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Fantasticat
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Great Notion
Greek Sun
Green Alligator
Gyrfalcon (GB)
Hawk in Flight

Horatius

Disco Rico

Eastern Echo

Dr. Best

Domestic Dispute

In Case
Itaka
Ivory Frontier (Ire)
Java Royal
Jazz Club
Ken Doll
La Reine's Terms
Larrupin'
Lion Hearted
Lord Concorde
Love of Money
Louis Quatorze
Makin Money

Malibu Moon Marciano McKendree Meadow Monster

Medallist M Eighty Mogador Mojave Moon Mr. Shoplifter Mr. Zill Bear No Armistice Not For Love Oh Say One Golf Sierra Ops Smile Oratory Our Emblem Outflanker Parker's Storm Cat Partner's Hero Perfecting **Polish Miner Polish Numbers** Polish Payola **Precious Marque Press Card Private Key**

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Pulverizing
Purple Passion
Regal American
Rinka Das
Rock Slide
Root Boy
Rouse the Louse
Rubiyat

Same Day Delivery Scipion

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Smart Alec
Smart Guy
Smelly
St Averil
Sticks and Bricks

Storm Broker Swear by Dixie Tamayaz Touch 'n' Fly (Ire) Trial Prep Trim Account

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\$150K Maryland Million Classic Three-year-olds & up, 11/8 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, 11/8 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, 11/8 mi., turf

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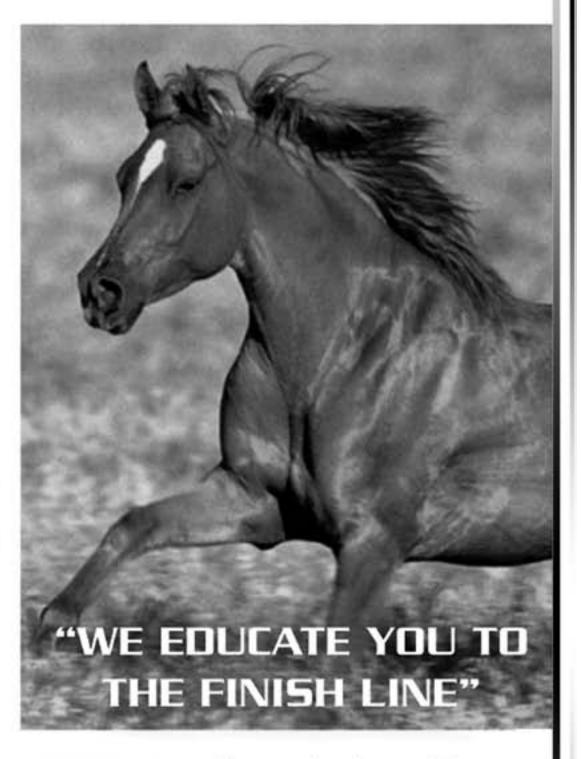
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here&there... at Saratoga



Connie Bush

Ballston Spa Ballet. Thoroughbreds' legs seem to tangle in Saturday's Ballston Spa Stakes.

WORTH REPEATING The Special's quotes from Saratoga

"You're playing by the rules too much."

Kiaran McLaughlin, to a golf-cart driver stuck in a traffic jam on the backside Wednesday morning; the trainer went cross country and avoided the backup.

Tomato plant expert Mike DeSano: "Height's got nothing to do with it."

Former jockey Jeff Carle: "That's what I've been telling people my whole life."

"Maybe he's watching the tomatoes."

DeSano, looking for Whitney winner Tizway at trainer James Bond's barn Thursday morning.

"With one horse, I feel like I really should get a good track."

Trainer/jockey Arch Kingsley, while waiting for the break to train his one horse Here Comes Art

"Chivalry isn't dead."

Kingsley while giving the front seat of the golf cart to Katie Bo Williams

"I looked at her numbers, they're very good. She ran a 10 against open company, the others were 14, 15."

Trainer John Kimmel about the speed ratings of Saratoga Dew winner Mineralogist

"Talk to Jacobson."

Trainer Carlos Martin when asked if he had any jumpers

"Anybody want a kid's pony?"

Exercise rider Lorna Chavez, while galloping one around Clare Court

"They don't give away anything here, especially in the Travers."

Jockey Javier Castellano about tactics in the Travers

"Jockey Bueno."

Jockey Julien Leparoux to Castellano, two days after winning two Grade I stakes

NAMES OF THE DAY

Hope For Us All, first race. Inspiring words as we all go our separate ways

Sex Appeal, fourth race. The 3-year-old filly is out of Alluring.

Check The Cites, fifth race. The 3-year-old gelding is by Read The Footnotes.

Lindyhop, sixth race. Named for the original swing dance, filly is out of Jazzitup.

CONGRATULATIONS to STAY THIRSTY on his \$1 Million Travers Stakes (G1) Victory!

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here there... Continued from previous page



Connie Bush

 $Laugh\ Riot.\ \textit{Fire On Ice enjoys a drink after his Travers Day maiden win.}$

BY THE NUMBERS

7: People – two on horseback, one in a golf cart, two in an SUV, two more on foot – staring up a tree at what may have been "a rare red-headed Dodo Bird," but was probably a woodpecker Wednesday morning on the backside.

2: Girls riding horses down Union Avenue late Wednesday morning.

1: Cheeseburger brought to the Adelphi Hotel bartender by The Special's delivery person at 2:30 a.m. one day last week (he dared her); don't get any ideas people.

SIGNS THAT WE'RE IN THE FINAL WEEK OF MEET

Trainer Eric Guillot is wearing a hoodie with his shorts.

There were only two people in line outside the Union Avenue gate at 6:30 Wednesday morning. Nobody ran for a picnic table when the gates opened at 7.

There were only two cars in the parking lot behind Barn 33 Wednesday morning.

WEATHER

Today: Isolated thunderstorms. High 81. Low 61.

Friday: Partly cloudy. High 80. Low 63.

Saturday: Scattered thunderstorms. High 83. Low 65. Sunday: Scattered thunderstorms. High 78. Low 64.



JUST SAYIN'

"He was a mentor for me. I was 16, 17, the two summers I worked for him at Belmont and Saratoga. He was wise, he was talking about simulcasting way before it ever existed. They took you under their wing and always treated us great. You really miss guys like that."

> - Doug Cauthen, consultant to Sienna Farm which won the P.G. Johnson Stakes Wednesday, about the Hall of Fame trainer

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5 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 THE SARATOGA SPECIAL

The Landlord

Two Months Rent aims for big payday in 2YO turf stakes

BY KATIE BO WILLIAMS

Jimmy Toner stood at his customary position in front of the backside viewing stand and watched an almostblack gelding rock back and forth from haunches to forelegs, the orange polos standing out like caution signs.

"Let him gallop, let him gallop, let him gallop," Toner said and Two Months Rent rocked forward into a canter.

The trainer looks to improve on the purchase price of Two Months Rent 37-fold in today's Grade II With Anticipation at 1 1/16 miles on the turf. Two Months Rent cost a mere \$4,000 at Keeneland January as a yearling; as a

2-year-old, he's already more than quadrupled the investment and prompted Toner to turn down even bigger money Ninety North Racing Stable's charge.

"We were going to sell him a couple of weeks ago and it fell through, a pretty good number," Toner said. "Guy says, 'not for nothing, what do you want? You only paid \$2,000 for him.' I said, 'Wait a minute. Wait a minute. Not \$2,000. I paid four. Four. There's a big difference between two and four,

The son of Purim went through the ring as Hip 15. Toner was prepared to go to \$15,000 to \$20,000, but with his

See **ANTICIPATION** page 8 ▶



Connie Bush

A \$4,000 yearling purchase, Two Months Rent heads to today's With Anticipation.

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6 THE SARATOGA SPECIAL THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011



With Anticipation —

■ Continued from page 6

eye on more desirable prospects later in the sale, intended to bow out if the competition got too stiff.

"I'm sure they didn't have a reserve because we got in there and the next thing we know, it was 15-hundred, 25-hundred," Toner said. "We're sitting there and it goes, 3,000. We bid 35, somebody was 37. 'What do you think?' I said, 'Eh, one more shot.' Four thousand and we got him. It wasn't like we had planned it. We liked him to begin with, but at that price, OK."

Toner sent Two Months Rent – named for his humble price tag – to Barry Eisaman in Ocala. Eisaman promptly called back and told Toner the colt needed cutting.

"He has a bit of a streak in him, as soon as we sent him down, Barry said, he's really getting nasty, we've got to cut him," Toner said. "I said OK. What do you think when you pay \$4,000? You're not worried about making a stallion."

Then Two Months Rent started to run, finishing second first out at 6 furlongs.

"He came to hand real quickly, just the last breeze before he ran at Belmont, he breezed really well," Toner said. "Two-year-olds are honest. When they train, that's how they run."

Two Months Rent returned here Aug. 6 to finish third, a half-length behind today's rival Optimizer, at the With Anticipation distance.

"Because he's a little bit on the green

side, what happened the last time was he got on the lead too soon and he didn't really know what to do," Toner said. "He's the type of horse that we always initially trained with blinkers, but I just don't like to run them in blinkers, or keep training them in blinkers. I don't think they learn anything."

Set at 6-1 on the morning line, Two Months Rent will break from the 7-hole today under Javier Castellano.

Steve Margolis sends over another modest price tag in Splendiferous. The \$5,000 OBS purchase won first out in a \$75,000 maiden claimer over this distance, defeating today's rival Knock Rock in the process. The son of Pleasantly Perfect began his career in Mark Casse's stable and was a private purchase for Jake Ballis after his Aug. 11 start.

"He's a neat little horse, he ran a real professional race first time out, so we're taking a shot and putting him in the stake," Margolis said. "Numberswise, he looks competitive with the other horses even though some of them have run for special weight. Shaun (Bridgmohan) rode him and he thought the horse had a good race and did everything right and got the job done."

Margolis has put one turf work into Splendiferous, a 6-furlong move in 1:15 2/5 Aug. 24. The trainer pointed to the bay colt's well-rated trip as a positive indicator for his performance today. Although early in his time with the horse, Margolis likes what he's seen.

"He's not a horse with a big presence to him, he's a small, medium-sized horse. Good-moving horse, travels real nice. Easy keeper, does everything



Tod Marks

Captain Webb rolls into the With Anticipation off a maiden win here July 30.

right," Margolis said. "He's a real laidback horse. Sometimes when horses walk in the shedrow he kind of hollers at them a little bit, because he's a stud, but he's not a mean horse, he's happygo-lucky, nothing seems to bother him, just a boy hollering at some other horses."

Bridgmohan takes the return call on the 6-1 shot.

Carlos Martin enters Sportswriter off a 5 1/2-furlong turf score first out against New York-breds Aug. 5. Although the horse steps up to open

company and makes his first start over a route of ground, Martin believes he will be competitive.

"The horse has got a good way about him, he seems like he'll just gallop along relaxing, he's not speed crazy, even though he won first time out going short," Martin said. "He came last to first. He and the bugboy (Ryan Curatolo) were both a little green that day. Bugboy kind of surprised him, and he hit him with the whip kind of unex-

See WITH ANTICIPATION page 10 ▶

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KEENELAND SEPTEMBER YEARLING SALE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Why Go Anywhere Else?

With Anticipation -

■ Continued from page 8

pectedly around the turn and the horse kind of ducked out, ducked in. Then Dale Romans' horse drifted out and he came in between. I thought it was a pretty good effort since I don't think he's a 5 1/2 horse, that's why I'm kind of excited about stretching him out."

Martin also pointed to the Flying Zee colt's pedigree as an indicator of his stamina.

"He's out of a Point Given mare, (his sire) Maybry's Boy was a seven-eighths specialist, but he was by Broad Brush, so I'm hoping," Martin said.

Martin expects Sportswriter will be close to the pace under Curatolo.

"The whole frantic thing of a fiveeighths on the turf, it's a whole different ball game," Martin said. "I'm sure stretching out, as sharp as he is, he's going to be up there not too far."

Todd Pletcher enters the favorite in James Scatuorchio's Captain Webb. The son of English Channel was impressive in his debut at 1 1/16 miles, winning by 2 1/2 lengths over subsequent winner Daddy Nose Best. Breaking out of the inside slot, the bay ridgling will go to post under John Velazquez and is 3-1.

Romans sends over second choice Dullahan. Despite being a maiden, the chestnut son of Even The Score has the most experience of the field, running twice on the dirt before running second at 1 1/16 miles on the turf Aug. 13. Racing for Donegal Racing and carrying Kent Desormeaux, Dullahan will break from post 4.

The Team Valor/Graham Motion team sends over State Of Play, a 2-length winner here at 5 1/2 furlongs July 27. The son of War Front goes to post under Ramon Dominguez.

Other runners include Knock Rock for Scott Schwartz and Herbert and Carol Schwartz, Fox Rules for Anthony Ferraro and Langpap Stables and Optimizer for Wayne Lukas and Blue-

The With Anticipation is carded as the ninth race on the day with post time at 5:32 p.m..

Saratoga Leaders

Through Wednesday

Jockeys1stJavier Castellano46John Velazquez46Ramon Dominguez39
Julien Leparoux
Cornelio Velasquez16 Jose Lezcano14
Kent Desormeaux
Corey Nakatani
Trainers 1st
Todd Pletcher
Steve Asmussen
Bill Mott
Shug McGaughey6 Graham Motion6

Havre de Grace arrives for Woodward, part of big Saturday card

the Grade I Woodward will be one of the girls.

After much will-she-won't-she speculation and a final announcement from owner Rick Porter, Havre de Grace shipped in Wednesday afternoon from Delaware Park, with trainer Larry Jones at the wheel of the rig. If the Grade Iwinning daughter of Saint Liam justifies her 8-5 favoritism, she will join Rachel Alexandra as the only two fillies to ever win Saturday's 1 1/8-mile contest.

Ultra-consistent, Havre de Grace is 6-for-12 lifetime, including four graded scores, and has never finished worse than third. The decision to take on the Woodward is one that Porter hopes will earn the filly Horse Of The Year honors.

The Woodward will be Havre de Grace's second foray to Saratoga. The 4-year-old was second to foe Blind Luck in the Grade I Alabama here last year. It has been a rivalry that has dominated her career: In October 2010, she beat Blind Luck by a neck in the Grade II Cotillion, and in March,

For the second time in three years, the star performer of she swallowed her by 3 lengths in the Grade III Azeri. An earner of more than \$1.5 million, Havre de Grace was last seen running second to Jerry Hollendorfer's filly in a heartstopping finale in the Delaware Handicap.

Third to Unrivaled Belle in the Breeders' Cup Ladies' Classic last year, Havre de Grace opened 2011 with a threerace streak that started with the Azeri in March and ended with the Obeah in June. In between, she lodged her most prestigious victory yet in the Grade I Apple Blossom. The bay filly sat off the pace and swept home to a facile score over dual Grade I winner Switch.

Havre de Grace will break from the post 6 under Ramon Dominguez. She faces seven males, including dual Grade I winner Giant Oak, last year's Florida Derby winner and Kentucky Derby second Ice Box, and Stephen Foster second Mission Impazible.

Saturday's program also includes the Grade I Forego and the Grade I Personal Ensign.

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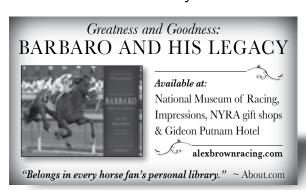


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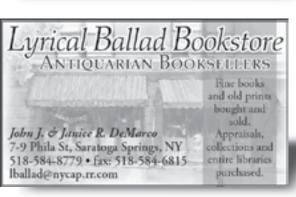














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THURSDAY'S SARATOGA ENTRIES

1ST (1:00PM). \$53,000, AOC \$30,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 2 1/16M (HURDLE) Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double B. Dalton Lonesome Nun B. Slater 6-1

1a 12 C. Rafter K. McKenna Saluda Sam Well Fashioned J. Murphy P. Fout 5-1 Air Maggy Hope for Us All 2b 10 J. Sheppard D. Nagle 5-1 3 X. Aizpuru 3-1 J. Fisher Opera Heroine W. Dowling J. Fisher 3-1 Be Certain P. Young T. Voss 6-1 R. Mackenzie 5 6 Quiet Approval K. McKenna 8-1 6 Perfect Edge R. Geraghty P. Fout 30-1 W. McCarthy Cornhusker (GB) T. Voss 10-1 J. Sheppard 8 9 4-1 Dugan R. Walsh Here Comes Art A. Kingsley, Jr. A. Kingsley, Jr. 5-1

2ND (1:35PM). \$60,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

Thursday, September 01.

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double Self Control C. Brown R. Dominguez 2 2 Volition J. Kimmel 10-1 D. Cohen 3 3 Piscesbymoonlight J. Castellano R. Schosberg 5-1 Fair Whit E. Castro T. Albertrani 8-1 5 Troilus 5 S. Bridgmohan S. Margolis 7-2 6 6 Piquant A. Solis Sheppard 6-1 Eastside Train J. Velazquez C. Domino 5-2 D. Shivmangal Nicky Boy I. Ortiz, Jr. 20-1

3RD (2:10PM). \$75,000, STK - THE ANNE M. CLARE, 2 YO, F, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double 5-1 Harbor Mist J. Lezcano P. Serpe 1a 5 Pure Gossip R. Curatolo P. Serpe 5-1 J. Lawrence, II 2-1 2 Rellacourt F. Castro 3 Victory Island J. Velazquez T. Pletcher 7-5 3 Why Take a Chance M. Cruz K. McPeek 10-1 5 Hook It Up E. Prado G. Contessa 4-1

4TH (2:42PM). \$53,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 1 1/8M (INNER TURF) Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

6-1 Loure J. Castellano T. Albertrani C. McGaughey III 5-1 2 Sex Appeal A. Solis Great Gracie Dane 3 3 R. Maragh D. Ryan 12-1 4 Humadea (GB) J. Velazquez H. Motion 2-1 5 Star Torina E. Prado W. Mott 5-2 S. Bridgmohan 6 Northern Coast 6 M. Casse 6-1 C. Nakatani G. Contessa Arch Support 15-1 Up in Lights R. Albarado I. Wilkes 20-1 MTO Authenticity J. Leparoux I. Wilkes 5-2 10 MTO R Gypsy Gold T. Pletcher 7-2 11 MTO Royal Lahaina R. Dutrow, Jr. 12-1 12 MTO Tiz the Argument R. Dominguez R. Dutrow. Jr. 4-1 13 MTO Rose's Turn S. Asmussen 8-1

5TH (3:14PM). \$24,000, CLM \$20,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double Controversial 12-1 J. Lezcano H. Jerkens 2 J. Campo, Jr. 12-1 2 A Rod R. Curatolo 3 3 Skinny Peter C. Nakatani E. Guillot 6-1 Monteagle F. Lenclud J. Fisher 15-1 Assorted Colors 5 5 R. Maragh T. Hills 15-1 6 6 Molly's Ship J. Espinoza G. Contessa 20-1 Pin J. Leparoux H. Bond 12-1 Jack's Work E. Kenneally 8 8 J. Castellano 7-2 9 Check the Cites C. Velasquez L. Rice 8-1 10 10 He's a Scrooge R. Dominguez S. Asmussen 4-1 City Strut I. Ortiz, Jr. D. Schettino 10-1 11 11 12 12 Hot Pursuit D. Cohen R. Werner 6-1 13 AE Strictly Society R. Curatolo P. Serpe 4-1 14 MTO Token Sacrifice 4-1 R. Rodriguez M. I 1177i 15 MTO D' Bulldog I. Ortiz, Jr. G. Gullo 5-1 16 MTO Captain My Captain J. Castellano G. Weaver

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J. Velazquez 12 MTO Hillswick R. Rodriguez

6TH (3:40PM). \$29,000, MCL \$50,000, 2 YO, F, 6F

I. Ortiz, Jr.

C. Velasquez

K. Desormeaux

S. Bridgmohan

M. Mena

E. Prado

E. Castro

J. Velazquez

J. Castellano

R. Curatolo

7TH (4:24PM). \$55,000, AOC \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF)

S. Bridgmohan

J. Castellano

R. Dominguez

J. Sanchez

J. Leparoux

J. Velazquez

E. Prado

A. Solis

C. Hill

M. Scherer

M. Scherer

G. Weaver

R. Hess, Jr.

S. Margolis

Quiles

T. Pletcher

E. Kenneally

R. Reid, Jr.

A. Stall, Jr.

T. Albertrani

R. Ribaudo

C. Nafzger

K. McLaughlin

D. Jacobson

M. Hennig

C. McGaughey III

C. Brown

W. Ward

J. Baker

K. McLaughlin

E. Harty

8-1

8-1

5-1

8-1

10-1

12-1

6-1

30-1

3-1

7-2

7-2

4-1

9-2

5-1

12-1

15-1

8-1

6-1

3-1

7-2

2-1

12-1

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

Gattino

Star Vesta

I Got You

Lindyhop

Wesley's Aunts

Weekend Wish

Street Surprise

Heather's Feather

Dear Old Donegal

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

J. B.'s Thunder

Unaccountable

Capital Market

Grand Cash

Prado Dash

Break Up the Game

Lethal Combination A. Garcia

Bergerac

10 MTO Sun Dance Moon

11 MTO Law Enforcement

Xodo

My Viva Loca

Purses Galore

1a 8

3 2

4

5

6

9

6

10

3

6

3

4

5

6

8

9 9

8TH (4:58PM). \$75,000, STK - THE ISLAND WHIRL, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double Avenging Spirit J. Lezcano R. Barbara Congressional Page R. Dominguez M. Trombetta 8-1 3 3 Rule by Night 9-2 S. Asmussen J. Castellano S. bin Suroor 5-2 4 Bank Merger J. Leparoux Litigation Risk R. Maragh R. Violette, Jr. 6 6 J. Velazquez Dark Thunder 2-1 T. Pletcher

9TH (5:32PM). \$150,000, STK - THE WITH ANTICIPATION, 2 YO, 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double Captain Webb J. Velazquez T. Pletcher 3-1 2 Knock Rock S Schwartz 2 R. Maragh 8-1 20-1 Fox Rules J. Grabowski M. Ferraro 4 7-2 Dullahan K. Desormeaux D. Romans 5 5 Splendiferous S. Bridgmohan S. Margolis 6-1 State of Play 6 R. Dominguez H. Motion 5-1 Two Months Rent 6-1 J. Castellano J. Toner 8 8 C. Martin Sportswriter R. Curatolo 12-1 9 Optimizer R. Albarado D. Lukas 8-1 10 MTO Clip the Coupons J. Castellano C. Brown 1-1

10TH (6:04PM). \$27,000, CLM \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M (INNER TURF) Exacta, Trifecta, Daily Double

20-1 2 Mischief J. Espinoza T. Voss Avenging 1a AE A. Solis T. Voss 20-1 J. Kimmel 2 Impetuous Spirit (GB) D. Cohen 12-1 Toccet's Image 3 3 R. Dominguez S. Benzel 8-1 F. Martin, Sr. 4 Logical Order J. Rodriguez 30-1 5 Ocean Seven (IRE) 3-1 J. Velazquez T. Pletcher 6 6 K. McPeek Cardsontablefaceup M. Cruz 15-1 Ahgogo J. Chavez P. Kelly 12-1 Last Empire J. Sheppard 6-1 A. Solis 9 9 Out of the Ghetto S. Bridgmohan 20-1 I. Wilkes 10 East Indies I. Ortiz, Jr. D. Schettino 9-2 Get A Grip (IRE) H. Motion 7-2 11 11 E. Prado 12 12 D'oro Dancer C. Velasquez L. Rice 15-1 Cosmic King R. Dominguez D. Romans 5-1 14 MTO Grounded Love 4-1 I. Ortiz, Jr. D. Schettino

11TH (6:36PM). \$50,000, MSW, 2 YO, F, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta Rock On Home I Ortiz .lr 20-1 D. Donk 1 Run a Risk G. Arnold, II 2 F. Lenclud 8-1 C. Clement 6-1 Composition J. Lezcano Island Praver C. Nakatani N. Zito 20-1 Constantinople R. Dominguez H. Motion 6-1 Peace Preserver J. Sanchez J. Parisella 15-1 J. Castellano C. Brown Dorothy's Spirit 9-2 8 Inny Minnie S. Bridgmohan S. Margolis 5-1 20-1 Certainty C. Velasquez F. Alexander 10 10 Mill Branch Millie E. Kenneally 12-1 R. Maragh 11 11 Sweet Cat J. Velazquez T. Pletcher Memories Made 12 12 R. Albarado R. Nicks 12-1 13 MTO Thisizsparta J. Velazquez J. Jerkens 14 MTO Aubby K R. Albarado R. Nicks 5-1 15 MTO Dynamic Star J. Castanon K. Ritvo 8-1 16 MTO Siberian Wildcat G. Contessa 10-1

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the Powe grid	John	Gaile	Dean	Erin	Charles
Race #	Shapazian	Fitzgerald	Keppler	Finley	Bedard
1	Opera Heroine Well Fashioned Dugan	Opera Heroine Lonesome Nun Well Fashioned	Bryant Entry Cornhusker Fisher Entry	Fisher Entry Quiet Approval Be Certain	Fisher Entry Be Certain Dugan
2	Self Control Piscesbymoonlight Volition	Self Control Piscesbymoonlight Troilus	Self Control Eastside Train Piscesbymoonlight	Self Control Piscesbymoonlight Piquant	Eastside Train Fair Whit Volition
3	Victory Island Pure Gossip Harbor Mist R Gypsy Gold	Victory Island Flying Zee Entry Bellacourt Authenticity	Serpe Entry Victory Island Why Take A Chance Star Torina	Victory Island Hook It Up Flying Zee Entry Northern Coast	Pure Gossip Hook It Up Bellacourt Northern Coast
4	Humadea Star Torina Token Sacrifice	Humadea Sex Appeal Jack's Work	Loure Northern Coast Skinny Peter	Star Torina Humadea He's A Scrooge	Star Torino Up In Lights He's A Scrooge
5	Jack's Work He's A Scrooge Street Surprise	He's A Scrooge City Strut Heather's Feather	Jack's Work Hot Pursuit Heather's Feather	Check The Cites Jack's Work Star Vesta	Assorted Colors Check The Cites Purses Galore
6	Star Vesta Heather's Feather Hillswick	Scherer Entry Purses Galore Unaccountable	Star Vesta Street Surprise J.B.'s Thunder	Purses Galore Heather's Feather Capital Market	Heather's Feather Street Surprise Capital Market
7	Unaccountable Grand Cash Dark Thunder	Grand Cash Break Up The Game Dark Thunder	Unaccountable Break Up the Game Bank Merger	Unaccountable J.B.'s Thunder Dark Thunder	Prado Dash Lethal Combination Rule By Night
8	Bank Merger Avenging Spirit Clip the Coupons	Bank Merger Litigation Risk Clip The Coupons	Dark Thunder Congressional Page Knock Rock	Litigation Risk Congressional Page Clip The Coupons	Litigation Risk Dark Thunder Optimizer
9	Captain Webb Splendiferous Grounded Love	State Of Play Dullahan Ocean Seven	State Of Play Optimizer Ocean Seven	Dullahan State Of Play Ocean Seven	Two Months Rent Dullahan Get A Grip
10	Ocean Seven Last Empire Sweet Cat	Toccet's Image Last Empire Sweet Cat	Last Empire East Indies Sweet Cat	Last Empire Get A Grip Sweet Cat	Toccet's Image Avenging Sweet Cat
11	Thisizsparta Dorothy's Spirit	Constantinople Dorothy's Spirit	Run A Risk Composition	Dorothy's Spirit Constantinople	Dorothy's Spirit Mill Branch Millie
Records	90/277	79/277	70/277	74/277	60/277

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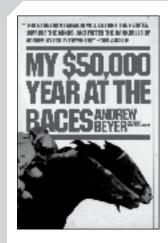
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HANDICAPPER SCORECARD

There are only four live racing dates left for The Special handicapping staff and John Shapazian will be tough to dethrone with his commanding 12-win lead over Gaile Fitzgerald. Dean Keppler continued where he left off last Saturday with five wins on Wednesday's card. Keppler had four straight wins (race 5-8) including a \$128 pick 3 ending with the eighth. Some of the other top winning selections of the afternoon shared by the handicapping staff included Yadira (\$13.80); Alaura Michele (\$12.80) and Howie And The Cat (\$10) in the finale.



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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT

Brilliantly Done

Alaura Michele dazzles in turf stakes for Mott

BY SEAN CLANCY

Rodolphe Brisset turned and smiled.

"I've ridden good horses but what she did on the turf . . . "

Bill Mott's assistant walked to the winner's circle after Siena Farm's Alaura Michele won Wednesday's P.G. Johnson Stakes, still talking about her breeze six days earlier.

The breeze was brilliant. And the race was, well, spit-and-polish brilliant.

Trained by Bill Mott and ridden by Eddie Castro, Alaura Michele relaxed off the pace of a scratch-depleted field of six before slicing through horses on the turn and winning by 2 1/4 lengths over pacesetter New Wave and closer Bourbonstreetgirl. Alaura Michele finished 1 1/16 miles on good turf in 1:42.95.

Sent off second choice, the 2-year-old daughter of Arch did the one thing Mott was afraid she might not do – rate off the pace.

"We had the feeling she would get the trip, she's made to do it and bred to do it, we weren't sure about the relaxing part, she's a little tough," Mott said. "We



Dave Harmon

Alaura Michele bounds clear on her way to a stakes win Wednesday.

thought she would be laying second or third but I'm glad it worked out the way it did, it showed a whole new dimension."

From the 2 post, Alaura Michele broke well but responded to Castro's touch, backing off the pace and finding a sweet spot in fifth, on the hedge as New Wave, coming out of the Adirondack, led My Due Process, Crazy Party and Putthebabiesdown through a quarter in 23.69 and a half in 48.53. Alaura Michele threatened to toss her head but acquiesced enough to find a spot farther off the pace than Mott could have dragged

Down the backside, New Wave led comfortably

as John Velazquez asked favorite Crazy Party to improve along the rail. Around the turn, Castro asked Alaura Michele to slide inside Putthebabiesdown and outside My Due Process as Crazy Party gunned for a hole on the inside of New Wave. Straightening into the stretch, Alaura Michele pounced on New Wave as Crazy Party backed out. Alaura Michele extended her stride and her lead to the wire, powering to a dynamic win

Mott was delighted by the win and ecstatic over the style.

"I didn't know if she would get in trouble trying to See *JOHNSON* page 16 ▶

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

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Rodolphe Brisset (left) talks things over with Eddie Castro before the P.G. Johnson.

Johnson —

■ Continued from page 14

get away from him, there was no doubt she would get the trip if she settled," Mott said. "When she went around the first turn, I said, 'It looks like she's doing OK.' She got back a little further and for a moment, you could see her head come up . . . the only thing I stressed to the rider was to be real soft with her, pretend you have a bird in your hand."

Castro handled Alaura Michele like he plucked her from the nest. The Mott team works hard to keep Alaura Michele settled in the morning. After making her career debut for Greg Fox at Churchill Downs in May, Alaura Michele transferred to Mott. It didn't take long for Mott to go back to the tackroom and change the equipment board.

"If you were trying to gallop her without draw reins . . . she's got a rubber neck on her, if you take a hold of her, she'll throw her head back at you in a moment," Mott said. "We've had draw reins on her to keep her at the proper pace, you can regulate her real good with those."

Alaura Michele made her debut for Mott in a Belmont Park turf sprint June 29, winning the 6-furlong dash by 4 1/4 lengths but making life difficult on herself and Castro. She scurried to the lead, backed off for a moment, then pulled Castro back to the heat, before kicking to an easy win. She showed talent but that was around one turn and five-sixteenths of a mile shorter than the P.G. Johnson. Mott gave her three

breezes at Belmont before putting her through two 5-furlong breezes on the turf at Saratoga.

"The challenge with her is she's ready to go whenever you turn her head loose, you have to teach her to wait on you," Mott said. "I'm really pleased that it's happened as early in her career as it has because I could have seen it taking a while. She was inside, she came in between them, that showed quite a bit. You do the same thing all the time and some of them catch on and some of them don't."

The first foal born at Siena Farm provided the first win and first stakes win for the 220-acre farm in Paris, Ky. Anthony Manganaro, Nacho Patino and David Pope founded Siena which currently has about 20 mares producing racing and sales offspring. In addition to Alaura Michele, Mott trains Adirondack starter Anna Sophia and Common Bond, a 2-year-old half-brother to stakeswinner To Honor And Serve.

Doug Cauthen joined the Siena team as a consultant in January and has followed Alaura Michele intently, first at Saxony Farm, then with Fox at Payson Park and now with Mott.

"Greg Fox had her at Payson and then decided he wanted to concentrate on his veterinary practice," Cauthen said. "Bill saw these fillies all winter, everybody was friends, I knew Greg, it was like, 'Who do you want to send these to?' Then 'There's this Hall of Famer who's pretty good with fillies.' The goal, was if she's good enough, going backward, the Breeders' Cup, the Miss Grillo, here."

So far, so good.





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Taking It Easy

Turf veteran Hammock scores in opener for Brennans

BY KATIE BO WILLIAMS

Stephanie Brennan is well aware of the irony inherent in the ownership of Hammock. Co-owned by her husband Niall and Anthony Mitola, the big gray gelding couldn't be further from a pinhook prospect. For one thing, he's 7 years old. For another, he's a turf horse.

But the Brennans, whose business specializes in prepping young horses for the sales ring and the racetrack, don't

The son of Intidab has run at Saratoga every year of his working life. He broke his maiden here in 2007, ran third in an allowance in 2008, ran second in 2009, second again in 2010, and returned in Wednesday's first race to win a \$35,000 1-mile turf claimer in a heart-stopping stretch drive.

Hammock broke toward the rear, settled off slow fractions of 26.03 for the quarter and 52.16 for the half, then hustled up under Ramon Dominguez to put his head in front at the three-quarter marker. Cornelio Velasquez and Scorper went with them, and the pair sprinted off 4 lengths ahead of the remainder of the field.

WEDNESDAY RACING *RECAP*

They came out of the turn and for a beat, it looked like Hammock had had enough: Velasquez still had some horse and Scorper put his nose in front. The lanky gray dug in and went after him. He drew even again and they traded noses, stride-for-stride, wire looming, Velasquez pushing on Scorper, asking him for an ounce more – but Hammock had it, stretching his neck out at the wire and winning decisively.

That kind of display of guts came as no surprise to trainer Rick Schosberg.

"You can hold a bull from a bale of hay with an elevator bit, and we trained him in that, and I almost wanted to run him in it, but it's kind of an extreme bit to run them in," Schosberg said. "You have to keep him in that elevator bit or he'll run off, at 7 years old."

Stephanie Brennan didn't breathe properly until Hammock left the winner's circle without a red claim tag on his halter. The Brennans have had the horse since he was a baby and she rou-

See **WEDNESDAY** page 19 ▶



Tod Marks

Kid Kate pulls away to win the third, the \$75,000 Lady Tak Stakes for trainer Chad Brown.

18



Hammock (left) battles Scorper late in Wednesday's first.

Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 18

tinely threatens Niall and Schosberg with bodily harm should Hammock get claimed.

"I've been sitting here on the edge waiting to hear if he got claimed or not," Brennan said. "They both get

divorced if he gets claimed."

The Brennans, who purchased Hammock as a yearling, give the old campaigner the winter off every year, when he returns to the Brennans' Florida farm and gets kicked out with the show horses for 60 days.

"He's the smartest horse I've been around," Brennan said. "The second he walks off the van, he's like an old show horse, you can lead him in with another horse together, he stands in the crossties while we do

him up, just goes to sleep, eats his treats. You can walk under his stomach. He's in the first stall right where I walk out of my house, so every time he hears the door open or shut, he starts whinnying. Then at 60 days, he gets to where you have to put the chain over his nose because he gets on the muscle coming in and out. He turns into a racehorse."

turns into a racehorse."

Hammock nearly didn't make it to the races after fracturing a hind leg as a 2-year-old.

"It was a spiral fracturing downward," Brennan said. "They were scared to lay him down for surgery because they thought either going down or coming out of recovery the leg would snap, so they actually repaired the fracture with him standing up and the vet laid on a trolley under his stomach. He's named after the vet who did the surgery on him, Bill Hammock."

One day, although no one is speculating on when that will be just yet, Hammock will go back home for good.

"He's been earmarked for Niall's daughter for the last three years," Brennan said. "She's been waiting patiently. When I told her he won, she sent me a text saying. "No" with about eight o's. Every time he wins she knows it's going to be longer until she gets him."

Bred in New York by Gallagher's Stud, Hammock collected \$24,600 (including a nice bonus for the win outside state-bred company) Wednesday to push his lifetime earnings past \$213,000. He's won five times from 24 career starts.

Brennan has no doubt the gelding will be able to jump a big fence in the show ring.

"We have a great photo of him when he was starting back this year, and he's kicking up his hind end," Brennan said. "He's straight vertical and the rider on him is straight vertical. It's fabulous. It looks like he's coming off a jump."

• It was déjà vu for Chad Brown after the \$75,000 Lady Tak. Kid Kate, a 4-year-old daughter of Lemon Drop Kid, zipped off to a 1 1/4-length score in the

See **WEDNESDAY** page 22 ▶

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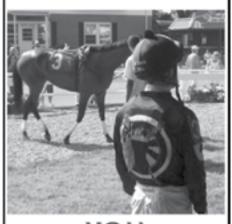
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Wednesday August 31.

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Hammock R. Dominguez \$17.00 \$8.90 \$6.30 Scorper C. Velasquez \$6.40 \$4.80 Liberty Cap A. Garcia \$5.00

Gr/ro Gelding 2004, by Intidab - Monina by Cozzene
Owner: Mitola Anthony Brennan Niall J. Trainer: R

Owner: Mitola, Anthony, Brennan, Niall, J., Trainer: Richard Schosberg Breeder: Gallagher's Stud (NY).

Late Scratches: Fugedaboudit Sandy, Mine Train, Mad for Smarty, Jimanator, Merlin Bay, Starforaday

Claimed: Veiled Prophet claimed by Dubb, Michael for \$35,000, Alcomatch claimed by Sullivan Lane Stable for \$35,000 Time: 1:38.13

Exacta (8-1), \$115.00; Superfecta (8-1-4-6), \$2,637.00; Trifecta (8-1-4), \$646.00

SECOND \$28,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$35,000, 2 YO, 6F

1 Night Maneuver R. Curatolo \$41.00 \$17.00 \$7.00 7 Two Left Shoes J. Castanon \$10.00 \$4.80 6 Moreforyourmoney R. Dominguez \$2.40

Ch Gelding 2009, by Orientate - Smoke N Shadows by Smoke Glacken Owner: Flying Zee Stables. Trainer: Carlos Martin.

Breeder: Nustar Breeding LLC (NY).

Claimed: King and Crusader claimed by Riccio, James A. for \$35,000 Time: 1:12.68

Daily Double (8-1), \$325.00; Exacta (1-7), \$391.50; Quinella (1-7), \$163.00; Superfecta (1-7-6-3), \$7,630.00; Trifecta (1-7-6), \$1,139.00

THIRD \$75,000, STAKES - LADY TAK S., 3 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

Kid Kate E. Castro \$3.20 \$2.30 Moontune Missy R. Maragh \$5.00 \$2.60 \$2.60 Katy Now J. Velazquez B Filly 2007, by Lemon Drop Kid - Run Kate Run by Cherokee Run Owner: Dell Ridge Farm. Trainer: Chad Brown. Breeder: Dell Ridge Farm, LLC (KY). Time: 1:16.37 Daily Double (1-4), \$163.50; Exacta (4-5), \$32.60; Trifecta (4-5-1), \$54.50; Pic 3 (8-1-4), \$1,692.00

FOURTH \$52,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

Empress of Gold E. Prado \$2.50 \$2.30 3 Maria's Own \$3.40 J. Velazquez \$3.90 D'oro Princess R. Albarado \$3.40 Dk B/ Br Filly 2008, by Empire Maker - Circle of Gold by Seeking the Gold Owner: Brushwood Stable. Trainer: William Mott. Breeder: Overbrook Farm (KY). Time: 1:52.46 Daily Double (4-4), \$15.60; Exacta (4-3), \$16.00; Quinella (3-4), \$6.90;

Trifecta (4-3-5), \$42.40; Pic 3 (1-4-4), \$349.50

FIFTH \$25,120, NY-BRED MAIDEN CLAIMING \$20,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

10 Spa City Lover J. Sanchez \$3.20 \$2.30 \$2.20 7 By M K J. Castellano \$4.20 \$2.90 1 Dixieland Cowgirl E. Castro \$4.10 B Filly 2008, by Not For Love - Queen St. West by Smarten Owner: Ice Wine Stable, Ward, Wesley, A.. Trainer: Wesley Ward. Breeder: Roy S. Lerman (NY). Late Scratches: Holy Spice, Salt Water Lullaby Claimed: Spa City Lover claimed by Lerman, Roy S. for \$20,000

Daily Double (4-10), \$10.20; Exacta (10-7), \$14.40; Superfecta (10-7-1-6), \$465.40; Trifecta (10-7-1), \$58.00; Pic 3 (4-4-10), \$32.60; Pic 4 (1-4-4-2/3/10), \$1,166.00

Attendance: 11,285 On Track Handle: 2,089,767 Intra-State Handle: 2,061,811 Inter-State Handle: 7,096,059

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SIXTH \$30,000, CLAIMING \$20,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

3 Count Catamount E. Castro \$6.40 \$4.00 \$3.70 8 Hooligan's Delight I. Ortiz, Jr. \$5.70 \$5.30 2 Saints Alive R. Maragh \$6.30 Dk B/ Br Gelding 2006, by Langfuhr - Lady Wildcat by Forest Wildcat Owner: M and S Stables. Trainer: Rudy Rodriguez. Breeder: Fred N. Sahadi (KY). Late Scratches: Scorch the Torch, Never Right Joey, Mr Magenta.

Unbridled Danger, Head Heart Hoof, Sly, Al's Lark Time: 1:02.11

Daily Double (10-3), \$12.60; Exacta (3-8), \$41.20; Superfecta (3-8-2-10), \$1,446.00; Trifecta (3-8-2), \$321.50; Pic 3 (4-10-3), \$37.00

C. Nakatani

SEVENTH \$52,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 5 1/2F

2 Officer Prado

5 Mr. Style J. Velazquez \$2.10 \$2.10 3 Seven Lively Sins J. Leparoux \$3.10 B Colt 2009, by Officer - Prado Lady by El Prado (IRE) Owner: East, Kathryn. Trainer: Steven Asmussen. Breeder: Kathryn I. East (TX). Late Scratches: Silver Max, Minotaur. Time: 1:04.19 Daily Double (3-2), \$44.60; Exacta (2-5), \$16.20; Superfecta (2-5-3-7), \$154.40; Trifecta (2-5-3), \$55.00; Consolation Double (3-4), \$7.10; Pic 3 (10-3-2), \$73.00; (10-3-4), \$12.20

\$2.30

EIGHTH \$75,000, STAKES - P. G. JOHNSON S., 2 YO, 1 1/16M

 3
 Alaura Michele
 E. Castro
 \$8.40
 \$5.30
 \$3.80

 5
 New Wave
 A. Solis
 \$12.20
 \$6.50

 4
 Bourbonstreetgirl
 J. Castellano
 \$3.90

 Dk B/ Br Filly 2009, by Arch - Isobel Baillie (GB) by Lomitas (GB)

Owner: Siena Farm LLC. Trainer: William Mott. Breeder: Siena Farms LLC (KY). Late Scratches: Zultanite, Idle Dice, Visionaria (GB)
Time: 1:42.95

Daily Double (2-3), \$50.00; Exacta (3-5), \$92.50; Trifecta (3-5-4), \$401.50; Pic 3 (3-2-3), \$128.00; (3-4-3), \$25.40

NINTH \$47,000, NY-BRED AOC \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

5 Risky Rachel R. Dominguez \$7.50 \$4.00 \$2.80 6 Lady Vi R. Curatolo \$8.50 \$5.00 7 Funky Munky Mama I. Ortiz, Jr. \$3.60 8 Filly 2007, by Limehouse - Dancin Renee by Distinctive Pro Owner: Bacon, Sanford. Trainer: H. Bond. Breeder: Sanford Bacon (NY). Late Scratches: Mississippi Too Time: 1:10.41 Daily Double (3-5), \$25.60; Exacta (5-6), \$68.00; Superfecta (5-6-7-3), \$1.640.00; Trifecta (5-6-7), \$231.00; Pic 3 (2-3-5), \$154.50

TENTH \$58,000, AOC \$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

11 Yadira J. Leparoux \$13.40 \$8.00 \$5.10 8 Battingstar C. Nakatani \$8.90 \$5.40 7 Dominant Currency R. Maragh \$2.70 Dk B/ Br Filly 2007, by Pulpit - Heavenly Cat by Tabasco Cat

Owner: Padua Stables. Trainer: Steven Asmussen.

Breeder: Twin Hopes Farm, Inc. (KY).

Late Scratches: Full of Gut, Malibu Artiste, Isn't She Grand Time: 1:02.13

Daily Double (5-11), \$50.50; Exacta (11-8), \$106.00; Superfecta (11-8-7-9), \$3,268.00; Trifecta (11-8-7), \$447.00; Pic 3 (3-5-11), \$163.00; Place Pix Nine (2/3/5-3/4/5-5/6/7-11), \$79.00

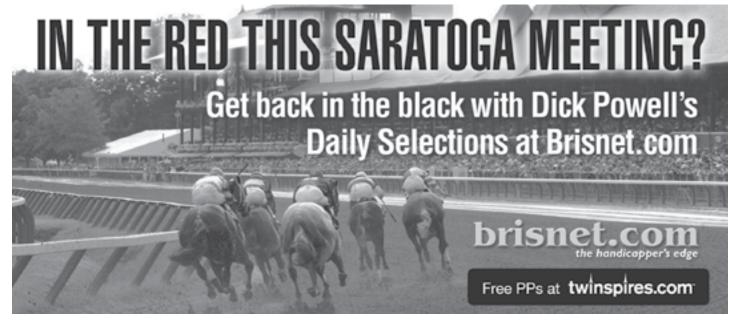
ELEVENTH \$31,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN CLAIMING \$35,000, 2 YO, 6F

1 Howie and the Cat J. Castellano \$10.00 \$4.90 \$3.70
9 Pure Grit J. Velazquez \$4.70 \$3.10
4 The Snickers Kid R. Curatolo \$10.40
Ch Gelding 2009, by Tale of the Cat - Bella Madame (CHI) by Dancing Groom

Owner: Repole Stable. Trainer: Michael Miceli. Breeder: Cheryl A. Prudhomme, Dr. Michael T.Gallivan, Barbara Sulli (NY).

Time: 1:13.22

Daily Double (11-1), \$72.50; Exacta (1-9), \$40.20; Superfecta (1-9-4-10), \$3,945.00; Trifecta (1-9-4), \$454.50; Pic 3 (5-11-1), \$293.00; Pic 4 (3-5-11-1), \$1,396.00; Pic 6 (3-2-3-5-11-1), \$296.50; Pic 6 (3-2-3-5-11-1), \$67,572.00



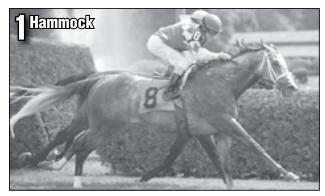
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Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 19

Rachel Alexandra over Belle Of The Hall and Katy Now Aug. 1, and she got up to best Moontune Missy, Katy Now and Belle Of The Hall in the Lady Tak Wednesday.

"We didn't change her training any, we didn't have any different strategy," Brown said. "I just told the jock, do whatever you want. (Eddie Castro) fits her really well."

The Dell Ridge Farm homebred was in no hurry when the gates opened, letting Moontune Missy, Christine Daae and Katy Now sprint down the backside.

The trio put in a quarter in 22.20 and a half in 45 flat. Asked by Castro to narrow the gap in the turn, Kid Kate scooted up to the leaders. Swung wide and urged right-handed, the filly picked off a fading Christine Daae and Belle Of The Hall. She put away Katy Now and Castro put away his whip with only Moontune Missy to catch. It was over in a matter of strides and Kid Kate returned to the winner's circle, looking like she'd been spray-painted with mud.

"Early on in the race she was a little farther back," Brown said. "I was wondering, I don't know if she's going to get up there going 6 1/2 (furlongs), but I saw the jockey and he looked comfortable on her so I wasn't too, too worried once I looked at how he was sitting on her. She still came running."

Kid Kate, who broke her maiden here in 2009, will leave the Saratoga meet with a 4-for-4 lifetime record at



Tod Marks

Spa City Lover glides to the wire with a win in Wednesday's fifth for Jeffrey Sanchez and trainer Wesley Ward.

the track. Brown exited the Rachel Alexandra raving about his filly's toughness; Wednesday, he stood in the shadow of the closing meet and praised her honesty.

"She's a very honest horse. She loves Belmont and Saratoga, she's much better on those two tracks than any other I've seen her on," Brown said. "It's horses for courses, particularly Saratoga has always been a track like that, they either love it or hate it. She makes up for my ones that hate it."

Brown expects to step up the daughter of Lemon Drop Kid in class at Belmont this fall.

"You probably look at something a little bit more challenging," Brown said.

"We've won two listed stakes, so we'll probably look for a Grade II, Grade III-type race between 6 1/2, seven-eighths. We'll give her a chance to move up in class."

The final time was 1.16.37. Kid Kate more than halved her price in the Rachel Alexandra, where she paid \$13. She returned \$5.80 as the favorite Wednesday.

• Castro tripled on the day, also booting home Count Catamount in the sixth for trainer Rudy Rodriguez and the featured P.G. Johnson Stakes aboard Alaura Michele for trainer Bill Mott . . . Texasbred Officer Prado (Corey Nakatani) won the seventh, a maiden for 2-yearold fillies going 5 1/2 furlongs. Steve Asmussen trains the winner for owner/ breeder Kathryn East. Officer Prado denied favorite Mr. Style by a head after setting quick fractions that included 57.83 seconds for 5 furlongs . . . Sanford Bacon's Risky Rachel drew off late to win the ninth, a state-bred optional claimer, for Dominguez and trainer Jim Bond . . . Flying Zee Stable continued to have a strong meet with a win by firsttimer Night Maneuver in the second, a \$35,000 maiden claimer for New Yorkbred 2-year-olds. The son of Orientate paid \$41 for trainer Carlos Martin and jockey Ryan Curatolo . . . Mott and jockey Edgar Prado picked up a maiden win with Brushwood Stable's Empress Of Gold, a 3-year-old daughter of Empire Maker, going 1 1/8 miles, in the fourth . . . Javier Castellano forced a tie with John Velazquez (46 each) atop the jockey standings with a win in the 11th aboard Repole Stable's Howie And The Cat for trainer Mike Miceli.



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With TODD PLETCHER

Cleaning out the recorder . . . The Special's got more from trainer Todd Pletcher after a big Travers Day with 3-year-olds Stay Thirsty (who won the Travers) and Uncle Mo (who just missed in the King's Bishop).

Q: What about Uncle Mo?

A: "Proud of the horse, but a tough, tough loss. As much as anything, you just want the horse for the horse's sake to win, for everything he's been through, to know what he looked like when he left, for how much weight he lost, for how bad his coat looked, for how bad he looked when he left, then to get him back in five months and miss by a whisker, just feel bad for the horse for everything he went through and give you that effort and miss by a whisker."



Todd Pletcher.

QA CASTELLANO

Cleaning out the recorder
... The Special's got
more from jockey Javier
Castellano, who won the
Travers with Stay Thirsty.



Tod Marks **Javier Castellano**.

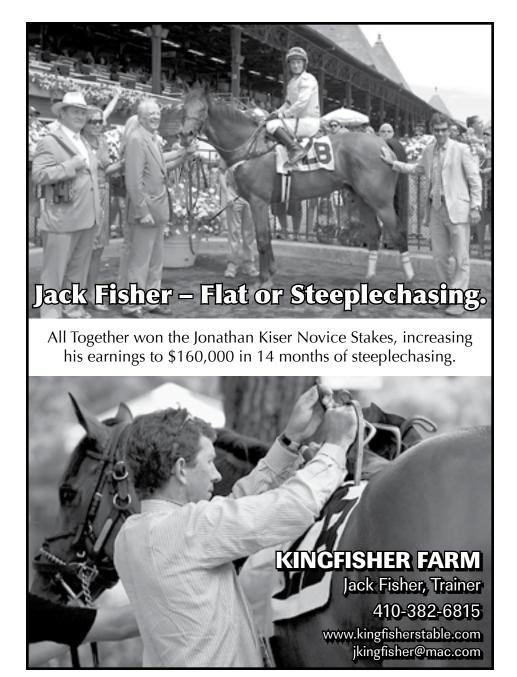
Q: What did you think of Stay Thirsty's Travers effort?

A: "I think my horse is a superstar, he made a huge move, I had to ride all the way, turning for home, I hit him and you could see him open up, he's a super horse. He was very impressive. The way he did it, he showed more potential, he's a serious horse. The Jim Dandy, you could see was a good race, but he tried hard and kept doing it in the Travers."

Q: Is Stay Thirsty anything like his sire Bernardini?

A: "He's a nice horse, similar to Bernardini, a little more laid back than Bernardini, he was on his toes, light on his feet, you move a little and he was right there, 'if you ask me, I'm here.'

See *Q & A* page 27 ▶





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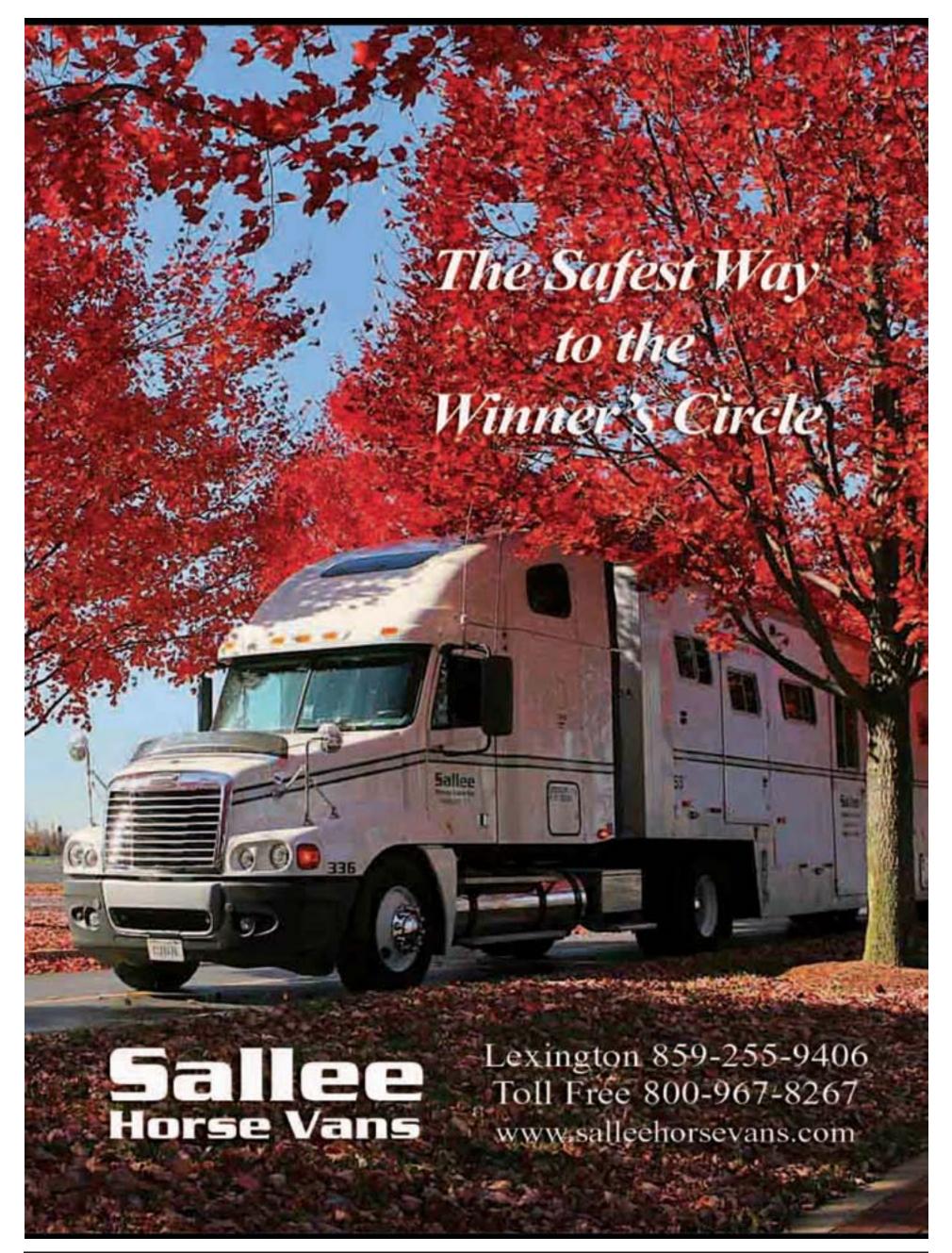
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TODD cont'd from page 24 PLETCHER

Q: Do you look back and think of anything you could have done differently?

A: "I think we covered all our bases, we had him ready to run, for the most part everything went really well, we had the misfortune of getting hung out four-wide around the turn, but he ran his race, he really did. You hate to say you're satisfied, you're pleased with his effort, and happy he came back and showed he's still got it, but you hate to see him get beat. We're thankful we got him back."

Q: What about Stay Thirsty, were you confident with his training here?

A: "I felt very, very good after his final breeze before the Travers that he was still in form and he would go over there and try again. Just in a good zone, and we just hope we can keep him there. His work impressed me."

Q: How do you explain Stay Thirsty's improvement?

A: "We always felt like he was a horse who would get better as he got older, and better with longer distances. Physical and mental maturity, whatever it is about certain breeds of horses that they just get better as they get better. The A. P. Indy line is certainly one of those. I remember last year Mike Repole and I were talk-

JAVIER Cont'd from page 24 CASTELLANO

This horse will give it to you but you have to ask first. But a nice horse to ride, you can do whatever you want, they both listen. He's getting better. I wish I could have seen Bernardini's 4-year-old year, sound horse, easy horse to ride, he was a super horse."

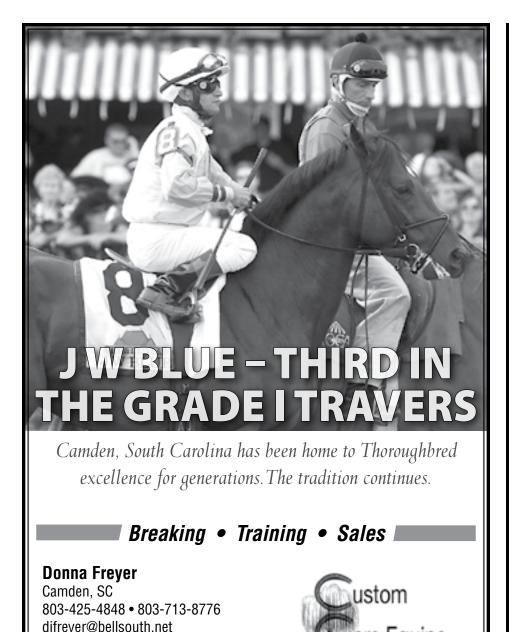
Q: What did you think of Stay Thirsty's runner-up performance in the Belmont?

A: "The Belmont was a really good race, I was on the inside the whole way and he went through everything. I didn't want to be outside, it's a mile and a half, every inch you can save is huge. I saved all the way, it was a beautiful trip, I wish I could have won that race."

Q: How confident were you leading up to the Travers?

A: "He looked really, really good, perfect before the Jim Dandy. Then he won the Jim Dandy, he did a maintain work with the exercise rider, then he worked amazing with company, worked 1:01, galloped out beautiful. He was perfect. Todd told me to try to working in a minute, or 1:01. I could have gone in 59, don't ask, but don't take it away, I let him gallop out, amazing, it made me more confident."

See **Q & A** page 28 ▶



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TODD cont'd from page 27 PLETCHER

ing, after he finished second going 5 1/2 (furlongs), then he came up here and won going 6 and finished second in the Hopeful, we were like this is all a bonus, we never expected that. We always felt like it was going to happen, he was always a healthy horse, an easy horse to be around, he just kept getting better and better."

Q: How did they come back?

A: "So far, they're good. Uncle Mo seemed to bounce out of it pretty quickly, both horses did. We'll monitor his bloodwork, he jumped right back into the tub which he wasn't doing before. The vets told us there's always a chance that it's chronic, but you would think with the work he did leading up to the race that we would have seen something, but there's nothing like going seven eighths in 1:21 and 2, under pressure, we'll keep our fingers crossed at all times. It's such a rare thing, I've trained a lot of horses and I've never had one, that I knew, had cholangiohepatitis."

JAVIER cont'd from page 27 CASTELLANO

Q: How much does it help to breeze horses in the morning?

A: "I worked a lot of horses for Bobby Frankel, I learned a lot. It helps a lot to work horses in the morning, you know how much horse you have. That's one of the reasons why I have success, I worked Ghostzapper every time, I really enjoyed that. When I went to the bigger races, nothing bothered me, because I knew how much horse was there, I knew. Todd gave me the opportunity, the exercise riders do such a good job, they don't need me, but that is very helpful."

Q: Did you work Bernardini?

A: "I didn't do that with Bernardini, not even one time. That's the moment you want to enjoy, no pressure, in the afternoon, the pressure's on, you enjoy it but it's different. They had two riders in the morning, one to exercise him, Miguel Gutierrez, and one to work him, Simon Harris. Luckily only one jockey in the afternoon."



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Fine Vines



by Joe Clancy

After apparently doing my job so well last year, I was asked to judge the second annual Racetrack Chaplaincy Saratoga Backstretch Tomato Contest again this year. So was Bobby Flay, but he wasn't available. The deputies included myself, Jeanne Wood, Jeff Carle and Saratoga chaplain Humberto Chavez.

Mike DeSano, Uncle Mike to pretty much everyone on the backside, again showed the way and explained the rules. Contestants were given a tomato seedling, tracing to a plant grown in DeSano's family years ago. The grooms and hotwalkers were instructed to care for their plants to the best of their abilities with cash prizes and bragging rights to be decided via end-of-the-meet judging.

And that's where Wood, Carle, Chavez and I came in. Wednesday afternoon we piled into two golf carts and zipped back and forth to various barns. We stopped at Jim Bond's yard on Gridley Street, the pastoral Darley set-up out the back gate (if I were a tomato plant, that's where I would want to grow), the Oklahoma Annex, Oklahoma, Horse Haven and so on.

The things you learn while driving around the backside looking at tomatoes:

• Bernardini's manure, which may or may not have been used to fertilize two tomato plants at Darley, is not as potent as his genes. Star of the Fasig-Tipton yearling sale and sire of Jim Dandy and Travers winner Stay Thirsty can't quite produce the same kind of success with vegetables (or fruit, depending on your viewpoint). Last year, Darley grew a 6-foot plant with no tomatoes. This year, two plants sit by a paddock fence in round cages. They're well-tended and neat, but small and – sorry yearling buyers, late developers. Both have some nice tomatoes on the way but they better hurry. Winter's coming.

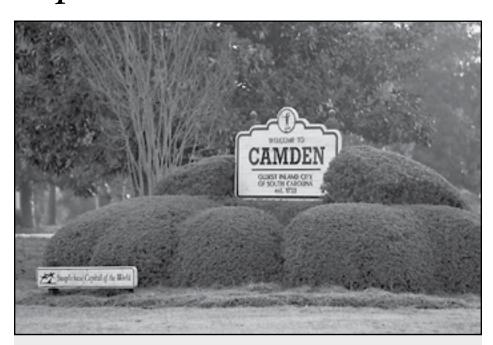
- Trainer Jim Bond has a nice spot down on Gridley Street featuring what might be the only center aisle barn in all of Saratoga. It's not Darley, sorry, but the home of Whitney winner Tizway features two barns, a small courtyard, a horse scale, two round pens, closed-circuit cameras (watch yourself) and a tomato bush tended by Jaime Pineda and Fernando Garcia. The two plants wedged between the round pens will yield loads of tomatoes, but won't win any beauty contests.
- Tomatoes grow at the Annex. Easily, the bestlooking plants in the contest are across Fifth Avenue perhaps it's the, uh, fertilizer flying around courtesy of trainers Tom Voss, Doug Fout, Jonathan Sheppard, Ken McPeek, Seth Benzel, et al, I don't know. Kiaran McLaughlin employee Jose Estrada created a hurricane-proof system to keep his plant growing alongside the bunkhouse and has lots of tomatoes to show for it. Across the way, Seth Benzel's team of Hector Martinez and Leonel Zuniga showed off a neat and tidy pair of plants along the fence near Voss' shedrow. The plants are immaculate, and have already produced eight tomatoes worth eating with more on the way. They're also 6-foot-3. What's more, Martinez and Zuniga have a secondary crop of plants going from the seeds of the first tomatoes picked. "Fertilizer, water and sunshine,"

Martinez said when asked for the secret.

- Narciso "Chicho" Servin, who works for trainer Chad Brown, has a tomato hedge going alongside Barn 47. Contained barely by a wire fence, the plant overflows with tomatoes but also shares space with a cucumber plant. Though the others are more orderly and better groomed, Servin's plant leads in terms of sheer mass.
- The Bill Mott barn has two plants growing, though they're not doing as well as the Hall of Fame outfit's horses at the meet. Trainer Bruce Levine's squad showed off a huge garden last year, but the 2011 version didn't continue to progress. Levine is 4-5 if there's a pepper contest next year, however. The 2010 winner, next to Building 90 in Horse Haven, will produce nice tomatoes again but falls a little short of a few others this year. The backstretch community garden in Horse Haven features tomatoes, onions, eggplant, squash, zucchini and more.
- DeSano and Chavez should be commended on the job they do. They know the backstretch, its people, its cultures. Always refreshing, they help people grow, cultivate success, tend to the humans caring for the horses at NYRA's tracks. Thanks for what you do.
- Finally, it's far easier to eat a tomato than judge one but after much deliberation, the panel awarded first place (\$100) to Benzel's entry of Martinez and Zuniga. Second place (\$50) went to Servin from the Brown barn with third (\$25) to Estrada from Team McLaughlin.

See you next year, out in the fields.

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Auto Pilot



by Sean Clancy

David Cohen did not want to paint cars.

Growing up in Las Vegas, Cohen worked for his dad, in his 85,000 square foot bodyshop, prepping cars, painting cars, working with cars. The business was his if he wanted it.

He did not want it.

Instead, Cohen returned to California and wound up at the racetrack. His father, Morry Cohen, owned and bred horses and Cohen figured he'd be a trainer. Went to work for his dad's trainer Jorge Gutierrez, grooming, galloping, assisting, working with a vet in the afternoon, learning how to shoe horses, everything. Then he broke a horse out of the gate, won the breeze and that was that.

"The first time out of the gate, there were four or five horses, I was on the outside, my horse won easily, I came out bug-eyed," Cohen said. "Never galloped a day after, quit my assistant job that day, said, 'I appreciate all your help for the past two years but I've got something on my mind. If it doesn't make it, hope you're there to support me afterwards.' "

Cohen enlisted his childhood friend Laffit Pincay Jr., to help him reduce his weight from 135 pounds. Cohen stopped galloping horses, only breezed them. He stopped lifting weights, only power walked for exercise. He took in 900-1,000 calories a day. Consumed vitamins like Tic Tacs.

"In a matter of 11 months, got down to bug It's for horses like that. If that was the only win of the weight, and did it healthy," Cohen said. "If I couldn't meet it would be worth it." do it, fine, but not trying wasn't enough because I had the passion towards it, once it gets in your blood . . . "

It took 11 months but he was ready to ride. He picked up a spare ride at Del Mar on Aug. 11, 2004. Carrying 113 pounds, Quiten Boy paid \$92.60 and

David Cohen was a jockey.

"It was a pick-up mount, I picked it up in the kitchen," Cohen said. "I would have ridden anything. Quiten Boy. I kept saying, 'Don't quit on me, boy. Don't quit on me, boy.'

Cohen won his first Grade I stakes in 2005 when Proud Tower Too won the Malibu, won his first international stakes in 2006 when Proud Tower Too won the \$2 million Dubai Golden Shaheen. He moved east, won titles at Delaware Park and Philadelphia Park and then New York called. He was second leading rider in New York in 2010.

Cohen, 26, and agent Billy Castle came to Saratoga for the first time last summer, carved out a decent meet, winning 10 races, winding up tied for 11th. Not bad. Their goal was to better that this year. Done. Cohen's won 12 races so far, including a stakes aboard Mineralogist, a debut win aboard Hannibal Lecter and the best debut of the meet aboard Fire On Ice on Travers Day.

last year it wasn't about how many wins we had, but just meeting new people, getting in new barns. Even people will give you a boost. That's where my head's this year, we're still meeting new people, just a building process," Cohen said. "Not taking the easy route so to speak, Delaware, Philly, where we came from. Hopefully we'll keep getting horses like Fire On Ice. prepping cars to be painted."

Trained by John Kimmel, Fire On Ice rocked to the lead and strolled home to win by 10 1/4 lengths. Kimmel likes Cohen because he can communicate in the morning and the afternoon.

"It helps when a guy can tell you something about a horse," Kimmel said. "When Richie (Migliore) and I were going great, we did that and David is like that

Maybe it was those hours in Gutierrez's shedrow.

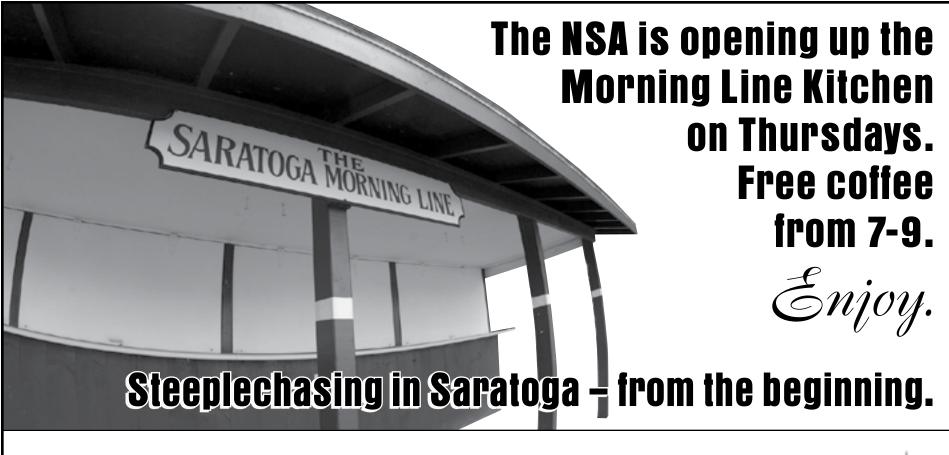
"It's all what you think of yourself and how much you're willing to put out," Cohen said, when explaining the move to Saratoga. "I've got plenty of years ahead of me, to take a risk and maybe success, maybe not, to get the opportunity to ride the best horses in the country, it's a no brainer."

Just as you start respecting Cohen as a jockey, he starts talking like a businessman. His horses earned \$6.9 million in 2010. Some guys ride simply to ride, some guys ride to retire, Cohen rides to reinvest.

"I'm 26, this is not my only business in life. It's good down payment on life, use this money as a down payment on another business. I know one jockey who's got a Cold Stone Ice Cream franchise, he's making money," Cohen said. "I don't know, hopefully I'll last for a good 10 years, I've got some good "Can't complain. It's only our second year here, investments, whatever evolves in life, being involved with this type of people, if you want to venture off, at in life."

Beats a auto body shop in Vegas.

"We're not here forever," Cohen said. "(Screw)



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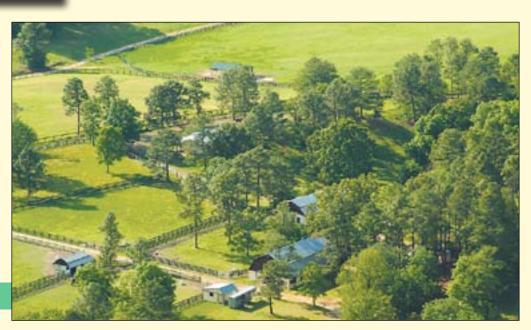


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