10 jump races at Saratoga while former champions Ross Geraghty and Paddy Young closed the gap. Geraghty continued a torrid summer, winning the opener and Young banged out three early. McCarthy's insurmountable lead started to look tenuous.

McCarthy swears he didn't panic.

"Coming into the meet, I've got probably the best book of rides of anybody," McCarthy said. "Some horses didn't perform, others were beaten by better horses, my confidence stayed up all the way through the meet, I never got down about it and I think it showed today."



Dave Harmon

All The Way Jose and his people meet in the winner's circle after Wednesday's first.

McCarthy guided All The Way Jose to an easy score in Wednesday's opener. Sent off the favorite in the field of nine, the 4-year-old jumped confidently before slipping to a 14 1/4 length win over pacesetter Wanganui and Albany Road. Owned by Rodman Moorhead III and trained by Jonathan Sheppard, the 4-year-old son of Senor Swinger improved his

steeplechase record to two wins and three seconds from six starts.

McCarthy finished second aboard the Sheppard-bred gelding earlier in the meet. Sent off the favorite, he rallied but failed to lasso easy lead-

See **WEDNESDAY** page 21 ►

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Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 20

er Manacor. The Irish-born jockey chalked it up to education.

"The last time, it didn't set up for me, but he had a nice experience and he had some gas in the tank for today," said McCarthy, who rode All The Way Jose for the first time in November. "Every run he learns, I said to Jonathan the first time I rode him, 'this horse is improving and I'm probably going to be telling you that when he's a 5-year-old.' He's a really talented horse, for a 4-year-old he does everything really, really nice, just jumps and gallops."

Relaxed on the inside in third for most of the trip, All The Way Jose saved ground for five turns before strolling past Wanganui nearing the last hurdle and opening a chasm between the tiring Wanganui and the mildly rallying Albany Road.

The win pushed McCarthy's lead to three over Geraghty and five ahead of Young. It also changed McCarthy's opinion of Saratoga.

"It's been a little bit of a letdown up until now," McCarthy said. "I was thinking, 'Maybe Saratoga isn't my



Dave Harmon

Ms Eileen (9) fights off Miss Potenza late in Wednesday's sixth race.

cup of tea.' But after that, I'm going to say, 'Two sugars please.'"

— Sean Clancy

- George Weaver felt like "there was something missing" as he prepared Majestic Bloom for her career debut.

"Her pedigree doesn't exactly scream turf except for the fact that she is out of a Hennessy mare and sometimes horses out of those mares like the turf," Weaver said.

Majestic Bloom handled the turf and handled the competition in the fifth race, a 5 ½-furlong maiden for New York-breds. The daughter of Majestic Warrior, purchased by owners Jim and Susan Hill for \$150,000 at the OBS March sale of selected 2-year-olds in training, won by 2 ¼ lengths as the 7-1 fifth choice in the field of 10.

"We've liked her since we got her this spring and I knew a little bit about her from the 2-year old sale,"

Weaver said. "They (the Hills) had high hopes and we've liked her since she came in. It was time to see what we had and she did well."

— Katie Brush

- As Ms Eileen came down the stretch in the sixth race, the lyrics to the popular Dexys Midnight Runners' song "Come On Eileen" seemed appropriate. *Come on Eileen, too-ra-loo-ra-too-ra-loo-rye-aye. Come one Eileen, too-ra-loo-ra-too-ra-loo-rye-aye.*

The 2-year-old filly broke her maiden in her debut in the 5 ½-furlong maiden claiming race for state-breds. Ridden by Dylan Davis, the daughter of Chapel Royal broke sharp and led from gate-to-wire for her half-length win over Miss Potenza.

"I was a little afraid first time out because you never know," said Lisa Lewis, who trains Ms Eileen for owners/breeders William Schettine and William Haines. "But she's a very serious, focused filly. Those are the kind that win first time out and she's good from the gate, good post, all the things that are good for first-time starters."

Davis rode his first winner of the meet last Thursday aboard Until-

See **WEDNESDAY** page 24 ►

Turf Writers Double

Demonstrative wins his second New York Turf Writers Cup.

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Tod Marks photo

Patience Pays

New York-Bred of the Day



By Kristin Brennan

Ziptronic came into the 2014 Saratoga meet with an 0-for-11 record on the upstate turf courses.

He won over the Spa grass for the first time earlier this month and improved his record even more with a front-running score in Wednesday's ninth race going 5 1/2 furlongs.

Ziptronic, an 8-year-old gelding by City Zip, won the state-bred allowance by 2 3/4 lengths Spartiatitis to give owner Mike Repole's Repole Stables his meet-leading 11th win.

Repole and trainer Bruce Levine claimed Ziptronic in late June and set their sights on Saratoga.

"He's just a really nice horse," Levine said. "The day we claimed him at Belmont we had Saratoga in mind. I know he's better going 5 1/2 than he is going 6 and 7, so that was a big thing behind the claim."

Bred by his former trainer Linda Rice, Justin Marcus and Natalie Marcus and out of the Hay Halo mare D J's Girl, Ziptronic is 3-for-4 on the season and won for the 10th time in 47 career starts.

He's the latest winner for Levine and Repole, an association that goes back to the owner's early days in racing.

"We married, we got divorced and then we married again," Levine joked about his relationship with Repole.

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WEDNESDAY'S SARATOGA RESULTS

Wednesday August 27.

FIRST \$65,000, ALLOWANCE, 4 YO'S & UP, 2 3/8M

3	All the Way Jose	W. McCarthy	\$5.50	\$3.40	\$2.80
7	Wanganui	G. Dahl		\$9.60	\$5.40
6	Albany Road	R. Walsh			\$3.80

B Gelding 2010, by Senor Swinger - Maternity Leave by Northern Baby
Owner: Moorhead, III, Rodman, W.. Trainer: Jonathan Sheppard.
Breeder: Jonathan Sheppard (PA). Late Scratches: Frozen Four
Time: 4:31.57. Exacta (3-7), \$55.00; Superfecta (3-7-6-2), \$1,655.00; Trifecta (3-7-6), \$235.00

SECOND \$56,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$75,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

2	Marsh Creek	J. Castellano	\$5.00	\$2.80	\$2.10
6	Alexndeed	L. Saez		\$3.50	\$2.30
5	Sherifco	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$2.30

Dk B/ Br Gelding 2011, by Bernardini - Street of Peace by Street Cry (IRE)
Owner: JAH Racing. Trainer: Todd Pletcher.
Breeder: Woodslane Farm (KY). Late Scratches: Hi Speed Chase
Claimed: Marsh Creek claimed by Front Row Racing LLC for \$75,000.
Sherifco claimed by Ye Ole Posse Stable for \$75,000. Time: 1:11.19
Daily Double (3-2), \$13.60; Exacta (2-6), \$15.20; Quinella (2-6), \$8.60; Trifecta (2-6-5), \$32.40

THIRD \$100,000, STAKES - P. G. JOHNSON S., 2 YO, 1 1/16M

3	Partisan Politics	J. Castellano	\$11.20	\$5.70	\$3.80
2	Sunday Sonnet	J. Ortiz		\$6.60	\$4.40
1	Ancient Goddess (FR)	J. Rosario			\$3.10

Ch Filly 2012, by More Than Ready - Bluegrass Princess by Dynaformer
Owner: Klaravich Stables, Inc. and Lawrence, William H.. Trainer: Chad Brown. Breeder: Dell Ridge Farm, LLC (KY). Time: 1:43.13
Daily Double (2-3), \$28.20; Exacta (3-2), \$65.00; Superfecta (3-2-1-6), \$947.00; Trifecta (3-2-1), \$251.00; Pic 3 (3-2-3), \$130.50

FOURTH \$75,000, NY-BRED ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

1	Beyond Empire	I. Ortiz, Jr.	\$3.60	\$2.50	\$2.10
3	Gridley Here	J. Alvarado		\$3.20	\$3.00
2	Roaring Conquest	J. Castellano			\$2.60

B Gelding 2010, by Empire Maker - Intend to Win by Housebuster
Owner: Hay, Mrs. Fitriani. Trainer: Kiaran McLaughlin.
Breeder: Mrs. Gerald A. Nielsen (NY). Time: 1:51.23
Daily Double (3-1), \$21.80; Exacta (1-3), \$13.40; Quinella (1-3), \$9.50; Superfecta (1-3-2-5), \$147.50; Trifecta (1-3-2), \$35.80; Pic 3 (2-3-1), \$43.00

FIFTH \$73,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 5 1/2F

1	Majestic Bloom	J. Velazquez	\$16.60	\$9.40	\$5.90
3	Forma's Joy	R. Maragh		\$20.60	\$9.50
6	Perfect Freud	J. Rosario			\$3.70

Ch Filly 2012, by Majestic Warrior - Desert Bloom by Hennessy
Owner: Hill, Jim and Susan. Trainer: George Weaver.
Breeder: T/C Stable, LLC (NY). Late Scratches: Q T Bird, Jamaalaree, My Super Nova, Temper Mint Patty, Hot Like Hepburn, Madison Blues. Time: 1:03.46. Daily Double (1-1), \$32.80; Exacta (1-3), \$264.00; Superfecta (1-3-6-7), \$5,826.00; Trifecta (1-3-6), \$1,100.00; Pic 3 (3-1-1), \$183.00

SIXTH \$50,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN CLAIMING \$50,000, 2YO, 5 1/2F

9	Ms Eileen	D. Davis	\$17.00	\$8.10	\$5.00
5	Miss Potenza	C. DeCarlo		\$5.20	\$4.00
3	Shangala	O. Gomez			\$9.20

Dk B/ Br Filly 2012, by Chapel Royal - Smart Sis by Beau Genius
Owner: Schettine, William and Haines, William. Trainer: Lisa Lewis.
Breeder: William C. Schettine & William B. Haines (NY).
Late Scratches: That Warrior Girl. Time: 1:06.61
Daily Double (1-9), \$209.50; Exacta (9-5), \$88.50; Superfecta (9-5-3-1), \$6,966.00; Trifecta (9-5-3), \$1,589.00; Pic 3 (1-1-9), \$377.50; Pic 4 (3-1-1-9), \$2,657.00; Pic 5 (1/2-3-1-1-9), \$7,904.00

SEVENTH \$58,000, STARTERS ALLOWANCE \$25,000, 3&UP, 5 1/2F

2	Street Shark	L. Saez	\$20.00	\$6.20	\$4.20
6	Console	J. Castellano		\$2.60	\$2.40
5	Off My Cloud	L. Mejias			\$4.80

B Gelding 2010, by Street Sense - Allegedly by Rahy
Owner: Harner, Stephen, Jones, Donna C. and O'Keefe, Kevin.
Trainer: Ian Wilkes. Breeder: Adena Springs (KY).
Late Scratches: Attractive Ride, Relentless Move, Bug Juice
Time: 1:02.29
Daily Double (9-2), \$217.50; Exacta (2-6), \$53.50; Superfecta (2-6-5-1), \$1,377.00; Trifecta (2-6-5), \$654.00; Pic 3 (1-9-2), \$2,727.00

EIGHTH \$58,000, STARTERS ALLOWANCE \$25,000, 3&UP, 1 1/16M

7	Saylor's Creek	J. Castellano	\$9.60	\$4.30	\$3.50
6	Manchurian High	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$3.40	\$2.90
10	Zane	J. Rocco, Jr.			\$4.70

Dk B/ Br Gelding 2010, by Bernstein - Postulant by Pulpit
Owner: Kenneth L. and Sarah K. Ramsey. Trainer: Michael Maker.
Breeder: Alastar Thoroughbred Co. (KY). Late Scratches: Media Kid, Desvelo (ARG), M J Plus, Conspiracy, For the Luv of Lil, Pernicious
Time: 1:43.46
Daily Double (2-7), \$112.50; Exacta (7-6), \$28.80; Superfecta (7-6-10-4), \$664.00; Trifecta (7-6-10), \$220.00; Consolation Double (2-9), \$22.60; Pic 3 (9-2-7), \$1,153.00; (9-2-9), \$246.00

NINTH \$85,000, ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

10	Ziptronic	J. Castellano	\$4.40	\$3.10	\$2.60
2	Spartiatitis	L. Saez		\$8.50	\$7.80
7	Let's Go Ben	J. Leparoux			\$5.20

B Gelding 2006, by City Zip - D J's Girl by Hay Halo
Owner: Repole Stable. Trainer: Bruce Levine.
Breeder: Linda Rice & Justin Marcus & Natalie Marcus (NY).
Late Scratches: Run for Logistics. Time: 1:01.89
Daily Double (7-10), \$20.20; Exacta (10-2), \$52.00; Superfecta (10-2-7-9), \$2,010.00; Trifecta (10-2-7), \$404.00; Pic 3 (2-7-10), \$290.00; (2-9-10), \$69.00; Place Pix Nine (3/5/9-2/3/5/6/8/9-1/3/6/7/9/10), \$23.60

TENTH \$45,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

5	Romans Paradise	J. Rosario	\$7.80	\$3.50	\$2.80
9	Retire Fifty Five	J. Ortiz		\$3.10	\$2.50
10	Bold Runner	J. Castellano			\$5.60

Dk B/ Br Gelding 2011, by Hard Spun - Feminine Fury by Black Tie Affair (IRE)
Owner: Lia, Vincent. Trainer: George Weaver.
Breeder: Hargus Sexton, Sandra Sexton & Silver Fern Farm, LLC (KY).
Late Scratches: Strueves Star, A Touch of Poetry, Americas Guest
Claimed: Romans Paradise claimed by Quinn, Richard for \$40,000
Time: 1:36.44
Daily Double (10-5), \$17.20; Exacta (5-9), \$20.60; Superfecta (5-9-10-3), \$902.00; Trifecta (5-9-10), \$129.00; Pic 3 (7-10-5), \$74.50; Pic 4 (2-7-4/10-5), \$1,248.00; Pic 6 (1-9-2-7-4/10-5), \$1,001.00

On Track Handle: 2,320,227
Inter-State Handle: 6,658,713

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WEDNESDAY'S SARATOGA RESULTS PHOTOS

BY DAVE HARMON



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Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 21

therewas you for Lewis. Davis has been getting on horses for Lewis in the mornings, including Ms Eileen.

“He breezed her from the gate last time and he’s been working with her, so he knows her,” Lewis said.

Lewis, who has trained for Schettine for several years, sent out Ms Eileen’s half sister to a victory last year at Saratoga.

“Kiss Me Lola, she’s one of the barn favorites,” she said. “This filly (Ms Eileen) will now be the second barn favorite for a while.”

— Kristin Brennan

• Steve Harner, Donna Jones and Kevin O’Keefe reformed a partnership, reclaimed a gelding and returned to the Saratoga winner’s circle with the successful effort of Street Shark in the seventh for trainer Ian Wilkes.

The 4-year-old Street Sense gelding was a four-time winner for Harner and Cheri LaRoche when he was claimed by Winning Move Stable June 13 at Belmont. Harner wanted the gelding back, so he called Jones and O’Keefe. Both were interested in reprising the ownership group that successfully co-owned Elusive Act, a winner here last summer.

“He was a good solid horse, so we decided as



Dave Harmon

Street Shark draws a crowd to the winner’s circle after winning Wednesday’s seventh race.

a partnership we’d claim him back,” said Harner, who did just that following a second-place finish for the gelding July 23.

O’Keefe was particularly enthused following the gelding’s successful trip in the 5 ½-furlong starter allowance. He first became a part-owner in 2010, when his wife Mary introduced him to Jones while both women were working in Washington D.C. for Indiana Congressman Dan Burton. Jones took the couple to the Breeders’ Cup that year and asked him if he was interested in becoming an own-

er. The choice was easy for a lifelong racing fan like O’Keefe.

“I was a guy who used to ride a bus to Pimlico Race Course and was a \$2 bettor, and to be sitting here 30 years later at Saratoga with a win, it’s really awe-inspiring,” O’Keefe said. “I want to give tremendous credit to this partnership because we just love racing. We defer to the expertise of Ian Wilkes. For a small group to have him as a trainer is truly amazing.”

— Dan McDonough

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KEVIN “Brooklyn Cowboy” COX’S PLAY OF THE DAY

Saratoga Race Course Feature Race

Race 1: Final hurdle race of the meet, and if you’re at the track, head to the paddock and check out how wonderfully taken care of these equines are. If you’re still jonesing for a “jump fix” after the meet, Belmont will have a couple of races, and go to nationalsteeplechase.com for a full schedule. Oh yeah – first five readers that tear this out, and tell me “I love steeplechase racing!” at The Parting Glass, get a drink from me! **#1 BITTERSWEETHEART (GB)** had an impressive confidence building win from a field of 11 at the Iroquois meet, and gentleman jockey Paddy Young can keep this one covered, and find daylight late in this abbreviated field. **#2 CAT FEATHERS** crushed ‘em in last, but picks up 4 pounds, and note, is 0-2 when toting 147. **#6 KISSER N RUN** closes your tri.

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BY JOE CLANCY

You wonder how anyone can do it.

How do people work with racehorses, closely? How do they care so much? How do they worry about every little detail – the feed, the bedding, the hay, the bandages, the riders, the tack, the dust, the coat, the hooves, the flies, the coughs, the saddle pads, the water, the electrolytes, the heart, the back, the tendons, the knees, the ankles, the airway, the mane, the tail, the eyes.

And how do they do all that, knowing that in some instances, at some point, it won't matter?

You can care for a racehorse as much as you want. You can worry, fret, stress. You can poultice, pack, pick. You can feed, massage, manipulate. You can turn them out, keep them in, walk, jog and gallop them. You can race them on the flat. You can race them over jumps. You can turn them into broodmares or stallions. You can simply turn them out in a field and let them live.

But you can't prevent them from getting hurt and dying. Not all of them.

Saratoga saw that clearly on Travers Day when 2-year-old colt Ludicrous broke his leg in the stretch. Saratoga saw it again Monday when 7-year-old gelding Makari fell at the last fence and broke his neck.

Like punches in the gut from Joe Frazier. Ooof. Ooof. The hard part is anyone in racing knows the punches will keep coming. You can't save racehorses. You can't protect them. Not completely. Write that down somewhere. Remember it. For the next time. Because there will be a next time.

It's not callous and uncaring, it's not an afterthought, it's not a way to justify racing; it's just a fact. Thoroughbred horses are as subject to the vagaries of life as you, me, your dog, your cat, the squirrel trying to cross the street. And racehorses are bred for the sport, that's the only reason they're here. They're not running free through the high plains of Colorado or amid the tall pines of the Adirondacks.

The people who give a damn in racing realize all of that. And they work with horses anyway. They do it for the chance to be close to the animals, to help them find their talent, to make those lives matter and mean something.

Monday afternoon, a few hours after the Turf Writers, I walked to the barn area to catch up with race winner Demonstrative. He was in an end stall at the harness track, done up in four light gray standing bandages with poultice on his front legs. He was leaning out – way out – of the stall. When I

walked up, he banged me with his head. Then somebody tossed me the bag of treats and Demonstrative ate two as fast as a Little Leaguer sucking down a post-game Fribble at Friendly's. I laughed, rubbed his forehead and told him he'd done a good job.

Five minutes later, Demonstrative and Laird George were walking down a horse path toward a sand pile. The horse knew where it was and dragged his person there. Two, three paws and he was down – first the right side, then the left. He looked a bit like a dinosaur wallowing in the mud. This big, gangly, half-ton thing with four legs – who just ran 2 3/8 miles as fast as he could – rolling on his back. He stood, shook off a cloud of dust and dragged George around some more.

I couldn't watch it and not think about Makari, some other sand pile, some other day, some other person, some other opportunity to roll. Three weeks earlier, he'd beaten Demonstrative a nose. Now he was gone.

The rolling had loosened a bandage and George tossed me the shank to hold the most valuable steeplechaser in North America. I held on, George reset the bandage, Demonstrative looked me in the eye. I could almost hear him say it would be OK.

And I guess it will be.



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Being Dylan

Two years ago, I needed a column. Wandering and wondering, I walked down Gridley Street and found an 18-year-old wide-eyed kid pulling his tack off a horse.

In 2012, Dylan Davis wanted to be a jockey. In 2014, he is a jockey.

Wednesday, Davis won his third race of the meet, steering first-time starter Ms Eileen to win the fifth. It was career win number 174 for Davis. Saratoga isn't easy for any jockey and it hasn't been easy for Davis.

If he's questioned it or he's frustrated by it, you'd never know. Every day, he and his agent Mike Kelly, upbeat, walk the beat. For weeks, Davis has laughed when he's seen The Special's team, "I want to make The Special. Before the meet's over, I want to make The Special."

This is how far you've come, kid.

The Davis Bug. August 4, 2012.

Same leg, straight from geometry class. Same foot, angled just right in the stirrup. Same back, upright and pure. Same hands, firm but free. He sits on a horse like he's in a Paul Brown sketch.

First, you see his position. Then, you see his youth.

Dylan Davis, 18, rides a small bay back from the main track to Glenn DiSanto's private barn on Gridley Street on Sunday morning.

Flash back, what, 20 years, maybe 30 . . . It's Robbie Davis, a standard on the New York circuit, winner of 3,000-plus races, respected journeyman, lifer.

"It's uncanny, how much he rides like his dad," trainer Jim Bond says, as Davis rides past. "Same position. Same look. Same everything."

On Saturday morning, Dylan Davis is an exercise rider, freelancing, catching anywhere from five to eight a day, hustling a few on Gridley, a couple at the harness track, one for Wesley Ward every morning at 8:45. Monday, he'll be a jockey, getting to ride Sandyinthesun on the

turf for his family and perhaps one for Ward. It will be his first ride.

"I might get to ride this Monday," Davis says with a big smile. "It's going to be fun, I'll be a littler nervous, because everybody will be watching my first mount, I hope I don't make any mistakes."

If he's ever shaved, you wouldn't know it. He weighs 104 pounds, he's measured his weight against his brothers throughout high school, each year, the dream kept alive as he weighed in well under his two brothers at their corresponding ages. All wrestlers, they've stepped on the scale more than most, Dylan making the varsity wrestling team for Saratoga High as a sophomore when he weighed 84 pounds.

Dylan Davis, the youngest of Robbie and Marguerite's six children, won't be the first to follow dad's footsteps. Jackie Davis made her debut at Saratoga in 2008. After she rode her first race, she walked through the clubhouse box seats and was asked a question.

"Are you the jockey?"

"I am now."

Her smile said it all – youth, exuberance, pride, determination, potential.

She's riding at Suffolk Downs now while younger brother tries to get his start at Saratoga. Robbie Davis hasn't pushed any of his children, but once they've climbed into the fuselage, he gives them all he can.

"We're planning on going to Suffolk after this meet ends, just to get on a bunch of losers. Dad says, 50 losers, then 50 winners, just to learn all the habits, horses leaning in, leaning out, drop my whip, getting in the crowd. We're going to really start this winter at Aqueduct," Dylan Davis says, after hanging up a bridle at DiSanto's barn. "I don't want to do too many races here because I don't want to start my bug. I officially got my gate card yesterday, but they already told me I was doing great. I've been playing around with horses forever."

That shows, as he guides his horse through DiSanto's shedrow and into a stall, sliding the saddle into his arm,

flipping the girth, sliding the bridle like he's done it for decades. Under a red helmet and behind a red flak jacket, Davis banters about horses, family, his father, his career while checking the time for his next set.

Davis has the bug. Literally and figuratively.

"I want to be a pretty good bug when I start my bug year. Hopefully, I can win five races and hold it for a second, my dad says agents have already talked to him, but I want to wait to lose my bug. I'd like to be a five-pound bug next year at Saratoga, just like (Wilmer) Garcia this year," Davis says. "I have a lot of expectations to live up to, I do whatever I can to make it. It's going to be fun. It would be great to ride for my dad, it'll be a good story to tell."

As for dad, he's cautious and energized, while trying to temper and promote his son. Robbie Davis has been working horses with his son for the past few weeks, talking him through the paces. In the afternoons at their 80-acre farm 15 minutes from the track, they've practiced the afternoon drill: racing saddle, silks and breeches and riding around a paddock.

"Umm, he says he's nervous but not as much because Jackie's been riding, he says he's getting used to it," Dylan Davis says. "He never wanted to push it on me, he wanted to have it as my decision, once I said I wanted to do it, he's backed me up and helped me, he doesn't want to force it on us, he knows how dangerous it is, he's already told me all the crazy stuff, what can happen."

Robbie Davis weathered the ultimate highs and the lowest of lows while competing for 20 years. He's still active, training Sandyinthesun and galloping a few horses. He instilled the bug in his son and he'll try to provide the cocoon.

"We're going to go over a bunch of strategies and stuff, what can happen during the race, I don't know too much about the racing, racing," Dylan Davis says. "You can watch it, but you don't really know until you're riding. Instincts, you can't hesitate or anything . . ."



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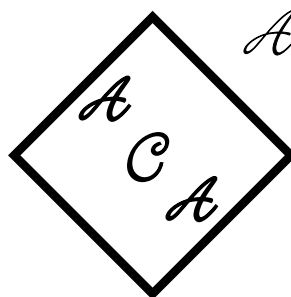


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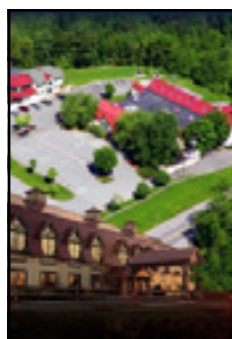


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