

the SARATOGA *Special*



Year 12 • No. 32

SARATOGA'S DAILY NEWSPAPER ON THOROUGHBRED RACING

Thursday, August 30, 2012

Double Triple

Two canoes, three stakes highlight Wednesday



WEEKEND HIDEAWAY

Dave Harmon



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WORTH REPEATING The Special's quotes from Saratoga

"Fred Archer would be proud."

Lincoln Collins, as an exercise rider left the barn with a long whip

"He's come around a lot, you've got to get a chance to ride a lot of horses, he was riding the card in Chicago for a couple of years, that helped."

Allen Jerkens, about jockey Junior Alvarado who's ridden two stakes winners for Jerkens at the meet

"He's great, came out of it super. More than likely, we'll take him to the Pennsylvania Derby."

Trainer Ken McPeck, about Travers winner Golden Ticket

McPeck to racing manager Dan Fuchs before the Travers: "The allowance didn't go, the Bernardini (Stakes) didn't go. We're going to have to call an audible. We either put him in the Travers or we're going to have to wait until September 2 to run him."

Fuchs: "When I played ball and we called an audible, we always threw deep. Run him in the Travers."

"If you're going to be President, you're going to have to speak better English. It's, 'if I were President . . . not if I was President.'"

Security guard – using the subjunctive form in a political way – at the Union Avenue crossing Wednesday morning

"Who do you think I am around here, the night watchman?"

Trainer John Terranova, when being reminded to tell a jockey to send from the gate

"Cheney got a hole in one yesterday, that's all the news I've got."

Trainer Rusty Arnold, about Dr. Mark Cheney's hole in one Tuesday

"Hole in one. Then a 49."

Veterinarian Dr. Stowe Burke, about Cheney's nine-hole score

"I had fun, Datt. Come home soon."

Miles Clancy, 3, on his way home from Saratoga

"We haven't strung two together yet."

Owner/trainer Kate Dalton, on Cat Feathers' chances at a repeat in today's jump stakes

"Why don't they make these things out of plastic? Oh wait."

Don Nichols, while carrying a heavy – really heavy – slab of antique marble Wednesday

BY THE NUMBERS

3: Horses left in the barn for trainer Merrill Scherer.

3: Straw bales in the shedrow at Graham Motion's barn Wednesday morning (down from nine on Saturday, 18 on Friday, 25 on Thursday).

1: Jock's agent wearing gloves Wednesday morning.

1: Trainer wearing gloves Wednesday morning.

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Tod Marks photo

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here&there...

Continued from
previous page



Connie Bush

Hey, Cowgirl. A racing fan keeps an eye on the horses at the backside last week.

LICENSE PLATE OF THE DAY

MORACIN, South Carolina.

NAMES OF THE DAY

Bodie Island, first race. The Elkstone Group homebred is out of Sweet Carolina and Bodie Island is a resort at the Outer Banks.

Sly Warrior, fifth race. The 4-year-old filly is by First Samurai out of Mayhavebeentheone.

WEATHER

Today: Sunny. High 84, low 58.
Friday: Isolated thunderstorms. High 90, low 65.
Saturday: Sunny. High 81, low 54.
Sunday: Partly cloudy. High 81, low 60.



JUST SAYIN'

"At first I thought we won, then I watched the finish and I was like 'Oh no, we got beat. He was second.' Then I watched it again and it looked like he got his head down. I didn't know. Dead heat's perfect. I would have hated for either one of us to be sickened. That would have been a tough beat."

— Trainer Ken McPeck, on Golden Ticket
winning the Travers in a dead heat with Alpha

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Photo by Connie Bush

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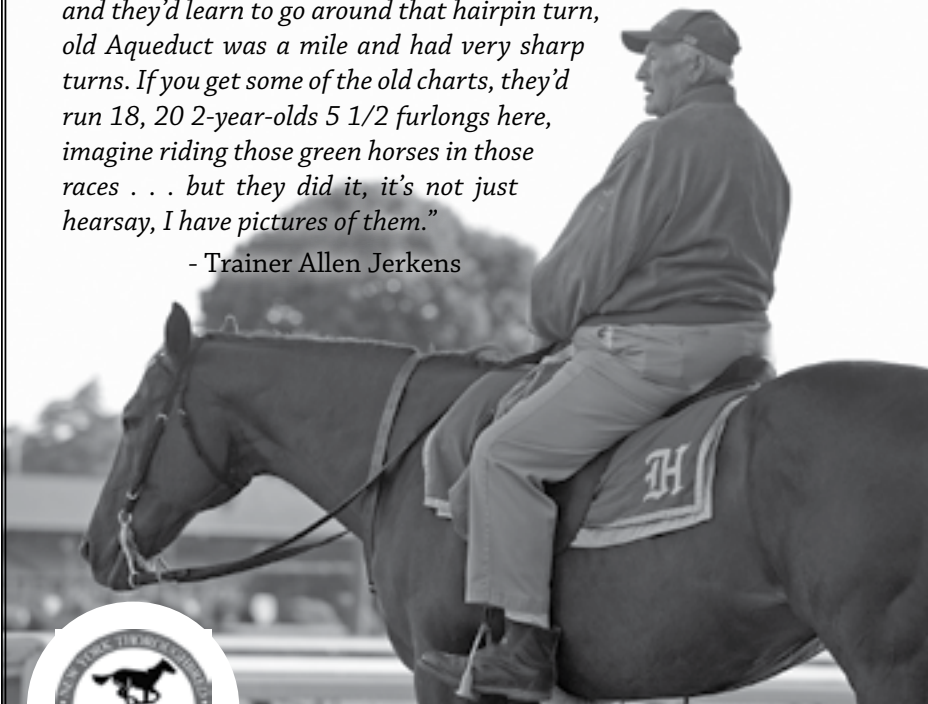
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The Chief... Day 32

"My contention is that the old guys would run 2-year-olds in those short races even though they knew they wanted to go long, so they could get bounced around, get dirt in their faces and get used to racing. Now, they don't believe in that. What does a good 2-year-old do now, he breaks on top and it's just like another workout, he got no dirt in his face, nobody shoved him around and it's fine. Then he gets another race, and the same thing happens, they get on the lead, and he doesn't do nothing. Then they get in races before the Derby, it's altogether a different story. Not only that, the thing that makes it so tough on a 2-year-old in New York is they go from here to Belmont and they're back around one turn again. Years ago, you used to go to Aqueduct after this, and they'd learn to go around that hairpin turn, old Aqueduct was a mile and had very sharp turns. If you get some of the old charts, they'd run 18, 20 2-year-olds 5 1/2 furlongs here, imagine riding those green horses in those races . . . but they did it, it's not just hearsay, I have pictures of them."

- Trainer Allen Jerkens



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Big Payday

Filly Almost An Angel seeks \$100K bonus with start vs. boys

BY JOE CLANCY

Read the fine print in the condition book and it's easy to see why Wesley Ward runs the filly Almost An Angel against males in today's With Anticipation Stakes.

The owner of any 2-year-old who has broken its maiden in a race at the Aqueduct Spring or Belmont Spring/Summer meetings is eligible for a \$100,000 bonus if that horse goes on to win a graded sweepstakes at any NYRA track in 2012.

Almost An Angel broke her maiden going 6 furlongs on the turf at Aqueduct in June. The \$200,000 With Anticipation carries Grade 2 status while its filly counterpart, Wednesday's \$100,000 P.G. Johnson, is ungraded.

"She gets the \$100,000 bonus if she so happens to win so we're going to take a chance," said Ward. "She's training outstandingly. We're going for all the money. We might as well."

With the purse and the bonus, the win would be worth \$220,000 while a victory in the Johnson would mean just

WITH ANTICIPATION STAKES

\$60,000. Ward takes the blinkers off the daughter of Artie Schiller, who races for Ice Wine Stable and sports a win and a second in two turf starts. She breaks from the rail for Kent Desormeaux at 8-1. The day's 10th race lured a well-matched field of 12, including five winners at the meet.

The only trainer to swing for the fences with a filly, Ward also entered Mark Dodson's The B's And E's (12-1, Junior Alvarado). The Canadian-bred gelding comes off a 7-furlong maiden score at Belmont July 15 and is a good example of trying something new. Dodson bred the son of Marcavelly and enlisted Ward to take the horse to Florida. The gray colt did not make much of a first impression. He was small, studdish, slow. Ward suggested gelding the horse; Dodson agreed, but The B's And E's didn't get much better – losing works at Palm Meadows and Palm Beach Downs by double digits and generally not keeping up in Ward's 2-year-old program. Ward called Dodson.



Tod Marks

Charming Kitten looks for his second career win – and second of Saratoga – in the With Anticipation.

"Look, I don't think you have much," the trainer said. "I know he's Ontario-sired, and that might help, but the horse really isn't that much."

Ward agreed to keep trying and sent the first wave of 2-year-olds to Keeneland, leaving a smaller contingent in Florida where the Palm Meadows turf course remains an option for training. The B's And E's took to the grass like a Toro.

"I couldn't believe it," Ward said. "On the dirt, he'd get beat 10 lengths in every work. On the turf, wooh, different horse."

Ward called Dodson again and told him there was hope and after taking a

shot in an Ontario-sired maiden race on Polytrack at Woodbine in May, the gelding streaked home at better than 10-1 in a Belmont maiden on the turf. He beat Craving Carats, who came back to win here Aug. 4 and is also among the With Anticipation entries.

"He could be a really nice horse on the grass," said Ward. "On the dirt, he's not worth \$500. He'll work in 1:05 and get beat to the end of the barn. He just galloped on the turf. You should always try every horse on the turf, you just don't know. I don't know much about

See **WITH ANTICIPATION** page 8 ►

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With Anticipation —

■ Continued from page 6

that sire and I'm not a claiming guy, but I pay attention now when I see one."

By Johannesburg, Marcavelly won three stakes on the turf for Zayat Stable and stands at Colebrook Farm in Canada.

Ken McPeck entered two in the With Anticipation. Magdalena Racing's He's So Fine broke his maiden for a \$50,000 tag at Belmont in July before leaping into the stakes division with a second in The Saratoga Special, beaten 5 lengths

by Spurious Precision, the leader of the division on the dirt. He's So Fine will make his turf debut.

"I want to stretch him out, I want to see how he'll handle two turns and I'll probably use this race to take him to the Breeders Futurity at Keeneland," McPeck said. "He won't have any trouble with the grass. They have that 100 bonus, why not?"

Sonofasamurai, also owned by Magdalena, has made two starts, winning his most recent in a maiden turf here Aug. 18. The son of First Samurai split horses to win by 3 lengths.

"He was very impressive here, he busted through a hole, I know it's com-

ing back quick, but he's a handy little colt," McPeck said. "I was thinking pull the trigger here and run him in a 2-year-old grass race at Belmont or take him to Keeneland and run him in a turf race, he could be a Futurity horse too."

McPeck has yet to treat either horse with Lasix. They're the only entrants without the anti-bleeding medication in the With Anticipation.

"I think in a lot of cases they don't need it. We don't use a whole lot anyway, I wonder if they need it," McPeck said. "I've got one filly Salty Strike who's won three in a row without it. To some extent, I think it's overrated. We tend to try and make a start or two without it until they actually need it. If they really need it, that's one thing."

Ken and Sarah Ramsey's Charming Kitten takes the favorite's role at 3-1 off a maiden turf win going today's 1 1/16-mile distance for trainer Todd Pletcher. The son of Kitten's Joy is a full-brother to \$332,000 earner Queen'splatekitten. Pletcher also entered Repole Stable's Notacatbutallama, who defeated New York-breds here Aug. 20. John Velazquez rides at 15-1.

Wade Wacker's Joha seeks his third consecutive win for trainer Mike Maker. The son of Johar won a maiden at Belmont over Almost An Angel and came back to take the Colin Stakes on Polytrack at Woodbine. Ramon Dominguez rides at 7-2.

Trainer Alan Goldberg ships Special Skills to Saratoga for owner Richard Santulli. The \$200,000 OBS March purchase won his debut on the turf at Belmont in July and was disqualified from a stakes win at Delaware Aug. 4.



Tod Marks

Trainer Wesley Ward tries to call up a win from 2-year-old filly Almost An Angel in today's With Anticipation.

Goldberg adds blinkers and taps Jose Lezcano for the ride at 6-1.

Donegal Racing's Craving Carats exits a win over the course and gets Joel Rosario at 8-1 for trainer Dale Romans. Others in the field are Bernie The Jet (Irada Ortiz Jr., 30-1), Hightail (Rajiv Maragh, 15-1) and Private Tutor (Mike Luzzi, 12-1). Balance The Books, who finished second to Craving Carats, looks to draw in off the also-eligible list for trainer Chad Brown.



Tod Marks

Craving Carats (right) and Balance The Books are among the entries for today's With Anticipation.

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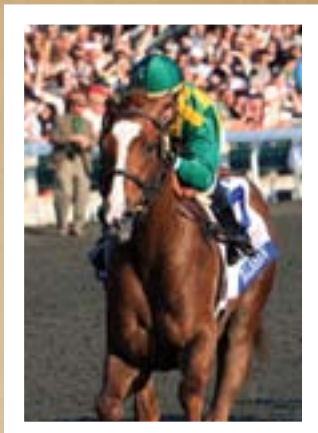
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CATALOG NOW ONLINE



Csaba and trainer Phil Gleaves stroll through the stakes barn Wednesday.

Joe Clancy

Doubles Partners

Hall of Fame runner-up Csaba heads quality pair for Gleaves

BY JOE CLANCY

EQUALIZE STAKES PREVIEW

Csaba walked down the horsepath, head up, ears alert, sporting a Sure-Win bridle (a la Seattle Slew and I'll Have Another). On a mission, he was headed for the paddock, then the track, then a gallop over the main track. He did it all with a bounce in his step.

Half an hour later, his trainer held the colt for a bath at the stakes barn and talked about the 3-1 second choice in today's Equalize Stakes for 3-year-olds at a mile on the inner turf.

"All systems go, he's doing great," said Phil Gleaves. "You'd bet money he'd like the turf, being by Kitten's Joy out of a War Chant mare. It would be nice to make him a turf horse."

Csaba hasn't had much chance to do that as seven of his 11 career starts have come in races moved off the turf. He gets another chance today, 20 days after losing by a nose in the Grade 2 Hall of Fame Stakes in the slop.

"He's a nice horse, he handles all surfaces," Gleaves said. "His form seems better on dirt, but I want to give him a real chance. I want to get him on the grass. That's why we came here – there was nothing in Florida for us. During the summer in Florida, the 3-year-old program is not the strongest. If you've got a good 3-year-old, you have to bring him up here or somewhere."

Csaba and stablemate Miami Cat (who form an entry today) shipped north from Calder and set up a base in the stakes barn. Owned by Seahorse Stable and Bruce Hollander, Csaba set the pace in the off-the-turf Hall of Fame and couldn't hold off Quick Wit. Owned by Gleaves, Hollander and Seahorse, Miami Cat finished fourth in an optional claimer on the turf Aug. 19.

Csaba boasts four lifetime wins, all on

See **EQUALIZE** page 11 ►

Gr.1 winner

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Equalize —

■ Continued from page 10

the dirt. His two turf tries resulted in a fifth behind Summer Front and today's rival Finale late last year and a third behind Howe Great and Dullahan in the Grade 3 Palm Beach at Gulfstream this year. Bred by Ken and Sarah Ramsey and purchased privately, Csaba has bank-rolled more than \$162,000. Eddie Castro rides from the inside post at 3-1.

"It's a tough race, Finale is a deserving favorite on past form," said Gleaves. "Csaba has been on the grass twice, both good races, but I'm looking for a bit of a breakthrough race from him."

Miami Cat broke his maiden in the slop at Calder in April, then repeated with an off-the-turf (sound familiar?) win in May. He and Csaba ran in the Mambo Meister Stakes, named for a former Gleaves runner, in May and ran into trouble. Csaba finished second as the favorite, but was disqualified and moved to third for interference. Miami Cat labored home sixth, beaten 16 lengths, but had a big excuse.

"We discovered that day he was a non-sweater," said Gleaves. "His system just shut down. His temperature was 105 after the race. We put him on some medication down there, but the most important thing was to get him out of the heat and humidity of Florida. He's much better now and ran a good race here."

The son of Powerful Goer (by Easy Goer) finished fourth in a traffic-filled starter/optional claimer going 1 1/16 miles Aug. 19. Rajiv Maragh rides the Gleaves homebred.



Joe Clancy

Aptly named Florida shipper Miami Cat gets ready to check out the starting gate Wednesday.

Making his first start since December, Todd Pletcher-trained Finale rates the 5-2 favorite. The son of Scat Daddy won his first three turf starts, then finished a troubled seventh in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf before chasing home Summer Front (and beating Csaba) in the Dania Beach in December. John Velazquez rides the Keeneland purchase, who shows three 5-furlong turf works at Saratoga (each at 59 seconds and change).

Lake Lonely Racing's Yari rides a two-race winning streak for trainer Chad

Brown, The son of First Samurai scored twice at Belmont after breaking maiden for a \$35,000 tag in Florida this winter. Off since June 28, the gelding has been first or second in five turf starts. Jose Lezcano rides at 7-2.

Dennis Narlinger's Artest stretches to a mile after winning the 5 1/2-furlong Quick Call Stakes here July 26, six days after finishing seventh at a mile. Trained by Michelle Nihei, the son of Hard Spun attracts Ramon Dominguez at 8-1. Don Adam's Film Shot, third in the Grade 3

Hill Prince in June, makes his second Saratoga start for trainer Bill Mott. The son of Distorted Humor and graded stakes winner Film Maker finished fifth in the Duluth here July 22. Edgar Prado rides at 8-1.

Trainer Eddie Kenneally looks to extend his strong meet with Tiz Sardonic Joe, who won here here July 23 for owner/breeder Joe Witek. The son of Tiznow gets Javier Castellano at 8-1.

Southern Parkway cuts back for trainer Rusty Arnold. The son of Lemon Drop Kid finished seventh, beaten just 3 3/4 lengths in the Grade 3 American Derby July 14. Owned by Glenn Bromagen, the two-time winner shipped to Saratoga in time for a smart breeze Aug. 22.

"He made a huge run to get up in position but I don't think he wants a mile-and-three-sixteenths," said Arnold. "His best races have been at a mile, I just brought him up here and he's doing well, I didn't know I was going to run him, but he had one good work on the grass. He fits in this one pretty good, that was a tough race at Arlington, he made a huge move at the quarter pole and got to about the eighth pole and flattened out."

Rosie Napravnik rides at 12-1.

West Point Thoroughbreds and trainer Tom Albertraini try a stakes with the unbeaten Twilight Eclipse. The son of Purim won twice at Indiana Downs in June. Junior Alvarado rides at 15-1. Robert Randal's Capetown Devil, fifth in the Quick Call, comes in at 20-1 for Bob Hess and jockey Joel Rosario.

Also-eligibles Lockout (second) and Spring To The Sky (third) exit the Duluth Stakes here July 22 while Inflation Target hopes for rain from the main-track-only list.



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THURSDAY'S ENTRIES

Thursday, August 30.

1ST (1:00PM). \$65,000, AOC \$30,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 2 1/16M (HURDLE)

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	12	Memorial Maniac	D. Hodsdon	B. Slater	10-1
1a	AE	The Jigsaw Man (IRE)	R. Mackenzie	K. Neilson	10-1
2	1	Brave Prospect	W. Dowling	J. Fisher	12-1
3	2	Bodie Island	R. Walsh	J. Sheppard	10-1
4	3	Red Letter Day	R. Geraghty	J. Elliot	30-1
5	4	Seer	X. Aizpuru	J. Fisher	6-1
6	5	Sermon of Love	B. Crowley	J. Sheppard	4-1
7	6	Enchanted Circle (GB)	B. Dalton	N. Morris	30-1
8	7	Extraextraordinary	J. Murphy	P. Fout	12-1
9	8	You the Man	P. Young	T. Wyatt	15-1
10	9	Saint Dynaformer	J. Roberts	N. Morris	10-1
11	10	Rainiero (CHI)	M. McCarron	R. Valentine	7-2
12	11	Sunshine Numbers	W. McCarthy	A. Kingsley, Jr.	4-1
13	AE	Grantor	C. Rafter	M. O'Dwyer	30-1

2ND (1:35PM). \$75,000, STK - THE MRS. WALTER M. JEFFORDS STK, 4 YO'S & UP, F & M, 2 1/16M (HURDLE)

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	Well Fashioned	J. Murphy	P. Fout	5-1
2	2	Cat Feathers	B. Dalton	K. Dalton	5-2
3	3	Eastern Starlett	W. McCarthy	A. Kingsley, Jr.	8-1
4	4	Cubist	B. Crowley	J. Sheppard	6-1
5	5	Maya Charli	R. Geraghty	J. Fisher	5-1
6	6	Better Than Even	R. Mackenzie	S. Hobson	15-1
7	7	Cordillera (GB)	C. Rafter	J. Delozier, III	3-1
8	8	Euro Power	D. Hodsdon	B. Davies	15-1

3RD (2:10PM). \$80,000, MSW, 2 YO, 6F

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

1	1	Unlikely Scenario	R. Maragh	T. Pompay	7-2
1a	2	Overnight Trading	J. Rosario	D. Romans	7-2
2	3	Buddy's Tiz	R. Dominguez	B. Levine	8-1
2b	6	Buddy's Smart	R. Dominguez	B. Levine	8-1
3	5	Archwarrior	J. Velazquez	T. Pletcher	4-5
3x	8	Tizracer	J. Velazquez	T. Pletcher	4-5
4	4	More Falling Star	W. Garcia	R. Persaud	20-1
5	7	Malachite	J. Lezcano	D. Donk	12-1
6	9	Transparent	I. Ortiz, Jr.	K. McLaughlin	4-1

4TH (2:43PM). \$80,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 7F

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	Free as a Bird	E. Prado	I. Wilkes	6-1
2	2	Royal Rhiannon	J. Rosario	J. Terranova, II	5-1
3	3	Villanesca	E. Castro	K. McLaughlin	3-1
4	4	Colonial Empress	W. Garcia	D. Lukas	8-1
5	5	Glorious View	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	2-1
6	6	Run for Riches	R. Napravnik	H. Bond	15-1
7	7	Ottaviano	R. Dominguez	D. Romans	8-1
8	8	Awleyaa	A. Garcia	K. McLaughlin	10-1

5TH (3:16PM). \$82,000, AOC \$25,000, 3 & UP, F & M, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	Giant Sleep	J. Castellano	M. Maker	6-1
1a	7	Sly Warrior	J. Castellano	M. Maker	6-1
2	2	Vindicated Ghost	J. Alvarado	T. Albertrani	12-1
3	3	Sounds of the City	J. Lezcano	A. Goldberg	5-2
4	4	Buleria	R. Dominguez	R. Rodriguez	8-1
5	5	Lady Rizzi	C. Velasquez	L. Rice	7-2
6	6	Cat Ferrad	I. Ortiz, Jr.	D. Galluscio	20-1
7	8	Margaret Lilian	R. Maragh	G. Contessa	8-1
8	9	Strategic Missile	W. Garcia	K. Feron	15-1
9	10	Kaleidoscope	J. Rosario	M. Hennig	12-1
10	11	Barbados Beauty	J. Leparoux	S. Asmussen	5-1
11	MTO	Funky Munky Mama		G. Gullo	3-1
12	MTO	Victoria Lynn		R. Rodriguez	2-1

6TH (3:49PM). \$50,000, MCL \$65,000, 2 YO, F, 6F

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

1	6	Iratinelexburance	J. Castellano	R. Rodriguez	6-1
1a	AE	Nodebtdanny	C. Velasquez	R. Rodriguez	6-1
2	1	Flash Fever	J. Velazquez	H. Motion	4-1
3	2	Patty Anne Sissy	R. Maragh	E. Coletti, Sr.	5-1
4	3	High Inflation	A. Garcia	R. Violette, Jr.	5-1
5	4	Make Me a Prophet	J. Lezcano	B. Tagg	3-1
6	5	Agualinda	R. Dominguez	R. Dutrow, Jr.	5-1
7	7	I Jus Wana Hav Fun	S. Bridgmohan	M. Scherer	8-1
8	8	Art of Bourbon	J. Leparoux	G. Contessa	15-1
9	AE	Chifa	J. Rosario	M. Trombetta	9-2

7TH (4:22PM). \$87,000, AOC \$35,000, 3 & UP, 1 1/8M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	Veiled Prophet	J. Espinoza	G. Contessa	15-1
2	2	Quantity	J. Lezcano	C. Brown	7-2
3	3	Presumptive	I. Ortiz, Jr.	R. Lerman	15-1
4	4	Flamin' Hot	A. Garcia	R. Violette, Jr.	8-1
5	5	Coexist	D. Cohen	J. Kimmel	15-1
6	6	Lea	J. Rosario	A. Stall, Jr.	5-2
7	7	Best Actor	J. Castellano	J. Servis	10-1
8	8	Bluegrass Summer	E. Castro	J. Sheppard	20-1
9	9	Majesty's Pilgrim	M. Luzzi	A. Tschan	50-1
10	10	News Pending	R. Maragh	D. Romans	6-1
11	11	Soul of Borrego	W. Garcia	B. Tagg	20-1
12	12	Change of Command	R. Dominguez	M. Trombetta	5-1
13	MTO	Tritap		S. Asmussen	5-1
14	MTO	Grandpa Len	J. Lezcano	D. Donk	8-1
15	MTO	Settle for Medal	M. Luzzi	R. Schosberg	6-1
16	MTO	Most Happy Fella	R. Dominguez	R. Dutrow, Jr.	7-2

8TH (4:55PM). \$60,000, MSW, 2 YO, F, 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	1	Ascended Fever	R. Maragh	W. Badgett, Jr.	3-1
2	2	Risky Predicament	C. Velasquez	P. Kelly	12-1
3	3	Discreet Marq	E. Castro	J. Ryerson	6-1
4	4	Joanne's Halo	C. Montalvo	C. Englehart	12-1
5	5	My Favorite Two	R. Napravnik	N. Zito	5-1
6	6	Accomplish First	J. Lezcano	E. Kenneally	4-1
7	7	Live Life Fast	J. Velazquez	P. Serpe	7-2
8	8	Copper Bluff	I. Ortiz, Jr.	L. Gyarmati	12-1
9	AE	Sweet Sway	J. Alvarado	S. DiMauro	5-1
10	AE	Uncle Southern	C. Velasquez	L. Rice	6-1
11	AE	Pie's First Lady	R. Dominguez	L. Rice	8-1
12	AE	Hot Rendezvous	I. Ortiz, Jr.	G. Contessa	5-2
13	AE	Winmor Gold	S. Bridgmohan	M. Lauer	12-1
14	MTO	Riptherubberoff		R. Rodriguez	9-5

9TH (5:28PM). \$100,000, STK - THE EQUALIZE, 3 YO, 1M (INN TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	Csaba	E. Castro	P. Gleaves	3-1
1a	10	Miami Cat	R. Maragh	P. Gleaves	3-1
2	2	Capetown Devil	J. Rosario	R. Hess, Jr.	20-1
3	3	Yari	J. Lezcano	C. Brown	7-2
4	4	Tiz Sardonic Joe	J. Castellano	E. Kenneally	8-1
5	5	Southern Parkway	R. Napravnik	G. Arnold, II	12-1
6	6	Film Shot	E. Prado	W. Mott	8-1
7	7	Twilight Eclipse	J. Alvarado	T. Albertrani	15-1
8	8	Finale	J. Velazquez	T. Pletcher	5-2
9	9	Artest	R. Dominguez	M. Nihei	8-1
10	AE	Lockout	S. Bridgmohan	M. Casse	8-1
11	AE	Spring to the Sky	J. Castellano	B. Brown	12-1
12	MTO	Inflation Target	A. Garcia	R. Violette, Jr.	7-2

10TH (6:01PM). \$200,000, STK - THE WITH ANTICIPATION (GRADE II), 2 YO, 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Daily Double

1	1	Almost an Angel	K. Desormeaux	W. Ward	8-1
1a	MTO	Sweet Shirley Mae	K. Desormeaux	W. Ward	8-1
2	3	He's So Fine	D. Cohen	K. McPeck	5-1
2b	8	Sonofasamurai	A. Garcia	K. McPeck	5-1
3	AE	Balance the Books	J. Leparoux	C. Brown	5-1
3x	MTO	Read the Proposal	A. Garcia	R. Violette, Jr.	5-1
4	2	Craving Carats	J. Rosario	D. Romans	8-1
5	4	Special Skills	J. Lezcano	A. Goldberg	6-1
6	5	Charming Kitten	J. Castellano	T. Pletcher	3-1
7	6	Joha	R. Dominguez	M. Maker	7-2
8	7	Bernie the Jet	I. Ortiz, Jr.	G. Contessa	30-1
9	9	The B's and E's	J. Alvarado	W. Ward	12-1
10	10	Notacatbutallama	J. Velazquez	T. Pletcher	15-1
11	11	Hightail	R. Maragh	D. Lukas	15-1
12	12	Private Tutor	M. Luzzi	J. Robb	12-1
13	MTO	Lawn Man		T. Pletcher	8-5

11TH (6:34PM). \$38,000, MCL \$25,000, 3 & UP, F&M, 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta

1	1	Marcy	A. Lezcano	G. Goodwin	6-1
2	2	What'smineismine	R. Napravnik	M. Trombetta	5-1
3	3	Chessrate	R. Maragh	C. Englehart	12-1
4	4	Belongs to Dixie	J. Lezcano	J. Servis	5-1
5	5	Touch of Royalty	S. Husbands	G. Goodwin	50-1
6	6	Sweetest Peach	M. Studart	G. Sciacca	30-1
7	7	Shahalie Slammer	J. Rosario	R. Hess, Jr.	15-1
8	8	Crypto Kitten	R. Dominguez	M. Maker	5-2
9	9	Richbelle	E. Castro	G. Weaver	12-1
10	10	Lithe Legend	C. Velasquez	L. Rice	12-1
11	11	Carpi Clements	W. Garcia	R. Barbara	8-1
12	12	She Gets It	C. Montalvo	G. Contessa	12-1
13	AE	Irish Wedding	J. Ortiz	R. Rodriguez	6-1
14	AE	A New York Phillie	J. Ortiz	R. Ubillo	20-1
15	AE	Cola	C. Velasquez	L. Rice	4-1
16	MTO	Classic Point	W. Garcia	H. Jerkens	5-1

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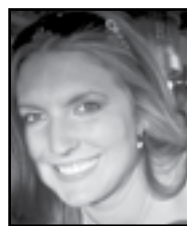
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1	Sermon Of Love Rainiero Naylor Entry	Rainiero Memorial Maniac Sermon Of Love	Sunshine Numbers Rainiero Sermon Of Love	Sermon Of Love Rainiero Extraextraordinary	Sermon Of Love Rainiero Sunshine Numbers
2	Cordillera Well Fashioned Cat Feathers	Cat Feathers Cordillera Euro Power	Eastern Starlett Cordillera Well Fashioned	Cordillera Maya Charli Cubist	Cordillera Maya Charli Euro Power
3	Archwarrior Klaravich Entry Transparent	Archwarrior Klaravich Entry Transparent	Pletcher Entry Klaravich Entry Transparent	Pletcher Entry Transparent Levine Entry	Pletcher entry Klaravich entry Levine entry
4	Royal Rhiannon Villanesca Awleyaa	Glorious View Villanesca Awleyaa	Glorious View Ottaviano Royal Rhiannon	Glorious View Villanesca Free As A Bird	Glorious View Free As A Bird Villanesca
5	Lady Rizzi Sounds Of The City Barbados Beauty	Funky Munky Mama Sounds Of The City Sly Warrior	Sounds Of The City Ramsey Entry Lady Rizzi	Sounds Of The City Lady Rizzi Barbados Beauty	Funky Munky Mama Sly Warrior Lady Rizzi
6	Agualinda High Inflation Make Me A Prophet	Nodebtdanny Patty Anne Sissy Flash Fever	Flash Fever Patty Anne Sissy High Inflation	Agualinda Flash Fever I Jus Wana Hav Fun	Chifa Rodriguez entry Agualinda
7	Most Happy Fella Quantity Lea	Quantity Change Of Command Best Actor	Change Of Command Quantity Lea	Quantity Lea News Pending	Majesty's Pilgrim Veiled Prophet Quantity
8	Riptherubberoff Live Life Fast Accomplish First	Hot Rendezvous Live Life Fast Accomplish First	Hot Rendezvous Accomplish First Ascended Fever	Accomplish First Live Life Fast Ascended Fever	Riptherubberoff Ascended Fever My Favorite Two
9	Finale Csaba Yari	Inflation Target Finale Twilight Eclipse	Twilight Eclipse Finale Film Shot	Finale Gleaves Entry Yari	Lockout Film Shot Yari
10	Lawn Man Sonofasamurai Charming Kitten	Balance The Books Charming Kitten Sonofasamurai	Lawn Man Charming Kitten McPeek Entry	Joha McPeek Entry Craving Carats	Notacatbutallama Balance The Books Private Tutor
11	Belongs To Dixie Marcy Crypto Kitten	Crypto Kitten She Gets It Marcy	Crypto Kitten Carpi Clements She Gets It	What'smineismine Crypto Kitten Belongs To Dixie	Vicola Crypto Kitten Carpi Clements

2012 Records

102/313

110/313

85/313

75/313

69/313

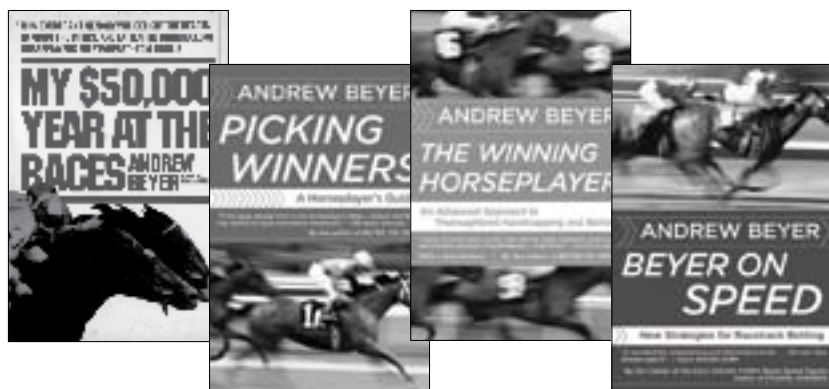


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All Smiles

Weekend Hideaway delivers 2-year-old score for Serpe

BY SEAN CLANCY

Phil Serpe waved from the winner's circle, "I'm smiling. See, I'm smiling."

Indeed, Serpe was smiling wide after winning Wednesday's David Stakes, a New York-bred stakes for 2-year-olds with Red and Black Stable's Weekend Hideaway. Ridden by Jose Lezcano, the chestnut son of Speightstown sat just off the pace set by Cay To Pomeroy before rolling past when asked to win by 6 1/4 lengths over late-running Slot Play and Mr Rodriguez.

Last week, a photo of Serpe ran in this paper, the caption noted that the man was having a good meet but wasn't smiling.

Weekend Hideaway changed that.

Making his third start, Weekend Hideaway broke fastest from the outside stall in the field of five before Javier Castellano sent Cay To Pomeroy to the lead from the inside. Lezcano made the first definitive move, ratcheting Weekend Holiday to a stalking spot, outside in second. The horse was on simmer. Through a quarter mile in 22.46 seconds and a half in 45.54, Cay To Pomeroy led Weekend Holiday with Awesome Weekend and Mr Rodriguez hard at it to stay close. Slots Play got bumped from the inside stall and tried

DAVID STAKES RECAP

to rally from last. Passing the quarter pole, Lezcano allowed Weekend Holiday to engage the tiring leader. By the eighth pole, the engagement was over and Weekend Hideaway strolled home to win easily, finishing 6 furlongs in 1:09.89.

Bred by Carl Lizza's Flying Zee Stable, the winner was part of the Flying Zee dispersal held last year after Lizza died. Serpe, who helped manage Lizza's program, suggested to Michael Hoffman of Red and Black to try and buy a few of the horses.

"We were fortunate to keep some of them in the barn, thanks for Mike Hoffman," Serpe said. "This is his first stakes win on his own, it's good for them and good for us. They stepped up when we needed them to buy these horses."

Weekend Hideaway changed owners for \$40,000, but was kept in the same Serpe pipeline, going from Fasig-Tipton to Donna Freyer's Custom Care Equine in Camden before shipping to Serpe's New York barn this spring. Weekend Hideaway was not at the top of the list when he arrived.

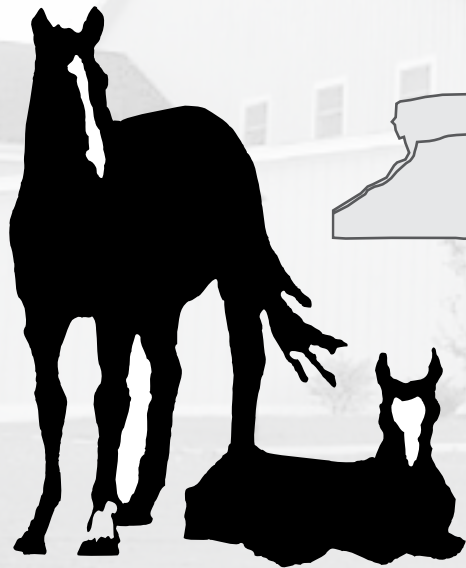


Tod Marks

See **DAVID STAKES** page 16 ► Weekend Hideaway speeds to the wire in control of the David Stakes.

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David Stakes —

■ Continued from page 14

"We thought he was the least precocious, he was a little scrawny and we thought he might have to run for a tag, as he went along with his training, he just seemed to get pretty good," said Serpe. "We didn't know this was happening, we just thought he was OK, he ran in a good time today. I told (Lezcano) in the paddock, if they're all jacking their horses out of there, we've covered this horse, got him full of mud. His works were his works. I don't have enough 2-year-olds to knock them out in the morning, but we teach them the right way, he knew how to take dirt if he had to."

Weekend Hideaway ran hard in his debut before finishing second over a fast track July 23. He returned to win over a sloppy track Aug. 10. Nineteen days later, he became a stakes winner. Hoffman, racing as Hilly Fields Stable, and his old friend Tom Moran won the John's Call with Rousing Victory in 2005. Serpe trained that winner and has been Hoffman's trainer for 13 years, ever since Moran introduced them.

"This is huge. Phil did a great job. He's been my trainer for 13 years, we claimed a horse up here, it won two or three races in a row, then we just got more into it," Hoffman said. "I've been betting on them since high school and gradually saved enough money to buy some horses."



Tod Marks

Trainer Phil Serpe smiles in the winner's circle.

Serpe was ecstatic for Hoffman, who was able to improve his stable while stabilizing Serpe's after the dispersal of the Flying Zee horses.

"I liked some of these horses, there were eight of them I wished we could have bought, and we were able to buy four of them and this is one of them," Serpe said. "I'm just happy for the guy, he's one of those guys you would want him to be your best friend, the horse could run last, he would be like, 'Don't worry about it, good job.' Not just today, or yesterday, that's just how the guy is."

See why Serpe was smiling.

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Truth Teller

Swift Warrior lives up to feedback for Terranova

BY SEAN CLANCY

John Terranova walked out of the winner's circle and summed up his rewarded confidence in five truthful words.

"That horse has never lied," Terranova said.

No trainer called the racing office for Wednesday's card more confidently than Terranova when he entered Swift Warrior in the \$100,000 turf stakes. Swift Warrior backed up his trainer's moxy with a foot-perfect victory in the mile stakes.

Ridden by Jose Espinoza, the 4-year-old son of First Samurai sat just off the pace before kicking clear to win by 2 lengths over Hoofit and Yield Bogey. Making his first start since April, Swift Warrior had touted his trainer for months.

"He's just a happy horse. Moving well, hitting the ground unbelievable," Terranova said. "He's telling us, he's moving better and better each week, he's just on the way up right now, on the rise, doing better every day."



Tod Marks

Swift Warrior (left) stays in front of Hoofit and Beau Choix late in Wednesday's Win Stakes.

Swift Warrior broke sharply from the rail before Espinoza allowed Yield Bogey to clear him going into the first turn. Favorite Right One took the next spot, sitting second, and Swift Warrior found a sweet spot in third, after a quarter mile in 24 seconds. Yield Bogey strolled through a half in 47.62 as Espinoza maneuvered Swift Warrior to the outside of Right One. Leaving the backstretch, Swift Warrior rolled past Right One, getting first run on a phalanx of challengers led by Beau Choix and Hoofit. Turning for home, Swift Warrior and Yield Bogey hooked up as Hoofit looked for room on the rail. Swift Warrior gradually

put away Yield Bogey and accelerated to an easy win as Hoofit nailed Yield Bogey in the final strides. Beau Choix and Nine On Wonderful closed to finish in a four-way photo for the lesser prizes.

Owned by James Covello and James Dolan, Swift Warrior finished the mile in 1:33.82, just two-fifths off the course record.

After the race, Terranova smiled, Covello fought back tears and assistant Reynaldo Abreu received the credit.

"The only reason that horse is as good as he is right

See **WIN STAKES** page 19 ►

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Win Stakes —

■ Continued from page 18

now is because of Reynaldo, that's his baby, his project, he loves that horse and has him in excellent shape. He gets all the accolades," Terranova said. "You know how you get a barn favorite like that, somebody you're just attached to. He's had his issues over the years, since we've got him, but thankfully every time we've brought him over he's been in amazing shape and he's a horse that's real honest, just a neat kind of racehorse to have."

Purchased from Steve Dwoskin in 2011, Swift Warrior immediately rewarded his new connections with a win in the Rushaway Stakes at Turfway Park, wiring Crimson China to score by 2 lengths. That victory propelled Swift Warrior to the Blue Grass at Keeneland in April but those plans were derailed when he suffered a condylar fracture while breezing for the Derby prep. Dr. Larry Bramlage operated and a 2012 plan was the only thing to be salvaged.

"It was very small, non-displaced, not a big deal, but it blew our season," Terranova said. "I loved him before the Blue Grass, he was coming into that race phenomenally, we were thinking the Blue Grass was our spot."

Sent to Florida this winter, Swift Warrior finished third on the dirt at Tampa Bay Downs before finishing third, beaten a half-length, in the Grade 3 Tampa Bay on the turf. Sent to Fair Grounds for the Grade 2 Mervin Muniz, he finished sixth, beaten less than 3 lengths. He came out of that race stiff and went



Tod Marks

Swift Warrior packs them into the winner's circle after the Win Stakes.

to Saratoga for a freshening. Abreu took over and took his time, eventually delivering a fresh, fit and fast horse to win the Win.

"We sent him up here early, let Rey work with him, waited for him tell us when he was ready, if he wasn't ready for this meet, no big deal, we'll wait for the fall, Everybody loves him in the barn," Terranova said. "He's been super solid, he tries hard, he lays himself

down each time. He's just one of those special horses. You just hope you get a clean trip and a good fair try it because he was going to be tough today."

As for Covello, he was feeling the enormity of winning a stakes at Saratoga, with a horse who once promised big things, then had to overcome big problems.

"All the heartache you go through in this game, even yesterday, one of our

best 2-year-olds gets laminitis and goes to the clinic, it's touch and go all day, to go through that yesterday, then to be here with this today, the emotions got the best of me," Covello said. "If you don't appreciate it when it happens . . . I came up for the breeze last Wednesday, he's the kind of horse you can tell just by looking at him if he's right, when I saw him last week and this morning, well, I just knew."

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Norumbega 1



2 Scofield (left)



3 Weekend Hideaway



4 Hearts of Red



5 Fredericksburg



6 Swift Warrior



7 Hedonemewrongsong (right)



9 Gimme Credit (right)



10 Corinzia



Tod Marks photo

Hey, Let's PLAY TWO!

Cat Feathers shoots for second stakes win in Mrs. Walter M. Jeffords Stakes on today's steeplechase doubleheader.

*There's more to come:
Steeplechase Festival
at Saratoga on Sept.
15 and Belmont Park's
\$150,000 Lonesome
Glory Stakes (Gr. 1) on
Thursday, Sept. 27.*



Jump Into The Action!

Shamrock Shake

Irish import Watsdachances prevails in U.S. debut

BY SEAN CLANCY

Pete Bradley is no Irishman. But he can imitate one. "You know, she ran pretty good, she won by six, you know," Bradley said, in his best Irish brogue, imitating his friend Ed Daley who had called about a 2-year-old filly who had broken her maiden by 6 lengths at Navan in April.

Bradley liked what he saw, made the deal and sent Watsdachances to Chad Brown's Saratoga barn. Three months later, racing for Michael Kisber and Bradley Thoroughbreds, the bay daughter of Diamond Green handled six rivals in Wednesday's P. G. Johnson, rallying from fifth to win by a neck over Broken Spell and Tara From The Cape.

Watsdachances made her debut in a maiden at Cork, finishing third. Three weeks later, she crushed eight rivals, winning a Navan maiden by 6 lengths for trainer Ger Lyons. That's when Daley called Bradley.

"It was early in the season, while she won on soft going, she ran on pretty firm going the race before and ran a pretty good race," Bradley said. "Ger Lyons never has them really geared up the first out, when



Dave Harmon

Watsdachances (7) surges to the front late in the P. G. Johnson for trainer Chad Brown.

she came available, the price was right and we put together a little partnership and here we are."

A tall filly with legs like Marilyn Monroe, Watsdachances looked like one of the few fillies in the race who was suited for two turns on the turf and she proved it.

Javier Castellano (who, with his wife Abby, welcomed new son Brady into the world Tuesday) steadied Watsdachances for the first sixteenth, then guided her into a relaxed spot in fifth, behind Top Tier Lass, Go Kitten Go, Tara From The Cape and Broken Spell. Top Tier Lass and Go Kitten Go ripped through the

first quarter mile in 23.47 seconds and a half in 47.79 as Castellano bided his time aboard the second choice. Leaving the backside, Watsdachances was still fifth but had followed Tara From The Cape to a hovering spot outside the fading leaders. Turning for home, Tara From The Cape cut the corner as Watsdachances circled five wide. Broken Spell found a spot between horses as she and Watsdachances vanquished Tara From The Cape inside the eighth pole. Watsdachances steadily wore everybody down from the outside, drop-

See **P. G. JOHNSON** page 24 ►

My Luc Mandy



My Luc Mandy may have been too slow to break his maiden at the racetrack, but he is fast enough to excel as a barrel racer. He is now qualified for the 2012 International Barrel Racing Association National Finals where he will compete with his adopter Katelin Bradley.

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P. G. Johnson —

■ Continued from page 22

ping her head lower with every stride and with Castellano's hands nearly in her ears, Watsdachances eventually won the battle, scoring by a neck. She finished 1 1/16 miles in 1:42.90.

Brown wasn't surprised. "You saw what I saw at the barn. She looks the part. Peter Bradley deserves most of the credit, he was adamant about buying her. Horses coming off five-eighths races in April, I'm a

little leery about that, but, Pete knows the form over there, he's the same agent that brought over Desert Blanc amongst some other nice horses I haven't run. Pete was confident she would stretch out over here."

Watsdachances arrived at Brown's barn in late May like she had read Fodor's Guide to America, handling everything with aplomb. She posted her first breeze, a 3-furlong move on the Oklahoma dirt, June 6. She followed that with six breezes over the Oklahoma turf.

"This horse came in, she was a nice, tall, scopy, two-turn looking horse, I fig-

ured if she can go five-eighths the way she looks, she's got to be better going longer," Brown said. "Time will tell, I don't know what she just beat, but you know what, she did it the right way, she had a wide trip and she hadn't run since April so I can't imagine her going backwards off this race."

With a two-turn stakes win on the turf under her belt, Watsdachances will take it lightly before a projected start in the Breeders' Cup in November. Brown said he would probably aim at the Miss Grillo at Belmont as her only start between now and then.

Bradley loves what he sees so far.

"It really takes six to 10 weeks to get them straight once they arrive," Bradley said. "But she's a real interesting filly, she never turned a hair, she liked the turns, she stood in the gate like a lamb for two minutes, she's got a great mind, in horses that's 80 percent of the battle, I think. Talent helps a little. It's fun to have one like this in the group."



Tod Marks

A crowd joins Watsdachances in the winner's circle after Wednesday's stakes.

Saratoga Leaders

Through Wednesday

Jockeys	1st
Ramon Dominguez	57
Javier Castellano	42
Jose Lezcano	31
John Velazquez	26
Joel Rosario	24
Julien Leparoux	21
Junior Alvarado	21
Rosie Napravnik	18
Rajiv Maragh	15
Irad Ortiz Jr.	15
Cornelio Velasquez	13
Eddie Castro	11

Trainers	1st
Todd Pletcher	30
Chad Brown	24
Steve Asmussen	11
George Weaver	10
Bruce Levine	9
Tony Dutrow	9
Bill Mott	8
Rudy Rodriguez	8
Christophe Clement	8
Gary Contessa	8

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Wednesday Racing Photos



Tod Marks

Fredericksburg flashes some serious elevation while winning the fifth, a 2-year-old turf maiden going 1 1/16 miles for Ramona Bass and trainer Michael Matz. Jose Lezcano rode the winner, one of four homebred victors on the day. The favorite, by Speightstown out of a Dynaformer mare, paid \$4.50.



Tod Marks

Hearts Of Red drifts out but keeps up to speed while winning the fourth, an \$85,000 optional claimer, for trainer Ralph Nicks and owner/breeder James Spence. Cornelio Velasquez rode the winner.



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Wednesday
Photos —

■ Continued from page 27

Corinzia (9) and Irad Ortiz Jr. teamed up to take the finale, a maiden claimer on the turf, for trainer Tom Bush and owner Empire Equines. The Corinthian filly rallied late to catch She Be Bunny while paying \$25.



Jonathan Sheppard, master of the 2-year-old game . . . Better known for his steeplechasers and turf veterans, Hall of Famer Jonathan Sheppard unveiled first-time starter Hedonemewrongsong (right) in the seventh. In her debut, the Bill Backer homebred handled 1 1/16 miles on the turf while returning a healthy \$44.40. Rosie Napravnik rode the winner, who led a \$454.50 exacta with Coarsegold. Sandsarita completed a \$9,686 trifecta.



Norumbega rolls to the finish line with an upset victory in the first, a 2-year-old maiden going 9 furlongs, for trainer Shug McGaughey and owner/breeder Stuart Janney. Joel Rosario rode the winner.

Public Syndicate Groups - Stakes Stats for 2012

	Stakes Wins	Stakes Winners	Graded Stakes Wins	Individual Gr. Winners
Team Valor International	10	7	5	4
Eclipse TB Partners	5	4	2	1
Pinnacle Racing	4	2	3	2
Peachtree	3	3	2	2
Starlight	3	3	2	2
Dream Team Stable	2	2	1	1
Donegal Racing	1	1	1	1
Class Racing	1	1	1	1
Let's Go Stable	1	1	1	1
Thoroughbred Legends	1	1	1	1
West Point	1	1	1	1
Three Chimneys	1	1	0	0
Dogwood	1	1	0	0
IEAH	1	1	0	0
Live Your Dreams	1	1	0	0
Majestic Racing	1	1	0	0
Summit Racing	1	1	0	0
Blinkers On	1	1	0	0
Bongo	0	0	0	0
Centennial	0	0	0	0
Fantasy Lane Stable	0	0	0	0
Funky Monkey Stable	0	0	0	0
Magdalena Racing	0	0	0	0
Parting Glass Racing	0	0	0	0
Sackatoga Stable	0	0	0	0
Sovereign	0	0	0	0
Starview	0	0	0	0
Thoroughbred Futures	0	0	0	0

Source: TVI statistician Kathleen Jones, from reports from Bloodstock Journal and TDN. Stats are current through August 28, 2012.

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ST NICHOLAS ABBEY (IRE)	Breeders' Cup Turf-Gr.1
TOGETHER (IRE)	Queen Elizabeth II Challenge-Gr.1
SARAH LYNX (IRE)	Canadian International Stakes-Gr.1
MISS KELLER (IRE)	E.P. Taylor Stakes-Gr.1
WIGMORE HALL (IRE)	Northern Dancer Breeders' Cup Turf Stakes-Gr.1
CAPE BLANCO (IRE)	Joe Hirsch Turf Classic Invitational Stakes-Gr.1
	Arlington Million Stakes-Gr.1

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by Joe Clancy

Like the rest of us, agent Billy Castle watched the Travers somewhat in disbelief. His jockey, David Cohen, established a position on the rail with Golden Ticket, turned for home, implored the 33-1 shot for energy. At the eighth pole, they led the \$1 million race by a length; at the sixteenth pole, the margin was the same . . . and then it wasn't. At the wire, they didn't lead it at all as Alpha arrived alongside.

"I was praying, just praying, praying for a dead heat, praying for anything," he said Saturday after the races. "When you watch it in slow-mo, it was so close. You really couldn't tell."

Nobody could. The race, as everyone knows, ended in a dead heat. Golden Ticket and Alpha, longshot and favorite, will be linked in Travers (and racing) history forever. The race went from being maligned for its lack of star power to a moment for the ages. It only took 2:02.74.

It probably felt like an eternity for Castle and Cohen, whose 2012 Saratoga has featured few other highlights. They've won seven races, unquestionably topped by the Travers, while building a relationship with Golden Ticket's trainer Kenny McPeck. The connection paid off with a Travers win and could continue with regular rides this fall in New York and out of town.

"It's not been an easy meet, it's been a confusing meet for us," said Castle. "Our business has been off.

Golden Ticket and the Kenny McPeck organization made our meet. It's pretty simple."

Castle talked like he rode the horse, and in a way he probably did. I wasn't standing next to him during the Travers, but I can imagine him working as hard as Cohen down the stretch. The victory meant that much.

"To see David cut the corner with a chance, to work so aggressively and the horse never quit," Castle said. "Oh my God. I'm just grateful. They truly, really, let David have this opportunity. He earned it, but they could have always ridden someone else. So grateful. It's exciting, exhilarating, everything."

Castle dropped out of a 14-year career on Wall Street because of health reasons and became a jock's agent, not necessarily a typical career move. He made the most of a connection with trainer Steve Klesaris and met veteran jockey Mario Pino. Castle went to Maryland, took Pino's book, watched other agents, learned, put it all to good use. While with Castle, Pino rode Hard Spun for Larry Jones and is now nearing 10th on the career victory list with 6,452. Castle credited fellow agent Steve Rushing, who represents Alpha's jockey Ramon Dominguez, with teaching the trade and helping put the pieces together.

"It was a tremendous experience," Castle said. "I spent two years going to Maryland and watching how Steve did his book every day. He was kind enough to show me how to do it. I didn't want to practice in New York against the big dogs, this is the Yankees. I had Pino's book in Maryland, which was a pretty good spot to be then."

Castle learned well enough that he started thinking about working with a younger jockey, an up-and-comer. Enter Cohen, who was riding at Monmouth Park then. Introduced by trainer Anthony Pecoraro, the team went to Philadelphia Park, and won a champion-

ship. They moved on to Delaware Park, and won another. In 2009, Cohen and Castle moved to New York. They've yet to win a meet title, but – as Castle said – this is the big leagues. The world's best ride at Saratoga, Belmont Park and Aqueduct. Cohen holds his own and this year finished third behind Cornelio Velasquez and Dominguez in the Aqueduct winter meet with 65 wins. At Belmont Spring, they won 26. Saratoga's been tougher, but that's the case for almost everybody not named Dominguez, Velasquez and Castellano.

"This year's been a little rougher but that's the business," said Castle. "He's a great kid. I'm not his agent, we're really very good friends. The agent nonsense is just what we do. It's a great working relationship. When things aren't going so good, he talks me through it. He's been keeping me up and enthusiastic."

Cohen galloped Golden Ticket for McPeck, listened to the trainer's instructions, tried to (as McPeck told him) "envision" the race happening. On the track, the jockey put it all to use – pulling off the upset of the meet (maybe the year). McPeck tried to run Golden Ticket in an allowance race, tried to run him in an overnight stakes. Neither filled, leaving the winner of a single race in a Grade 1 with 10 other horses. Cohen and Castle weren't sure they'd get the ride.

"Today, now, an hour ago," Castle said when asked when he lined up the mount. "He breezed him in his last breeze, but Kenny tried to put him in the Bernardini and the race didn't go. He tried an allowance race. It didn't go. We might not ride him in those. Kenny made the executive decision and we were fortunate to be there. It easily could have happened that he found somebody else. Kenny had a lot of faith in David. He could have ridden a lot of people. For Kenny to believe in us, wow. We're so grateful."

It showed.

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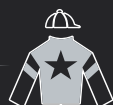
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by Sean Clancy

It's that time of year . . . when you lament what you didn't do instead of promising what you're going to do. It's nearly over. Three remaining issues, that's it until next year.

As for this space, I've written 31 columns (I guess this suffices as 32) but I barely scratched the surface of Saratoga . . .

I was going to write about Jack Brothers' daughter Katelyn, who's a speech pathologist in Manhattan, who met my second cousin, who had a stroke. Part of the therapy is talking, they started talking horses and made an instant bond.

I was going to write about the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund and how the jockeys had organized a way of permanently funding it and how the owners should follow suit.

I was going to write about Saratoga War Horse.

I was going to write about Tammy Fox introducing herself to a 4-year-old boy named Jack at the sales and introducing him to a yearling and how a reader, Jim Oplinger, brought a letter and photos to the office, explaining how important it was for Jack and to highlight the warm caring side of "horse people."

I was going to write about the woman who works on the gate crew. Yes, a woman on the gate crew. She's got to be a first. They say she's good.

I was going to write about what happens to my

desk every day as it starts off clean and pristine, it ends looking like the inner turf course after a hard day of turf sprints. At the moment, it holds a roll of duct tape, a half-eaten peanut butter cookie, four assorted bags, an empty oatmeal container, two microphone boxes, three Racing Forms, five baseball hats, a package of tomato-contest photos, three Goffs catalogues, a banana (long since ripe), seven letters needing responses, a hard drive backup that I hope has the last four years of work on it which I erased somewhere in the madness of the season (I'm still afraid to look), pages and pages of loose paper, a copy of Saratoga Days meant to be signed for somebody but I can't remember whom and a laptop doing overtime.

I was going to write about Janice Blake-Baeza and her book, How to Exercise a Thoroughbred Race Horse.

I was going to write about my friend at Jonathan Sheppard's who takes a paper every day and smiles from under his straw hat, he must have stories to fill a season of columns.

I was going to write about Edgar Prado and Bob Klesaris, joining forces again to see if they can finish what they started so many Hall of Fame years ago.

I was going to write about how it scares me to think they'll change Saratoga, change the character, change the mystique, change how the jockeys walk through the crowd, change how the horses are saddled under the trees, change how the wood feels under your feet, how the trees feel over your head. It will never get any better than it is right now.

I was going to write about the dogs.

I was going to write about how we should all take

a good look around because this place might never be the same.

I was going to write about the walks from the parking lot to the races, the conversations with Jimmy Dintino, Jonathan Sheppard, Bronson Thayer . . . all different, all the same.

I was going to write about all the old houses, and the art, and the gardens, and the restaurants, and the sunrises.

I was going to write about the traffic patterns that have no patterns.

I was going to write about the kid Steve Byk told me about in the paddock Wednesday, the kid who fought the good fight.

I was going to write about the lead ponies.

I was going to write about Meg and Bryan's friends, Ken and Anne Cornell, who run Cornell-Crest East Farm in Schuylerville and the job they do raising horses and children.

I was going to write a how-to instruction manual on how to steal the Travers Canoe – make that two Travers Canoes.

I was going to write reviews, or at least Q and A's, on all the books sent to me over the past year, from Garrett Gomez's to something about a queen and a windstorm.

I was going to write how I wish all the people who owe us for advertising would pay us.

I was going to write about how they didn't take two turns of the paddock for the Travers and how sad it is to see traditions fade away.

I was going to write about how I miss my own bed.

I was going to write . . .

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Awad	No Armistice
Bishop's Other Boy	Not For Love
Bowman's Band	Oh Say
Carnivalay	One Golf Sierra
Cat Country	Ops Smile
Cherokee's Boy	Oratory
Citidancer	Our Emblem
Concern	Outflanker
Country Only	Parker's Storm Cat
Crowd Pleaser	Partner's Hero
Cruisin' Dixie	Perfecting
Crypto Star	Polish Miner
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Deputy Storm	Precious Marque
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Fleet Foot	Rock Slide
Gators N Bears	Root Boy
Go for Gin	Rouse the Louse
Goldmember	Rubiyat
Great Notion	Rush Bay
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Gyrfalcon (GB)	Secret Firm
Hawk in Flight	Seeking Daylight
Horatius	Smart Alec
In Case	Smart Guy
Itaka	Smelly
Ivory Frontier (Ire)	St Averil
Java Royal	Sticks and Bricks
Jazz Club	Storm Broker
Ken Doll	Swear by Dixie
La Reine's Terms	Tamayaz
Larrupin'	Touch 'n' Fly (Ire)
Lion Hearted	Trial Prep
Lord Concorde	Trim Account
Love of Money	Two Punch
Louis Quatorze	Unbridled Jet
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\$150K Maryland Million Classic Three-year-olds & up, 1½ mi.

\$100K Maryland Million Distaff A handicap for fillies & mares, 3-year-olds & up, 7 fur.

\$100K Maryland Million Ladies Fillies & mares, 3-year-olds & up, 1½ mi., turf

\$100K Maryland Million Lassie Fillies, 2-year-olds, 6 fur.

\$100K Maryland Million Nursery Two-year-olds, 6 fur.

\$100K Maryland Million Oaks Fillies, 3-year-olds, 1 mi.

\$100K Maryland Million Sprint A handicap for 3-year-olds & up, 6 fur.

\$100K Maryland Million Turf Three-year-olds & up, 1½ mi., turf

\$100K Maryland Million Turf Sprint A handicap for 3-year-olds & up, 5½ fur., turf

\$50K Maryland Million Starter Handicap Three-year-olds & up who have started for a claiming price of \$12,500 or less since October 1, 2011, 1 mi. This is a Sweepstakes.

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