

Year 15 • No. 30

Wednesday, September 2, 2015

The *Saratoga*

Special

Saratoga's Daily Newspaper on Thoroughbred Racing

Travers tired

Keen Ice snoozes away the morning after upsetting Triple Crown winner

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Hedge Hunter. Photographer Barbara Livingston sets up her camera, just so, during action this weekend.

Dave Harmon

here&there... at Saratoga

BY THE NUMBERS

6: Winners for The Special's John Shapazian Sunday, helping close the gap on Gaile Fitzgerald heading into the final week. Gaile leads 96-95.

1.92: Return on investment per \$2 win bet on all of Gaile Fitzgerald's top picks in the Power Grid, the best of our five handicappers.

7.71: Average payoff for a \$2 bet on Chad Summers' winners, best of The Special's five handicappers.

ALL TIED UP

In 2005, owner Brent Johnson went to see his horse Better Talk Now run in the Fort Marcy at Aqueduct and was supposed to meet his partners for lunch in the trustees room – only there was a problem. Ties are mandatory and Johnson went with the V-neck sweater over the dress T-shirt that day.

"I'm sorry sir, you cannot come in without a tie," said the host.

Johnson didn't have a tie, and asked if he could just go inform his friends that he wouldn't be joining them.

"I'm sorry sir, you cannot come in without a tie."

"But I don't have a tie."

For just such cases, the host kept a supply of ties on hand and offered one to Johnson.

Johnson took a tie, knotted it up around his neck and spent the day in the trustees room with a tie – but no collar.

"I took it off for the win photo."

In town to present the trophy for the second running of the Better Talk Now Monday, Johnson brought his own tie.

HARD FACT

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MORE THAN READY	\$50K	2.6%
CONGRATS	\$35K	1.1%



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LICENSE PLATE OF THE DAY

SIGNIT, Connecticut.

NAMES OF THE DAY

All Together, first race. He's 10 years old, he's earned almost \$500,000, he's making his second jump start in six days and his dam's name is Unify. Nice job Jayeff B Stables a long time ago.

Special Agent, 10th race. The 4-year-old colt is out of Secret Status.

WORTH REPEATING

"I don't want to drink champagne, I want to go see this horse."

Juddmonte Farms' Teddy Grimthorpe, declining a toast to Flintshire in favor of seeing Triple Crown winner American Pharoah in the paddock before the Travers

"Juddmonte has a lot of addresses."

Grimthorpe, trying to sort out where the Sword Dancer trophies get sent

"Who knows?"

Dale Romans, asked if he was going to be at the barn in Sunday morning

"I might go jump jock on them tonight."

Romans, on his plans after the Travers

"I carried her like a football."

Romans, on carrying his partner Tammy after the Travers



Joe Clancy

Rail Squirrel. A Clare Court clocker, of a different sort, keeps tabs on the training action Tuesday morning.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We got here at 7 o'clock. No lines. We're locals, so we know the routine."

Racing fan Greg Cooper, who came out with his wife Pam and their children Amelia and Mark to watch American Pharoah train last week at Saratoga



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NAME OF THE DAY

Humboldt N Frost, sixth race.

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here&there... at Saratoga

WORTH REPEATING

“What? You don’t have a paper today?”
Trainer George Weaver, looking for coverage of High Noon Rider Tuesday morning

“I bet him because of your story.”
Centennial Farm’s Doo Little, after The Special ran a preview on Runhappy before the King’s Bishop

“Besides my three kids, this is the greatest day of my life.”
Tony Infante, partner in Donegal Racing, after Keen Ice won the Travers

“You still look tired.”
Jockey Kendrick Carmouche, to The Special’s Sean Clancy, before the last race Sunday, the day after the Travers

“Next year, you won’t have to write down your ideas, you can just tell them to him and he’ll repeat them.”
Trainer Mitch Friedman, about his parrot

“Is that the trainer? Go girl. Anyone that wears stilettos out to on the track to grab her horse gets a thumbs up from me.”
The Special’s Annise Montplaisir admiring the footwear choice of King’s Bishop-winning trainer Maria Borell

“No.”
Todd Pletcher, when asked by Mike Repole if Mike Repole made the difference in helping end a training slump



Shady Character. Bona Venture Stables partner Michael Hart represents in the winner’s circle Sunday.

Tod Marks



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John Stephen Hockensmith ©

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Editors/Publishers
Sean Clancy: (302) 545-7713. sean@thisishorseracing.com
Joe Clancy: (302) 545-4424. joe@thisishorseracing.com
Managing Editor
Tom Law: (859) 396-9407. tom@thisishorseracing.com
Circulation/Advertising Sales/Etc.: Jack Clancy, Nolan Clancy.
Writers/Handicappers: Charles Bedard, Billy Blake, Gaile Fitzgerald, Teresa Genaro, Annise Montplaisir, John Shapazian, Chad Summers, Brandon Valvo.
Photographers: Tod Marks, Dave Harmon, Connie Bush.
Layout/Design: Kaitlyn Vishneowski.

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Call us about your editorial needs.
Home Office: 364 Fair Hill Drive, Suite F, Elkton, MD 21921
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Stable Tour:

with
Abby Adsit



Abby Adsit is always on the go. She talks fast, walks fast and it's easy to see she likes the action of the race-track.

A majority of the horses in Adsit's barn on the Saratoga Race Course backstretch near the three-quarter pole are claimers, along with her personal favorite and turf allowance mare Flamingo Lane.

Adsit and her owners, who include Matthew Schera, Blue Stork Stable and Drawing Away Stable, have been busy at the claim box at the meet. She's hoping for a few more claims and some additional wins before heading back downstate to Belmont Park for the fall.

Adsit took out her license in April 2013 after a stint as an assistant with Linda Rice.

A local who went to Saratoga Springs High and graduated from Union College, Adsit didn't win a race her first year at Saratoga with just four starters. She won once last year, from six starters, and she's won three races this year from 24 starters (including \$92.50 winner Macher Monday).

Adsit wrapped up training early Saturday – along with everyone else because the track closed at 8 a.m. for Travers Day – and went down the shedrow with The Special's Annise Montplaisir.

Ave's Halo: "She was my first win at the meet (Aug. 6 in \$25,000 claimer) and I had added blinkers and cut her back, I was sprinting her on the grass. And she was my first win with Joel Rosario, ran very nicely." *Finished third Monday in a \$25,000 claimer.*

Lightning Buzz: "He's going to be a first-time starter, probably claiming



ranks. He's a 3-year-old by Stephen Got Even, and he's just a funny, funny, cool personality horse. He's kind of like a barn pet. Everyone loves him. He's pretty cute."

Finding Candy: "He's a horse that I claimed for Blue Stork, my owner Rick Brenko, and we claimed him for \$50,000 going a mile-and-an-eighth (Aug. 10). But he was going a little bit longer, I think he needs to be cut back."

Uncle Gio: "He's a Gio Ponti 2-year-old who is going to be long on the grass all day. He's this big colt and had to grow into himself, so hopefully I can get him on the grass (in the fall) before we don't have any more (grass races for the year) in New York."

Lady Daphne: "This is a filly I claimed for Matt Schera off of Chad Brown. She's a New York-bred, put her in for maiden 40 and I claimed her. She won and ran at a respectable number. So I look forward to getting her to the track.

I think she's going to be a nice Aqueduct horse, you know, when a lot of the horses shift (south for the winter). She might be a claiming-level horse, but I think she's got that edge to at least win her one x, a New York-bred one x allowance. And she is by Harlan's Holiday. It's his last crop this year, so for me I think there's a little bit of an edge. I like that they run different surfaces, different distances."

Here Sir: "I'm going to break his maiden, he's going to run at the end of the meet in a claiming race. We've dabbled at higher levels and he runs good. It's so tough here, it's not like you can get away with anything. The name of the game is to win."

Congenial: "He's a horse I claimed for \$32,000 off of Rudy Rodriguez. Super nice, great owners." *Finished third Monday in \$40,000 claiming race.*

Jersey Jules: "I just claimed her (for \$40,000 Aug. 21). She's a 3-year-old filly. She actually ran second to Tony Dutrow's

Every day at Saratoga, The Special (with help from sponsor Fasig-Tipton) presents an exclusive Stable Tour with a Saratoga trainer.

For more, see:
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big filly Embellish The Lace that won the Alabama. Granted, she got trounced on, but she still ran a big number and was second. So that's her little claim to fame."

Jeter: "He's a hard-knocking New York-bred. He's been in the claiming, New York-bred levels. He's just a warrior."

Flamingo Lane: "This is my princess. I pretty much owe a lot of where I am now to her, she was one of my first original horses when I had eight horses. And we made a surface change from dirt to turf, and took off on the grass and she's won over 250 grand now. She took me to the Claiming Crown. And she came back and she ran third in her one x, and then came back and won it at Belmont, and then she just ran third in a two x here (Sunday). She's my one nice allowance horse. She's so special to me. Every time you bring her over there you know she's trying, and you can't say that about every horse. She never cheats you. She never ever cheats you. It's just the best feeling, you almost get emotional when you talk about it, because horses will run good, or horses will have good days or bad days. But even if you don't win, you know she's running her eyeballs out. Few and far between, horses like that."

Desert Bliss: "She's a New York-bred filly I claimed for \$25,000 for Blue Stork Stables off the dirt that I plan to run on the grass."

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BARBARA D. LIVINGSTON, SKIP DICKSTEIN

The Chief . . . Day 30

"You have to change. Not many owners feel the same way about the business as they did years ago. Now it's a jockey business, everybody wants the same jockey, everybody wants the same trainer. That's why we have small fields. We have a lot of trainers with 100 horses, nobody used to have more than 35 horses. Changes. The horse is not as tough as it used to be, that's for sure. Maybe we aren't either."

– **Trainer Allen Jerkens**
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Tod Marks photo

Photo of the day

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Travers Canoe
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Last Dance

Ohio's Next Shares
tackles Gr. 2 stakes
before barn change

BY JOE CLANCY & ANNISE MONTPLAISIR

Over in Bill Mott's barn at the harness track Tuesday morning, one horse gets ready to train. The dark bay 2-year-old gelding looks a picture – white blinkers with orange trim, white saddle pad with an orange C inside of a black circle, four white polos, sheepskin cover on the yoke, attentive, upright ears.

And a Saratoga rookie in a black Cincinnati Reds hat on the shank.

Ohio-based trainer Doug Cowans makes his Saratoga debut with Next Shares in today's With Anticipation Stakes. The son of Archarcharch

Continued On Page 10



Trainer Doug Cowans gets Next Shares ready to train Tuesday morning.

Joe Clancy

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	Competitive Edge	Hopeful	90
BERNARDINI	Stay Thirsty	Travers	101
	A Z Warrior	Frizette	81
	Biondetti	Gran Criterium	N/A
TAPIT	Careless Jewel	Alabama	106
	Laragh	Hollywood Starlet	89
	Stardom Bound	Del Mar Debutante	87

With Anticipation —

■ Continued from page 9

was meant to run in a maiden race Sunday, but wound up on the also-eligible list, so Cowans goes to Plan B though it will be the last time he saddles the horse.

Next Shares finished second by a half-length in his debut at Ellis Park Aug. 1 for Cowans and owner Mike Foster, but caught the attention of some high-profile connections and races for Brous Stable, Gary Barber and Wachtel Stable today. The Fasig-Tipton October graduate moves to Mott's care after the race.

"It's bittersweet, for sure, but it's a business," Cowans said Tuesday while watching Next Shares gallop at Clare Court. "I know it will mean my owner (Foster) will go to the sale and we'll try to buy some more good horses. He could go on and be a nice horse. He could have won the race at Ellis if he'd settled a little bit more."

Joel Rosario rides the 10-1 shot in a field of six going 1 1/16 miles on the Mellon Turf Course as the third race. The Mott-trained Site Read is favored at 2-1, just under Monster Bea at 5-2 from Mark Casse's barn and Unbridled Daddy at 7-2 for Todd Pletcher. No horse in the race has run more than twice and Next Shares is not the only maiden with Azar also in the race for Pletcher.

Next Shares has been in Saratoga for about

a week, in the care of Cowans' assistant Brian Waltz. Tuesday, he played around while galloping at Clare Court — making an extra circle when equine traffic prevented a proper pull-up and exit. Despite a "first-time gelding" note in the past performances, he's been a gelding since last year. In the debut, he battled for the lead going a mile and yielded late to lose by a half-length.

"The horse was a little keen in the race," Cowans said. "I'd like to see him settle a touch more (today). He'll have to improve slightly, but the horse has moved forward off the first race. So he should fit in the race."

Next Shares is the first graded stakes starter for Cowans, who normally races at Belterra Park (former River Downs) in Cincinnati and Thistle-down in Cleveland. He won 50 races last year and is 23-for-90 this year.

Site Read is the deserving 2-1 favorite off his 4 1/2-length debut victory the first Saturday of the meeting for Mott. He was listed as the owner when the Tizdejavu colt won and he's entered in the With Anticipation with Jake Ballis and former NBA star Rashard Lewis also on the owner line. Site Read wound up in Mott's barn after his son Riley and Phil Hagard picked out the colt at the Keeneland September yearling sale.

"The two of them did it. They were at the sale last year looking at horses," Mott said. "They called me about this horse and said they liked him. So I gave them a budget, and they got him for less than what the budget was. He was within

the budget. So he's turned out pretty well. I guess to win first out and be in a stake in his second start you know is pretty remarkable for any of them."

Eighth and well back early, Site Read raced a little wide around both turns before closing to win under Jose Lezcano, who rides back today.

"It was a little bit of a jaw-dropper, really," Mott said of the debut. "He was very impressive, he was way back, he split horses, he finished up with good energy. Good energy and good speed. He ran a credible time."

Barber also owns Monster Bea, another recent acquisition that might start for new connections in the With Anticipation. The Hat Trick gelding broke his maiden Aug. 8 at Saratoga for owner and trainer Adam Rice but was subsequently sold to Barber and transferred to Casse.

Monster Bea breezed 5 furlongs last Wednesday on the grass for Casse.

Casse was familiar with Monster Bea because he sent out Conquest Windycity to finish second in that Aug. 8 maiden race going 1 1/16 miles on the grass. The trainer liked how Monster Bea won and was even more impressed with the gelding's gallop out after his front-running 1 1/4-length victory.

"We ran second to him when he won and we really like the horse we ran," Casse said. "When I

Continued On Page 11

SNAPSHOTS from Saratoga

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Sparkling winner of the *Ballerina S.-G1*, *UNBRIDLED FOREVER*, heads to the winner's circle with owner **CHARLES FIPKE**.

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With Anticipation —

■ Continued from page 10

saw him run, I was impressed because I thought he ran really green. What impressed me more than anything about him is after the race he took off like he hadn't ran. And that's kind of what he is, he's a big, unassuming, big tall string bean. That's what he looks like. There's nothing pretty about him except he can run."

Pletcher entered the duo of Unbridled Daddy and Azar, one-two in an Aug. 16 maiden race at the With Anticipation distance.

If both start it will be the third consecutive start that they've run in the same race, dating to a July 19 maiden race going 6 furlongs on the turf and a 1 1/16-mile turf maiden here Aug. 16.

Runaway King, a winner going 7 1/2 furlongs on the grass at Delaware Park for Tim Ice, completes the field.

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SARATOGA ENTRIES

Wednesday, September 2.

1ST (1:00PM). \$70,000, AOC \$40,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 2 3/8M (HURDLE)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Andi'amu (FR).....	P. Young	L. Young..... 8-1
2	.....2.....	Diplomat	B. Dalton.....	J. Day..... 6-1
3	.....3.....	Gimme Five (GB).....	J. Doyle	C. Murphy..... 3-1
4	.....4.....	Mandola	W. McCarthy.....	J. Sheppard..... 4-1
5	.....5.....	All Together	R. Geraghty	D. Jacobson..... 4-1
6	.....6.....	Overwhelming.....	S. McDermott.....	J. Fisher..... 7-2
7	.....7.....	Plated.....	R. Walsh.....	J. Day..... 6-1

2ND (1:33PM). \$28,000, CLM \$14,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Big Blue Talent	J. Castellano.....	S. Asmussen..... 8-5
1a	.....5.....	Alysaro.....	J. Castellano.....	S. Asmussen..... 8-5
2	.....2.....	Chase Lane	J. Velazquez.....	T. Pletcher..... 5-1
3	.....3.....	Oliver Rush	K. Carmouche.....	R. Metivier..... 20-1
4	.....4.....	Aleander	E. Trujillo.....	G. Gullo..... 9-5
5	.....6.....	Mach Seven	F. Jara	J. Parker..... 15-1
6	.....7.....	Battlefront	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Rodriguez..... 6-1

3RD (2:06PM). \$200,000, STK - THE WITH ANTICIPATION, 2 YO, 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Monster Bea.....	L. Saez.....	M. Casse..... 5-2
2	.....2.....	Azar	J. Velazquez.....	T. Pletcher..... 5-1
3	.....3.....	Runaway King.....	T. McCarthy.....	T. Ice..... 15-1
4	.....4.....	Next Shares.....	J. Rosario.....	W. Cowans..... 10-1
5	.....5.....	Site Read.....	J. Lezcano.....	W. Mott..... 2-1
6	.....6.....	Unbridled Daddy.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	T. Pletcher..... 7-2

4TH (2:39PM). \$83,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 6F

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Estelle	J. Alvarado.....	T. Albertrani..... 8-1
2	.....2.....	Nickname	J. Castellano.....	S. Asmussen..... 5-2
3	.....3.....	Sky My Sky	S. Bridgmohan.....	M. Casse..... 7-2
4	.....4.....	More That Lily.....	J. Leparoux.....	S. Asmussen..... 12-1
5	.....5.....	Game Girl	J. Lezcano.....	W. Mott..... 10-1
6	.....6.....	Mo's Ginny.....	L. Saez.....	T. Albertrani..... 15-1
7	.....7.....	J La Tache.....	K. Carmouche.....	H. Motion..... 2-1
8	.....8.....	Wicked Fun	E. Trujillo.....	L. Gyarmati..... 20-1

5TH (3:12PM). \$45,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 6, Daily Double				
1	.....4.....	Scout It Out.....	L. Saez.....	W. Ward..... 5-2
1a	.....7.....	Sanfiera.....	J. Rosario.....	W. Ward..... 5-2
2	.....1.....	Dulce de Leche.....	M. Franco.....	M. Dolce..... 15-1
3	.....2.....	Glare Ice.....	J. Ortiz.....	S. Asmussen..... 5-1
4	.....3.....	Arietta	E. Cancel.....	H. Bond..... 20-1
5	.....5.....	Wantagh Queen.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	E. Barker..... 10-1
6	.....6.....	Street Lass.....	S. Bridgmohan.....	G. Goodwin..... 12-1
7	.....8.....	Splendid Gold	C. Velasquez.....	L. Rice..... 3-1
8	.....9.....	Jamaalaree.....	E. Trujillo.....	J. Toner..... 6-1
9	.....10.....	Honeychild.....	K. Carmouche.....	J. Price..... 15-1
10	.....11.....	Northern Analyst.....	C. Sullivan.....	R. Lugovich..... 30-1
11	.....12.....	Sheepish	E. Feurtado.....	M. Shevy..... 30-1
12	.....MTO	Naughty Grace		J. Antonucci..... 5-1

6TH (3:45PM). \$47,000, CLM \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Transcend	M. Franco.....	B. Lynch..... 6-1
2	.....2.....	Blue Shark.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	D. Donk..... 5-1
3	.....3.....	Island Therapy	J. Velazquez.....	G. Gullo..... 9-2
4	.....4.....	Cajun Spirit	S. Bridgmohan.....	D. Stewart..... 20-1
5	.....5.....	Humboldt N Frost.....	L. Saez.....	D. Schettino..... 10-1
6	.....6.....	Baldonnel	J. Castellano.....	C. Brown..... 5-2
7	.....7.....	Let's Wrap It Up.....	A. Arroyo.....	P. Serpe..... 20-1
8	.....8.....	Downgoesfrazier	J. Rosario.....	C. Domino..... 15-1
9	.....9.....	Dendrite	K. Carmouche.....	C. Martin..... 30-1
10	.....10.....	Sarlef	E. Cancel.....	G. Delgado..... 8-1
11	.....11.....	Ulysses	J. Ortiz.....	E. Kenneally..... 8-1

7TH (4:18PM). \$73,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Louisville First.....	M. Franco.....	G. Weaver..... 6-1
2	.....2.....	Melodic	K. Carmouche.....	L. Gyarmati..... 10-1
3	.....3.....	Cotton Candy Cutie	L. Saez.....	B. Brown..... 8-1
4	.....4.....	Acapella	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	C. Brown..... 5-2
5	.....5.....	Persky's Spirit.....	A. Arroyo.....	J. Ortiz..... 30-1
6	.....6.....	Appian	S. Bridgmohan.....	J. Englehart..... 15-1
7	.....7.....	Ask the Lonely	J. Ortiz.....	M. Nevin..... 5-1
8	.....8.....	Great Lady.....	J. Alvarado.....	R. Schosberg..... 12-1
9	.....9.....	Buffalo Miss.....	E. Cancel.....	J. Terranova, II..... 12-1
10	.....10.....	Singsong.....	J. Castellano.....	J. Kimmel..... 7-2
11	.....AE.....	Surprise Cameo	J. Velazquez.....	T. Pletcher..... 3-1
12	.....AE.....	Frostie Anne	J. Ortiz.....	E. Kenneally..... 6-1
13	.....AE.....	Rock Garden	F. Jara.....	G. Contessa..... 4-1

8TH (4:52PM). \$51,000, CLM \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double				
1	.....4.....	Riviere Du Loup	J. Lezcano.....	J. Servis..... 6-1
1a	.....5.....	Boss Man	J. Lezcano.....	J. Servis..... 6-1
2	.....1.....	Iconic Artist.....	C. Velasquez.....	E. Voss..... 20-1
3	.....2.....	Marvino.....	J. Rosario.....	M. Maker..... 12-1
4	.....3.....	Defining Product	J. Ortiz.....	W. Heffner..... 20-1
5	.....6.....	Protection	L. Saez.....	J. Sheppard..... 10-1
6	.....7.....	Artie Crasher	M. Luzzi.....	D. Cannizzo..... 15-1
7	.....8.....	Market Outlook	K. Carmouche.....	C. Brown..... 3-1
8	.....9.....	Pep the Champ.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	A. Dutrow..... 5-1
9	.....10.....	Picozza.....	J. Castellano.....	T. Pletcher..... 7-2
10	.....11.....	Dontbetwithbruno	J. Velazquez.....	T. Pletcher..... 5-1

9TH (5:26PM). \$78,000, AOC \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F






Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double				
1	.....1.....	Towering Moon	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Rodriguez..... 8-1
2	.....2.....	Il Vagabondo	F. Jara.....	S. Green..... 30-1
3	.....3.....	Comandante.....	J. Castellano.....	T. Pletcher..... 5-2
4	.....4.....	Escape to the Moon	M. Franco.....	B. Brown..... 10-1
5	.....5.....	Onecats Chance	E. Trujillo.....	A. Quartarolo..... 20-1
6	.....6.....	Fox Rox.....	P. Rodriguez.....	M. Ferraro..... 15-1
7	.....7.....	So Noted.....	J. Rosario.....	C. Baker..... 5-1
8	.....8.....	Saratoga Heater	J. Bravo.....	A. Stall, Jr..... 6-1
9	.....9.....	Bond Vigilante.....	J. Ortiz.....	C. Brown..... 7-2
10	.....10.....	Saturday Appeal.....	J. Alvarado.....	R. Schosberg..... 12-1

10TH (6:00PM). \$47,000, CLM \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta				
1	.....1.....	Special Agent	E. Trujillo.....	G. Contessa..... 30-1
2	.....2.....	Winter's Gift	E. Cancel.....	W. Ward..... 12-1
3	.....3.....	Kerry Boy	S. Bridgmohan.....	G. Goodwin..... 50-1
4	.....4.....	Dynamic Decision	J. Leparoux.....	M. Casse..... 5-2
5	.....5.....	Trecastle.....	J. Rosario.....	M. Maker..... 8-1
6	.....6.....	My Friend Keith.....	J. Alvarado.....	W. Mott..... 12-1
7	.....7.....	Cody's Notes	R. Silvera.....	J. Morrison..... 15-1
8	.....8.....	Stevie's Moonshot.....	J. Castellano.....	T. Pletcher..... 7-2
9	.....9.....	Valuetempo	L. Saez.....	P. Serpe..... 10-1
1010.....	Chunnel.....	J. Lezcano.....	K. Streicher..... 8-1
1111.....	Reach for Yield.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	C. Brown..... 4-1

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the Power grid

Race #	 John Shapazian	 Tom Law	 Gaile Fitzgerald	 Charles Bedard	 Chad Summers
1	Gimme Five Mandola Overwhelming	Mandola Gimme Five Overwhelming	Overwhelming Gimme Five Mandola	Diplomat Overwhelming Plated	Diplomat Mandola Overwhelming
2	Asmussen entry Aleander Battlefront	Aleander Asmussen entry Chase Lane	Aleander Asmussen entry Battlefront	Aleander Mach Seven Chase Lane	Asmussen entry Aleander Chase Lane
3	Site Read Monster Bea Unbridled Daddy	Site Read Next Shares Unbridled Daddy	Site Read Unbridled Daddy Monster Bea	Site Read Monster Bea Next Shares	Site Read Unbridled Daddy Azar
4	J La Tache Sky My Sky Nickname	Nickname J La Tache Estelle	Nickname J La Tache Sky My Sky	Nickname J La Tache More That Lily	Nickname J La Tache Game Girl
5	Sanfiera Glare Ice Splendid Gold	Sanfiera Splendid Gold Glare Ice	Sanfiera Splendid Gold Jamaalaree	Glare Ice Jamaalaree Honeychild	Glare Ice Ward entry Wantagh Queen
6	Baldonnel Humboldt N Frost Transcend	Island Therapy Blue Shark Transcend	Baldonnel Island Therapy Transcend	Ulysses Baldonnel Island Therapy	Blue Shark Ulysses Island Therapy
7	Acapella Singsong Surprise Cameo	Frostie Anne Acapella Louisville First	Acapella Singsong Surprise Cameo	Surprise Cameo Cotton Candy Cutie Appian	Surprise Cameo Singsong Acapella
8	Picozza Market Outlook Servis entry	Pep The Champ Market Outlook Marvino	Servis entry Picozza Pep The Champ	Market Outlook Picozza Servis entry	Servis entry Artie Crasher Pep The Champ
9	Bond Vigilante Saratoga Heater Comandante	Saratoga Heater Comandante Bond Vigilante	Saratoga Heater So Noted Bond Vigilante	Comandante Fox Rox Towering Moon	So Noted Saratoga Heater Bond Vigilante
10	Dynamic Decision Stevie's Moonshot Reach For Yield	Trecastle Dynamic Decision Reach For Yield	Dynamic Decision Valuetempo Reach for Yield	Trecastle Dynamic Decision Valuetempo	Valuetempo Cody's Notes Reach For Yield
2015 Records:	95/349	83/349	96/349	76/349	80/349

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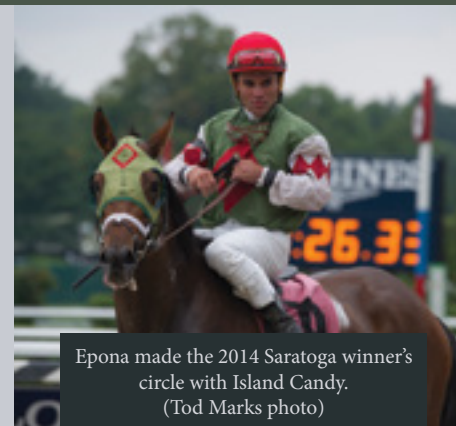
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Epona made the 2014 Saratoga winner's
circle with Island Candy.
(Tod Marks photo)

A Handful

Castellano sets mark with 5th Travers win

BY TERESA GENARO

Javier Castellano got a historic two-fer when he won the Travers last Saturday.

Not only did he beat Triple Crown winner American Pharoah, adding another name to the list of Triple Crown winners to come to Saratoga and lose, but Castellano also became the first jockey to win Saratoga's biggest race five times.

"It's very prestigious," he said Monday. "It's kind of hard to do, plus American Pharoah was in that competition. But thank God I did it. I'm very fortunate to be a part of it."

With the win, Castellano moved ahead of Braulio Baeza, Pat Day and Eddie Arcaro, who all won the Travers four times.

Continued On Page 16



Keen Ice and Javier Castellano charge past American Pharoah just before the finish line of Saturday's Travers, the jockey's fifth win in the Grade 1.

Tod Marks

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Notebook —

■ Continued from page 14

Going into the race, Castellano was aware that he'd set a new record if he won, but tried not to think about it.

"You go to the race and you focus yourself," he said. "You try to forget about everything else, so that you're more focused on winning the race than anything else. On paper, American Pharoah looked unbeatable. I thought nobody could beat him, especially because my horse comes from behind, and his horse is on the lead, which would make it more difficult to catch up to him."

Castellano's previous Travers wins came in 2006 with Bernardini, 2010 with Afleet Express, 2011 with Stay Thirsty, and 2014 with V. E. Day. Two, Bernardini and Stay Thirsty, were favored; those two were also father and son, making Castellano the answer to yet another racing trivia question.

Castellano's agent Matt Muzikar grew up in Saratoga and has been with Castellano for his last four Travers wins.

"To win one Travers is great," said Muzikar. "When we won two, it was tremendous. Three, amazing. And now to beat American Pharoah, and to have him break the record is a great thing."

Castellano said that former jockey Richie Migliore also pointed out that Castellano is the first jockey to win the Alabama, the Whitney, and the

Travers in the same Saratoga season.

And with six days left in the meet and eight graded stakes races to go, Castellano's probably not finished, and has a chance to do something he's never done.

"Maybe we can win the Hopeful, too," said Muzikar.

Tepin's Near-Misses

Less than a length separates the Casse barn from three stakes wins at Saratoga this summer.

Instead, Mark Casse and his son and assistant Norm had to watch last week as their fillies suffered two more excruciating losses, bringing their runner-up finishes at the meet to six. Friday, Conquest Superstep lost the Fleet Indian for New York-breds by a head. Saturday, it got even tougher.

"I don't know if we've ever had two worse beats, to be honest," said Norm, referring to Tepin's losses in graded stakes here this summer, the Grade 1 Diana by a nose July 25 and the Grade 2 Ballston Spa by a head Saturday.

"At the eighth pole you're almost saying, 'Oh, my God, we're going to win a Grade 1 at Saratoga,' and then out of nowhere you get nailed right on the wire."

Monday morning, Tepin stood placidly in her stall, eager to meet a visitor, lipping a jacket, nuzzling a hip, almost trying to provide that she is, as Norm puts it, "the sweetest horse to be around."

But on the racetrack, she's nearly ferocious, win or lose.

"She comes back exhausted," Casse said. "She is the epitome of a horse that tries, and she lays it all on the line for you."

She's got three wins in her five starts this year and is a neck away from being undefeated.

"She's the Heartbreak Kid," said Casse of the horse who looked like anything but, happy and social in her stall. "I think she was depressed [after her losses]. I do."

Winless and often not competitive last year, she's transformed, said Casse, after being teamed with jockey Julien Leparoux.

"She's been a whole different animal," he said. "He's really a big part of the equation."

On the year, the Casses have 94 wins and 88 seconds, but in the last month they've finished second so many times – about 25 – that they're good-naturedly throwing up their hands.

"We had such a good spring, and a good winter, too," said Norm, "that we knew at some point there was going to be a little lull."

Rosario, Bourbon Courage on mend

Joel Rosario continued to recover after Saturday's incident in which he was tossed from Bourbon Courage in the Forego. He was off his mounts Monday, but agent Ron Anderson hoped that he'd be back in the saddle today.

"We're lucky that he didn't get hurt worse," said Anderson.

Continued On Page 17



9 AWARD-WINNING PERFORMANCES!

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Notebook —

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As for what caused the incident, Anderson laughed when asked for details.

“That’s the multi-million dollar question,” he said.

Available camera angles show Bourbon Courage running toward the back of the field, then cut to a view right after the incident. Anderson said he thinks Rosario and Bourbon Courage clipped heels with Eric Cancel and Takajo, then Bourbon Courage’s back foot grabbed his front, causing the horse to somersault.

Bourbon Courage’s trainer Graham Motion doubts the incident was that extreme.

“He’d have been covered in dirt if he’d somersaulted,” said Motion. “He does have a nasty laceration on the back of his pastern from grabbing himself, though.”

Bourbon Courage is back at Motion’s Fair Hill base, enjoying the benefits of the saltwater spa and hyperbaric chamber. Motion thinks the horse will recover in short order from one of the stranger incidents the trainer has experienced.

“I never saw what happened,” he said. “But Bourbon Courage will be fine.”



Tod Marks

Bourbon Courage and Joel Rosario warm up before Saturday’s Forego.

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HUMBOLDT N FROST 3YO Gelding by Big Brown – Wednesday, Race 6

MeB Racing Stables & Brooklyn Boyz Stables, Owners | Paul Pompa Jr., Breeder
Dominick Schettino, Trainer

FROSTIE ANNE 2YO Filly by Frost Giant – Wednesday, Race 7

Marc Detampel, Fergus Galvin, Jayne Doi Johnson & Adrian Manserg Wallace, Owners
Mr. and Mrs. Grant Whitmer, Breeders | Eddie Kenneally, Trainer

COMANDANTE 5YO Gelding by Frost Giant – Wednesday, Race 9

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Good luck to everyone at Saratoga, but especially to the connections of our PICKS OF THE DAY!



So Long

High Noon Rider leads throughout in upset for Weaver

BY TOM LAW

George Weaver finished the post-race formalities after his fourth trip to the winner's circle in two days Monday, glanced over his shoulder as the replay of the \$100,000 Better Talk Now wound down and summed up what he saw in one word.

"Bye," Weaver said, the slight twang of his Louisville upbringing easy to pick out as he watched High Noon Rider pull away late for the second time to win the 1-mile turf stakes at Saratoga Race Course.

Weaver and owner Randy Hill watched the first time from their box just up from the winner's circle, pumping their arms, snapping their fingers, cheering enthusiastically and finally embracing as High Noon Rider said so long to the field as the longest price on the board at nearly 12-1. The Distorted Humor colt won by 3 1/2 lengths over 6-5 favorite A Lot to score for the first time since April at Gulfstream Park and get his first stakes score.

"The last two days have been a lot of fun," Weaver said, celebrating his second win Monday after also doubling Sunday. "It's good because I'm tired as hell. Thank goodness for the adrenaline rush."

High Noon Rider helped provide that needed push right from the start of the Better Talk Now.

Ninth last time in the Grade 2 National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame Stakes Aug. 7 in his



Dave Harmon

High Noon Rider (right) sets up on the lead early in Monday's Better Talk Now Stakes, one of two wins on the day for trainer George Weaver – and his fourth in two days.

first start since a fever in early July knocked him out of the Manila Stakes, High Noon Rider and Luis Saez took the initiative early and didn't give it up. Weaver and Hill were able to say their good-byes after High Noon Rider, given a chance against some of the East's top 3-year-olds in dirt stakes in South Florida this winter, got away with an easy early pace.

High Noon Rider clicked off early splits of :25.02 and :50.04, giving Hill and Weaver plenty of confidence, before coming home in splits of :23.26 and :22.36 to win in 1:35.66.

"This colt will try, try, try," Hill said. "I was interested in putting him on the lead today. I was talking to George and noticed that when Irad (Ortiz Jr.) won with him he won on the lead. George

said to Luis in the paddock, 'look, he's got natural speed, let him break, go.' When I saw :25 and :50 I was like, whew."

Weaver said he asked Saez to try and make the lead, but added that he wasn't going to hold the rider to those instructions if circumstances didn't allow it.

"Randy said he wanted to go to the front," said Weaver, who won with Play Unified and Wake Up In Malibu Sunday and with Saratoga Wildcat Monday. "We went to Luis, we didn't force him to do it but we told him, 'warm the horse up good away from the pony and make an attempt to make the lead. If you don't get it we won't be mad at you.'"

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Better Talk Now —

■ Continued from page 18

Saez followed instructions and High Noon Rider didn't give any reasons for anyone to be even the slightest bit miffed.

"Today, we warmed up good and the plan was to put him on the lead or be close second," Saez said. "He broke so sharp and we were comfortable. When I asked him coming to the stretch, he took off. He keeps running. You don't have to use the whip or nothing. He keeps going."

The only other time High Noon Rider raced on the lead was the race Hill mentioned, when Ortiz rode him to a maiden-breaking victory going 1 mile in an off-the-turf race last November at Aqueduct. He tried three straight main-track stakes after that, finishing third in the Springboard Mile at Remington Park and getting pulled up in the Grade 2 Holy Bull and fourth via disqualification in the Islamorada Stakes, both at Gulfstream.

Weaver went back to the turf before shipping the colt north to Saratoga, where he keeps the main part of his string from the spring through



High Noon Rider and his people celebrate in the winner's circle.

Tod Marks

fall on the Oklahoma Training Track. High Noon Rider responded with a second in the Cutler Bay Stakes and a win in an optional-claimer, both at Gulfstream.

After a sixth in the Grade 3 Penn Mile, Weaver pointed High Noon Rider to the July 12 Manila but was force to sit it out. Missing that race put High Noon Rider a bit behind for the Hall of Fame, where he finished 5 1/2 lengths behind Takeover Target.

"He was going to be one of the choices for the Manila at Belmont but

we had to scratch him. He had a fever," Weaver said. "We went into the Hall of Fame maybe not 100 percent back to action, but we wanted to try it."

"He's a nice horse and you've got to take your opportunities running against straight 3-year-olds while you can. I wanted to see what he'd do at a mile-and-a-sixteenth, it looked like he was doing well enough, but on top of that whatever he did we would get the fitness out of the race that would lead

us into this one."

Bred in Kentucky by the Niarchos Family's Flaxman Holdings and purchased by Hill for \$400,000 at the 2013 Keeneland September yearling sale, High Noon Rider is the fourth foal produced by the A.P. Indy mare Modesty Blaise. She's a full-sister to stakes winner and producer Tomisue's Indy and a half-sister to champion sprinter Aldebaran, Grade 1-winning turf horse Good Journey and Grade 3 turf stakes winner Sea Of Showers.

"I bought him at Keeneland, for a lot of money. It's coming back a little bit," Hill said. "It's a thrill. You don't get to come down here too many times when you're one of the little guys. I'm not Chad (Brown), I'm not Todd (Pletcher), you know?"

Reminded that not too many "little guys" wind up with \$400,000 yearlings by one of the leading sires of this decade out of one of the best families in the stud book, Hill continued to keep it light before heading off to Siro's to celebrate.

"Well, I just raised my hand," he said with a laugh and a final few words.

Yes, you guessed it.

"Bye now."

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Saratoga Wildcat breaks maiden in Monday's second race.

Dave Harmon

Doubling Up

Bona Venture Stables adds Monday victory to Sunday win

Another day, another victory at Saratoga Race Course for the owner-trainer team of Bona Venture Stables and George Weaver.

Saratoga Wildcat was Bona Venture's second win in as many days in the second race Monday at Saratoga and wound up as the third of four winners over the Sunday-Monday stretch for Weaver.

The 3-year-old D'wildcat gelding broke on the lead of the 6-furlong maiden special weight, repelled a challenge from Choir Director around the far turn and responded to a few left-handed cracks from Manuel Franco in the stretch to break his maiden in his fourth start.

"We were a little disappointed in his attitude last year because he just didn't want to play," said Dan Collins of Bona Venture Stables, which bought the gelding for \$110,000 at the 2014 OBS March sale of selected 2-year-olds in training.

Saratoga Wildcat added to a good run for Bona Venture, which also won the sixth race Sunday at Saratoga with Play Unified and a maiden special weight Tuesday at Finger Lakes with Bonaventure Magic.

Saratoga Wildcat was making his first start since a fifth on the inner track at Aqueduct in mid-December.

"It wasn't so much a concern off the layoff as much as it was first-time gelding. He was a handful last year," Collins said. "He had some really good breezes. We were confident he was pretty fast and he showed it. He's a different horse now."

Weaver doubled up later in the card when High Noon Rider recorded a front-running victory in the \$100,000 Better Talk Now Stakes. Weaver won two races Sunday with Wake Up In Malibu and Bona Venture's Play Unified.

— Billy Blake

MONDAY RACING RECAP

• Proven Commodity was anything but coming into the fourth race.

He'd finished fourth in his debut last August and only recently reappeared to break his maiden July 11 at Belmont Park. Although he won by 4 lengths that day, Proven Commodity was facing tougher company and stretching out from 6 furlongs to 7, a distance the connections were waiting for and a trip that suited his dam, Grade 2 winner Sahara Gold.

"We just were waiting for the right opportunity to run him up here," trainer Tom Albertrani said. "There were a couple of short races. We were just kind of waiting for a little longer race than his three-quarter race at Belmont, so it kind of worked out. The time in between really did him a lot of good."

Proven Commodity broke on top and established a clear lead up the backstretch, posting fractions of :22.77 and :45.07. Turning for home, the field started to converge as favorite Roll Tide Roll and longshot Hey Bro applied pressure. Juan And Bina made a wide run while Tennessee slipped up the rail. Despite the wall of pursuers, Proven Commodity dug in and held them all off, winning by 1 1/2 lengths.

"We were expecting another big performance today actually," Albertrani said. "He ran exactly what we were looking for. He showed a lot of determination. Turning for home, they looked like they were getting to him and once he felt them coming to him, he just took off again."

Although he expected a strong showing from Proven Commodity, Albertrani was nervous when the field turned for home.

"I was a little worried he was may-

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TILTING AT WINDMILLS GALLERY



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Monday —

■ Continued from page 20

be going to throw in the towel, but as soon as he felt them get near him, Luis said he took off again,” he said.

Proven Commodity was dismissed at 7-1, more than twice his 3-1 morning-line price.

— **Brandon Valvo**

- Trainer Brad Cox set the bar a little bit higher for his 2015 meet at Saratoga, looking to improve on his three wins last summer.

Mission accomplished after Believe In Bertie wired the field in his debut in the fifth race, a 1 1/16-mile maiden special weight on the grass. The victory was the fourth of the meet for Cox, whose main operation is based at Churchill Downs.

“To get the fourth win was big,” Cox said. “We’ve had a good meet. I’m very pleased with it.”

A homebred for Richard and Bertram Klein, the 2-year-old Langfuhr filly took command heading into the first turn and prevailed by 2 ½ lengths over On Leave. The way she won came as a slight surprise to Cox.

“The plan was to educate her,” said Cox. “The goal wasn’t really to win, but to give her a learning experience.”

Believe In Bertie will be among a string of 10 Cox plans to bring to Belmont Park this fall. She’ll run at Belmont or Cox might wait for the Keeneland fall meet in October

“We will let her tell us when she’s ready,” Cox said.

— **Billy Blake**

- Abigail Adsit was in the midst of a big day heading into the finale.

The trainer saw her first two runners, Ave’s Halo in the opener and Congenial in the eighth, finish third. Congenial was claimed for \$50,000 much to the delight of his owner, Nicholaos Panopoulos, who claimed the gelding for \$32,000 in his prior start Aug. 2.

Bettors dismissed Adsit’s third starter, Macher, at odds of 45-1 in the last race. The odds seemed warranted, considering in his only start July 19 the colt by Purim finished last of 12 and beaten 19 ½ lengths. Even though Macher never raced closer than 8 ½ lengths, Adsit was encour-



Dave Harmon

Believe In Bertie gives trainer Brad Cox his fourth win of 2015 meet in Monday’s fifth.

aged.

“It was the horse’s first start and as weird as it sounds, he still ran a decent race,” she said. “So it was just a matter of bringing him along and getting him to mature. He’s been training well and my assistant at Belmont, Scott (Acker), has done a very good job with him.”

Macher broke well in the 1 1/16-mile maiden claimer, rated close to the pace and in fifth along the hedge just 4 lengths from the leaders. Jockey Elvis Trujillo asked Macher around the far turn, he responded and made up ground along the rail. At the top of the lane, Macher put his nose in front and began to draw clear, pulling away to win by 5 3/4 lengths.

“We had an outside shot; that’s why he was in here,” Adsit said. “We gave him a shot to run here today. We always thought he was a grass horse, so now was his time. Really, it’s awesome. I’m blessed. It’s a wonderful feeling. Good to be surrounded by family and friends and to be able to get the job done here in my hometown.”

— **Brandon Valvo**

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MONDAY’S SARATOGA RESULTS

Monday August 31.

FIRST \$50,000, CLAIMING \$25,000, 3 YO’S & UP, 5 1/2F

5	Starship Pleasant	J. Lezcano	\$15.20	\$7.30	\$4.10
3	Sunrise Kitty	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$4.30	\$2.80
6	Ave's Halo	C. Velasquez			\$3.30

Ch Mare 2009, by Pleasant Tap - Britetonzmyday by High Brite

Owner: Servis, Jason. Trainer: Jason Servis.

Breeder: Bruce Smart (KY).

Late Scratches: Desert Valentine, Pura Vida Zen

Claimed: Ready for Summer claimed by Klesaris, Steve for \$25,000

Time: 1:01.64

Exacta (5-3), \$67.50; Superfecta (5-3-6-2), \$564.00; Trifecta (5-3-6), \$186.50

SECOND \$83,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 YO’S & UP, 6F

6	Saratoga Wildcat	M. Franco	\$13.80	\$8.10	\$4.50
4	Up My Alley	J. Ortiz		\$11.00	\$4.50
2	Kick Off	J. Lezcano			\$3.80

B Gelding 2012, by D'wildcat - Perfect Empire by Empire Maker

Owner: Bona Venture Stables. Trainer: George Weaver.

Breeder: Hardacre Farm LLC (FL).

Time: 1:10.65

Daily Double (5-6), \$120.00; Exacta (6-4), \$135.50; Quinella (4-6), \$68.50; Superfecta (6-4-2-1), \$1,920.00; Trifecta (6-4-2), \$535.00

THIRD \$75,000, NY-BRED ALLOWANCE, 3 YO’S & UP, 6F

2	First Service	J. Castellano	\$2.80	\$2.20	\$2.10
3	Myfourchix	J. Alvarado		\$2.90	\$2.20
1	My Super Nova	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$2.80

Ch Filly 2012, by Ghostzapper - Wings of Gold by Mineshaft

Owner: Gainesway Stable (Antony Beck). Trainer: Chad Brown.

Breeder: Eico Stable (NY).

Time: 1:10.55

Daily Double (6-2), \$21.80; Exacta (2-3), \$6.80; Superfecta (2-3-1-6), \$31.80; Trifecta (2-3-1), \$18.00; Pic 3 (5-6-2), \$319.50

FOURTH \$95,000, ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

5	Proven Commodity	L. Saez	\$17.40	\$7.50	\$5.10
7	Roll Tide Roll	J. Velazquez		\$3.70	\$2.30
6	Juan and Bina	J. Ortiz			\$2.80

Dk B/ Br Colt 2012, by Bernardini - Sahara Gold by Seeking the Gold

Owner: Godolphin Racing LLC. Trainer: Thomas Albertrani.

Breeder: Darley (KY).

Time: 1:22.72

Daily Double (2-5), \$21.80; Exacta (5-7), \$55.50; Quinella (5-7), \$25.00; Superfecta (5-7-6-1), \$1,065.00; Trifecta (5-7-6), \$203.50; Pic 3 (6-2-5), \$175.50

FIFTH \$83,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 1 1/16M

3	Believe in Bertie	S. Bridgmohan	\$13.40	\$5.20	\$4.00
7	On Leave	J. Ortiz		\$3.40	\$3.00
9	Lady Carrington	J. Castellano			\$5.70

Dk B/ Br Filly 2013, by Langfuhr - Saint Bertie by Street Cry (IRE)

Owner: Klein, Richard and Bertram. Trainer: Brad Cox.

Breeder: Richard Klein & Bertram Klein (LA).

Late Scratches: Lebowski, Tessio, Wessex

Time: 1:43.42

Daily Double (5-3), \$167.50; Exacta (3-7), \$56.00; Superfecta (3-7-9-1), \$2,467.00; Trifecta (3-7-9), \$415.00; Pic 3 (2-5-3), \$241.50; Pic 4 (6-2-5-3), \$1,340.00; Pic 5 (5-6-2-5-3), \$18,282.00

SIXTH \$56,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$75,000, 3 YO’S & UP, 1M

8	Strong Incentive	I. Ortiz, Jr.	\$8.00	\$3.90	\$3.00
1	Fine Instincts	J. Castellano		\$3.20	\$2.40
9	The Strip	J. Leparoux			\$5.50

B Filly 2012, by Warrior's Reward - G G's Dolly by Comic Strip

Owner: Klaravich Stables, Inc. and Lawrence, William H..

Trainer: Chad Brown.

Breeder: Spendthrift Farm LLC (ON).

Late Scratches: French Dressing

Time: 1:35.32

Daily Double (3-8), \$67.00; Exacta (8-1), \$22.60; Superfecta (8-1-9-4), \$670.00; Trifecta (8-1-9), \$121.00; Pic 3 (5-3-8), \$1,406.00

SEVENTH \$93,000, AOC \$80,000, 3 YO’S & UP, 1 1/8M

3	Distorted Beauty	J. Ortiz	\$14.60	\$6.20	\$3.60
1	Rosalind	J. Castellano		\$3.50	\$2.50
2	Crisolles (FR)	J. Leparoux			\$2.50

Ch Filly 2011, by Invador (ARG) - Very Funny by Distorted Humor

Owner: Bloodlines Racing Partnerships. Trainer: Bruce Levine.

Breeder: Dr. James Randall Mcglinn (NY).

Time: 1:47.70

Daily Double (8-3), \$55.00; Exacta (3-1), \$43.60; Superfecta (3-1-2-4), \$528.00; Trifecta (3-1-2), \$112.50; Pic 3 (3-8-3), \$471.00

EIGHTH \$62,000, CLAIMING \$40,000, 3 YO’S & UP, 1 1/8M

5	Prospero	J. Ortiz	\$6.10	\$4.00	\$2.80
1	Lieutenant Seany O	K. Carmouche		\$7.90	\$5.20
7	Congenial	L. Saez			\$6.00

Ch Gelding 2009, by Grand Reward - Miss Quick City by Carson City

Owner: Fortune Farm (Richard Nicolai) and Team Dunn.

Trainer: Jeremiah Englehart. Breeder: Rhianon Farms, Inc (KY).

Claimed: Prospero claimed by Moore, Carl R. for \$40,000, Looking Cool claimed by Misener, Arthur for \$40,000, Tizmas claimed by Blue Stork Stables for \$40,000

Time: 1:49.86

Daily Double (3-5), \$39.20; Exacta (5-1), \$46.80; Superfecta (5-1-7-3), \$496.50; Trifecta (5-1-7), \$208.00; Pic 3 (8-3-5), \$218.50

NINTH \$100,000, STAKES - BETTER TALK NOW S., 3 YO, 1M

2	High Noon Rider	L. Saez	\$25.20	\$7.60	\$3.20
1	A Lot	J. Alvarado		\$2.60	\$2.10
7	Nucifera	J. Velazquez			\$2.60

B Colt 2012, by Distorted Humor - Modesty Blaise by A.P. Indy

Owner: R. A. Hill Stable. Trainer: George Weaver.

Breeder: Flaxman Holdings Limited (KY).

Late Scratches: Tale of Life (JPN), Gorgeous Bird, Dujac

Time: 1:35.66

Daily Double (5-2), \$79.50; Exacta (2-1), \$59.00; Superfecta (2-1-7-6), \$433.40; Trifecta (2-1-7), \$138.00; Pic 3 (3-5-2), \$469.00.

TENTH. \$45,000. MDN 3&UP. CLM. PRICE \$40,000. 1 1/16 MILES TURF.

5	Macher	E. Trujillo	92.50	40.00	13.80
9	Invisible Crown	E. Cancel		8.90	7.90
4	Forty Purrs	J. Ortiz			7.30

Dk. B/Br. c. 2012, Purim-Emptress, Empire Maker.

Breeder: J.D. Squires and Frank Gardner (KY).

Owner: BHMF Racing. Trainer: Abby Adsit. Time: 1:41.30.

Late Scratches: Balfe's Corner, Furions Warrior, Tizacinch, Two Putt, Veya.

Exacta \$1,382. Trifecta \$20,127. Superfecta \$62,258. Pick 3 \$3,090. Pick 4 \$28,359. Pick 6 (4 correct) \$330.50. Double \$774.

Attendance: 16,061. On Track Handle: \$2,236,224.
Inter-State Handle: \$8,058,498
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MONDAY'S SARATOGA RESULTS PHOTOS

BY DAVE HARMON



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New Dimension

Lady Shipman rates behind pace, speeds to new 5 1/2-furlong mark

BY ANNISE MONTPLAISIR

You wouldn't guess Lady Shipman just set a course record in Sunday's \$100,000 Smart N Fancy Stakes—or that she had even run—if not for the sweat marks from her saddle. The 3-year-old filly appeared barely winded as she stood quietly in the commotion of the winner's circle. She didn't move a muscle as her connections gathered around and photographers snapped away. A valet pulled

off her saddle and she sauntered lazily to the hose to be sprayed off.

Moments before, Lady Shipman blazed through 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf in 1:00.46, shaving .13 seconds off the previous course record set by Fiddlers Patriot in 2010.

The bombardment of reporters after Lady Shipman's wins is old hat to trainer Kathleen O'Connell, as she's

Continued On Page 25



Tod Marks

Lady Shipman coasts home with a victory in Sunday's Smart N Fancy.

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Smart N Fancy —

■ Continued from page 24

visited the winner's circle six times this year with the Midshipman filly. Her most recent victory before the Smart N Fancy was also at Saratoga, where she dominated the Coronation Cup by 3 ¼ lengths Aug. 3.

"Her best asset's always been her mind," said O'Connell, who trains Lady Shipman for Randall Lowe's Ranlo Investments. "I mean if you look at her beginning races she went to six different places to run. Her demeanor's so good, and yet when the game's on, the game face comes on and she's running. So it's wonderful, very rarely do you find that and very rarely in a 3-year-old filly. And like I say, she's just been wonderful to be around."

Lady Shipman broke a step ahead of her older rivals before Tahnee bounded past for the early lead and an opening quarter-mile of :21.82. Lady Shipman rated patiently under Irad Ortiz Jr. before closing the gap between her and Tahnee as they rounded the far turn. Last year's Smart N Fancy winner Free As A Bird raced three wide as she attempted a late closing charge.

Lady Shipman dug in and floated to the front, leaving Tahnee and Free As A Bird to battle it out for the runner-up spot. Free As A Bird won that race and was 2 ¾ lengths behind the winner.

"She's fast and (O'Connell) told me whatever you want to do with her, she's sweet," Ortiz said. "So I break out of there and I got speed on the inside, so I don't want to chase them to much so I sit right there and relaxed really good and when we turned for home, and I asked her, she kicked off and won it easy."

O'Connell was not surprised that Lady Shipman rated rather than taking

the lead from the start.

"I asked him to use his own judgment," O'Connell said about Ortiz's ride. "I mean he's a good rider, she stayed off the pace at OBS (in the OBS Sprint Stakes), so it's not like she has to be in front. Nobody's really abused her or gotten into her the last part. Irad didn't today. I reminded him, because if he doesn't need her there's no sense squeezing the lemon."

Lowe, who bred the filly in Kentucky out of his Mutakddim mare Sumthingto-talkabt, made the trip again from his home in Los Angeles to watch Lady Shipman.

"This one, she takes the cake," Lowe said as he watched the replay in the winner's circle. "This is by far the best horse I've ever owned. I mean look at her, there she goes. And (Free As A Bird) figures they're going to go right on by, and they don't understand that she's got three gears on her, and when the closers come to her, she can come home just as fast as they can. If you look, she's holding them off the whole way. And then he's like 'wait, this is not supposed to happen, I'm supposed to be the closer. She's holding me off.'"

Lowe hopes to run Lady Shipman in the Breeder's Cup Turf Sprint this fall. He recently sold Lady Shipman's 2-year-old full-sister, Just Talkin, to Michael Dubb.

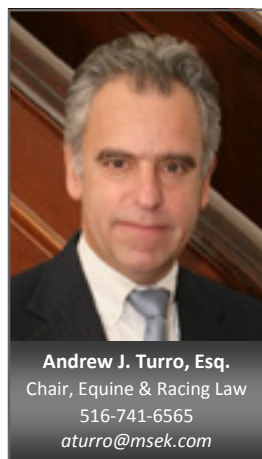
"I didn't know she had broken the track record until I actually looked up. I just saw her open up on the field. And from where we were sitting I just said 'now, now,' and then she just drew away in a hand ride."

"This puts away the fact that a lot of the people in the press say that she's a bona-fide frontrunner. She's not a bona-fide frontrunner. She can rate and I knew she could rate. She rated good at OBS, she rated in Maryland at Pimlico and here she is again."



Owner Randall Lowe greets his stakes winner.

Tod Marks



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Expected Trouble

Paddock antics don't slow Verger in second

Verger was hard to handle when he entered the paddock Sunday at Saratoga Race Course for the second race.

That was nothing new and Chad Brown, Saratoga's leading trainer heading into the final week of the 2015 meeting, expected it. Instead of sending Verger through the horse path that weaves its way through the crowds of the Saratoga backyard with only his groom to handle him, Brown sent one of his stable ponies along as an escort.

Verger and the pony, who was decked out in a blue saddle towel with Brown's signature white



Tod Marks

Verger draws clear to win Sunday's second.

"CB" stitching, was saddled without incident, but became increasingly difficult to lead as he made his way around the walking ring and out onto the track.

"He can be a little challenging to work around," Brown said. "But he does have some talent. We'll just continue to work with the horse."

Despite the pre-race antics, Verger's talent was on display when the starting gate opened. The 3-year-old Pulpit colt broke well and rode the hedge in midpack around the first of two turns in the 1-mile maiden claimer as Vitiate set ambitious fractions of :23.83, :48.20 and 1:12.63.

Turning for home, a spent Vitiate drifted wide and opened the rail for Verger to charge through. He took the lead outside the furlong marker and drew off to win by 3 1/4 lengths under a hand ride by Javier Castellano. The final time was 1:35.27.

The victory came in Verger's first start since Sept. 20, 2014 at Belmont Park. That race produced next-out winner and future Grade 1 winner Frosted, while Verger sprinted 6 furlongs on the dirt and finished 10th of 11. Sunday, Brown stretched Verger out and opted for a surface change.

"He won nicely," Brown said. "He's had some minor issues and took his time to get along. He just as an older horse started showing me signs that he was looking to get on the grass longer, so we gave it a shot and it worked."

— Brandon Valvo

• Play Unified set horseplayers into a frenzy as she set the pace and never looked back winning the sixth at 20-1. The 6-furlong maiden special weight

Continued On Page 27

Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS 1ST

Chad Brown	30
Todd Pletcher	26
Christophe Clement.....	14
Rudy Rodriguez	12
Bill Mott	12
Kiaran McLaughlin	11
George Weaver.....	10
Jeremiah Englehart	9
David Jacobson.....	9
Shug McGaughey.....	7
Linda Rice	7

JOCKEYS 1ST

Irad Ortiz Jr.	54
Javier Castellano	44
John Velazquez	40
Luis Saez.....	30
Jose Ortiz.....	30
Joel Rosario.....	21
Junior Alvarado.....	19
Jose Lezcano	15

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Sunday —

■ Continued from page 26

began the pick 6 that featured a carry-over of \$557,887 from Travers Day.

The 2-year-old daughter of Exchange Rate and first-time starter for Bona Venture Stables and trainer George Weaver, Play Unified set the pace and won by 2 1/4 lengths.

"We knew she was pretty quick from the first time we put her on the track," said Dan Collins of Bona Venture Stables. "I just didn't know she was that fast."

Collins bought the filly at this year's OBS June 2-year-olds in training sale.

She did not meet her reserve through the ring but was sold privately on the sales grounds for \$55,000.

"She (RNA'd) in the sale and we went back and bought her," Collins said of the filly, who breezed an eighth in :10 during presale workouts. "Our bloodstock agent Steve Venosa and George (Weaver) saw her and really liked the way she worked."

Play Unified stopped the clock at 1:10.95 in her winning debut.

"I don't think I had her 100% cranked," Weaver said. "But she has good speed and got the job done. We were very happy with what we saw."

Play Unified was one of two winners for Weaver Sunday.

He also won the third, a 7-furlong claiming race on the main track with Wake Up In Malibu, who was claimed for \$25,000 by trainer John Parisella and owners Saul and Max Kupferberg

— Billy Blake




Tod Marks

Play Unified gets big two-day stretch started for Bona Venture in Sunday's sixth.

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SUNDAY'S SARATOGA RESULTS

Sunday August 30.

FIRST \$25,000, CLAIMING \$12,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

2	Petrocelli	I. Ortiz, Jr.	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$2.30
5	Global Asset	K. Carmouche		\$4.40	\$2.40
6	Springcourt	F. Jara			\$2.70

B Gelding 2010, by Disco Rico - Squaw Valley by Indian Charlie

Owner: Iglesias, Jesse and Imperio, Michael.

Trainer: Gregory DiPrima. Breeder: Sage Stables (NY).

Late Scratches: Johannesburg Smile, Bellamy Brew, Life's a Roar

Claimed: Petrocelli claimed by Espinosa, Jairo A. for \$12,500, Springcourt claimed by Carl Lizza Racing Stables, LLC for \$12,500.

Time: 1:50.56. Exacta (2-5), \$29.60; Superfecta (2-5-6-4), \$121.00; Trifecta (2-5-6), \$100.50

SECOND \$56,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$75,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

2	Verger	J. Castellano	\$11.20	\$7.80	\$6.30
7	Moss Code	J. Alvarado		\$11.80	\$7.50
8	River of Dreams	K. Carmouche			\$15.00

B Colt 2012, by Pulpit - Check by Unbridled

Owner: Mr. and Mrs. William K. Warren, Jr.. Trainer: Chad Brown.

Breeder: Claiborne Farm (KY).

Claimed: Fourth of July claimed by Ramsey, Kenneth L. and Sarah K. for \$75,000. Time: 1:35.27

Daily Double (2-2), \$28.00; Exacta (2-7), \$110.00; Quinella (2-7), \$69.00; Superfecta (2-7-8-3), \$23,823.00; Trifecta (2-7-8), \$3,377.00

THIRD \$45,000, CLAIMING \$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

2	Wake Up in Malibu	M. Franco	\$11.60	\$4.90	\$3.20
1	Cleancut Kid	J. Velazquez		\$3.40	\$2.60
3	Groupthink	J. Ortiz			\$3.00

B Gelding 2011, by Malibu Moon - Wake Up Kiss by Cure the Blues

Owner: Jim and Susan Hill. Trainer: George Weaver.

Breeder: Edition Farm (NY). Late Scratches: Succesful Brothers

Claimed: Wake Up in Malibu claimed by Kupferberg, Saul J. and Max for \$35,000, Cleancut Kid claimed by Caprio, David for \$35,000

Time: 1:22.23

Daily Double (2-2), \$64.00; Exacta (2-1), \$32.20; Superfecta (2-1-3-4), \$111.50; Trifecta (2-1-3), \$71.00; Pic 3 (2-2-2), \$126.00

FOURTH \$83,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

5	Baublette	J. Ortiz	\$11.60	\$5.40	\$3.70
4	Shes a True Beauty	E. Cancel		\$5.10	\$3.30
3	Bird Sense	L. Saez			\$2.90

Ch Filly 2012, by Unbridled's Song - Bauble by Tale of the Cat

Owner: Merriebelle Stable. Trainer: Claude McGaughey III.

Breeder: JMI (KY). Time: 1:10.14

Daily Double (2-5), \$60.50; Exacta (5-4), \$60.50; Quinella (4-5), \$31.40; Superfecta (5-4-3-2), \$299.50; Trifecta (5-4-3), \$152.50; Pic 3 (2-2-5), \$344.00

FIFTH \$100,000, STAKES - SMART N FANCY S., 3 & UP, 5 1/2F

6	Lady Shipman	I. Ortiz, Jr.	\$2.80	\$2.10	\$2.10
2	Free as a Bird	J. Velazquez		\$2.50	\$2.10
3	Rumble Doll	J. Alvarado			\$3.40

Ch Filly 2012, by Midshipman - Sumthingtotalkabt by Mutakddim

Owner: Ranlo Investments LLC. Trainer: Kathleen O'Connell.

Breeder: Randall E. Lowe (KY). Time: 1:00.46

Daily Double (5-6), \$17.40; Exacta (6-2), \$5.80; Superfecta (6-2-3-1), \$34.80; Trifecta (6-2-3), \$15.40; Pic 3 (2-5-6), \$99.50; Pic 4 (2-2-5-6), \$583.00; Pic 5 (1/2/7-2-2-5-6), \$1,326.00

SIXTH \$83,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 6F

2	Play Unified	J. Ortiz	\$43.60	\$16.40	\$9.70
6	Welcoming	J. Leparoux		\$5.80	\$3.30
7	Castor	J. Velazquez			\$3.80

Gr/ro Filly 2013, by Exchange Rate - Carson City Sham by Carson City

Owner: Bona Venture Stables. Trainer: George Weaver.

Breeder: Keith Hernandez, Earl Hernandez & John Duvieilh (LA).

Late Scratches: Wicked Fun, Sky My Sky, J La Tache, She's Worth It, Nickname, Estelle, Wave of Glory. Time: 1:10.95

Daily Double (6-2), \$76.00; Exacta (2-6), \$270.50; Superfecta (2-6-7-9), \$1,948.00; Trifecta (2-6-7), \$1,051.00; Pic 3 (5-6-2), \$396.50

SEVENTH \$83,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 1 1/16M

4	Eidmilaad	I. Ortiz, Jr.	\$7.20	\$4.50	\$3.10
2	Its All Relevant	M. Franco		\$7.50	\$5.50
9	Dissident	J. Castellano			\$2.70

Ch Colt 2013, by Malibu Moon - Ruthian by Rahy

Owner: Shadwell Stable. Trainer: Chad Brown. Breeder: Payson Stud, Inc. (KY).

Late Scratches: Ifyousnoozeyoulose, Regal Kitten, War Order, Oscar Nominated, Next Shares. Time: 1:41.86

Daily Double (2-4), \$237.50; Exacta (4-2), \$65.50; Superfecta (4-2-9-6), \$1,101.00; Trifecta (4-2-9), \$214.50; Pic 3 (6-2-4), \$337.50

EIGHTH \$90,000, AOC \$62,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

8	Waco	E. Cancel	\$20.80	\$10.00	\$6.30
4	Ocean Knight	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$5.70	\$4.40
7	Doubledown Again	J. Ortiz			\$4.60

Dk B/ Br Gelding 2011, by Medaglia d'Oro - Sangrita by Mr. Greeley

Owner: Clifton, Jr., William, L.. Trainer: H. Bond.

Breeder: Dorothy A. Matz (KY). Late Scratches: Finding Candy.

Claimed: Doubledown Again claimed by Drawing Away Stable for \$62,500. Time: 1:15.54

Daily Double (4-8), \$127.50; Exacta (8-4), \$123.00; Superfecta (8-4-7-6), \$4,312.00; Trifecta (8-4-7), \$791.00; Pic 3 (2-4-8), \$2,602.00

NINTH \$62,000, CLAIMING \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M

2	Flashlight (IRE)	L. Saez	\$7.30	\$4.50	\$4.10
3	Midnight Notes	J. Lezcano		\$14.80	\$12.00
4	Saint Finian	S. Bridgmohan			\$21.00

B Horse 2010, by Shamardal - Jazzy Jan (IRE) by Royal Academy

Owner: Maharajh, Rajendra. Trainer: Brian Lynch.

Breeder: Gerry Smith (IRE). Late Scratches: Lieutenant Seany O, Congenial, Days Ride

Claimed: Flashlight (IRE) claimed by Hui, Michael M. for \$40,000, Honor the Kitten claimed by Schera, Matthew for \$40,000, Shock Leader claimed by Landers, Steve for \$40,000. Time: 1:40.50

Daily Double (8-2), \$103.50; Exacta (2-3), \$99.00; Superfecta (2-3-4-1), \$9,771.00; Trifecta (2-3-4), \$1,566.00; Pic 3 (4-8-2), \$565.00

TENTH \$90,000, AOC \$62,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M

11	Feathered	J. Castellano	\$4.30	\$2.50	\$2.30
1	Chocolatier (FR)	K. Carmouche		\$4.70	\$3.40
7	Flamingo Lane	J. Ortiz			\$4.30

B Filly 2012, by Indian Charlie - Receipt by Dynaformer

Owner: Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners. Trainer: Todd Pletcher. Breeder: Teresa Viola Racing Stable (KY).

Late Scratches: Sustainable, Natalie Victoria. Time: 1:40.97

Daily Double (2-11), \$24.60; Exacta (11-1), \$22.80; Superfecta (11-1-7-10), \$642.00; Trifecta (11-1-7), \$153.50; Pic 3 (8-2-11), \$284.00; Place Pix Nine (2,4,9,11,12,13/1,4,7,8/2,3,4/4), \$44.20

ELEVENTH \$47,000, CLAIMING \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

5	Daisy Cutter	C. Velasquez	\$20.20	\$9.20	\$6.00
7	Killarney Rose	J. Velazquez		\$6.00	\$4.60
3	Jadam	J. Alvarado			\$11.00

Dk B/ Br Filly 2012, by Bellamy Road - Five Second Fuse by Forestry

Owner: Tic Stables. Trainer: Linda Rice. Breeder: TIC Stables (NY).

Late Scratches: Moon Medal, Egyptian Magic, Gimme Jimmy, Lovely Lanie. Time: 1:37.05

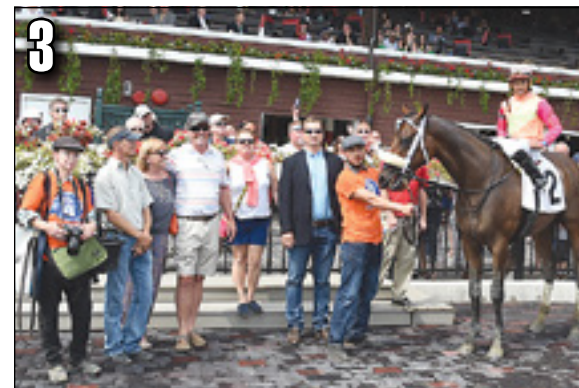
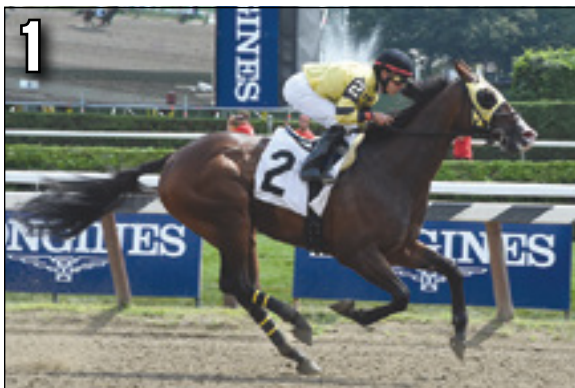
Daily Double (11-5), \$77.50; Exacta (5-7), \$136.50; Superfecta (5-7-3-1), \$8,656.00; Trifecta (5-7-3), \$1,380.00; Pic 3 (2-11-5), \$241.00; Pic 4 (8-2-4/8/11-5), \$2,793.00; Pic 6 (2-4-8-2-4/8/11-5), \$2,218.00; Pic 6 (2-4-8-2-4/8/11-5), \$831,237.00

On Track Handle: 3,861,164. Inter-State Handle: 14,437,395

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SUNDAY'S SARATOGA RESULTS PHOTOS

BY DAVE HARMON



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Welcome Home

Edgar Prado returned to Saratoga to win the Grade 1 King's Bishop on the Travers undercard Saturday.

The Hall of Fame jockey allowed Runhappy to gradually reach the lead from the outside post, it could have taken strides but Prado doled it out over 2 furlongs. Runhappy opened up 2 lengths on the turn, but Prado still sat like a bee was buzzing around his ear. Straightening into the stretch, Prado began to pump, rhythmical, steady, elbows low like always, weight deep in his heels, butt down, a commercial for core strength. Prado waved his whip right-handed, smacked the longshot twice and hand-rode him to the wire. At the wire, Prado stood up, no pump, no celebration, just another notch on his belt, another line on his Hall of Fame plaque.

The race took 1:21.54. The walk back to the jocks' room took much longer.

Pristine and clean in red, white and blue silks, Prado walked, next to a Pinkerton. The crowd cheered, like raindrops off an umbrella. "Edgarrrrrrr." Prado stopped for an autograph, scribbling across the 11 line on the King's Bishop page of a program. Prado walked a step, then stopped. "Great ride, Edgar." He posed with a man in a baseball hat holding a can of Heineken. "How about Edgar winning a Grade 1." Prado leaned down and put his arm around a kid in a Red Sox jersey. "Edgar. Edgar. Edgar." A skinny blond in cut off shorts told him she loved him. He said, simply, "Thank you." He posed in a photo, "for Tasha." A guy tried to take a photo and had the phone shooting the wrong way, Prado waited. "Edgar, you're the best, you made me a lot of money in my day, you really did." Prado smiled. "Edgar, you made a lot of money for yourself." Prado walked a step, then stopped, walked two steps and stopped. "Love you buddy." A teenager, with a backward baseball hat and an Abercrombie & Fitch T-shirt posed awkwardly, but proudly. God Bless America rang through the speakers.



It was a long walk – Saratoga's version of the guard of honour.

It took Prado 11 minutes to walk from the grandstand to the apron of the jocks' room, finally signing his last autograph across American Pharoah's photo on the front of the Travers Day program. Prado walked into the covered aisle of the jocks' room and that's when the honors got higher – from Prado's peers, from his comrades. Spanish, Irish and American valets high-fived him on their way to saddle horses for the Forego. Then the jockeys for the Forego answered clerk of scales Tim Kelly's order to leave the jocks' room, meeting Prado at the door. The breadth of Prado's achievement, his career, resonated loud and clear. There is nothing like peer approval. California-based Martin Pedroza shoulder bumped Prado. New York-based John Velazquez bear-hugged him. Eighteen-year-old Eric Cancel shook his hand and smiled, a boy to a man. Brothers Irad and Jose Ortiz fist bumped and high-fived him. French-born Julien Leparoux spoke English.

Jose Lezcano spoke Spanish. Panamanian Cornelio Velasquez combined the two. Twelve jockeys walked out of the room and 12 jockeys congratulated Prado.

He took a deep breath.

"It feels great. I've been blessed so many times in my career, to come back here and win a Grade 1 here, it's another great experience, another blessing in my career," Prado said. "I rode a lot of great horses, met a lot of great people here, to come back and win a Grade 1 for new connections, it's special."

Prado dominated Maryland racing from 1991 to 1998, before venturing to Saratoga in 1999. He won three Saratoga riding titles (2002, 2005, 2006) to go along with titles at Belmont and Aqueduct. He won the Whitney, Travers, Alabama, Ballerina, Vanderbilt, Adirondack, Ballston Spa, Diana, Forego, Glens Falls, Jim Dandy, King's Bishop, Lake George, Lake Placid, Saratoga Special, Test, Woodward...you get the drift.

And then he didn't. Prado's business dwindled. He left the New York circuit to ride on the Florida circuit year round.

"It's like taking a fish out of the water, a bird without a wing, I totally miss it a lot but it is what it is," Prado said. "I don't accept it, you don't accept something being taken away, something you love so much, but you've got to go with the flow, if I accepted it, I couldn't come here. I still can ride, I can still deliver the job. I need the horse to do it."

Runhappy was the horse, leaping out of an allowance race at Ellis Park to win a Grade 1 stakes at Saratoga. Just like old times, Prado was back at the top.

"I tried to just ride him past the wire," Prado said, "Then I had a great feeling in my heart, just blessed again."

Blessed for the win and blessed by the response to his return to Saratoga.

"It feels great, to have friends, it's such a competitive game, it's nice to have friends care about you," Prado said. "You have to treat this game with respect, but you have to earn the respect, too."



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