

Year 22 • No. 11

Monday, August 8, 2022

The *Saratoga*

# Special

Saratoga's Racing Newspaper since 2001

## Old Glory

**Yearlings return to Saratoga for 101st sale**



**Wesley Ward Stable Tour**

**Select Sales Preview**

**Godolphin adds Saratoga Oaks**

**Lukas filly wins Adirondack**

# Saratoga Selected Yearlings

BY CLAIBORNE STALLIONS

## WAR FRONT

Danzig - Starry Dreamer, by Rubiano

HIP 61 F. o/o Rosalind

Out of a G1 winner; half to a 3-time stakes performer among her dam's 100% winners.

*Consigned by Bedouin Bloodstock, agt*

HIP 69 C. o/o Seek and Destroy

First foal out of a graded stakes winner...

**UPDATE:** Under 2nd dam, MGSP

High Opinion is now a stakes winner of nearly \$365,000.

*Consigned by Indian Creek, agt*

HIP 177 F. o/o Elizabeth Browning (IRE)

The War Front / Galileo (IRE) cross has produced **13% SWs**. Dam was a **G2** winner, half to two other SWs & a **G1** performer.

*Consigned by  
Taylor Made Sales Agency, agt*

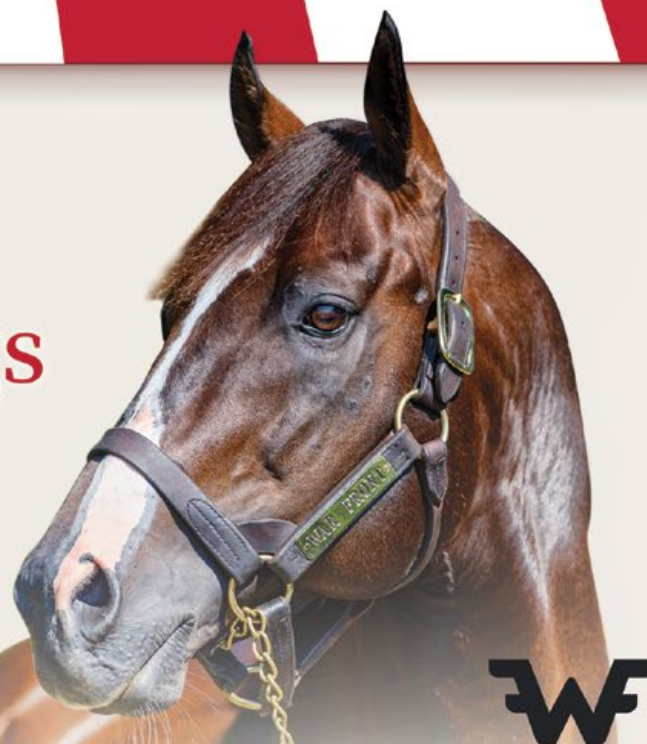
## BLAME

Arch - Liable, by Seeking the Gold

HIP 156 C. o/o Choosy

First foal out of an unraced half sister to GSWs **JUST WHISTLE** and **FEARLESS** – recent winner of the Brooklyn S. (G2) who is now a millionaire since the catalogue.

*Consigned by  
Blake-Albina Thoroughbred Services, agt*



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*Claiborne*



**Forty-Sixer.** Naughty Gal draws off, way off, in Sunday's Adirondack Stakes.

Tod Marks

## Here&There...in Saratoga

### Worth Repeating

**Fasig-Tipton air-conditioned office visitor on a sweltering Sunday morning:** "Now this is the place to be."

**Fasig-Tipton staffer Teresa Pleasant:** "That's the statement of the day. Everybody says the same thing."

"All the pressure's on Lynn."

**Stone Farm's Staci Hancock on her daughter, heading up the one-horse consignment featuring a full-sister to graded stakes winner First Captain**

"It's like Christmas ... and when this one comes out of the packaging you're like, 'Wow, I got a new bike.'"

**West Point Thoroughbreds' Jeff Lifson, showing a group Hip 126, Stone Farm's Saratoga yearling**

"Do you want to change outfits?"

**Keeneland's Chip McGaughey in jacket and tie on the way to the races as The Special's Tom Law showed up at the office in shorts, T-shirt and flip flops**

"I hope they keep interviewing me."

**Trainer Phil Bauer after the editorial team at The Special talked to him after two victories on the Aug. 4 card**

"I really hope you guys are reading your Stable Tours. Al Stall. Thank you very much."

**Tom Amello after the Stall-trained Gilcrease won Sunday's opener at 26-1**

"Just don't put 'Arkansas native' in there. See, it still has legs."

**Trainer Kenny McPeck continuing the joke with The Special's Tom Law, who put him down as just that in the late 1990s. See Tom or Kenny for the full version**

### Names of the Day

**Bay Filly.** We think it's against the rules, but isn't it tempting? Pick out a bay filly tonight and try naming her Bay Filly.



#### Undercover, Hip 36.

Breeder Peter Blum is one of the best in the business. His dark bay filly is by Omaha Beach out of Night Time Lady. Don't you dare change her name.

**Stop The Press, Hip 68.** We're tempted given some snafus, boondoggles and "get a bigger problem" events in all directions, but if you're reading this we made it another night.

**Moonlight, Hip 97.** Another Blum gem, this gray colt is out of Sundown.

*The Saratoga*  
**Special**  
*thisishorseracing.com*

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### Editors/Publishers/Owners:

**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

**Writers:** Paul Halloran, Timothy Littau, Spencer Ripchik. **Photographers:** Tod Marks, Dave Harmon, Connie Bush, Susie Raisher.

**Designer:** Ruthie Bowen. **Distribution, etc.:** Olivia Johnson, Rob Whitlock. **Social Media:** Melissa Bauer-Herzog.

**Handicappers:** Charles Bedard, Jessica Paquette, John Shapazian, Rob Whitlock.

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# Here&There...in Saratoga

## Worth Repeating

"A lot."

**Summerfield's Francis Vanlangendonck, on the number of years he's been coming to Saratoga**

"The mile and a quarter would be good for him. Obviously, the class would be the biggest concern. I do think the mile and a quarter would be to his benefit, but the Travers is going to be a deep competition."

**Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr. on West Virginia Derby winner Skippy Longstocking**

"What happened to your lip?"

**Fasig-Tipton's Boyd Browning Jr. to Jack Clancy, sporting a mustache for his 2022 Saratoga return**

"Isn't it cool to walk around here, see these horses and imagine they're going to win all these graded stakes someday?"

**Delivery assistant Declan Molloy handing out papers Saturday morning on the Fasig-Tipton grounds**

"We went to visit the school in Boston."

**Fasig-Tipton's Max Hodge talking about a pre-sales week visit to Harvard for one of his daughters**

"What are you going to do today, go deer hunting?"

**Consignor Hanzly Albina, decked out in bright turquoise pants Saturday morning, to the more mutedly dressed Hodge**

"Yes, see what you can do about that."

**Co-owner Alan Burkhard, about getting War Like Goddess to run somewhere his turf mare Temple City Terror (second and third behind her rival in the last two runnings of the Glens Falls) doesn't run**

## By The Numbers

**10:** Phone calls between editors (one in Covid quarantine, one at the office) at The Special during a two-hour window in the final production process Friday night. Joe's cleared now so they just yell across the room again.

**26:** Unread text messages on trainer Todd Pletcher's phone when he walked into the paddock before the Saratoga Derby, about 10 minutes after winning the Whitney with Life Is Good.

**7,346,462:** Dollars in on-track handle for Saturday's Whitney Day card.

**40,289,681:** Dollars in all-sources handle for Whitney Day.



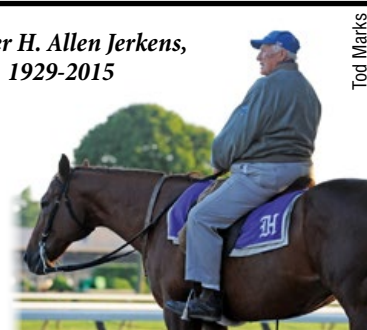
Connie Bush

**Coming and Going.** The traffic was brutal on the backstretch the other morning.

## The Chief

**Trainer H. Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015**

*"We claimed him for \$2,500 and we lost him for \$6,000, breathing room. Then I got lucky, people sent me some horses, got lucky, you have to have a little luck."*



Tod Marks



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## Quote of the Day

"If somebody is coming, he will fight.  
That's all I was looking for."

**Jockey Irad Ortiz Jr. on Whitney winner Life Is Good**



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**Darley**

# STABLE TOUR

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— THE 101<sup>ST</sup> —  
**SARATOGA**  
— SALE —  
AUGUST 8-9 • 6:30 PM



## With Wesley Ward

Always arrive early at the barn to see a Grade 1 winner. You might wind up with a Stable Tour.

“Do you want to see the horses?” Wesley Ward said as Golden Pal was getting ready for his two-track exercise last week.

Ward walked from the front lawn of Max Hirsch’s old barn in the corner of Clare Court and Greentree, ducked under a black and yellow rail, tucked his iPad under his shoulder and began at the first stall.

There’s a little bit of everything in Ward’s stable; Royal Ascot runners, 8-year-old veterans, a 5-year-old who has never run and of course, Golden Pal, winner of the Grade 3 Troy at Saratoga – a few days after the tour.

The Special’s Sean Clancy covered most of the Saratoga runners – unfortunately Ward did not predict that Chi Town Lady would win the Test – and some of Ward’s Keeneland-based runners as well.

**Asymmetric.** Rebecca Hillen’s 3-year-old won three times in Europe, including the Group 3 Richmond Stakes at Goodwood last summer. He’s made two starts for Ward, finishing second in the Paradise Creek and fifth in the Quick Call earlier in the meet. “I have him nominated to the Mahoney. (Jamie) Spencer rode him the other day, he took him back to last and he didn’t finish up the way we wanted. I did a myectomy on him.”

**Arrest Me Red.** Second in the Jaipur after winning the Grade 2 Turf Sprint at Churchill, the Lael Stable homebred sports six wins from 10 starts for \$718,500. “He’ll run at Kentucky Downs. I put glue-on shoes on him and Ian McKinlay is here. I use Wes Champagne in California. Ian does a good job and that’s why he’s here.”

**Golden Pal.** The horse who Ward swears is the best horse he’s ever trained didn’t disappoint in the Troy. It wasn’t dominant but it was effective as the son of Uncle Mo wrestled a head decision over True Valour in the Grade 3 turf sprint Aug. 5. “John Magnier would like to run him on the dirt. Stallion value would go up significantly. He can run on the dirt, I’ve just been reluctant to do so because of the issues he’s had. The Phoenix is a possibility and then the Breeders’ Cup Turf Sprint. They still would like to do a start in Australia but it’s kind of their down time. He didn’t pass the vet as a yearling, that’s why he RNA’d. Coolmore bought him. He had a suspensory issue. They bought him with the contingency that I would take him and break him for three months and they would re-ultrasound it. It was the same. I tried to convince them to keep him and they said that’s why we have vets. At that time, he was just a horse, but I loved him, he was my pick of the sale. I got really lucky that the breeder kept him with me to train. After the Breeders’ Cup, they bought him.”



Chi Town Lady, part of Wesley Ward’s barn, upset Saturday’s Grade 1 Test.

Tod Marks

**Overbore.** Peter Leidel’s son of Speightstown has won one race from six starts and exits a sixth at Keeneland in his only start this year. “Broke his maiden in the Tremont last year. He’ll run straight 3-year-olds a mile on the grass on the 13th.”

**No Nay Hudson.** Owned by Andrew Farm and For the People Racing, the 2-year-old Irish-bred has breezed twice on the turf at Saratoga. “This one ran in the Tremont. Broke his maiden at Keeneland but I always thought he was meant to go to Ascot. Aidan (O’Brien) had a couple of one who were better and they didn’t want me to get in the way. He’s going to run in the Skidmore. He’ll be really tough.”

**Red Ghost.** Bred and owned by Douglas Scharbauer, the daughter of Ghostzapper finished second in the Incredible Revenge at Monmouth after the Stable Tour. “This is a nice filly. She won the Miss Preakness. We entered her in the three other than here on the grass but it didn’t go.”

**No Kay Never.** Owned by Barbara Banke’s Stonestreet Stable, the Irish-bred won her debut at Horseshoe Indianapolis in May.

“This filly might go to Ireland, Barbara wants to run a horse in Ireland. She’s about this big (holds hand chest high). I’ve always loved her because she’s a hard trier. She won her first start, Irad worked her on the grass the other day, she worked real good.”

**Margaret Burbidge.** Bred and owned by Flaxman Stable, the daughter of Twirling Candy finished fourth as the second choice in the Colleen Stakes July 24. “I ran her in a stake at Monmouth and she got behind, she ran a good race though. She’ll run back here.”

**Top Gun Girl.** Owned by Slam Dunk Racing, the daughter of Air Force Blue finished second in her debut here last summer, broke her maiden at Keeneland in October and finished third against allowance foes at Turfway Park in December. She’s worked twice here in preparation for her 3-year-old debut. “This is a nice filly. She’s just coming back. She was second here last year as a 2-year-old, then broke her maiden at Keene-

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# Stable Tour —

Continued from page 6

land, chipped her knee, I'm thinking about running her in a stake at Presque Isle. First start since December. She's working really good." About that time, agent Steve Rushing arrived with his new jockey, Jose Ortiz. "He's ready to go Monday night if you need him. We enter today, right?" Ward nodded. She's in the Lady Erie tonight. With Ortiz.

**Duke Of Hazzard.** Fitriani Hay's French-bred 6-year-old won five times, including a Group 2, in Europe for Paul and Oliver Cole before joining Ward last year. He finished third in the Lure Saturday. Ward talked directly to Jose Ortiz about the bay gelding. "He's a horse from England. He likes to get back, get back. Your brother rode him the first time in a three-horse race at Belmont. The other day, he was right on the front, he ran a big number. The owner wants you to see the races from England. This way, you can watch. He's won a bunch of good races."

**Monterey Peninsula.** The gray gelded son of The Factor has posted two dirt breezes and two turf breezes at Saratoga. "Used to be Coolmore, now he's mine. He's 5. Never run. Nice horse, though. I've spent three years getting him to the races and he's finally here."

**Illegal Smile.** Hat Creek Racing's 4-year-old daughter of Camacho owns three wins from 12 starts and comes out of a fifth in the Intercontinental Stakes at Belmont Park. "Nice filly. She won a stake at 2, she's been second in a few stakes."

**Rarify.** Coolmore's 2-year-old daughter of Justify lounges in the outside stall — fresh air and a panorama view— as Ward's voice rises three pitches. "This is my star. She was second here. I thought she would win. She's a half-sister to Runhappy. She's really

something. This is going to be something...I thought she'd win, win the Spinaway and go to the Breeders' Cup. I was sure of it. She'll breeze Saturday or Sunday and come back here. She's probably a sprinter, but at 2, they can sometimes get the distance. First work. They didn't like her at the farm, they liked Bon Jovi Girl, when I went to see them, I always picked this one. I like those big, high withers. She'll run here in two or three weeks."

**Love Reigns.** Irish-bred 2-year-old filly shares the pony barn with Rarify. "This is a filly of Barbara's, she won at Keeneland as a 2-year-old and was favorite for the Queen Mary and disappointed. She ran a nice fourth, the filly who won the Queen Mary ran off and hid from them. This is a good filly, too. I didn't have anything strong enough for the (Prix) Morny, if she were to run off and win I would probably have run bought her to the Morny, but she didn't. She got sick after her race at Keeneland, it cost me a little bit of time, she started picking it up, but when you're heading into Royal Ascot, you need everything to go perfect. The Ascot trip never knocks them out. None of them. You go over there, it's cool, you come back and by the time you give them a week or two they put all their weight back on and you start working them. When you go to Dubai, that knocks them out. That's why I don't like to go there. It's a shorter trip to England than it is to come here on a van, time wise and you're not fighting the road."

**Bound For Nowhere.** What's a Wesley Ward Stable Tour without the house horse, even if he's at Keeneland? The 8-year-old horse recently won the Grade 2 Highlander Stakes at Woodbine. "Doing good. He just won the race in Canada. He bleeds so I can't bring him here. He bled in that race. I turn him out. Yesterday was his first day back to the track. Sunshine. Hyperbaric chamber. He costs me a fortune, but you get it back 10-fold when he runs."

Continued On Page 8



Sean Clancy

The Wesley Ward barn.

THE 101<sup>ST</sup>

# SARATOGA

SALE

*Queen Goddess*

G1-WINNING SARATOGA SALE GRAD

*Selected Yearlings*

AUGUST 8-9, 2022

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# Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 7

**Twilight Gleaming.** Stonestreet's daughter of National Defense has won her last two, the Mamzelle and Daisycutter, and four of her last five. "She's just limited in distance. At 5 1/2, she's a little vulnerable. Five eighths, she's solid. We ran at Del Mar and won and I'm looking to where to run back. Ultimately, with a filly like that, the Breeders' Cup Sprint Turf but you would run into Golden Pal and Campanelle. I was looking at possibly going over for one more trip to France and run in the Prix de l'Abbaye. Over there, when they open the gate, you're right on the pole and every inch counts with her. You just don't know if she's that quality. She ran second in the Queen Mary, won the Breeders' Cup, but you just have to see where you're at, I thought, maybe take a shot at that. I put it to Ben McElroy and he'll have a meeting with Barbara to see if that's something she might want to do. Because we're kind of stuck, she certainly doesn't want 6 and 5 1/2 is a little bit of a stretch. She's back in Keeneland now."

**Kimari.** Coolmore's daughter of Munnings earned her seventh career stakes when rallying late to upset the Grade 2 Honorable Miss here July 27. "You know she ran a three on the sheets, a 105 Beyer. I'd like to go in the Breeders' Cup against the boys,

because she's better at 6 than 7. If you can catch the big horses on a little bit of an off day at the end of the year you might be in the right place at the right time. I'm going to run her in the TCA because it's three quarters, it might be back a little quick off that big number but being it's my track, her track, 6 furlongs, that should set her up for the Breeders' Cup. The big thing with her, she's broodmare fat if you don't watch her. You meet her in the paddock and say, 'What in the hell did I do?' We had her pretty good here, the best she's looked. Still a little heavy but not nearly like the two starts prior."

**Half A Chance.** Another winner for Ward at the meet, CJ Thoroughbreds' daughter of Flatter led every step to win a 2-year-old maiden July 14. "Nice filly. She's proven on the grass. We got excited about maybe going to the Spinaway and then we thought let's stick to Kentucky Downs, I'm sure there will be a couple show up here that will overshadow her in the Spinaway. And Corey (Johnsen), who used to own Kentucky Downs, owns her."

**Hidden Scroll.** And what's a Stable Tour if you don't ask about Hidden Scroll? Bred by Juddmonte, he was the talking horse early, venturing to the Fountain of Youth and Florida Derby when with Bill Mott, then sold for a cool \$525,000 to Mark Detampel. The son of Hard Spun made three starts for Brad Cox, winning one and finishing last in the final one. Ward took over after that. "Oh, that guy... I've been a fan of the horse and I wanted a chance at him. When Brad threw in the towel with him, I asked for a chance. We turn him out every day, kind of like Golden Pal, in the sunshine. A lot of hyperbaric to clean his lungs out. I had him at Belmont, we drew a beautiful post, I had (Joel) Rosario on him, everything was perfect. There was a miscommunication with the Lasix, he got a minimum dose and he's meant to get a bigger dose. I called and said it was my fault but it's not fair to this horse if he bleeds. They granted me

the scratch. We ran him at Belterra, just to give him a confidence booster and a comeback, he won easy. I turn him out in the afternoons, we had a heat spell and it was a little too hard so he got just a little bit of a splint. He's coming back for his first work back. I think this guy is going to make it back to close to what he was, if he gets a little bit, he'll really be something. He ran and won, albeit, at a small track. We'll see what we can do moving forward. We've contained his bleeding so far. That's the thing about taking Lasix away, a big horse like that, you won't see a horse like him."

**Ruthin.** Owned by Stonestreet Stable, the 3-year-old filly has won two of four starts. Her two wins came at Keeneland. Her two losses at Royal Ascot, including a 26th in the Palace Of Holyroodhouse Handicap this year. "Unfortunately, we did a knee surgery on her last year, she came back won a nice race at Keeneland which vindicated her as a broodmare. We kind of took a shot, trained her easy and went over there. I kicked her back out at the farm. I don't know what Barbara is going to do."

**Campanelle.** Stonestreet's daughter of Kodiak won the Group 2 Queen Mary at Royal Ascot and Group 1 Prix Morny at Deauville in her 2-year-old year. She won the Group 1 Commonwealth Cup at Royal Ascot as a 3-year-old. This year, she won the Giant's Causeway at Keeneland and finished third in the Group 1 Platinum Jubilee at Royal Ascot. She worked 4 furlongs at Keeneland July 30. "She's in Kentucky. Barbara's big thing is Royal Ascot really. I said, 'She's 4, she's run eight or nine starts, let me have an easy year, she was narrowly beaten in the Jubilee. Let's run her one more time and then the Breeders' Cup, then send her back to the farm in Ocala and we'll try again next year.' Hopefully all that comes true. We'll run her at Kentucky Downs. Now she ties into Golden Pal at the Breeders' Cup, but two different running styles. She'll come from behind and he'll go to the front."

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# Show Time

Buyers, sellers, team ready for 101st sale

BY TOM LAW

Boyd Browning Jr. didn't mince words, hedge his bets or throw out any quantifiers.

Sitting in the Humphrey S. Finney Pavilion and out of the blistering heat if only for a few moments and about 30 hours before the start of the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale of selected yearlings, the president and chief executive officer of North America's oldest sales company threw it down.

"Honestly, and it's a bold statement but I'm go-

**Continued On Page 12**



Fasig-Tipton

The stage is set for Fasig-Tipton's 101st Saratoga yearling sale Monday and Tuesday.

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*— Trainer Wesley Ward*

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AQUAPACER

## Sales —

### ■ Continued from page 10

ing to make it on Sunday afternoon. I think it's the best group of horses that have been on the grounds in at least 20 years," Browning said. "Top to bottom, 1 through 216. Our inspection team has done a phenomenal job of putting together a quality group of horses in conjunction with the men and women who are selling the horses, both the consignors and owners in helping us identify those horses that are going to work up here. Because it doesn't work to force something up here. If it doesn't fit, it doesn't fit."

Browning and the Fasig-Tipton's team, along with the 34 consignors which brought yearlings to Saratoga for the 101st edition of the sale find out if the fit is correct in the first of two sessions starting at 6:30 p.m. Monday. Fasig-Tipton cataloged 106 yearlings for opening night, with 16 withdrawn as of Sunday afternoon. Another 108 are in the catalog for Tuesday, minus 11 that are scratched.

"We're extremely optimistic going in," Browning said. "One of the things we've seen happen, and it's

## Sales Time

Fasig-Tipton's 101st Saratoga yearling sales happen this week at the Humphrey S. Finney Sales Pavilion and sales grounds on East Avenue.

### Select Sale

Monday: Hips 1-106. 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Hips 107-215. 6:30 p.m.

### New York-bred Sale

Sunday, Aug. 14: Hips 301-400. 7 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 15: Hips 401-583. Noon.

been building over the last five years in all aspects of the industry, is the change that's taken place in Saratoga, at the sales and the racing. For a while it was called the August place to be, or the summer place to be and it may not have fully lived up to that expectation or that moniker. Today it does.

"The quality of racing is phenomenal from start to finish. You've seen a real strengthening of East Coast owners that are passionate about racing, passionate about racing in New York in particular. And they're even more passionate about winning races in Saratoga. It's the epitome of North American racing. It's not easy to win a race here, whether you're winning a starter allowance or a Grade 1 you're going to compete against the very best. We've seen that energy building

**Continued On Page 14**



Tod Marks

Hip 89, a Quality Road colt, is part of the first night at the sales.

# FIRST TIME OUT!

## TWO-YEAR-OLD WINNING GRADS

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# Sales —

## ■ Continued from page 12

on the sales side of things, too, where people want to bring quality horses to Saratoga. They work hand-in-hand with the owner base continuing to expand and getting energized and as we get more and more quality horses that want to come here they feed off of each other.”

Celebrity chef Bobby Flay sold the co-sale topper at the 2019 renewal — a colt by Curlin out of his graded stakes-winning A.P. Indy mare America — for \$1.5 million. Named First Captain, he’s since become a multiple graded stakes winner and contender for the Grade 1 Jockey Club Gold Cup at the end of the Saratoga meet.

He’s also the older brother of a filly attracting plenty of attention to Stone Farm’s one-horse consignment. First Captain, dubbed “Curlin Jr.” by Stone’s Arthur Hancock III, stood out at the 2019 sale and his sister sells early Tuesday as Hip 126.

Saratoga always seemed like the fit for the filly, if Flay didn’t decide to race her in his colors.

“She was definitely on the radar because since Day 1 has been such a nice physical,” Stone Farm’s Lynn Hancock said between showings Sunday morning. “At every stage of her life she’s been beautiful and done everything right. So she was on the radar, definitely one you’d consider for Saratoga.”

“Bobby likes to come up and sell in Saratoga. He’s able to be around the sales grounds and enjoy bringing a nice horse. He’s got such nice mares, good pedigrees and he often has one that will fit the bill for Saratoga. It’s more their decision, but she would be one we thought about bringing here.”

Consignors stayed busy through the weekend and will no doubt be Monday morning leading up to the boutique sale. All were pleased with the traffic Sunday, especially those getting second and third looks and veterinary inspections.

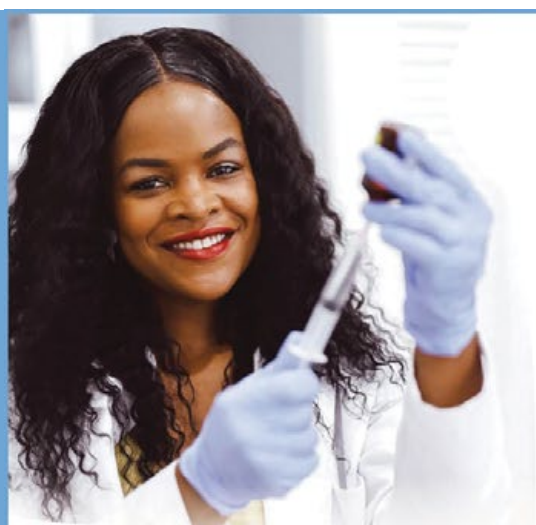
“We were really busy Saturday, around 85 shows,” said Paramount Sales’ Pat Costello. “That’s as busy as I’ve ever been up here. We’re up about 20 percent from last year on shows. How does that translate into



Tod Marks

Continued On Page 16

Hip 23, a Candy Ride colt, gets in some practice Friday morning.



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## Sales —

### ■ Continued from page 14

dollars? We'll have to see.”

Paramount cataloged nine yearlings and will sell eight – seven fillies and a colt.

“That’s just the way it happened,” Costello said. “I think we have a good group as well. We’re excited with what we have. People are coming back, short-listing nearly everything. And we’re getting plenty of compliments.”

The Summerfield consignment, a staple of the Saratoga sales season, bustled with activity late Sunday morning. Francis Vanlangendonck, who runs the Florida-based operation with his wife Barbara, has seen much of the same.

“Everybody is here, and everybody has that buyers’ look,” he said. “I think if you come into this thing with a conservative thought you’ll be able to get it done.”

Summerfield will sell three yearlings – Hip 25, a filly by Uncle Mo, and Hip 56, a colt by Speightstown Monday and Hip 137, a colt by Gun Runner, Tuesday.

“You have to bring horses that don’t have a hole in them,” Vanlangendonck said. “Certainly you have to vet. There’s too much competition. You have to have a horse that’s athletic, that can handle three hard days of showing. You really have to be honest with yourself.”

The sale could be in for fireworks if the buyers find what they’re looking for.

Fasig-Tipton comes off a near-record Saratoga sale in 2021, when 135 yearlings sold for \$55,155,000, the fourth largest total in history, and down less than 1 percent from 2019’s total of \$55,547,000.

The 2021 sale also posted an average price better than \$400,000 for the second straight Saratoga sale, at \$408,556 compared to the record \$411,459 in 2019. The sale was not conducted in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and Fasig-Tipton condensed its July select, Saratoga select and Saratoga New York-bred sales into the Select Yearling Showcase in September in Lexington.

Buyers – and onlookers – were enthusiastic for the return in 2021. Seven yearlings sold for seven figures,

**Continued On Page 18**



Tod Marks

**Hip 92, a Constitution colt, sells Monday night.**

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## Sales —

### ■ Continued from page 16

six brought \$800,000 or more and 37 sold for \$500,000 or more.

Predicting the sale topper is always a fun exercise on the sales grounds and Hip 126, the Curlin filly from Stone Farm, figures to be in the mix.

"It's a rare opportunity to buy into an extremely live family," Lynn Hancock said. "It's an active family. People have been saying it around the sales grounds the past couple days, that she's a collector's item. And she's got so much residual value as a broodmare. So, it's different than bringing up the big colts but she's lovely and she's been doing great up here."

Hip 207, a son of leading sire Into Mischief out of the Indian Charlie mare Indian Miss, could top the sale. Consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency for breeder Larry Best's OXO Equine, he's the talking horse of the grounds and a half-brother to champion sprinter and three-time Grade 1 winner Mitole and Grade 1 winner Hot Rod Charlie.

That colt was among the dozens inspected by all the major buying entities, agents and trainers on hand over the weekend, including Coolmore, Godolphin, Stonestreet, WinStar Farm, Starlight Racing, Mandy Pope, Peter Brant, Jacob West, Steve Young, Alex Solis and Jason Litt, Steve Asmussen, Todd Pletcher, Brad Cox,



Fasig-Tipton

### Boyd Browning.

Mark Casse and others.

"As I said, I genuinely feel it's the best group of horses we've had on the grounds in the last 20 years," Browning said. "We'll see if we're right and how people respond in the auction ring Monday and Tuesday. I'm bullish and the feedback we've gotten so far has been very good as well."

"I don't say that lightly. And the one thing you don't try to do in the sales business is B.S. yourself. ... We felt really good all spring and the catalog came together nicely. We feel as good or better, and now that we've been on the grounds and our team has had the opportunity to look at the horses Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We're ready to present them in the marketplace."



Tod Marks

Trainer Wayne Lukas scopes out a yearling Sunday morning.



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# Horse Tour

## Sire power, individuals help breed confidence in Denali group

BY ALICIA HUGHES

It's not like Conrad Bandoroff needed his selections further validated, especially when obvious choices are obvious.

When asked to showcase some of the yearlings he held high aspirations for ahead of the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Select Sale this week, the vice president of Denali Stud immediately landed on offspring by two stallions who have become as consistently exceptional in the commercial marketplace as they were during their on-track careers.

And while neither record-setting freshman sire Gun Runner nor his fellow copper-colored breeding shed stalwart Curlin demand a sales pitch at this point in their respective ca-

### FASIG-TIPTON SALES

reers, a dash of good timing never hurts when trying to win over discerning buyers.

So, while the agenda for a visit the afternoon of July 24 had been set days in advance, Bandoroff couldn't have scripted a better time to wax poetic about why the babies he was about to tout are worthy of discussion.

Two days earlier, the mercurial Cyberknife had added to Gun Runner's burgeoning legacy with a victory in the Grade 1 Haskell Stakes. The day after that outing, it was Curlin's turn to flex as his Grade 1 winning-daughters Clairiere and Malathaat ran 1-2

Continued On Page 22

Kentucky-based writer Alicia Hughes stopped by Taylor Made Farm (Sunday's edition) and Denali Stud (today) for pre-Saratoga visits with some sales yearlings.



Tod Marks

Hip 204, a Curlin filly, gets cleaned up for a showing at Saratoga.

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### **Hip 110**

c. Mendelssohn—Undisputed Legend

### **Hip 116**

f. Munnings—What Time It Is

### **Hip 123**

f. Candy Ride (Arg)—Ygritte

### **Hip 167**

f. Uncle Mo—Curlin's Fox



# Yearlings —

■ Continued from page 20

in the Grade 2 Shuvee over the Saratoga main track.

“Couldn’t have planned that better,” Bendoroff laughed before noting how even Kentucky’s fickle-by-the-minute weather had landed on his side that day. “I think the rain is going to hold off for us too.”

Indeed, Mother Nature stayed out of the way as a trio from Denali’s Fasig-Tipton consignment emphasized why Bendoroff rolls into Saratoga with no shortage of confidence in the youngsters who will represent his family’s operation.

There is no hiding at the top end of the market, not when pages are filled with bloodlines rooted in the purple and barns are bursting with physically gifted horses. To have high-level success is to boast superior intangibles – the mental fortitude to handle the first showing as well as the 50th, a walk that tells of future athleticism.

Hence, Bendoroff’s faith in this featured threesome. Like their sires, incremental progress is something he has seen each demonstrate.

## Hip 186 Gun Runner-Flag Day, chestnut colt

It is not uncommon for the first foal out of a mare to be on the smaller side so, in that sense, this leggy son of Gun Runner has already defied odds. The physical strength of his sire and dam’s sire, Giant’s Causeway, are evident

Continued On Page 24



Hip 186, a Gun Runner colt flexes his walk at Saratoga.

Tod Marks

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Aug 28	Saratoga	The Ballerina	Filly & Mare Sprint	East
Sept 3	Saratoga	The Flower Bowl	Maker's Mark Filly & Mare Turf	East
Sept 3	Saratoga	Jockey Club Gold Cup	Longines Classic	East
Sept 3	Del Mar	TVG Pacific Classic presented by the JRA	Longines Classic	West
Sept 3	Del Mar	Del Mar Handicap	Longines Turf	West
Sept 3	Del Mar	Green Flash Handicap	Turf Sprint	West
Sept 10	Kentucky Downs	Kentucky Turf Cup	Longines Turf	Midwest
Sept 10	Kentucky Downs	FanDuel Turf Sprint	Turf Sprint	Midwest
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# Yearlings —

■ Continued from page 22

in his frame but it is the fluidity of his movement – and the way he stands for admirers without a care in world – that Bendoroff feels will earn the colt a place on short lists.

“This colt is a first foal and is about as good of a first foal as you can get. Good size, good substance,” Bendoroff said. “You can see the Gun Runner in him and he’s out of a Giant’s Causeway mare so you can kind of see where some size is coming from there. I think Gun Runner stamps them, but this colt is getting a little bit of strength and substance from the female side and has a little more substance than some Gun Runners can tend to have.”

Born and raised at Denali, the colt has become a favorite of his caretakers for the fact he causes little ruckus and has always been eager to please. That straightforward nature is something his sire was known for, and such adaptability often goes hand in hand with better runners.

“He’s one of those horses where you ask him to do something and he’ll just go out there and do it,” Bendoroff said. “He’s not one of those tough colts who tries to kind of impose himself. He’s a colt who



Denali corner in Barn 7A will be busy again this summer.

Tod Marks

is willing to please, which I think is a great attribute when you’re trying to buy a racehorse. You want a horse where when you ask them to do something they’re going to say ‘Okay, let’s go and do it’.”

## Hip 204 Curlin-Hot City Girl, chestnut filly

“Who wouldn’t want a Curlin filly right now?,” Bendoroff declared because, again, an obvious statement is obvious.

So too is the quality of this New York-bred filly, whose dam is a half to champion female sprinter La Verdad and was herself a graded stakes winner. Pretty and feminine with an elegant head, the filly is one Bendoroff says has changed substantially for the better since being weaned at Denali.

“She’s always been a big, growthy filly. Through the winter as a weanling, she’d didn’t quite have the balance and the physique she has now,” Bendoroff said. “It took her some time to grow into herself. There were times when we looked at her and she just looked big and gangly and awkward. She sure grew out of that phase.”

She also knows how to hit her poses, something she demonstrated as she strolled out from the barn and proceeded to do her best impersonation of a statue. Her presence has already prompted comparisons to champion Malathaat, whom Denali sold as a yearling to Shadwell for \$1.05 million, and is part of the reason her connections opted to enter her in the select sale rather than go to the Fasig-Tipton New York-bred yearling sale Aug. 14-15.

“When we showed her to Fasig, she is a New York-bred so we would have had the option to go

**Continued On Page 26**

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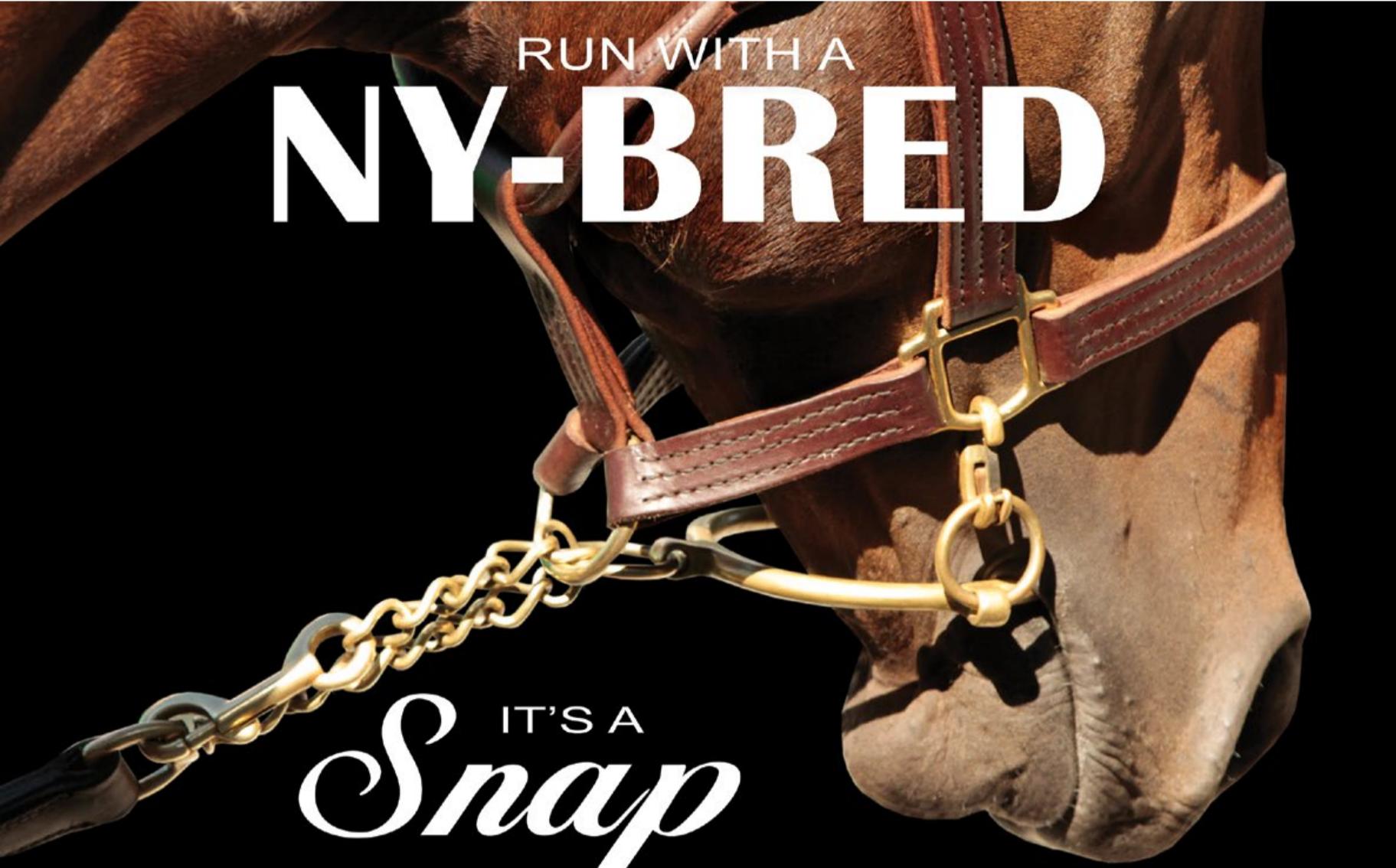
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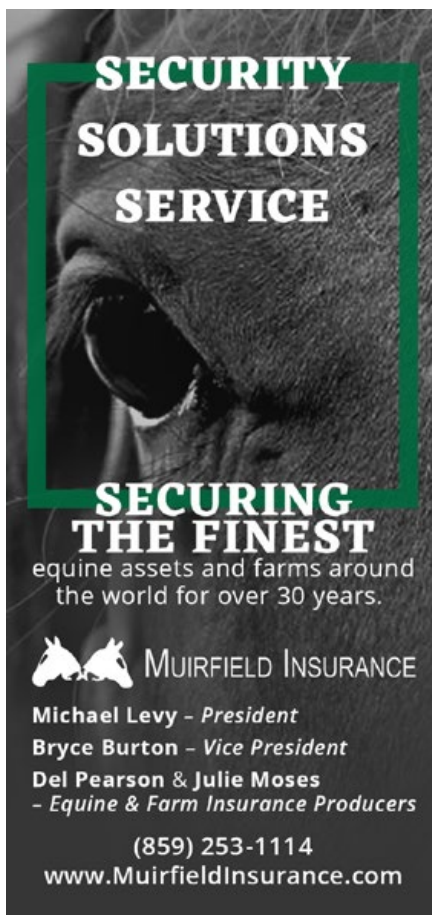


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## Yearlings —

■ Continued from page 24

into the New York sale, but we all agreed when they came to look at her that she stands on her own merit,” Bando-roff said. “She deserves to go up with the big boys and girls in the select sale. She’s just, she’s a classy filly.”

### Hip 214 Curlin-It Tiz Well, chestnut colt

Having the third to last offering in the catalogue isn’t always the most desirable placing, but Bando-roff has a feeling many will lose sleep if they don’t stay to bid down on this budding man among boys.

Very much his father’s son, this colt has beyond-his-years physical attributes that will almost certainly make him a popular viewing subject at Barn 7A: strong-bodied, deep-chested, powerful hind end. He was literally pegged as a Saratoga select baby by the Denali crew days after they foaled him out of his Grade 1-winning dam and has what Bando-roff believes is the look of an athlete with the ability to be both precocious and a classic-type runner.

“I mean, this horse is just a man. He’s another one who he has been a top-class physical from Day One,” Bando-roff said. “Personality wise, this colt just has a dominant personality. He’s not tough, he’s just a man. He’s a beast. He’s got that swagger. We’ve been fortunate where we’ve sold several Curlins at Saratoga for lots of money, and we’d have to put him right up there with some of the best of them.



Fasig-Tipton

**Denali Stud’s Conrad Bando-roff.**

“As far as what we look for physically when we take a horse to Saratoga, this horse is what we would say is the perfect horse for Saratoga. Good mover, correct, strong. When we go around and we’re looking at horses for Saratoga or any sale, you hope you’re going to look at a horse like this. He gives you chills.”

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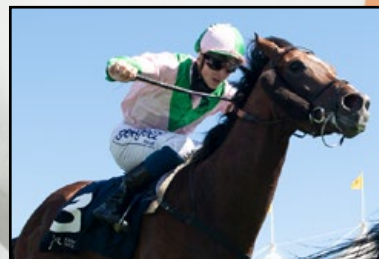
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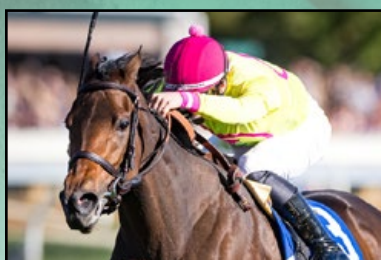
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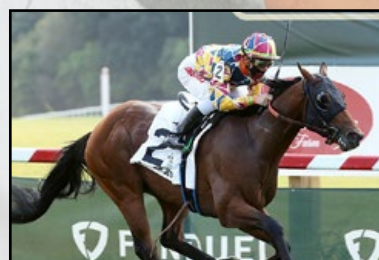
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# History Lesson

The plastic storage tub full of old catalogues came from Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sales director Paget Bennett years ago. Origins before that are estimates – guesses really – though many have H.S. Clark written on them and there's even a speeding ticket tucked into a book from a Timonium sale. The officer let Mrs. Clark off with a warning.

So, I'm going with the 1962 Saratoga Yearling Sales catalogue on my desk was once the property of Hall of Fame trainer Henry S. Clark and he wrote the prices on each page. Or maybe Mrs. Clark did. Blue ink, fairly neat. The sale lasted five nights, Aug. 6-10, and each session started at 8:30.

Clark might have been here 60 years ago. Born in 1904, the Marylander trained for the Christiana Stable of Harry Lunger and Jane du Pont Lunger, training such standouts as Camargo, her son Thinking Cap (who won the 1955 Travers), 1959 champion mare Tempted, dual Delaware Handicap winners Obeah and Endine.

Clark won six consecutive stakes at Delaware Park with Light Hearted. He trained Cyane, who won the Belmont Futurity and the Dwyer and became a leading sire, and his son Linkage, who won the Blue Grass. Clark was kind of a legend around Delaware Park when I was growing up. I remember his horse Oh Say whinnying in the paddock before a race, like some sort of wild animal letting everyone know he was there and was in charge. I was intimidated. I'm sure the horse I was leading was too.

To hold Clark's sales catalogue is a little like holding Casey Stengel's lineup card, or Bear Bryant's playbook.

The book itself is old, almost fragile. The paper's soft, textured almost and the plastic spiral binding is a huge plus to someone trying to write about it. I also love this message on an early page: "Please



bring this catalogue to the sale with you. The supply is limited." Got it.

Consignors came from everywhere – Kentucky of course, Virginia, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Ohio.

L. Clay Camp was there. So was Hy Petter. Egerm Farm brought a bunch, same with Keswick Stable, Jonabell Farm, Mereworth Farm, Newstead, North Cliff, James L. Wiley and all the other names Fasig-Tipton's official historian Steve Dance used

to tell me about in that great Baltimore accent.

Triple Crown winner Citation was on the sire list along with Gallant Man, Prince John, Traffic Judge, Tim Tam, Third Brother, Swaps and Princequillo.

The old sketch of the men looking at a horse's teeth above the warning, "Please examine horses prior to purchase and Read the Conditions of Sale, particularly Condition Ninth," is a great touch. You've been warned. By the way, the ninth condition stated that there "is no guarantee of any kind as to the soundness or conditions or other quality of any horse sold in this sale except that horses which are unsound in eyes or wind, or are cribbers must be so announced at time of sale." Many more sentences follow. In short, buyer beware.

Now back to those catalogue pages.

Hip 1, a filly by Saratoga, sold for \$3,600. Consigned by Camp for Merriewood Farm, the brown filly was out of Your Point – a half-sister to Cyane. The filly apparently became Cookham, and that's about as far as it goes.

Hip 47, the first horse to sell on the second night, brought \$11,500. The chestnut daughter of Gallant Man and the Alibhai mare Your Hostess entered the sale with plenty of pedigree as a half-sister to stakes winner Royal Clipper and from the family of Santa Anita Derby winner Your Host, Delaware Handicap winner Flower Bowl and others. Named Gallatia, the filly won the Schuylerville Stakes at Saratoga the following year for trainer Bert Martin. She won three races, earned \$41,517. Her younger brother, born in 1965, became T.V. Commercial – a 15-time winner and multiple stakes winner who finished third in the 1968 Kentucky Derby. The chestnut later became a sought-after stallion who stood at the Maryland division of Windfields Farm where I met him when in

**Continued On Page 30**

## BIG DAYS BIG WINS

**NEST** runs away in **G1 CCA Oaks** winning by an impressive **12 1/4 lengths!**

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# Outside Rail —

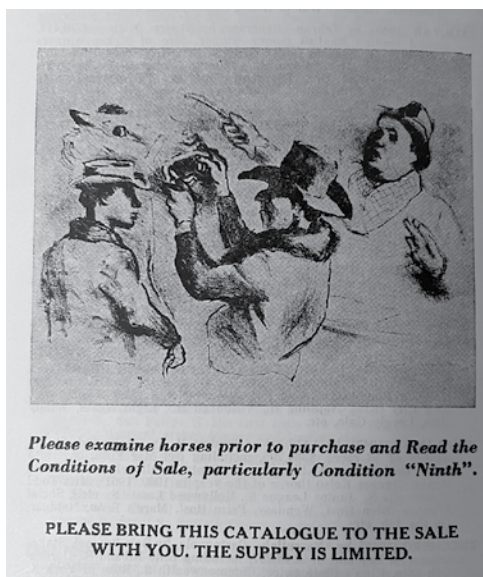
■ Continued from page 28

retirement he was a paddock neighbor to the great Northern Dancer. Classic, cool, stately horse who lived to be 31.

Hip 56 rang the bell at \$26,000. The chestnut colt, by Intent out of Conch, was from the family of major winner Jampol and Cyane and his fourth dam Pearl Cap won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. The chestnut colt, bred by Marion du Pont Scott and sold by Dr. W. Allen Hughes of Orange, Va. turned into Make Good. He ran 80 times according to one source.

Hip 82 lit up the board at \$39,000. Consigned by Wiley, the chestnut son of Hasty Road and the stakes-winning Polynesian mare Poly Hi became Osterville – a winner over jumps who finished third in the 1964 Annapolis Hurdle Handicap.

Somebody got a bargain – eventually – with Hip 131, an \$8,000 buy. The brown filly, a daughter of Hasty Road and Matelda became Hasty Matelda. She finished second in the Schuylerville and Spinaway at Saratoga and won the Matron. Bred and sold by Mrs. George P. Greenhalgh, the filly earned \$86,991 and later turned into a major producer. Her daughter Gay Matelda won the 1968 Alabama and earned \$409,945 for Meadow Stable. She, in turn, produced the likes of stakes winner and sire Shelter Half, Grade 2 winner Reine Mathilde and



**Fasig-Tipton did not mess about with the instructions in 1962.**

My Bubbling Belle (whose son Fifty Stars earned \$706,222 including a victory in the 2001 Louisiana Derby). Gay Matelda sold for \$525,000 at Keeneland November in 1982, while in foal to Riverman.

The great broodmare Almahmoud was a Saratoga fixture and 1962 was no exception. Her chestnut filly by Hasty Road, consigned by Keswick Stable as Hip 155 on the fourth night, sold for \$19,000. Named Bubbly Beauty, she didn't live up to the

exploits of her siblings – Cosmah (a major stakes winner and the dam of Halo among other exploits) or Natalma (the dam of the great Northern Dancer) – but did end up the dam of French Group 1 winner and eventual sire Arctic Tern.

The crowd must have been buzzing when Hip 158 brought \$83,000 – about \$814,000 in today's dollars. Also consigned by Keswick, the chestnut daughter of Swaps and the Brantome mare Auld Alliance was a half-sister to 1959 Kentucky Derby winner Tomy Lee and stakes winner All Honesty. Alas, Golden Gorse as the Swaps filly came to be called started just twice and produced one foal who didn't win either.

Keswick's big night continued with Hip 162, who brought \$72,000. The bay daughter of Bold Ruler and the Menow mare Countess Molly was a half-sister to stakes winners Joe Price and Meant Well. Named Rule Me Now, she won a single race.

Hip 170, a bay filly by Sunglow, carried the gaudy pedigree line of being a full-sister to 15-time winner Sword Dancer, an earner of \$829,610. The namesake of Saratoga's Grade 1 turf stakes had won the Suburban, Grey Lag, Woodward, Jockey Club Gold Cup, Belmont Stakes and Travers among others. Named Sun Tartan, his little sister didn't live up to the pedigree and wound up the dam of several French runners.

And . . . the big one. Honestly, I just started at the beginning but Hip 186 practically flew out of

**Continued On Page 31**

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# Outside Rail —

■ Continued from page 30

the book – chestnut colt, consigned by Keswick, by Native Dancer, out of Raise You, half-brother to stakes winner Kingmaker and five other winners. Yep, future all-time great Raise A Native. Keswick paid \$22,000 for him as a weanling, and sold him for \$39,000 to Louis Wolfson at Saratoga. Trained by future Hall of Famer Burley Parke, Raise A Native won all four of his starts but was retired with a bowed tendon.

Then the fun began. He sired 78 stakes winners including Mr. Prospector, Majestic Prince, Alydar, Exclusive Native and is the grandsire of Affirmed, Easy Goer, Genuine Risk, Alysheba, Gulch and dozens of others. Twenty-two Kentucky Derby winners

are direct descendants including this year's upsetter Rich Strike. Raise A Native stood at Spendthrift Farm and was euthanized in 1988. His New York Times obituary called him “the most influential sire of American Thoroughbred stallions over the last 20 years.”

You can get a little feel for him over at Barn Three on the Saratoga sales grounds, where a green plaque above Stall Eight pays tribute to the night he sold and the night this book I have mattered most. No yearling occupies Stall Eight for the Select Sale, but its neighbor houses Hip 25 from the Summerfield consignment.

The bay filly is – of course – a descendant of Raise A Native, who shows up in her sixth generation on sire Uncle Mo's side. I hope she realizes it.

39,000

Thursday  
Hip No.  
186

Barns 2 and 3

Property of Keswick Stables  
Chestnut Colt

Brother to winner My Sister Kate (2nd Falls City H.), half-brother to winners KINGMAKER (13 wins, \$243,205), Jujitsu (2nd Dade County H.), National Gallery (placed in stakes), Double Dealer, Queens Full. Out of RAISE YOU (Polly Drummond S., Colleen S., New Jersey Futurity), sister to MR. ACE, etc.

Chestnut Colt  
Apr. 18, 1961  
No. 8 family.

Native Dancer

Raise You  
(1946)

Polynesian

Geisha

Case Ace

Lady Glory

Unbreakable

Black Polly

Discovery

Miyako

\*Teddy

Sweetheart

American Flag

Beloved

By NATIVE DANCER, stakes winner of \$785,240, sire of 11 stakes winners, including Good Move, Bright Silver, Rattle Dancer, Dan Cupid, etc.

1st dam  
RAISE YOU, by Case Ace. 5 wins at 2 and 4, \$37,220, Polly Drummond S., Colleen S., New Jersey Futurity. Sister to MR. ACE. Dam of 7 other foals, 6 winners—  
KINGMAKER (\*Princequillo). 13 wins, 3 to 6, \$243,205, Kent S., New Orleans H., Grey Lag H. (new track record, 1¼ miles, 1:48½), Whitney S., Royal Palm H., Excelsior H., 2nd Chesapeake S., Jersey S., Yankee H., Paumonok H., 3rd Governor's Gold Cup, Edgemere H.  
My Sister Kate (Native Dancer). 5 wins at 2 and 3, 1961, \$24,765, 2nd Falls City H. Set new track record at Keeneland, 6½ fur. in 1:15½.  
Jujitsu (Polynesian). 8 wins, 2 to 4, \$20,970, 2nd Dade County H.  
National Gallery (\*Daumier). 3 wins at 3 and 5, 1962, \$27,887, 3rd Atlantic City H., Philadelphia Turf H.  
Double Dealer (Double Jay). 12 wins, 2 to 6, \$37,965.  
Queens Full (\*Princequillo). Winner at 2.

2nd dam  
LADY GLORY, by American Flag. Unraced. Dam of 8 other winners—  
MR. ACE. 19 wins, 2 to 6, \$64,547, Harford H., 2nd Jamaica H.  
Lady's Ace. Winner 2 seasons, 2nd Louisiana Derby.  
Call You. Winner at 3. Dam of winners Caney Fork (to 4, 1962).  
Mustberite.  
Sans Faute. 15 wins, 4 to 7, \$23,175.  
Rapid Bomb. 6 wins at 3 and 4, \$14,980.  
Other winners: Final Glory (23 wins), Court Ace, Isdelovely.

ENGAGEMENTS: Futurity 1963; Breeders' Futurity 1963; Pimlico Futurity 1963.

Sixty years ago at Saratoga, a future Thoroughbred legend sold for \$39,000.

CHURCHILL DOWNS

2022 September Meet  
Stakes Schedule

SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 2

IROQUOIS (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 17  
Closes Sept. 3  
\$300,000  
Includes \$75,000 from KTDF  
Two Year Olds  
1 1/16 Miles

LOCUST GROVE (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 17  
Closes Sept. 3  
\$400,000  
Includes \$100,000 from KTDF  
Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up  
1 1/16 Miles

POCAHONTAS (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 17  
Closes Sept. 3  
\$300,000  
Includes \$75,000 from KTDF  
Fillies, Two Year Olds  
1 1/16 Miles

LOUISVILLE THOROUGHBRED SOCIETY

Runs Sat., Sept. 17  
Closes Sept. 3  
\$275,000  
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF  
Three Year Olds & Up  
6 Furlongs

OPEN MIND (Listed)

Runs Sat., Sept. 17  
Closes Sept. 3  
\$300,000  
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF  
Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up  
6 Furlongs

SENECA OVERNIGHT STAKES

Runs Sat., Sept. 24  
Closes Sept. 10  
\$160,000  
Includes \$65,000 from KTDF  
Fillies, Three Year Olds  
1 1/16 Miles

BOURBON TRAIL

Runs Sat., Sept. 24  
Closes Sept. 10  
\$275,000  
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF  
Three Year Olds  
1 3/16 Miles

HARRODS CREEK

Runs Sat., Sept. 24  
Closes Sept. 10  
\$275,000  
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF  
Three Year Olds  
7 Furlongs

DOGWOOD (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 24  
Closes Sept. 10  
\$275,000  
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF  
Fillies, Three Year Olds  
7 Furlongs

ACK ACK (GIII)

"Win and You're In Dirt Mile Division"  
Runs Sat., Oct. 1  
Closes Sept. 17  
\$300,000  
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF  
Three Year Olds & Up  
1 Mile

LUKAS CLASSIC (GII)

Runs Sat., Oct. 1  
Closes Sept. 17  
\$400,000  
Includes \$100,000 from KTDF  
Three Years Old & Up  
1 1/8 Mile

JEFFERSON CUP (Listed)

Runs Sat., Oct. 1  
Closes Sept. 17  
\$275,000  
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF  
Three Year Olds  
1 1/16 Mile (Turf)

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# The Answer

With The Moonlight shines in Gr. 3 stakes

BY PAUL HALLORAN

The question was posed Sunday morning as a group of friends prepared to vacate a rental house near Saratoga Lake.

"Can one Charlie Appleby beat three Chad Browns?"

This particular weekend at Saratoga Race Course, the answer, Dr. Morer, is a resounding "Yes."

Less than 24 hours after Appleby sent out Na-

**Continued On Page 33**



Tod Marks

With The Moonlight zooms to the finish of Sunday's Saratoga Oaks.



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■ Continued from page 32

tions Pride to win the Grade 1 Saratoga Derby, the Godolphin trainer did indeed overcome a three-headed Brown monster to capture the Grade 3 Saratoga Oaks Invitational with Frankel filly With The Moonlight.

So, Charlie, how was your first trip to Saratoga?

"Thoroughly enjoyed it," he said, smiling. "Everybody at Saratoga has been very kind to us. It's great to have the winners, but this is my first time here and this is an amazing place."

On Saturday, Nations Pride avenged a loss in the Belmont Derby. Sunday it was With The Moonlight's turn to make up for a second to Brown's McKulick in the Belmont Oaks.

"We were comfortable coming in," said Appleby, who gave William Buick a leg up on both winners. "We respected Chad's filly but we were confident we would be a bit closer

this time. Will gave her a great ride around there. Once he gave her the signal, I was pretty confident she would see it out. She was in a nice rhythm traveling well within herself. There were nice even fractions and William had her in A-1 position.”

Brown's Contemporary Art took the early lead, tracked by With The Moonlight and McKulick through fractions of :24.91 and :50.14. Buick kept With The Moonlight within a length as they traveled down the backstretch and made his move, along with McKulick, on the far turn.

The Godolphin filly had taken over the lead by the stretch call and won by a comfortable 1 3/4 lengths over McKulick, with Brendan Walsh's New Year's Eve third and Contemporary Art fourth. The final time was 1:54.60 for the 1 3/16-mile race.

"We thought if there was no pace we would let her stride," said Buick, now 2-for-2 lifetime at Saratoga. "Obviously, Chad Brown had three in the race and we figured one of his

**Continued On Page 34**



## Tod Marks

**With The Moonlight keeps clear of McKulick (left) and the others in the Saratoga Oaks.**

[illegible]

# Saratoga Oaks —

■ Continued from page 33

would make the pace which is what happened. That suited us. She felt really good today.”

Brown paid credit to the winner, but also would have appreciated a different pace scenario.

“There really wasn’t any pace in the race today,” said the trainer, who finished second, fourth and fifth (Oakhurst), but won four other races on the Sunday card. “It was a totally different setup (than the Belmont Derby). The winner ran very well. She was positioned in front of us and really outkicked us. We weren’t too far behind her. She outkicked us today off that pace, so hats off to her.”

Bred in Ireland by Godolphin, With The Moonlight won for the fourth time in eight starts while pushing her career earnings to \$559,271 with a \$375,000 payday.

As with Nations Pride, With The Moonlight clearly benefited from having a race and then staying in the U.S. as opposed to shipping back to Europe.

“Our horses coming from Europe always improve after one run on these tracks,” Buick said. “They both showed that. It’s nice to come over here with two nice horses, two nice rides and two winners.”

Even with European superstars, Appleby understands tackling a trifecta of Brown runners is a for-



Tod Marks

Patrice Pott leads With The Moonlight into the winner's circle Sunday.

midable proposition.

“We know what Chad’s like on the turf,” he said. “He’s a fantastic trainer. His turf horses take a lot of getting past. But we always feel we bring the right horses to be competitive.”

Appleby said he would decide “pretty quickly” whether to ship the two winners back to Europe

Tuesday or keep them here for future U.S. starts. The Jockey Club Derby at Belmont Sept. 18 is a logical next start for Nations Pride, while he ruled out the 11-furlong Jockey Club Oaks for With The Moonlight on the same card, indicating he may even cut her back in distance.

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# Tattersalls

# Good Job

Two-year-old filly Naughty Gal wires Grade 2 for Lukas, Saez

BY PAUL HALLORAN

There are plenty of people involved in racehorse ownership who claim to have a “real job,” with varying degrees of truth to it. Himanshu Shukla is not one of those people.

Shukla – make that Dr. Shukla – is a cardiologist by trade, with a practice in Phoenix, Ariz. He made the trip East to watch his 2-year-old filly, Naughty Gal, run in the Grade 3 Adirondack Stakes at Saratoga Race Course Sunday. And other than a few anxious moments in the stretch when the filly may have caused her backers’ hearts to flutter, the trip was an unqualified success.

“I do have a day job. I would like this to be my day job, but it’s not,”

## ADIRONDACK STAKES RECAP

Shukla said in the winner’s circle, after his \$350,000 March OBS purchase won the Adirondack by a not-as-close-as-it-looks 2 1/2 lengths. The winning margin was decreased by Naughty Gal sharply veering to the outside in the stretch, giving Janis Joplin a chance to steal it on the rail. But once Luis Saez got his horse straightened out, she surged to the finish line in front to complete the gate-to-wire score.

“He (Saez) said the rail was not the place to be,” said trainer D. Wayne Lukas, who won the Adirondack for the seventh time. “He came off the

Continued On Page 36



Tod Marks

Naughty Gal and Luis Saez navigate the stretch run while winning the Adirondack.



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## Adirondack —

■ Continued from page 35

turn and decided to go wide and suddenly he figured he was a lot wider than he wanted to be. At least she had the class to keep running.”

Saez got her sorted out with time to spare.

“At the three-eighths, her ear was back-and-forth looking at something and got a little lost, but she kept running and going,” Saez said. “She gave me another gear and ran good.”

As it turned out, Naughty Gal, by Into Mischief out of the Spanish Steps mare Conway Two Steps, had plenty of margin for error, coming into the race with a Beyer Speed Figure (75) at least 11 points higher than the next closest horse and going off as the 7-5 favorite.

“Whenever you’re the favorite at Saratoga, you’re always a little worried,” Shukla said. “But she was training really well and we have the best trainer in the world.”

Shukla, who got in the game in 2011 and has three horses in training under Holy Cow Stable, never had a stakes winner until Sunday. He got it with the most expensive horse he has ever bought, selected by bloodstock agent Donato Lanni and purchased privately after she was an RNA, leading to this exchange in the winner’s circle Sunday:

Shukla: “Thank you for picking her out.

Lanni: “Thank you for buying her.”

Bred in Florida by Loren Nichols, Naughty Gal sold for \$200,000 as a weanling in 2020, was an RNA at Keeneland September as a yearling and then went to Shukla’s Holy Cow Stable at OBS after breezing a quarter-mile in :20.4.

“We loved her work. We were all in on her. We were trying to pick another good one for him,” Shukla said, pointing to Lukas. “It’s all about him.”

Shukla had his horses in California the first few years, but decided to move them to Kentucky. Why Lukas?

“His credentials,” Shukla said of the Hall of Fame trainer. “I felt like the horsemanship was a little different in California. I wanted to go with a good horseman who had a good resume. It’s not about the results of the race. As an owner my responsibility is to make sure the horses are well taken care of and there’s nobody who takes better care of them than this guy.”

Naughty Gal would appear to be the next standout filly for Lukas, who won this year’s Kentucky Oaks with Secret Oath and finished second in the Grade 3 Schuylerville with Summer Promise.

“I didn’t do a good job with her,” Lukas said of Summer Promise. “I

**Continued On Page 37**



Owner Himanshu Shukla (left) listens in while Luis Saez and Wayne Lukas talk through Naughty Gal’s win in Sunday’s Adirondack.

Tod Marks



# Reboot

Wide trip doesn't faze Our Flash Drive in turf stakes score

BY TOM LAW

Mark Casse met Dylan Davis in the paddock before Sunday's \$135,000 Fasig-Tipton De La Rose – the final stakes of the blockbuster Whitney weekend – and offered the simplest of instructions.

"She's the best horse in the race; ride her that way," Casse said.

Davis knew the Ghostzapper filly from three previous rides – two fourths in stakes at Belmont Park last fall and a second there in the Grade 3 Beaugay this spring. Davis did just that, keeping the Live Oak Plantation's cantankerous homebred filly in

**Continued On Page 39**



Tod Marks

Our Flash Drive heads for home in Sunday's De La Rose.

Congratulations StarLadies.  
Prank is *no* joke!

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# De La Rose —

■ Continued from page 38

the clear and wide around both turns on the way to victory in the 1-mile stakes for fillies and mares which have not won a graded stakes in 2022.

"I was like, 'Oh boy,'" Casse said of the early part of the De La Rose, when Our Flash Drive ran wide into the first turn. "We all know how tough this turf course is to win [on] when you don't save ground."

Davis, looking for his first stakes win of the meet approaching the half-way point, never worried about the overland journey.

"I broke well and she just kind of came back a little bit, but I think that gave her the right trip and that's all we needed," he said. "I was maybe two- or three-wide. I was never planning on tucking her in too much. I didn't want to go four wide. I would have to tuck her in after that, but it was basically being forwardly placed, laying second or third going into that first turn and that's exactly what we got so it was nice."

Our Flash Drive overcame the

wide trip and won the De La Rose by a length over Plum Ali with 2-1 favorite Love And Thunder another half-length back in third in the field of eight. Our Flash Drive improved to 4-for-11 and added the De La Rose to stakes victories last year in the Grade 3 Selene and Grade 3 Ontario Colleen, both at Woodbine.

Casse shipped Our Flash Drive from his Woodbine string late last week. She ran at Saratoga as a 2-year-old — finishing off the board in two maiden sprints on the main track — but proved to be a handful away from home.

Casse called the filly a "project" after the De La Rose, the last of three stakes on Sunday's card.

"She's interesting. She's not an easy horse," he said. "In fact I left her up at Woodbine, you'll see her last breeze was at Woodbine and it was all done by plan because she likes it there."

"She doesn't like going to the track, and she's gotten now where she starts savaging horses. That's the Ghostzapper thing in her. She can be a little bit of a you-know-what. The good news is she runs fast."

Continued On Page 40

# WE NY

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# De La Rose —

■ Continued from page 39

Our Flash Drive showed her speed in her two works since her most recent start and trip to Saratoga, breezing 5 furlongs over Woodbine's synthetic main track in :59.80 July 27 and a half in :47.80 there July 20.

"She trains really good over the synthetic," Casse said. "If I could do it, I'd train every turf horse I have at Woodbine. I've always felt like . . . Tepin could not handle this dirt track at all and it hurt her in her races. This is the one place she would get beat. She'd trip and almost fall down half the time. I've said this forever, a lot of turf horses, it's not just running, training over that synthetic surface definitely helps them."

Davis parked Our Flash Drive out in the course as the In Good Spirits took the field into the first turn and through the opening quarter-mile in :24.46. In Good Spirits stayed there up the backstretch and to the half in :49.20, with Jouser a half-length back



Tod Marks

**Our Flash Drive shows the way in a crowded stretch run of the De La Rose.**

and followed by Plum Ali, Our Flash Drive, Nazuna and Assertive Style in a tight group.

Our Flash Drive continued wide around the far turn and made a run

for the lead in the stretch. She took command at the three-sixteenths, passed Jouser and In Good Spirits at the eighth pole and widening her advantage in the final sixteenth. Our

Flash Drive won in 1:35.42 over the firm inner turf.

"I wasn't comfortable but there wasn't much I could do about it at that point in time," Casse joked about the wide trip early. "You always want to save ground when you're running."

Davis, tied for 10th in the rider standings with seven wins through Sunday, liked the response Our Flash Drive gave at the top of the lane.

"They're going to have to run harder than me, because I'm running," he said. "She was giving me everything she got. She ran hard, I didn't think there was much behind me to catch me. It was a great run. Especially when I asked her, I was like 'oh it's gametime.'"

Plum Ali closed up the rail under Manny Franco to finish second and behind Our Flash Drive for the third straight race. Both fillies ran in the Beaugay – Our Flash Drive finishing second and Plum Ali seventh – and Grade 2 Nassau with Our Flash Drive third and Plum Ali fourth.

Our Flash Drive picked up \$74,250 for her first win in four starts this year.

## THE FINISH LINE IS JUST THE BEGINNING



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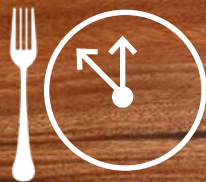


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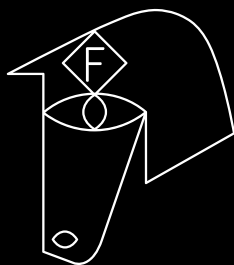
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# Lights Out

## Stall, Gilcrease pull 26-1 upset in opener

Al Stall Jr. knew Gilcrease's quality when he loaded the van to take a string of horses from Churchill Downs to Saratoga Race Course this summer.

"We brought him up here, it's a long trip so we try to be picky about who we bring up here," Stall said. "He always was forward about things, very clean-legged, sound and happy.

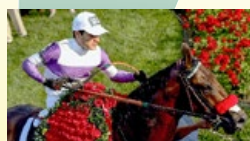
"With the pedigree, we took a chance. We breezed him over on the grass, which is a great thing we can do at Saratoga that not too many other places you can do. Julien [Leparoux] was ear-to-ear smiles after his work on the Oklahoma and this race just fit him and we just really liked the horse. We knew that there was a huge favorite and he didn't run his race. We thought we were live and

**Continued On Page 43**



Dave Harmon

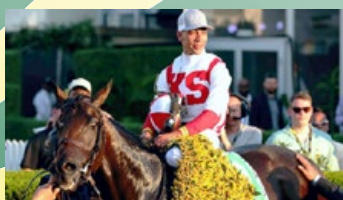
Gilcrease pulls clear to win Sunday's first race in an upset for trainer Al Stall Jr.



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# Sunday —

■ Continued from page 42

here we are. I don't even know what he paid, fifty-some dollars or something crazy."

How about \$54?

Julien Leparoux rode the 2-year-old More Than Ready colt, who stalked from third before accelerating into the stretch and winning the 5 1/2-furlong turf maiden by 2 lengths in a final time of 1:02.50.

"When you see Julien laying third there like that, usually it's a good sign," Stall said. "He didn't gun him to get there. He's a good, athletic colt. Now we go to Kentucky Downs and maybe dream big."

Stall said the Columbine Stable homebred could go in the Sept. 3 Juvenile Mile or Sept. 8 Juvenile Sprint, both worth \$500,000.

"He's Bernardini there on the bottom so he can maybe — I'll talk to Julien about it — he's a lightly made colt, he could do maybe both," Stall said. "It's a good thing to have. It'll have to be a gameday call because we won't be able to learn anything about him distance-wise between now and September. So we'll nominate to both and play it by ear."

The deciding factor will be the "competition, or if Julien or someone was adamant that he wants to go further. It's either 6 1/2 or a mile. But the mile is kind of stiff, up the hill and all of that. So, all of that will come into play but we'll worry about that much later."

— Timothy Littau

- Owner Bob Edwards sported bright lime shoes for his trip to the winner's circle for Pink Hue's debut victory in the sixth, a 1 1/16-mile maiden for 2-year-old fillies on the grass.

Edwards' e Five Racing Thorough-

Continued On Page 44



Dave Harmon

Pink Hue scores in Sunday's sixth, one of four wins on the day for trainer Chad Brown.

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## Sunday —

### ■ Continued from page 43

breeds campaigned champion and multiple Grade 1 winner Good Magic and he said one key to a 2-year-old victory is to come in “race-ready.”

“Mentally, I like seeing a horse that’s kind of in tune, not like looking all over the place, ready to race,” he said. “This filly was kind of the perfect picture. She looked great, she behaved well in the paddock, she handled it well. A lot of babies handle it well, so I’m super excited to see a horse like that.”

The daughter of Mendelssohn won her debut by 2 3/4 lengths over fellow first-time starter Xigera. Pink Hue raced in the middle of the pack around the first turn. Jockey Flavien Prat moved her up leaving the second turn as Xigera made her run at the lead. Pink Hue tracked her down on the outside to win in 1:42.51.

“I thought she raced fantastic,” Edwards said. “When she came out the turn there, Flavien looked like he had some traffic and just found that hole.

She had that second gear when she came up no one was touching her.”

Pink Hue breezed 10 times after coming to Saratoga at the end of May, with nine works on the dirt. The lone turf work was her most recent – 5 furlongs in 1:02.71 over the Oklahoma grass course for trainer Chad Brown.

“Initially he liked her on dirt, so he trained her on dirt, breezed her on dirt a bunch of times,” Edwards said. “He said ‘look, there are two races today, I got a dirt and a turf. I want to breeze her on turf just one time.’ One of the exercise riders and Chad tried her on the turf and she looked like a different horse. ... Whatever he picks, he’s a horseman. I trust his judgment. He wants to win as well.”

— **Spencer Ripchik**

• Brown won four on the day – the third with Goodnight Olive, fifth with Raging Sea, sixth with Pink Hue and finale with Digital Software. Irad Ortiz Jr., the leading rider through the first four weeks with 30 winners, rode two of Brown’s winners – Goodnight Olive and Digital Software, while Flavien Prat rode the others. ... Luis Saez picked up a pair of wins in the second

(Blue Jays) and the fourth (Naughty Gal). ... Brown leads the trainers’ race with 21 wins, six more than Todd Pletcher, who won the eighth with Colorful Mischief for St. Elias Stable.

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Todd Pletcher .....	15
Christophe Clement.....	9
Mike Maker .....	9
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Brad Cox .....	5
Tom Morley .....	5
Wesley Ward .....	5

JOCKEYS .....	1ST
Irad Ortiz Jr. ....	30
Luis Saez.....	24
Joel Rosario .....	21
Javier Castellano .....	15
Flavien Prat .....	15
Jose Ortiz.....	13
Manuel Franco .....	12
John Velazquez .....	11

Through Sunday

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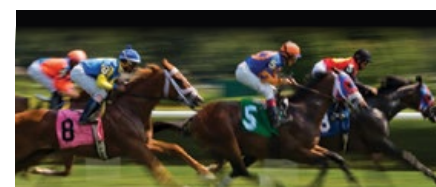
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Goodnight Olive scores in Sunday's third for trainer Chad Brown.

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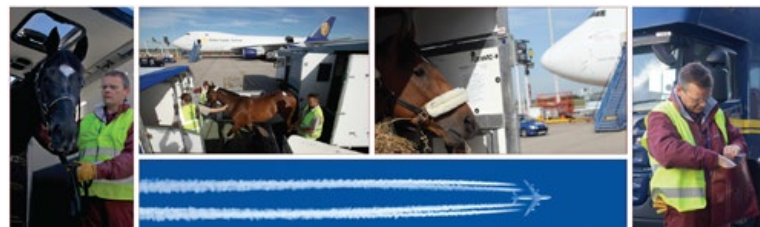
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# To have and to hold

BY RICHARD ZWIRN

Bonnie and Clyde. Eleanor and Franklin. Lucy and Desi. Harry and Meghan. Just a handful of couples who shared a special bond while enduring trying times.

In working with racehorses, the rewards can be great and the successful moments are mighty special. However, the stress, long hours, disappointment, physical injuries, scheduling conflicts, acrid odors, costs of doing business, daily frustrations and even stray wood shavings under the sheets provide obstacles and burdens for many partners.

Joe and Anne. The Thoroughbred industry has many of its own well-known couples . . . like the McMahons, owners of McMahon Thoroughbreds of Saratoga. While they are parents to five wonderful children (four of whom married other horsemen and women), they are also “godparents” to the New York Thoroughbred breeding industry. Fifty plus years of hand-in-hand leadership will help create that level of respect.

“You sure you don’t want to interview someone else for this?” Anne started, in her inimitable humble way. “We already get so much press.”

She relented. “Delivering foals has probably provided the quintessential moments for Joe and me. It takes teamwork. Like on the night (Kentucky Derby winner) Funny Cide was born – three mares decided to go at the same time. We had our hands full. But, our mutual instincts kicked-in and while the tension was high, three Distorted Humor (future stake winning) foals entered the world in a healthy way.”

“We learned to juggle . . . kids, foals, hay, vet visits, client calls, and lots more. I was always the last to bed,” Anne con-

*Every horse has a story. The Special will tell a bunch via this column, which will run periodically through the meet. They will mostly be mine. I hope these accounts entice and enthrall, as well as help readers realize what a remarkable animal and sport we have here.*

tinued. She says it with both nostalgic longing and abject relief. “There have been tough times. But, Joe and I were behind each other most every step of the way . . . we tried to be smart and bring a set of different skills and attributes to the business.” Even though these “oldtimers” have handed off much of the responsibility of the farm to their children, they remain motivated. Through good times and bad. How? It comes fairly easily – from the horse.

“I guess the horses that stand out aren’t the household names. They’re the ones that need you. A mare who became blind after a ruptured uterine



## Every Horse

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artery – Sly Damsel would always take my lead, yet I knew the daily routine she desired, needed. Another old mare (Raise the Bridge) had given us several beautiful babies, but required constant foot care from being so plagued with leg issues. A rapport develops. She looked at us and told us when it was time. She felt that safe. You have to care about these animals. It can’t be mechanical – it has to be personal. When a horse gives you a look, you get to know what it means.”

Many years ago when my wife and I were getting our farm up and running, Anne was very clear when she said, “There will be ups and downs – there’s no way around that. But, if you can weather the bad times together, the good times become that much richer.” How true.

Brittney and Rob. The young, likable Team Atras also runs a hands-on operation, as their four are busy at work every day. They may not get to enjoy relaxing, quiet weekends at home, but that’s OK. What they do share is a passion/drive/enthusiasm for their horses and the racing game. Neither will be complaining about why they can’t go out to dinner on any given night. They understand the commitment to their profession – and each other. They mix business with pleasure so that the job is fun – not work. The result? Content couple. Happy horses.

Rob’s the calming presence. Brittney is high energy. “We even-out each other,” she said. “We work really well together. It can be hard but we don’t have

**Continued On Page 48**

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Photo by Dan McCanna



## Every Horse —

■ Continued from page 46

too many moments, considering it's mostly all day every day. We respect each other and others' opinions. Rob listens well — to all perspectives."

Does she ever question this line of work? "Oh my gosh — yes! It's often 5 a.m.-7 p.m. days, stress, disappointment, panic." Sure, she wonders what it would be like if . . . But, also says, "The hard work and dedication feel right. When things don't pan out, we know we have each other to lean on — someone else who understands and can relate. It's a dynamic that works."

"Science Fiction was our first winner. We went out on a limb at the time — had \$500 in our bank account and Rob's old equipment his dad had brought back from Assiniboia Downs. It was stressful, and this cute little mare really came through for us. She helped open the door to some new clients. We exhaled and felt that — Wow, we can do this."

Then came exploits with Royal Albert Hall, their first stakes winner.

"He had been sprinting on the dirt in New Mexico — which was not really his game. Came to us on a week-long van ride . . . with cattle and no halter. We worried because he slept for a solid week afterward. We wondered what had we gotten ourselves into. We worked hard with him — he was tough to ride. But, he came around and responded to our program. He's retired, and I have since adopted him. He's so cool."

But last year's Coaching Club American Oaks winner Maracuja carried real weight.

"I still pinch myself," she sighed,

"because it seems so surreal. A Grade 1 with the longest shot on the board — at Saratoga, no less. It was insane. It meant so much to us."

Beyond an excellent crew and mutual understanding, what else has been a steady factor for Brittney and Rob?

"Gilbert." She gives a shout out to the barn goat. Always accommodating, always upbeat, always clowning for Fruit Loops. "I can't imagine life at the barn without him. He's a stress-buster, for sure."

Horses — and goats, apparently — are the glue. After long days at the track, they can still embark upon spirited conversations about each horse in their shedrow — the typical and the extraordinary. A unique, rewarding partnership along a potentially difficult path.

As I watched the action from just outside the Saratoga Race Course saddling ring, a visual struck me which was somewhat analogous to this type of union. It came via the snapshot of a trainer hoisting a jockey up onto a mount prior to a race. A grand old tradition. It is done gently. With care and grace — with mutual respect and trust — with a sentiment of best possible wishes I'll be with you throughout.

This leg up is a lovely symbol of elevating a partner. To keep each other buoyant . . . in plenty and in want.

*Richard Zwirn, a member of the New York Thoroughbred Breeders, has been a racing fan for 50 years and a hands-on Thoroughbred breeder for the past 25 on a small farm seven miles from Saratoga Race Course.*



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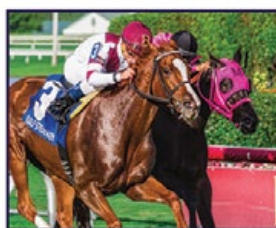
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# Aftermath

**Y**ou can smell it. You can taste it. The char, the heat, the smoke, the ash. It catches in the back of your throat. Runs up your nose and sticks. It gets on your hands, on your clothes. A once-upon-a-time monument lying in a heap of finality. The metal roof twisted and tangled like a tarp in the wind. The black burnt beams, thrown like pixie sticks, a few still stand defiant.

The stall bars somehow still in lines but nothing to hold them. The mounds and mounds of black, it's impossible to decipher what it is and what it isn't.

It rekindled in the middle of the night. Still smolders. A long goodbye, a sad, dying whimper from an old friend.

Thankful for what wasn't lost.

Gregor, the likable Warmblood who puts his chin on your shoulder while you try to muck his stall.

Lemonade Thursday, my first yearling purchase and favorite ride.

Eagle Poise, the big horse.

Apse, the Saratoga winner, Annie's horse, Miles' next horse.

Kiss, the man who came to dinner and never left, he's been part of the family for 17 years.

Courage, the white-eyed wunderkind.

Eli, the one-horn pygmy goat who waddles like a duck and butts like a big-horn ram.

Duchess, our sweet white-bellied cat, Eli's best friend, she was the last to get out, leaping over the stall door of the last stall of the shedrow barn and darting into the woods. We went looking for her after midnight and heard her meow from the other side of the fence. It took awhile, but she came to Annie, tepid, skittish, her hair singed off her back but alive.

Misael, who darted into the barn and saved Courage and Gregor. Annie and Miles. Whew, Annie and Miles.

It's a strange dance, thinking about, thankful for what wasn't lost while wistful about, wishful for what was lost.

The old wooden desk that Lonnie Fuller, a real-life hero who groomed Dad's best horses, refinished for my dad, the one which went with me to college, in the basement of 101 Madison, then to my first rental, my first house, my first and only barn.

The framed Daily Racing Form cover of Eagle Poise before he won the 2011 Valedictory at Woodbine.

The Baltimore Sun paper box with the Steeplechase Times cover of Woody Boy Would in the window. Fourmatt's Federico Tesio blanket. Peter Wilson's wooden bench, hand-made for Annie so many years ago.

The cedar chest my sister gave me. The freezer Tim Keefe gave me. The crates of Saratoga Specials and Steeplechase Times. The brush box full of antlers we've picked up on long walks over the years. The tack trunks full of blankets, halters, bandages. The old barn wood saved for a project that will never happen.

There's a wooden wall box from Morris "Pop" Dixon's old barn, it somehow survived, door ajar, hanging like a forgotten tie in an empty closet. Dixon won the 1945 Preakness with Polynesian. He probably knew that brush box.

Stuff. Just stuff. Our stuff.

It's been a hard day. Hard two days. But all of you have softened it ever so slightly.

Thank you.

Thank you for the texts, the calls, the emails.

I've read all of them, responded to a few of them and appreciate all of them. They're hard to read but I know they were harder to write.

Hovdey: So sad. So sorry. Life always wins.

Allan Lavin: It will never leave your mind...

Katharine Fisher: Oh my...I am so sorry. I know how much it meant to you and more so what it

stood for. It cannot be truly rebuilt but it can be remembered and just like humans...its soul lives on, even if in a different shell.

Cormac: So glad everyone is ok but I'm gutted for you, my friend. For whatever that is worth.

It's worth everything. Every text, call, email, thought, prayer, hope is worth everything.

And the gestures of kindness, the acts of bravery.

Neighbor Steven Putnam kicked in the door and salvaged saddles and bridles, he was here at the first flame. Neighbor Job Woodill rushed over in fire gear, spent the whole day here, came back today to spread out the smoldering piles. He'll be back tomorrow. The Middleburg Fire Station came early, came often, they've been here four times. Heroes.

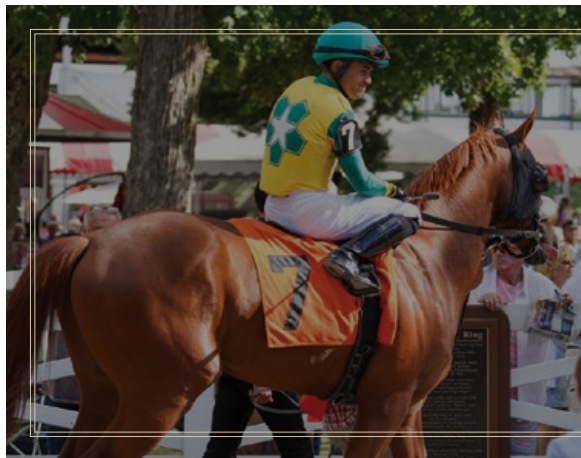
Julie Gomena and Robert Bonnie picked up four shellshocked horses, gave them shelter, four stalls, buckets, feed tubs, hay, shavings, hoof pick and all the love. Janie Covington showed up with fresh gazpacho. Viyas Sundaram delivered Thai food.

Andrew Motion and Frank Alosa moved a round pen from the barn's courtyard to the front field. Stella has been Herculean, strong for Miles and strong for us. Peter Dankens, a Saratoga Special reader, sent \$100 through PayPal.

Charles Lee worked on Eli's new home. Jen from down the street brought a bucket of supplies, grazed a horse this afternoon. Jack Holz simply gave us hugs.

Debbie fixed Annie's laptop so she can use her phone as a hotspot, the Internet bounced from the mountain, to the barn, to the house, that's gone too. Tom played a rock-and-roll trivia game with Miles, an escape for my son who saw too much yesterday. A six pack of ice-cold Peroni showed up on the doorstep.

I heard someone set up a GoFundMe page. Another kind gesture but we decline. We don't need your money. By God, we need your love.



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