

# Her Majesty



**Queen Of The Creek rolls in division of Riskaverse Stakes**

Tod Marks



# here&there... at Saratoga



Tod Marks

**Made in the Shade.** The crowd stayed out of the sun Thursday in the backyard.

## WORTH REPEATING The Special quotes from Saratoga

*"And how."*

Trainer Will Phipps, when asked if it was a relief to win his first race at the meet

*"Same result."*

Motion Stable's John Panagot, after watching the replay of the Ballston Spa when Silver Reunion finished second

*"The sombrero has been found. Give this \$10 to Jack."*

Fruit Man, after retrieving his stolen sombrero and paying off the reward to Jack Clancy who helped find the scofflaw

*"You said that before."*

Paddy Young, on Wednesday, when reminded that he was the first jump jockey in history to ride first call for Tom Voss and not win a race at Saratoga (he won the last steeplechase of the meet Thursday)

*"This game will make you talk to yourself."*

Agent Matt Muzikar

### License Plate of the Day

PLC2BE, New York.

### By the Numbers

**6:** Feed tubs in a Godolphin golfcart Thursday morning.

**0:** Number of falls in five steeplechase races during the meet.

### Names of the Day

**Five Boroughs**, first race. The 5-year-old is out of I Love New York.

**Hangingbyathread**, third race. About the way we feel at the end of the meet.

**Litigating**, sixth race. The Peter Vegso homebred is by Point Given out of Mediation.

**British Banker**, seventh race. The 4-year-old is by Touch Gold, out of Collect The Cash.

The **SARATOGA** Special

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Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
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— Lee Hills, Pulitzer Prize winner,  
Knight Ridder chief executive, in 1974

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*"Nobody gets hurt."*

Agent Roger Sutton before telling a story

*"If you can't be good, be lucky."*

Handicapper Don Nichols, after making a \$30 profit betting on the wrong horse Wednesday

*"I've got a number for you – one; pony trying to bust out of the pony stall."*

Trish McLaughlin, evidently bucking for a job as Here and There editor, after seeing a lead pony play rodeo horse Thursday morning

## Weather

**Today:** Sun in the morning, clouds in the afternoon. High 86.

**Tonight:** Cloudy early. Low 64.

**Saturday:** Sun and clouds. High 72, low 53. **Sunday:** Partly sunny. High 68, low 52.

**Monday:** Lots of sun. High 71, low 51.

## Just Sayin'

*"At least I have Yankees tickets."*

Jockey Javier Castellano after winning with  
Fancy Point, owned the Steinbrenner family, Wednesday

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MONDAY TO FRIDAY BY APPOINTMENT

# 14 two-year-old winners in 2010



• **Uncle Mo on Travers Day at Saratoga**  
for Mike Repole and Todd Pletcher

• **Third Chance at Arlington Park**  
for Ron Magers and James Divito

• **Sunday Splitsville at Saratoga**  
for Mike Repole and Todd Pletcher

• **Another Silver Oak, 3rd in the Sanford at Saratoga**  
for Mike Repole and Todd Pletcher.

• **Loving Dove at Monmouth Park**  
for Red Oak Farm and Gregory Sacco.

• **Gamblin Geraldine at Belmont Park**  
for Mike Repole and Todd Pletcher.

• **K.R.'s Jazz at Monmouth Park**  
for A Woman's Thing and Mary Hartman.

• **Saratoga Louie at Monmouth Park**  
for Gary Barber and Peter Miller

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# Ready boys?

## Two-year-old colts advance to try turf stakes

BY SEAN CLANCY

**T**he Grade III With Anticipation attracted a full field of juveniles. With that full field comes a full field of questions.

Lou Brissie and Sensational Slam own stakes wins; neither on turf. Typhoon Slew, Powhatan County, Air Support and Silver Medallion have wins on the turf; none of them past the maiden ranks. Grigio, Manchurian High and Soldat are still maidens. Kid Curry won a maiden claimer and makes his turf debut.

Neil Howard opted out of the dirt stakes division with Dogwood Stable's Lou Brissie and introduces turf to the Grade III stakes winner.

The son of Limehouse won his first two starts including the Grade III Kentucky Juvenile at Churchill Downs. He slammed into Kantharos in his next start, when a well-beaten second in the Grade III Bashford Manor, and then finished fourth in the Grade II Sanford opening weekend. Lou Brissie makes his much anticipated first start around two turns. Alan Garcia picks up the ride from the injured Robby Albarado.

Todd Pletcher attempts the turf for the first time with the undefeated Sensa-

tional Sam. Owned by Bobby Flay, the son of Grand Slam has capitalized on his Ontario-breeding eligibility by winning the Clarendon and the Vandal over Woodbine's Polytrack surface. Sensational Slam breezed 5 furlongs in 1:01 over the Oklahoma turf in preparation for this assignment. John Velazquez rides for the first time.

Silver Medallion, Air Support and Powhatan County graduated over the Saratoga turf this summer.

Chad Brown sent out TYB Stable's Silver Medallion to a game win on the turf earlier in the meet. The son of Badge Of Silver tracked the leaders before winning a fight – bumping included – with Forum. Garrett Gomez steps in for Velazquez who rides Sensational Slam for his main client Todd Pletcher.

"I'm looking for him to move forward a bit, he needs to come forward," Brown said. "I liked his maiden win and if he moves forward a bit, he'll be competitive. Most of my horses develop as we go along and he acts like the type that will cooperate and do that."

Brown entered Silver Medallion confidently in his debut and then quickly began to lose confidence in the paddock as Silver Medallion succumbed to the pressure.



Tod Marks

**Sensational Slam tries to win the third stakes of his young career.**

"I was a little worried about him in the paddock, he was coming unglued a bit, and I didn't see that coming from him," Brown said. "I was worried he had burned too much energy in the paddock, he had a bad post, we got hung out there in the first turn, I was thinking, 'Man, this day is not going right

for this horse.' When he still won, I was impressed, I know the time wasn't real fast, but considering everything that happened to him, he could have run much better than that."

Silver Medallion bumped and battled Forum to a nose decision. The latter re-

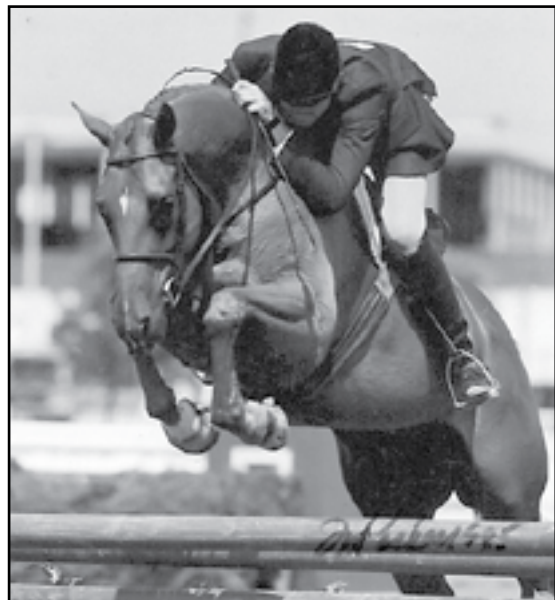
See **WITH ANTICIPATION** page 6



**Cape Crusader, Academy Award**



**Sunday Social, by It's Freezing**



**Arkus, by Lil E. Tee**



**Moonshine, by Key To The Mint**

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# With Anticipation —

■ Continued from page 4

turned to break his maiden later in the meet.

"He could have packed it in down the lane but he fought on and beat that horse, I like the horse quite a bit, he's sound and doing well," Brown said. "I wanted to run him in the Pilgrim but it's too far to train him up to, so I figured we'd run him in here."

Powhatan County made his debut at Keeneland before trainer George Weaver put him away for his turf debut at Saratoga which he duly won. Owned by Richlyn Farm, the son of Fusaichi Pegasus shipped to Monmouth 17 days later for the Continental Mile and was upset as the favorite. He finished fourth but was moved up to third after bumping late in the stretch. Weaver brushes that off and wheels him back in 19 days. Javier Castellano, aboard for the maiden win, reunites with Powhatan County.

How does Weaver know that race didn't take too much out of him?

"I don't. I don't know. He's a nifty horse, he's doing really well, I hope that race didn't take a toll out of him, he doesn't act like it did in the morning," Weaver said. "We were the favorite in the race and I thought he was doing well, sometimes it's easier to run them than train them, we thought about waiting for this race and that's how a lot of trainers do it these days, I just felt like he was doing great, he's going to be the favorite in a \$100,000 stake, let's run here and worry about the With Anticipation when it comes up."

Shug McGaughey thought about the With Anticipation as soon as Air Support broke his maiden Aug. 13. The Stuart Janney homebred made his debut on the dirt at Belmont, finished a deceptively good fifth and then pounced when switched to the turf. He stalked after a quarter in 22 3/5 seconds and a half in 45 4/5. The son of Smart Strike hit the lead and withstood a late rally from With Anticipation starter Grigio.



Tod Marks

Powhatan County comes in off a win over the course for trainer George Weaver.

"He came out of his last race good. He was a little green, chased a pretty hot pace, we'll see where he fits in this scheme of things. I think he can step it up, he had a real good work the other day. For him to learn how to run, he's got to run," McGaughey said. "I've liked him all along, I was hoping he would be farther along than this, he shed his frogs at Belmont, I lost a little time with him. Obviously, I hope he wins, but hopefully it'll move him closer to where I want him to be. The race helped him a lot physically, he's starting to shape up. Instead of being a dumpy 2-year-old, he's starting to look like I thought he would look."

Typhoon Slew represents owner Joseph LaCombe and trainer Mike Maker. The Stormy Atlantic colt crushed maidens at Ellis Park in his most recent start. Julien Leparoux rides.

Don Adam's Grigio nearly ran down Air Support in his turf debut but fell a nose short for trainer Jim Baker and jockey Calvin Borel.

Trainer Will Phipps, who upset the sister stakes (the P.G. Johnson) with a maiden, entered Bluegrass Empire Stable's Manchurian High. He finished a distant third in Kantharos' runaway Saratoga Special victory. Freddie Lenclud has the call.

Stan Hough introduces Kid Curry to the turf. Owned by the trainer and Robert Sahn, the son of Posse took an off-the-turf maiden claimer opening week. Cornelio Velasquez has the return call.

Kiaran McLaughlin entered maiden Soldat for owners Harvey Clarke and Craig Robertson. Second twice on the dirt, he makes his turf debut under Alan Garcia.



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Cat Country	Not For Love
Cherokee's Boy	Oh Say
Citidancer	One Golf Sierra
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Hawk in Flight	Smart Guy
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Ivory Frontier (Ire)	Tamayaz
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Race #

**1**

Rice Entry  
Idol Image  
Scibelli

Rice entry  
Idol Image  
Scibelli

Rice Entry  
Scibelli  
Five Boroughs

Money's Sweet  
Scale  
Zone Breaker

Money's Sweet  
Idol Image  
Scibelli

**2**

Pletcher Entry  
Forest Whip  
Rockabella Song

Nolita  
Forest Whip  
Rockabella Song

Pletcher Entry  
Nolita  
Rockabella Song

Thatgirl  
Nolita  
Forest Whip

Thatagirl  
Hurricane Barb  
Ready and Good

**3**

My Dinah  
Banker's Buy  
Wicked Diva

Banker's Buy  
Don't Forget Gil  
Wicked Diva

Banker's Buy  
Wicked Diva  
My Dinah

Wicked Diva  
Banker's Buy  
My Dinah

Banker's Buy  
Wicked Diva  
Don't Forget Gil

**4**

Eire's Run  
City Sneakers  
Cookram Rock

Dos Hombres  
Shekomeko Son  
Cookram Rock

Cookram Rock  
City Sneakers  
Hangingbyathread

Eire's Run  
City Sneaker  
Cookram Rock

Cookram Rock  
Hangingbyathread  
Shekomeko Son

**5**

Elusive Raven  
Simply Delightful  
Overseas Market

Overseas Market  
Elusive Raven  
Palooza

Elusive Raven  
Overseas Market  
Indian Lilly

Elusive Raven  
Overseas Market  
Simply Delightful

Elusive Raven  
Overseas Market  
Plastique

**6**

Buster's Ready  
Rhondda Gardens  
Litigating

Litigating  
Town Flirt  
Hungry Island

Niji's Grand Girl  
Town Flirt  
Litigating

Sassy Strike  
Litigating  
Hungry Island

Flying Vision  
Litigating  
Winter Memories

**7**

Make Note  
British Banker  
Tripp O Steel

Montana Knight  
Bold Vindication  
British Banker

Tripp O Steel  
Bold Vindication  
British Banker

Make Note  
Tripp O Steel  
Worthy Wager

Tripp O Steel  
Separatist  
Montana Knight

**8**

Madman Diaries  
Powhatan County  
Typhoon Slew

Powhatan County  
Sensational Slam  
Air Support

Powhatan County  
Grigio  
Manchurian High

Powhatan County  
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Soldat

Powhatan County  
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Lou Brissie

**9**

Heritage Hall  
Cheyenne Nation  
Silver Mountain

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Prince Will I Am

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## FRIDAY'S SARATOGA ENTRIES

**Friday, September 3.** Post Time 2:30 p.m. Entries with program number, post position, jockey, trainer, and morning-line odds.

### 1ST (2:30) 6 FURLONGS 3&UP CLAIMING (\$10,000) PURSE: \$18,000

1	1	Money's Sweet	Garcia Alan	Rice Linda	6-5
1A	7	Scale	Dominguez R A	Rice Linda	6-5
2	2	Ashley's Mission	Chavez J F	Alvarez Luis C	30-1
3	3	Seis de Mayo	Lezcano A	Toscano John T	20-1
4	4	Five Boroughs	Bridgmohan S X	Reynolds Patrick	15-1
5	5	Idol Image	Lenclud F	Martin Carlos F	4-1
6	6	Living for This	Santiago V	Sciacca Gary	15-1
7	8	Zone Breaker	Cohen D	Brown Bruce R	7-2
8	9	Gimmee Getme	Bridgmohan J V	Martin Frank	30-1
9	10	Scibelli	Hole T M	Shevy Michael J	6-1

A-Coupled: Money's Sweet and Scale

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 Races (1-3), Daily Double

### 2ND (3:03) 6 FURLONGS FILLIES 2YO MDN CLM (\$60,000 - \$50,000) PURSE: \$32,000

1	3	Ready and Good	Castellano J J	Pletcher Todd A	5-2
1A	6	Flying Train	Velazquez J R	Pletcher Todd A	5-2
2	1	Thatagirl	Maragh R	Contessa Gary C	7-2
3	2	Hurricane Barb	Velasquez C	Rice Linda	6-1
4	4	Forest Whip	Desormeaux K J	Mott William I	4-1
5	5	Rockabella Song	Prado E S	Motion H Graham	10-1
6	7	Nolita	Dominguez R A	Rice Linda	3-1
7	8	Henny's Hurricane	Leparoux J R	McPeek Kenneth	15-1

A-Coupled: Ready and Good and Flying Train

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pick 3 Races (2-4), Pick 4 Races (2-5)

Daily Double

### 3RD (3:36) SARATOGA DEW STAKES. 1 1/8 MILES NY BRED F&M 3&UP PURSE: \$70,000

1	1	Don't Forget Gil	Castellano J J	Hennig Mark	3-1
2	3	Landlash	Velazquez J R	Gyarmati Leah	10-1
3	2	Banker's Buy	Lezcano J	Zito Nicholas P	2-1
4	4	My Dinah	Espinoza J L	Feron Kathleen M	5-2
5	5	Wicked Diva	Dominguez R A	Hushion Michael E	4-1
6	6	Big Brownie	Hill C	Pugh Peter D	15-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 Races (3-5), Daily Double

### 4TH (4:09) 1 3/16 MILES (TURF) NY BRED 3&UP ALLOW/OC (\$25,000) PURSE: \$43,000

1	1	Hangingbyathread	Castellano J J	Brown Bruce R	6-1
2	2	Dontstealmyland	Leparoux J R	Metivier Richard	15-1
3	3	Adirondack Warrior	Prado E S	Ubillo Rodrigo A	12-1
4	4	City Sneakers	Dominguez R A	Rice Linda	7-2
5	5	Dos Hombres	Espinoza J L	Schettino Dominick	10-1
6	6	Gamblin Fever	Velasquez C	Ortiz Paulino O	8-1
7	7	Tom Kitten	Garcia Alan	Benzel Seth	8-1
8	8	Elder Skatesman	Lezcano A	Allyn William F	30-1
9	9	Too Amenable	Lezcano J	Jerkens H Allen	10-1
10	10	Shekomeko Son	Maragh R	Clement Christophe	8-1
11	11	Union Army	Hill C	Fisher Jack	30-1
12	12	Cookram Rock	Velazquez J R	Benzel Seth	9-2
13	MTO	Tommasi		Jacobson David	7-2
14	MTO	Eire's Run	Dominguez R A	Rice Linda	3-1
15	MTO	Goodbyeandgoodluck	Lenclud F	Hertler John O	5-1
16	MTO	Raffinator	Prado E S	Ryerson James T	6-1

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Super (.10), Pick 3 Races (4-6)

Pick 6 Races (4-9), Daily Double

### 5TH (4:42) 5 1/2 FURLONGS FILLIES 2YO MAIDEN PURSE: \$50,000

1	1	Overseas Market	Dominguez R A	Violette, Jr. R A	2-1
2	2	Trufast	Prado E S	Kimmel John C	8-1
3	3	Simply Delightful	Bridgmohan S X	Asmussen Steven	5-1
4	4	Indian Lilly	Lezcano J	Brown Chad C	8-1
5	5	Elusive Raven	Velazquez J R	Pletcher Todd A	5-2
6	6	Deja Blu	Leparoux J R	Mott William I	8-1
7	7	Palooza	Castellano J J	Albertrani Thomas	12-1
8	8	Plastique	Maragh R	Clement Christophe	12-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Super (.10), Pick 3 Races (5-7), Grand Slam Races (5-8)

Daily Double

### 6TH (5:15) 1 1/16 MILES (TURF) FILLIES 2YO MAIDEN PURSE: \$51,000

1	1	Sassy Strike	Prado E S	McPeek Kenneth	12-1
2	2	Litigating	Maragh R	Mott William I	7-2
3	3	Flying Vision	Borel C H	Romans Dale	12-1
4	4	Winter Memories	Lezcano J	Toner James J	8-1
5	5	Hungry Island	Velasquez C	McGaughey III C	0-1
6	6	Town Flirt	Dominguez R A	Rice Linda	5-1
7	7	Classy Touch	Desormeaux K J	Mott William I	8-1
8	8	Warrior Czarina	Leparoux J R	Maker Michael J	15-1
9	9	Buster's Ready	Velasquez J R	Pletcher Todd A	4-1
10	10	Bangzoomtothemoon	Castellano J J	Schettino Dominick A	6-1
11	AE	Niji's Grand Girl	Leparoux J R	McPeek Kenneth	4-1
12	MTO	Rhondda Gardens	Leparoux J R	McPeek Kenneth	6-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Super (.10), Pick 3 Races (6-8), Pick 4 Races (6-9)

Daily Double

### 7TH (5:48) 1 MILE (INNER TURF) 3&UP CLM (\$25,000) PURSE: \$29,000

1	1	British Banker	Dominguez R A	Brown Chad C	4-1
2	2	Tripp O Steel	Gomez G K	Proctor Thomas F	5-1
3	3	Bold Vindication	Velazquez J R	Sciacca Gary	6-1
4	4	Separatist	Castellano J J	Tagg Barclay	9-2
5	5	Ziptronic	Garcia Alan	Rice Linda	10-1
6	6	Dixie Nite Out	Maragh R	Contessa Gary C	15-1
7	7	Worthy Wager	Velasquez C	Jerkens H Allen	15-1
8	8	Count Catamount	Cohen D	Tannuzzo Michael	20-1
9	9	Montana Knight	Hill C	Hushion Michael E	5-1
10	10	Indy Scent	Lezcano J	Mott William I	6-1
11	AE	Chancellery	Desormeaux K J	Boniface Kevin C	20-1
12	MTO	Make Note	Lezcano J	Weaver George	3-1
13	MTO	Brazen Kat	Maragh R	Duggan David P	8-1
14	MTO	Jimmy Vegas	Dominguez R A	Rice Linda	4-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Super (.10), Pick 3 Races (7-9), Daily Double

### 8TH (6:22) WITH ANTICIPATION S. (G3) 1 1/16 MILES (TURF) 2YO PURSE: \$100,000

1	1	Typhoon Slew	Leparoux J R	Maker Michael J	6-1
2	2	Powhatan County	Castellano J J	Weaver George	3-1
3	3	Grigio	Borel C H	Baker James E	12-1
4	4	Air Support	Maragh R	McGaughey III C	8-1
5	5	Lou Brissie	Dominguez R A	Howard Neil J	6-1
6	6	Manchurian High	Lenclud F	Phipps William	20-1
7	7	Silver Medallion	Gomez G K	Brown Chad C	8-1
8	8	Kid Curry	Velasquez C	Hough Stanley M	20-1
9	9	Soldat	Garcia Alan	McLaughlin Kieran	6-1
10	10	Sensational Slam	Velazquez J R	Pletcher Todd A	4-1
11	MTO	Madman Diaries	Solis A	Ward Wesley A	5-2
12	MTO	Running Tap	Maragh R	Weaver George	6-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Super (.10), Daily Double

### 9TH (6:56) 1 3/8 MILES (INNER TURF) 3&UP ALLOW/OC (\$35,000) PURSE: \$53,000

1	1	Indianapolis (BRZ)	Borel C H	McPeek Kenneth	15-1
2	2	Slambino	Velazquez J R	Alexander Frank A	12-1
3	3	Cheyenne Nation	Prado E S	Brown Chad C	3-1
4	4	Silver Mountain	Dominguez R A	Dutrow, Jr. R E	4-1
5	5	Ordination (IRE)	Garcia Alan	Clement Christophe	7-2
6	6	Alcomatch	Gomez G K	Clement Christophe	8-1
7	7	Overbid	Mena M	Guillot Eric	30-1
8	8	Prince Will I Am	Castellano J J	Nihei Michelle	6-1
9	9	Parc des Princes (BRZ)	Cohen D	Contessa Gary C	10-1
10	10	Thunder Perfect	Leparoux J R	McPeek Kenneth	12-1
11	AE	Thabazimbi	Desormeaux K J	Mott William I	15-1
12	AE	Quick to Charm	Velasquez C	Duggan David P	15-1
13	AE	B Z Warrior	Studart M	Toscano John T	30-1
14	MTO	Tar Beach	Maragh R	Brown Bruce R	6-1
15	MTO	Heritage Hall	Lenclud F	Stall Albert M Jr	4-1
16	MTO	Web Gem	Velazquez J R	Badgett William Jr	8-1

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Trainer Peter Pugh thinks Big Brownie is in with a chance. Connie Bush

# On Target

## Pugh, Big Brownie aim for N.Y.-bred stakes

BY PHIL JANACK

Due to equal parts timing and circumstance, it has been a slower than normal meet for trainer Peter Pugh. With only a long Labor Day weekend left in the 40-day meet, his horses have run six times.

Today, he'll saddle Big Brownie in the \$70,000 Saratoga Dew for New York-bred fillies going 9 furlongs on the main track. A win would more than make up for the summer doldrums.

"You're not kidding. You couldn't put more emphasis on that than you are, that's for sure," Pugh said. "In the beginning of the meet, when the horses were all healthy, the races weren't filling. I ended up having to run in open company just to get a race. New York-bred races on the turf sprinting weren't filling, even the long ones; either that, or they weren't using them. So we sat on horses and sat on horses, and now one of them is hurt. I had a filly in the other day and I had to scratch her because she got to coughing. We've had some bad luck incidents along the way. Welcome to racing, right? It happens, especially with young horses."

The 4-year-old chestnut daughter of Wheelaway, owned by Pugh and Wide Rill Farm, has run second in her last two starts, sprinting, since winning a 1-mile allowance at Belmont Park May 2. She stretches out in the Saratoga Dew, which Pugh sees as an advantage.

"We've been limited in our opportunities so far this meet, and I've had to run her seven-eighths of a mile the last two times she's run," Pugh said. "I can't get any long races to go. I think a mile and an eighth fits her nicely. Whether she's good enough to beat a couple

of those fillies in there, I don't know. But, if a mile and an eighth moves her up, which I'm hoping it does, you never know."

Pugh would like to see a Saratoga Dew victory for Big Brownie, who has two wins and two seconds in five starts this year, and has earned \$91,384 lifetime.

"It would be nice if we could leave out of here winning that, that's for sure," said Pugh, 3-for-15 with his small stable this year. "Besides that, I like the filly a lot. She's a real trouper. I always think about them first. It would be nice for her, too. She's been pretty consistent. How much quality she has is up in the air, but it doesn't seem to matter where I run her; it doesn't seem to bother her. She always shows up."

Trainer Kate Feron hopes for a little divine intervention for My Dinah. The 5-year-old mare bred by the late John Hettinger and owned by Akindale Farm rallied to win the Fleet Indian by a head at Saratoga July 30.

In last year's Saratoga Dew, My Dinah was clear in midstretch before being caught near the wire and finishing third, beaten two heads.

"Oh my God, that was close," Feron said. "She was 2 1/2 [lengths] in front at the end and she just got hit at the wire. That was a heartbreaker. You have to have some luck come your way sometimes, and hopefully John's looking down on us and is going to bring us some luck. She's so honest and true, and just a pleasure to be around."

Akindale nearly parted company with the daughter of Victory Gallop.

See **SARATOGA DEW** page 11 ►

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## Saratoga Dew —

■ Continued from page 10

"She was nominated to the weanling sale in 2005, and she got ringworm from head to toe," said Feron. "I remember going down and looking at her, and she looks a lot like Lady D'Accord, who is her mother's full-sister. I'm thinking, 'How am I going to present it to Mr. Hettinger? How am I going to tell him the horse was going to have to be scratched out of the sale?' I told him that Lady D'Accord was scratched out of a sale, too, because she got a laceration on her leg, and maybe it was a good omen, because Lady D'Accord turned out to be such a great horse."

In her last race, My Dinah ran last of 11, beaten 14 lengths, in the \$100,000 Yaddo for state-breds going 9 furlongs on the turf, where she is 0-for-6 lifetime.

"She was doing so great, I had to do something," Feron said. "I either had to breeze her, or I had to run her. I figured she's feeling so good, maybe I'll just give her a try on the grass because the very first race she ran in her life was on the grass, and she was closing. I was just kidding myself. But, I'm happy with it now because she did get another race up here and it wasn't a bad experience. She just doesn't like it."

In the Fleet Indian, My Dinah edged Meese Rocks for the win; Meese Rocks came back to win the \$75,000 Union Avenue Aug. 23. My Dinah ran fifth to Rightly So in the Grade III Bed o' Roses in July, and second to her last fall at Aqueduct; Rightly So captured the Grade I Ballerina Aug. 28.

"She's been running with some really tough fillies," Feron said, "but she's a tough filly, too."

Wicked Diva has never run farther than a mile in five starts, but owner-trainer Mike Hushion doesn't see distance as an issue. First or second in her first four races, she was last of five in an optional claimer in the slop Aug. 23.

Ramon Dominguez, up for all of her races, will be back aboard.

"We're going under the assumption that the last race was a throw-out because of the track," Hushion said. "That was Ramon's feedback, as well. He said two jumps out of the gate, he knew she wasn't handling the surface. We thought it was to our advantage. We had no idea she wouldn't handle the wet like that. I'm anxious to run her. I think we can throw the last one out, and we should go in there in good shape."

Banker's Buy is the most expensive horse in the race, purchased as a yearling for \$450,000 at Keeneland September in 2007. Trained by Nick Zito for Edward Cox Jr., the 4-year-old Distorted Humor filly has been off since winning an entry-level allowance at Belmont July 8.

"We're just trying to win a race," Zito said. "She ran good last time, and hopefully she'll do the same. She was in opening week and had to be scratched, and we just waited for this race. She's a nice filly, and she's well-bred."

The others are Don't Forget Gil, winner of the Grade III Florida Oaks who ran second by a neck to Funny Moon in the Coaching Club American Oaks last year; and Landlash, a 1-mile allowance winner at Belmont in June who was sixth in the Lake Luzerne at Saratoga Aug. 13.

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## RISKAVERSE DIVISION I RECAP

# Awesome Maria handles turf try



Tod Marks

**Awesome Maria holds off late charges from Snow Top Mountain and In Te Domine in the stretch.**

**BY JOE CLANCY**

**A**lready a Grade II stakes winner and Grade I placed when she joined trainer Todd Pletcher's stable three months ago Awesome Maria needed a spot for her 2010 debut.

The 3-year-old filly could have tried the Grade I Alabama here Aug. 21. She would not have looked out of place in the Grade III Victory Ride on Travers Day.

"You want to get a good comeback race and you want to feel like you have a chance to win it too," Pletcher said. "We were looking for a place to bring a filly back that's already won a Grade II stakes and we were like 'Well, we don't want to run her in the Victory Ride, it's a little too short for her, and the Alabama is a little too long.'"

At a mile on the turf, Thursday's \$70,000 Riskaverse was just right.

Owned by E. Paul Robsham Stable, which moved its horses to Pletcher this year, Awesome Maria made a stylish turf debut – stalking the early pace of longshot Shirley She Can and holding off Snow Top Mountain by a half-length with In Te Domine a troubled third.

Ridden by John Velazquez, the winner covered the mile in 1:35.06 while paying 4.70 as the favorite.

Shirley She Can went right to the

front in the stakes, which was split into two divisions, and set fractions of 23.79 and 47.67 seconds. In her first start since October, Awesome Maria found a comfort zone in second with In Te Domine and Tidal Pool third and fourth through the early stages. Snow Top Mountain settled farther back in fifth.

Shirley She Can couldn't maintain the tempo in the stretch after 6 furlongs in 1:11.39, and the pack swooped in like early birds at a yard sale. Awesome Maria won the mini-race, getting first run on Snow Top Mountain, who ranged alongside but couldn't get past. In Te Domine checked behind horses at the eighth pole and rallied once clear to take third.

Velazquez, aboard for the first time in a race, left impressed.

"Oh yeah, that's a nice filly," he said. "First time on grass, it set up perfect for her. We worked her on the grass and she worked pretty good, but raceday is different sometimes. She was a little green, undecided and she started running a little bit spotty, looking at things, switching leads, not really paying attention to the things she needed to."

See **RISKAVERSE 1** page 13





Awesome Maria (right) settles behind earlier leader Shirley She Can in the Riskaverse.

Tod Marks

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## Riskaverse 1 —

■ Continued from page 12

In the stretch, Velazquez asked Awesome Maria for more energy and she powered into gear — helped in part by the presence of Snow Top Mountain.

“Come on, Mama, we’ve got to work now,” Velazquez told his filly. “Passing horses, the ears went up and she was just kind of waiting. The other horse came to her down the stretch, and that made her pick it up again.”

Pletcher won his third stakes of the meet with the Robsham horses, who joined his barn from Stan Hough this year.

“She ran very well for Stan last year and we’re lucky to have her,” Pletcher said. “Baked cakes, you know?”

Skillfully prepared by both barns in her career, Awesome Maria improved to 3-for-5 with two seconds and \$313,000 earned. The homebred daughter of Maria’s Mon and Discreetly Awesome (a half-sister to King’s Bishop and Amsterdam winner Discreetly Mine) leaves Saratoga with options.

“It will depend on how she trains, but we could consider running her back on the turf and I wouldn’t be afraid of looking at something like the Cotillion or the Beldame even,” Pletcher said. “She’s already a Grade II winner on the dirt and she’s proven she can run on the turf now, so we’ve got a lot of places to go.”

“You want to get a good comeback race and you want to feel like you have a chance to win it too. We were looking for a place to bring a filly back that’s already won a Grade II stakes and we were like ‘Well, we don’t want to run her in the Victory Ride, it’s a little too short for her, and the Alabama is a little too long.’ ”

— Trainer Todd Pletcher,  
about Awesome Maria

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# Evil Queen

Proctor filly casts speedy spell on 'Lisa' and the rest in runaway

BY SEAN CLANCY

Dateline NBC's Keith Morrison waited outside the clubhouse bathroom for Tim Snyder, owner/trainer of the undefeated Lisa's Booby Trap before the second division of the Riskaverse. The cameras had followed Snyder to the bathroom door.

A fan walked over and asked Morrison a simple question.

"What if she loses?"

Morrison didn't have an answer.

Tom Proctor did.

Proctor answered with a runaway win by Queen Of The Creek, who wired nine rivals including the heralded Lisa's Booby Trap who never threatened and wound up last in the \$70,000 stakes. Owned by Tim Turney and Nathan Tinkler, Queen Of The Creek opened up by 5 lengths and won by 3 1/2 over Ultimate Class and Kittylicious, finishing the mile in 1:33.94.

After the race, Proctor walked down the steps of the clubhouse, NBC cameras were nowhere to be seen.

"There is no such thing as fairy tales in this business. Just remember that," Proctor said. "They build up all these

## RISKAVERSE DIV. 2 RECAP

fairy tales, there is no such thing. This is not Disneyland. I'm sorry, I hate to ruin everybody's story but she's a flat-out runner. She just went a mile 1:34."

Snyder and his one-horse stable of Lisa's Booby Trap took Saratoga by storm when she won the Loudonville, a restricted stakes, Aug. 6. The victory improved her career record to 4-for-4 (by a combined 42 3/4 lengths) and made Snyder a celebrity. He debated about where to run Lisa's Booby Trap and ultimately decided to switch her to the turf. She was sent off even money against proven turf fillies.

Julien Leparoux took a light hold of Queen Of The Creek as she broke sharply and sprinted to the lead in a matter of strides.

Kent Desormeaux settled Lisa's Booby Trap toward the inside in fourth. Queen Of The Creek opened 5 lengths after a quarter in 23.98 and a half in 46.76. With Leparoux's hands low and her head high, she skipped into the far turn with a commanding lead over Ultimate Class, Sea Road and Lisa's Booby



Tod Marks

Queen Of The Creek flashes to the wire with an easy win in the second division of the Riskaverse.

Trap. They were in deep water. Lisa's Booby Trap retreated in the middle of the turn and Queen Of The Creek cut the corner like she was late for dinner. Ultimate Class stuck to the chase but was no match for the winner. Kittylicious caught Doe Run for third.

Queen Of The Creek earned her second win at the meet and first career stakes score. Proctor brought Queen Of The Creek to Saratoga specifically to

win a two-other-than allowance race. That day, Proctor told Leparoux to drop her head.

"She's a wild-running horse. I told Julien, rock and roll. I tried to rate her twice, it didn't work," Proctor said. "She's not a run-off in the morning, she's not easy, but she's not like that. She's actually pretty good, it's amazing. Theat-

See **RISKAVERSE 2** page 15 ►

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## Riskaverse 2 —

■ Continued from page 14

rical, they're weird horses. From what I know, you can't wrestle them, I tried to wrestle her at Arlington, I tried to wrestle her at Churchill, then said to hell with that."

Queen Of The Creek made her debut last fall at Keeneland when fourth going 6 furlongs. She won her turf debut a month later before Proctor put her away for the winter. She won her 3-year-old debut at Keeneland by nearly 5 lengths and then Proctor decided to change tactics. She finished third as the favorite in the American 1,000 Guineas at Arlington and 12th in the Regret at Churchill Downs. That would be the last time she was stifled.

Queen Of The Creek continued to contrib-

ute to a healthy Saratoga for Proctor who went winless in his two previous stints at Saratoga. This summer, his small stable has produced four wins, five seconds and two thirds from 19 starts. He finished second with Snow Top Mountain in the first division of the Riskaverse earlier on the card.

"Through the last couple of years, I had a bunch of seconds, so this year I brought some horses who I thought could win races, ones I could drop a notch. I didn't like not winning a race for two years," Proctor said. "When I was a kid, I was here with my dad (Willard) for two years and didn't win a race, he came here with a good stable and might have had a third in the Test, that was about it. I was here for four seasons without winning a race. That's why I never came here, when you see a guy who's a legend in your mind not win a race, it makes you wonder."



Dave Harmon

Queen Of The Creek (left) bounds toward the front early.

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# THURSDAY'S SARATOGA RESULTS

Thursday, September 02, 2010

## 1ST 2 3/8 MILES (HURDLE) 4&UP ALLOW/OC (\$30,000) PURSE: \$53,000

7	Easy Red	Young P J	39.00	12.40	7.60
4	Lead Us Not	Crowley B		4.50	2.60
6	Saluda Sam	Rafter C			6.60

Time 4:39.68

Trainer: Voss Thomas H - Owner: Dumbarton Farm

B. g. 8 by Charismatic - Dreams of Glory by Seattle Slew

Breeder: Dumbarton Farm

\$2 Exacta (7-4) Paid \$144.50 \$2 Trifecta (7-4-6) Paid \$1,956.00

## 2ND 6 FURLONGS 2 YO MAIDEN CLAIMING (\$35,000) PURSE: \$25,000

8	Wascally Rabbit	Luzzi M J	8.10	5.20	3.60
3	Camillus Drive	Dominguez R A		9.00	7.10
4	Rules of Civility	Leparoux J R			8.40

Time 1:12.51

Trainer: Contessa Gary C - Owner: Wealcatch, Wealcatch, Tucker, Chando

Pharm Boys Stable, Grab and Riccio

Gr/ro. c. 2 by Imperialism - Dreamlin by Linkage

Breeder: Kimberly Marie McKibben

\$2 Exacta (8-3) Paid \$65.50 \$2 Quinella (3-8) Paid \$30.60

\$2 Trifecta (8-3-4) Paid \$451.50

\$2 Daily Double (7-8) Paid \$222.50 Daily Double Pool \$130,922

## 3RD 6 FURLONGS 3 & UP CLAIMING (\$10,000) PURSE: \$20,000

6	Healthy Debate	Cohen D	7.10	4.20	3.10
4	Essex Ferry	Coa E M		7.40	4.70
3	Sudden Silver	Velazquez J R			3.40

Time 1:10.63

Trainer: Brown Bruce R - Owner: Repole Stable

Ch.f.3 by Freud - Tricky Move by Tricky Creed

Breeder: Sequel Thoroughbreds & JMJ Racing Stable & Dennis Repp

\$2 Exacta (6-4) Paid \$52.00 \$2 Trifecta (6-4-3) Paid \$160.50

\$2 Pick 3 (7-8-6) 3 Correct Paid \$822.00 Pick 3 Pool \$55,939

\$2 Daily Double (8-6) Paid \$25.60 Daily Double Pool \$67,141

\$2 Superfecta (6-4-3-7) Paid \$383.40

## 4TH RISKVERSE S. 1 MILE (INNER TURF) 3YO FILLIES PURSE: \$70,000

5	Awesome Maria	Velazquez J R	4.70	2.90	2.60
9	Snow Top Mountain	Gomez G K		3.40	2.60
6	In Te Domine	Garcia Alan			4.60

Time 1:35.06

Trainer: Pletcher Todd A - Owner: E. Paul Robsham Stables LLC

Gr/ro.f.3 by Maria's Mon - Discreetly Awesome by Awesome Again

Breeder: Mrs. E Paul Robsham

\$2 Exacta (5-9) Paid \$16.20 \$2 Quinella (5-9) Paid \$10.60

\$2 Trifecta (5-9-6) Paid \$85.00

\$2 Pick 3 (8-6-5) 3 Correct Paid \$80.50 Pick 3 Pool \$67,124

\$2 Daily Double (6-5) Paid \$16.40 Daily Double Pool \$75,129

\$2 Superfecta (5-9-6-10) Paid \$1,277.00

## 5TH 1 1/16 MILES (TURF) 2 YO MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT PURSE: \$41,000

1	Floating Alone	Gomez G K	7.20	4.00	3.00
2	Skips Prospect	Velazquez J R		6.40	3.70
5	Aptphilly	Castellano J J			2.80

Time 1:43.45

Trainer: Bush Thomas M - Owner: Broman, Sr., Mary and Chester

Ch. f. 2 by Friend's Lake - Positive Attitude by Cure the Blues

Breeder: Chester and Mary Broman

\$2 Exacta (1-2) Paid \$52.50 \$2 Trifecta (1-2-5) Paid \$121.50

\$2 Pick 3 (6-5-1) 3 Correct Paid \$77.00 Pick 3 Pool \$80,835

\$2 Pick 4 (8-6-2/4/5/12-1) 4 Correct Paid \$342.00 Pick 4 Pool \$185,299

\$2 Daily Double (5-1) Paid \$23.00 Daily Double Pool \$60,997

\$2 Superfecta (1-2-5-10) Paid \$493.40

## 6TH 1 3/8 MILES (INNER TURF) 3&UP ALLOW OC (\$35,000) PURSE: \$53,000

6	Pearly Blue	Desormeaux K J	26.00	12.80	7.10
3	Dyani	Leparoux J R		6.20	3.70
2	Emerald Beech	Castellano J J			6.80

Finish Time: 2:14.93

Trainer: Mott William I - Owner: Chandler, Dr. John A.

Dk b. or br. f. 3 by Empire Maker - Western Ransom by Red Ransom

Breeder: Dr. John Chandler

\$2 Exacta (6-3) Paid \$158.00 \$2 Trifecta (6-3-2) Paid \$1,087.00

\$2 Pick 3 (5-1-6) 3 Correct Paid \$490.50 Pick 3 Pool \$70,141

\$2 Daily Double (1-6) Paid \$178.00 Daily Double Pool \$62,795

\$2 Superfecta (6-3-2-5) Paid \$6,702.00

## 7TH 5 1/2 FURLONGS 2 YO MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT PURSE: \$50,000

9	Technique	Prado E S	8.60	4.60	3.00
7	Cane Garden Bay	Castellano J J		5.30	4.10
1	It's Truly Ahvee	Dominguez R A			3.00

Time 1:05.38

Trainer: Motion H Graham - Owner: Jones Jr., Jack G., Houchin, David

Dk. b or br. c. 2 by Speightstown - Chatique by Deputy Minister

Breeder: Mineola Farm LLC & David Houchin

\$2 Exacta (9-7) Paid \$41.40 \$2 Trifecta (9-7-1) Paid \$161.50

\$2 Daily Double (6-9) Paid \$167.50 Daily Double Pool \$79,845

\$2 Pick 3 (1-6-9) 3 Correct Paid \$935.00 Pick 3 Pool \$80,265

\$2 Superfecta (9-7-1-10) Paid \$1,299.00

## 8TH 1 1/16 MILES (TURF) 3 & UP CLAIMING (\$20,000) PURSE: \$34,000

3	Platinumplus	Dominguez R A	3.20	2.50	2.10
8	P Js Lil Toni	McManigell K		8.90	5.70
4	Mesa Girl	Samyn J L			5.90

Time 1:42.17

Trainer: Tagg Barclay - Owner: Nyren Carol

Gr/ro. m. 6 by Mizzen Mast - Silver Path by Silver Buck

Breeder: Marty & Carol Hershe

\$2 Exacta (3-8) Paid \$29.40 \$2 Trifecta (3-8-4) Paid \$200.50

\$2 Pick 3 (6-9-3) 3 Correct Paid \$357.00 Pick 3 Pool \$82,640

\$2 Daily Double (9-3) Paid \$16.00 Daily Double Pool \$69,676

\$2 Superfecta (3-8-4-7) Paid \$1,003.00

## 9TH RISKVERSE S. 1 MILE (INNER TURF) 3YO FILLIES PURSE: \$70,000

7	Queen of the Creek	Leparoux J R	10.40	4.90	4.40
3	Ultimate Class	Castellano J J		18.80	10.60
8	Kittylicious	Dominguez R A			8.80

Time 1:33.94

Trainer: Proctor Thomas F - Owner: Turney, Timothy, B. & Tinkler, Nathan

B. f. 3 by Theatrical (IRE) - Miasma by Lear Fan - Breeder: Monticule

\$2 Exacta (7-3) Paid \$210.00 \$2 Trifecta (7-3-8) Paid \$2,386.00

\$2 Grand Slam (2/3/6-1/7/9-3/4/6/8-7) Paid \$115.50

\$2 Pick 3 (9-3-7) 3 Correct Paid \$72.50 Pick 3 Pool \$77,086

\$2 Daily Double (3-7) Paid \$19.00 Daily Double Pool \$93,591

\$2 Superfecta (7-3-8-6) Paid \$10,795.00

## 10TH 1 1/16 MILES (TURF) 2 YO MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT PURSE: \$41,000

3	Theresmyeverything	Dominguez R A	6.60	4.20	3.20
5	Rudy Rudy Rudy	Velasquez C		5.60	4.30
1	Mazara Del Vallo	Desormeaux K J			5.20

Finish Time: 1:42.72

Trainer: Rice Linda - Owner: Mark Dedomenico LLC

Dk. br or b.c.2 by Star Dabbler - Birdie Babe by Way West (FR)

Breeder: Sez Who Thoroughbreds & Aron Yagoda

\$2 Exacta (3-5) Paid \$35.80 \$2 Trifecta (3-5-1) Paid \$181.00

\$2 Superfecta (3-5-1-2) Paid \$994.00

\$2 Daily Double (7-3) Paid \$29.20 Daily Double Pool \$173,294

\$2 Pick 3 (3-7-3) 3 Correct Paid \$41.60 Pick 3 Pool \$146,943

\$2 Pick 4 (9-3/6-7-3/7/12/13) 4 Correct Paid \$212.50 Pick 4 Pool \$383,737

\$2 Pick 6 (1-6-9-3/6-7-3/7/12/13) 5 Correct Paid \$200.50 Pick 6 Pool

\$2 Pick 6 (1-6-9-3/6-7-3/7/12/13) 6 Correct Paid \$38,835.00 Pick 6

Pool \$176,504



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# She gets an A

Floating Alone moves to turf, graduates in style

BY MIKE KANE



Floating Alone (right) holds off Skips Prospect in Thursday's fifth.

Tod Marks

**O**n the same hot, humid afternoon that Lisa's Booby Trap failed her test going a route on the grass, Floating Alone passed hers.

Floating Alone's exam came in Thursday's fifth race and the Friends Lake filly trained by Tom Bush and ridden by Garrett Gomez had just enough to edge Skips Prospect by a neck. She covered the 1 1/16 miles on the Mellon Turf in 1:43.45. It was a huge improvement over her first race, a well-beaten fourth going short on the dirt starting from the rail.

Bush said he was pretty sure Thursday's race – for New York-bred 2-year-old fillies – would suit Floating Alone, even though she drew the inside again.

"Certainly stretching out and the female side of this filly's family has been all grass," Bush said. "She surprised me a little bit first time. Even though she had not a great post for a first-time starter, she got away real tardy. She looked all discombobulated, even after she leveled off in the lane and she just didn't seem to be going as good as what I thought she trained in the morning. I said, 'Let me get her on the grass right away and see if we've got something.' And maybe we do."

See **THURSDAY** page 18

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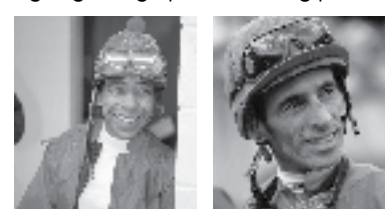
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Tod Marks

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## Thursday —

■ Continued from page 19

Skips Prospect was on the outside as the two ran through the stretch and Floating Alone showed grit to get the victory for owners and breeders Chester and Mary Broman.

"She really did," Bush said. "Garrett said she wasn't particularly confident where she was. She probably learned a whole lot today."

- In the sixth, Pearly Blue showed that going long, longer, longest was the ideal scenario. Jockey Kent Desormeaux got the job done in the 1 3/8-mile marathon by a half-length, despite being wide on two of three turns on the inner turf course.

Pearly Blue, a daughter of Empire Maker out of the Red Ransom mare Western Ransom, flirted with winning since her debut on the last day of the 2009 Saratoga season, but did not break her maiden until June at Belmont Park. She made it two victories in a row in the allowance/optional claimer for owner/breeder Dr. John Chandler.

"She's bred to go that far," trainer Bill Mott said. "She's got an extremely stout pedigree with a sire that has won going a mile and a half, he won the Belmont. She's got a lot of stamina in her pedigree. It's just not easy to find those races sometimes."

Pearly Blue — whose dam is a full-sister to Grade I steeplechase winner Red Letter Day — returned \$26.

- Apparently the lessons he received during a workout Sunday morning sunk in because Technique turned in a more seasoned performance winning the seventh, a sprint for 2-year-old maidens on the dirt. Under Edgar Prado, the Speightstown colt owned by Jack Jones Jr. and David Houchin, broke alertly from post nine, set the pace and held off Cane Garden Bay by a head.

In his first start, Aug. 3 at Delaware for trainer Graham Motion, the colt bobbled at the break, rushed into contention and weakened.

"I worked him the other day," Prado said, "and he was a little lazy to come out of the gate, so we put a little speed into him. Today, he broke good from an outside post, we took advantage of that and tried to get him into the race. Speed carries most of the time in these kind of races. He was moving along pretty good."

See **THURSDAY** page 19

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Tod Marks

Technique holds off the closers to win Thursday's seventh.

## Thursday —

■ Continued from page 20

• No, owner Bill Pape and trainer Jonathan Sheppard did not sweep the five jump races at the Spa this summer.

Trainer Tom Voss and champion jockey Paddy Young took care of that matter in the first, an allowance/optional claiming hurdle. Young guided Dumbarton Farm's Easy Red to the lead at the top of the stretch and the 8-year-old Charismatic gelding won by 2 3/4 lengths over Pape and Sheppard's Lead Us Not with Saluda Sam third.

Voss said some extra care helped produce a better effort than the horse's two tries over the course this summer. He was beaten 22 lengths at the Open House and pulled up Aug. 12.

"The horse really ran well all summer (a second and a third before Saratoga). He got here and his back was sore," Voss said. "We did some chiropractic work on him and he got better in the last 10 days. He was just much happier and going better."

• Wascally Rabbit gave his connections something to cheer about with

a three-quarter length victory in the second, a \$35,000 maiden claimer for 2-year-olds going 6 furlongs. In the first of his three starts at the meet July 24, the Imperialism colt was beaten 31 lengths by Wine Police. He improved to finish second in his next outing Aug. 13 and got the money third time out with a far more impressive performance for Gary Contessa and jockey Mike Luzzi.

"Actually, I've known him for a while now," Luzzi said. "I breezed him before he ever ran. In his first start he was real green. In his second start he was green. Still today, he was a tad green. He's gotten better each start. He's probably a little better than this because he's still fooling around in the stretch."

• In the finale, Theresmyeverything romped to a 6 3/4-length victory in a 1 1/16-mile maiden race for New York-bred 2-year-olds on the grass. Like Floating Alone, he loved the new surface.

Owned by Mark Dedomenico (of Blind Luck fame), the Star Dabbler colt made one start at Arlington Park, finishing third over the synthetic surface Aug. 14 before being shipped to Linda Rice. It didn't take her long to figure him out watching him gallop on the Oklahoma turf course.

"I just had a feeling when he arrived in my barn that he was going to love the grass," she said. "I took him over and tried him out and he loved it. I went right to the turf with him."

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by Sean Clancy

Fold the tents, the traveling circus is leaving town.

With four cards remaining, NYRA crates stacked up in stall 1 in the paddock, Brook Ledge and Sallee Vans idling at the loading chutes, the questions have gone from "Who do you like in the jump race?" to "What do you do when this is over?"

Yep, it's that time of year again.

So, what does The Saratoga Special do when this is over?

Our interns and part-timers look for work, or get back to work; reality awaits. Joe and I go home, to Fair Hill and Middleburg, and take it easy. We count our money, roll around in it for a couple of weeks, then pick an island for the winter. We buy new cars. A Jaguar for Joe. Mercedes for me. We sleep late. We let the phone ring – they'll call back. Joe picks out college choices for Ryan – Harvard or Yale – in between his fantasy football league commitments and obligation with his buddies at the Deer Park, the local pub in Newark, Del. I join the dart league of Middleburg, fox hunt three days a week and begin picking out paint colors for the poolhouse. As football coach Bum Phillips said after his retirement, "I ain't doing a damn thing and I don't start until noon."

Or not.

I re-introduce myself to my wife and my son who I hope still remember me. Miles will be 2 in December,

we have a lot of books to read to make up for lost time. Joe reunites with his wife and his youngest son Nolan, who made short trips during the meet. As for Ryan and Jack, they were just here.

Business-wise, ST Publishing tries to collect advertising money; promised before the meet, debatable after the meet. Most advertisers are loyal and trustworthy. Then there are the few who convince you they're good for it and then every time you see them they reach for their cell phones and pretend they don't see you. There is one who I see every day, it's uncanny how he doesn't see me. It's like a nervous tic, suddenly his cell phone becomes the most important thing in all the world. Out of all the ones who got me, you're the worst because everybody warned me. Hopefully there won't be others like you this year.

Next week, I will force myself to Keeneland for the September sales. So good for business but so quick after a sapping stay at Saratoga, it's always a struggle to make the trip. Then you're always glad you did when seeing your clients and feeling the auction buzz. Hopefully there will be a buzz this year.

I'll go to Goffs for its yearling sale Sept. 28-30. Anybody want to join me? Racing at the Curragh, golf at the K Club, 669 yearlings. You'll like it. Buy a horse and the trip is on the house.

I'll mow grass – happily mow grass and Weed Eat the fence lines. Fire up the I-Pod and get away from the distractions. The only deadline I'll worry about is for my wife's lamb chops, salad and a glass of Sancerre, chilled just right, at the end of the day. Ring the dinner bell, luv.

We'll get back to our roots and travel the steeple-

chase circuit. Shawan Downs kicks it off with a glorious day in Hunt Valley, Maryland. Virginia Fall Races are next. You bet from a chalkboard, lean on the rocks and see every friend you have for the first time in months. Then Far Hills, the best horses over the best course for the best purses; if you want a day in the country, this is it, especially when it doesn't rain. Put Oct. 23 on your calendar and call us for tickets (if we can get them).

Finally Camden for the Colonial Cup, the annual season finale, it's where Eclipse Awards are won and lost, we'll catch up with old friends Mickey Preger, Sheila Maloney and Frankie Wooten. See you for a drink at the Fox's Den.

Publishing-wise, we'll fire up Steeplechase Times, the mother of all our endeavors. If it wasn't for a phone conversation in 1993, Joe and I would be doing something else. The paper goes on hiatus for the summer then re-rallies better than Afleet Express with five issues in the fall. That's two less than we did during sales week. Fire up the press.

By November, we'll begin designing the Thoroughbred Racing Calendar, a business we bought a couple of years ago, making choices between months and horses. Blame is a sure thing. Quality Road is a lock. Super Saver, of course. Lookin At Lucky, yes. Zenyatta and Rachel Alexandra for old time's sake. Then it gets tricky after that. Shameless plug – at \$16, they make great Christmas presents.

So that's what we do in the fall, then winter will come and spring will follow. In 10 1/2 months we'll be back at Saratoga. In 12 months, we'll be asked, "So, what do you when this is over?"

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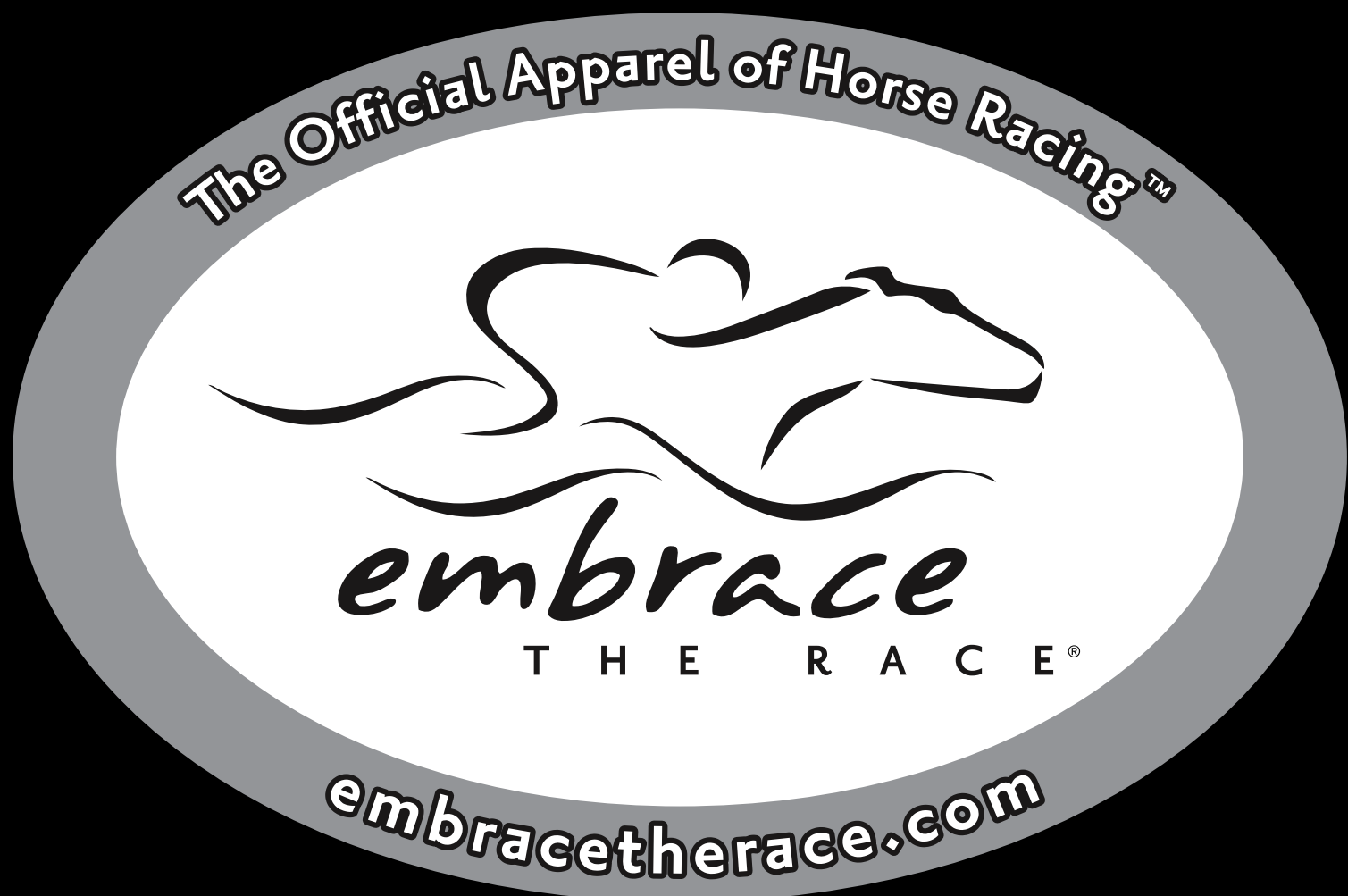
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