

Year 22 • No. 13

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

The *Saratoga*

# Special

Saratoga's Racing Newspaper since 2001

## Big Finish

**Gun Runner colt brings \$2.3 million  
to pace select sale to record returns**



**Joseph O'Brien Stable Tour  
Blackstone gets \$1.1 million  
for PA-bred yearling  
Stakes Previews  
Entries & Handicapping**

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# MASTERY

**17** winners in the  
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Impressive 2-year-old debut winner  
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## SURPRISINGLY

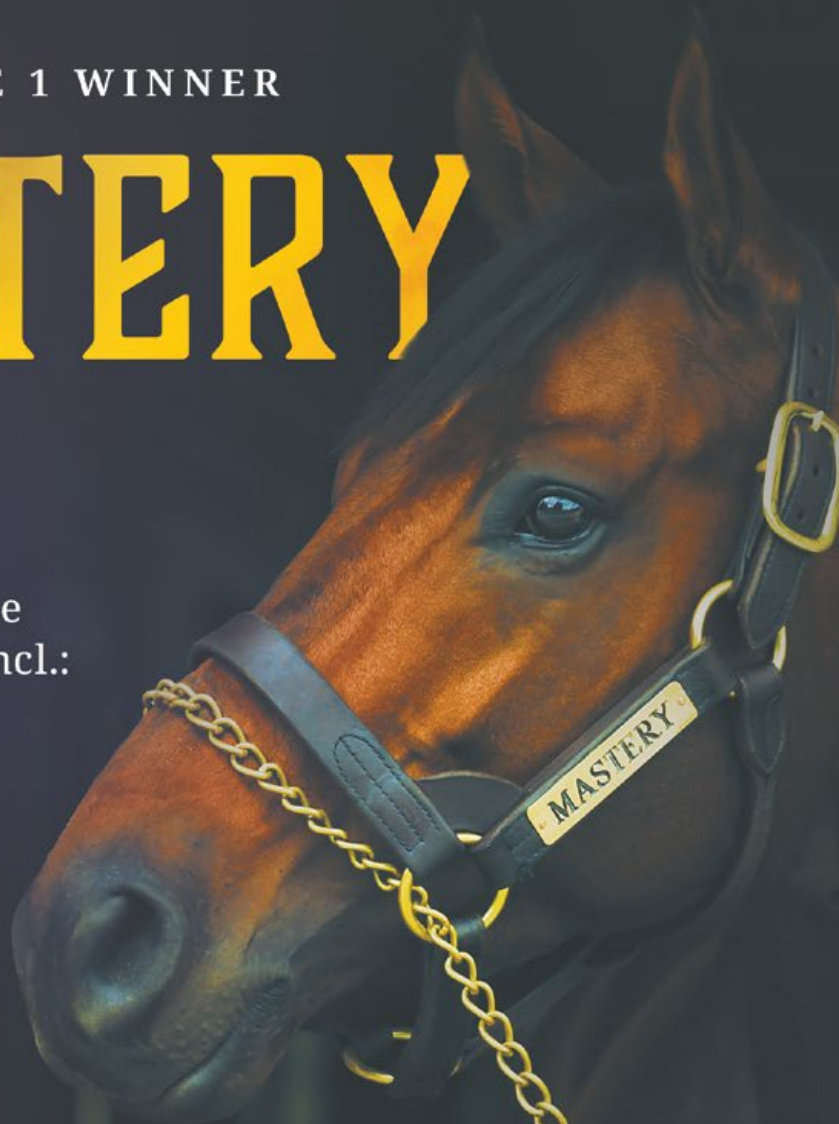
3-time winner in four starts with  
nearly \$100,000 in earnings

## MIDNIGHT MEMORIES

2-time winner in three starts with  
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**\$210,000**



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**MASTERY** (Candy Ride (ARG) - Steady Course, by Old Trieste)



Starting Over. Week 5 gets going at Saratoga Race Course today.

Tod Marks

## Here&There...in Saratoga

### T-Shirt of the Day

It's Post Time Somewhere.

### License Plates of the Day

CADEAUX and CADEAUX2, New York. (Parked side-by-side in the Fasig-Tipton valet lot. We want the scoop)

### By The Numbers

**24:** Original oils by Sir Alfred Munnings exhibited by Frost and Reed at Fasig-Tipton's Saratoga sale in 1982. Wonder what they sold for?

### Worth Repeating

"It's those ads in The Special that made all the difference."

**Consignor Hanzly Albina,**  
on selling a million-dollar yearling; we think  
the horse had something to do with it but whatever

"Total rookie."

**West Point Thoroughbreds' Terry Finley,**  
wrestling with a microphone for an interview

"I was the announcer. Terence Collier was my back-up."

**Eaton Sales' Reiley McDonald,** on his job with Fasig-Tipton  
at Saratoga in 1982 (no, he was not the auctioneer)

"But it does hurt your heart."

**Country Life Farm's Ellen Pons,** on a barn fire  
not hurting so much if all the animals emerged unhurt

### Names of the Day

**Arctic Arrogance, third race.**

Chester and Mary Broman's homebred 2-year-old colt is by Frosted and out of Modest Maven.

**Inflation Adjusted, fifth race.**

Klaravich Stable's 3-year-old colt is by Hard Spun and out of Financial Recovery.

**Spinning Colors, sixth race.** Owned and bred by David Howe and Bill Parsons, the 2-year-old filly is by Hard Spun out of Kaleidoscope.

**Remote, 10th race.** Owned and bred by Claiborne Farm and Adele Dilschneider, the 3-year-old colt is out of Long View.



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

259 East Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

ST Publishing, 364 Fair Hill Drive, Ste. F, Elkton, MD 21921. (410) 392-5867.

2022 publication dates: Wednesdays and Saturdays July 14-Sept 3.  
Plus Opening Day & Sales Week Daily Aug. 5-10.

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# Here&There...in Saratoga

## Worth Repeating

“Brothers by a different father.”

**Doug Black, about Blackstone Farm partner Christian Black (no relation); the Pennsylvania farm sold a \$1.1 million yearling Monday**

“Everybody loved the colt, he came out, showed class the whole time. Everybody, as soon as he walked up there, they loved him. People from another barn would walk over and see him. Mentally, he was a colt that people wanted to be around. You get a lot of athletes that are capable, but their mind takes them away. This colt, he handled it well the whole time. He got better every-day.”

**Summerfield’s Francis Vanlangendonck on Hip 56, a colt by Speightstown who sold for \$950,000 to Donato Lanni, agent for Starlight, Madaket and SF Racing**

“This is an amazing sale. Very tough.”

**China Horse Club’s Teo Ah Khing**

“You put some nice polish on today’s column. Thanks.”

**Guest columnist Richard Zwirn on his Every Horse feature that appeared Monday**

“Hey, if they don’t sell well now, it’s on me.”

**Consignor Stuart Morris, about the sales market and his New York-bred prospects; catch him Sunday and Monday**



**Horse Crossing.** The Budweiser Clydesdales stretch their legs on the Oklahoma backstretch area Tuesday morning – to the delight of some fans. Catch the horses at the track today and Friday.

Connie Bush



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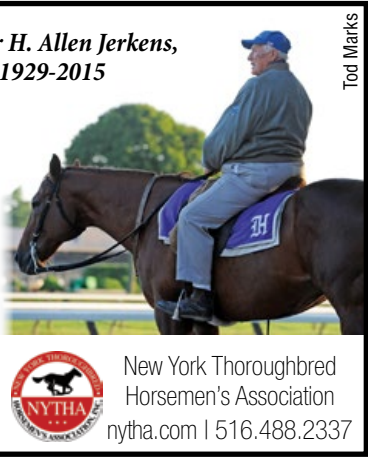
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## The Chief


Trainer H. Allen Jerkens,  
1929-2015

“They all had a nickname, damn near everyone of them, Duck Butter, Paycheck, the best one was Train Robber. His mother came one day, she said, ‘Is Willy Capers here?’ I said, ‘We ain’t got any Willy Capers here.’ She said, ‘You know the boy they call Train Robber?’”



Tod Marks

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## Quote of the Day

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Owner/breeder Peter Blum,  
about Allen Jerkens



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## With Joseph O'Brien

Barn 84 has been home to popular horses from powerful operations. The barn sits at the far eastern end of the Oklahoma Training Track stable area, but it's well worth the 15-minute walk – when the horse traffic is light – from the East Avenue gate.

On the south end, 72-year-old Hall of Fame trainer Nick Zito has most of the horses in the barn and more history than most trainers at Saratoga. There are a few empty stalls as you continue walking north, and – until Tuesday – there were two horses next to each other, Charlie Appleby's respective Saratoga Derby and Saratoga Oaks winners Nations Pride and With The Moonlight. Another empty stall, and then there are four horses and a young man sporting a cool pair of shades and a big reputation: 29-year-old Joseph O'Brien.

Reserved, quiet and concise, O'Brien watched over his horses and staff last week, taking in the scenes of the backstretch, when he was in town for the weekend and sales.

"This is a fantastic meet, there's some great prize money and I have some owners who are based here," O'Brien said. "It's always a pleasure to come here and to come racing here and to come for the sale. The opportunity arose and we grasped it with both hands.

"We won't buy a lot here, we bought one last year. The vast majority of our horses we buy back at home. Tattersalls, Goffs, Arqana. Goffs and Tattersalls is where we do most of our buying."

From his quiet training yard at Carriganog to the hustle and bustle of Saratoga, the differences could not be more distinct, but his horses are taking it in stride.

"It took them a bit of time but I think they're starting to settle in to the routine now," O'Brien said. "We're looking forward to the rest of the meet."

O'Brien went over his quartet stabled at the Spa and some of his top runners back home in Ireland with The Special's Timothy Littau.

**Cadamosto:** The 3-year-old Irish-bred No Nay Never colt is the only non-starter at the meet. Owned by Derrick Smith, Susan Magnier, Michael Tabor and Westerberg, he was fourth in the Group 2 Barberstown Castle Sapphire Stakes at the Curragh July 16 before coming to the U.S. He has one published work on the turf on the Oklahoma, going a half-mile in 47.02, the fastest of 56 Aug. 7. "He's going to run next weekend, a pretty fast horse so we're looking forward to how he goes. He seems to have settled in well."



Tod Marks

The O'Brien-trained State Of Rest won at Saratoga last year, then went on to capture Australia's Cox Plate.

**Alexis Zorba:** A \$442,516 yearling purchase by Peter Brant's White Birch Farm, 2-year-old Zoustar colt is the only one of the bunch to have run twice in Saratoga. He made his debut April 8 at Dundalk on the all-weather where he finished second and was second at Naas May 7. Fourth here going 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf July 22 and second stretching out to 1 1/16 miles on the turf. "Alexis Zorba ran second (Aug. 6) in the maiden. That's his third race (on the turf), his second run here. He ran fourth and he ran second. Hopefully he'll get his head in front before the meet is out."

**Stay Lost:** The 2-year-old Bernardini filly was sold to Purley Baker for \$195,000 and is owned by Justin Casse, Mt. Brilliant Stable, Bronsan Racing, Oliver Sangster and Harry Marsh. Finished sixth in her debut Sunday going 1 1/16 miles on the inner turf. The morning before the race O'Brien said, "We're looking forward to seeing how she goes, obviously it's a tough ask from here on her debut, but we think she's a nice filly, hopefully she runs well."

After the race O'Brien said that she could take another shot at breaking her maiden before the meet ends depending on how she came out of the race. "This is as hot of maidens as you'll get anywhere in the world, I'd imagine. The competition

is fierce here, which is what you'd expect. We've come to compete with the top horses here."

**Reckoning Force:** Third on his June 4 debut at Listowel, the 2-year-old Air Force Blue colt followed with a fourth in a 1 1/16-mile maiden on the inner turf July 23. Sold for \$30,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale, he's owned by Fergus Galvin, Marc Detampel and Magnolia Racing Syndicate. He worked a half on the Oklahoma turf in 52.96 Aug. 7. "We're expected to see him on track again soon. We thought it was a lovely run. He runs back next weekend."

**Agartha:** Back home in Ireland, the 3-year-old Caravaggio filly was 10th last out in the July 9 Belmont Oaks. Owned by Heider Family Stables, her biggest success came last year when breaking her maiden at Leopardstown in the Group 3 Frank Conroy Silver Flash Stakes followed by a win in the Group 2 Alpha Centauri Debutante Stakes at the Curragh. She has not found the winner's circle yet this year but has seconds in two Group 3s and a fifth in the Irish One Thousand Guineas. "She probably didn't go the distance in the Belmont Oaks. She comes back to run a mile Group 1 in September in Ireland at Leopardstown."

Continued On Page 7

# Stable Tour —

Continued from page 6

She didn't get the 10 furlongs, we learned that on the day, but she's been home well."

The next stop for her is the Group 1 Matron Stakes at Leopardstown Sept. 10.

**Buckaroo:** Qatar Racing Limited's 3-year-old Fastnet Rock colt broke his maiden on his second try at Galway last year, and concluded his four-start season with a fourth in the Group 1 Criterium de Saint-Cloud. He was second in the Group 3 Ballysax Stakes at Leopardstown to start 2022 then won the Tetrarch Stakes at the Curragh. He sustained an injury when sixth in the Tattersalls Irish Two Thousand Guineas May 21 at the Curragh. "He actually had a little bit of a hold up after that, so we're sorry we won't be seeing him for a little while, unfortunately. But he's a high-class horse." He's out through at least the fall, and he may not run again until next year.

**State Of Rest:** The big horse. Now a 4-year-old, the four-time Group/Grade 1 winner by Starspangledbanner gave O'Brien and owner Team Valley Racing wins in last year's Saratoga Derby at Saratoga and the Cox Plate at Moonee Valley last year. The ownership group changed to the State Of Rest Partnership in March, and he won the Prix Ganay at Longchamp May 1, was third in the Tattersalls Gold Cup at the Curragh May 22 and most recently won the Prince of Wales' Stakes June 15 at Royal Ascot. He's made five straight starts in Group/Grade 1 races in five countries on three continents with four wins and a third. "Winning the Saratoga Derby was great, a special day. He runs in the Group 1 in France next again, probably more likely that he'll go back



Tod Marks

Joseph O'Brien.

to Australia from there. It's a week (from today)." O'Brien said the Group 1 Prix Jacques le Marois at Deauville Aug. 14 was the target, the first time he cuts back to a mile since last summer.

As for defending his title in the Cox Plate: "That'll be the plan. He's owned by an ownership group, which quite a few are based in Australia, some in Ireland as well, so the Australians would love to have a crack at the Cox Plate again."

## Juvenile Report

"The season is in full swing at home and the 2-year-olds have been doing really well. We have Champions Weekend coming up in early September for us, we're looking forward to that next, really."

Champions Weekend takes place at Leopardstown Sept. 10 and the Curragh Sept. 11. The two Group 1 races for 2-year-olds are the Moyglare Stud Stakes for fillies and the Vincent O'Brien National Stakes, both worth 236,000 euros and run at 7 furlongs with fields capped at 20 runners.

**All Things Nice** broke her maiden on second asking June 30 at Bellewstown before going on to win the Nursery Handicap at the Curragh on July 16 but was eased to finish last of 24 in the Ballyhane Stakes Aug. 1 at Naas.

**Basil Martini** has two runner-up finishes July 10 at Fairyhouse and Aug. 6 at the Curragh. Caroline Street is O'Brien's third horse in the top 20 entrants; she was bought for \$200,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale of selected yearlings and won her debut at Leopardstown July 14.

**Ma Belle Artiste** won on debut at Leopardstown July 21. Madly Truly ran second in her debut June 2 at Leopardstown. **Thornbrook** is 1-for-1 after winning at Leopardstown July 7. Zoinnocent won second out at Gowran and was runner-up in the Group 3 Silver Flash Stakes at Leopardstown.

**Apache Outlaw** won on his third try at Fairyhouse June 10, was third in the Group 2 Railway Stakes at the Curragh June 25 and fifth in the Group 1 Phoenix Stakes Aug. 6. **Goa Gajah** won second out at Down Royal June 17 and then ran second in a nursery handicap at Galway July 30.

**Lakota Seven** won his second attempt on July 1 at Bellewstown and was third in the Aug. 5 Churchill Stakes at Tipperary. **Montesilvano** won his second race at Leopardstown July 14 and then finished sixth in the Ballyhane Stakes at Naas Aug. 1. **Voce Del Palio** broke his maiden on O'Brien's birthday May 23 at Roscommon, was second in an auction race June 16 at Leopardstown, fourth July 21 in the Group 3 Tyros Stakes at Leopardstown and then won the Ballyhane.

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# History Maker

Seven-figure yearlings  
power big second night

BY TOM LAW

Bill Graves would have loved every minute of this year's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale of selected yearlings. And don't forget John Ward, either.

The fingerprints of those two late horsemen filled the finally cooled off Adirondack foothills air Tuesday while every worthy metric of North America's oldest and most boutique yearling sale fell by the wayside. Ten yearlings sold for seven figures Tuesday to pave the way to records in gross, average price and median – along with a healthy and low buyback rate.

Continued On Page 10

Hip 202 sold for \$2.3 million Tuesday night to lead a massive second session of the sale.



Tod Marks

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# Sale —

## ■ Continued from page 8

“It feels good, I can’t help but to think of my dad on a night like this,” said Brian Graves, general manager of Gainesway Farm as the final hips ran through the ring. “He would have loved to have been here tonight and he would have been especially proud of Bayne Welker and the team under him for putting this group of horses together. I think that the torch has been passed to Bayne Welker and I’m really happy for him.”

Bill Graves, Fasig-Tipton’s senior vice president for nearly three decades, passed away in the spring of 2018. He loved Saratoga and loved when a sale came together, like the one Fasig-Tipton’s team led by Graves’ friends and colleagues Boyd Browning Jr., Welker and Max Hodge put together for 2022.

Fasig-Tipton reported sales on 143 of the 178 yearlings offered over the two days for a record total of \$66,955,000, and an increase of 21.4 percent from last year’s total of \$55,155,000 for 135 sold. The 2022

total shattered the previous mark of \$62,794,000 set in 2018.

Average price for the sale came in at \$468,217, up 14.6 percent from last year’s \$408,556 and 13.8 percent better than the previous record of \$411,459 set in 2019. The sale’s median came in at \$375,000, a 7.1 percent improvement on the record \$350,000 recorded in 2021 and 2019.

“Rarely do you all find me speechless. Blown away by the results,” Browning said. “It’s gratifying to see the hard work that our people put in, the hard work the breeders put in. The hard work the consignors put in, and honestly the buyers put in, and to see it all come together in a four- or five-day period of time and just ... the energy and excitement, it feels so good from the industry perspective.”

The statistics are phenomenal. ... We shattered every record known to mankind for this sale. That’s a really, really good feeling, but it’s not just for us, it’s a really good vibrancy for the industry and it gives people confidence. We basically had two yearling sales so far this year and both have been really damn good.”

**Continued On Page 12**



Fasig-Tipton

**Hip 126, a Curlin colt and half-brother to graded winner First Captain, hit \$2 million.**

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# Sale —

## ■ Continued from page 10

The sale went beyond that, and lived up to Browning's rare and lofty prediction that the group of yearlings assembled in Saratoga were the best in the last in 20 years.

Tuesday's session, highlighted by the sale-topping \$2.3 million colt by Gun Runner and the \$2 million top-priced filly by Curlin, along with eight other yearlings that sold for \$1 million or more, fueled the records. The 10 seven-figure sales Tuesday brought the two-day total to 14.

"Ten out of the 74 (sold Tuesday) brought seven figures. Frankly that's unheard of," Browning said. "And those 10 were sold to eight, nine different entities. It wasn't, you have to have Group A on your horse, or Group B on your horse. Just broad participation. ... Just a robust market.

"If you're in the Thoroughbred industry, at whatever level, and in particular in the United States, Saratoga is the epitome. At the racetrack and I hope in the yearling sales arena. It energizes everybody. It's like the annual dose of hope and excitement. This is why we do it. You could see people, our industry is alive. You could see people smiling on the sales grounds this week in their interactions with each other. Buyers and sellers, sales companies, van companies and veterinarians. It wasn't, the gnarly, 'Ah, we've got to figure this thing out a little bit,'



Tod Marks  
Hip 151, a Curlin filly,  
topped \$1 million.

it was 'This thing is really good, there's really good horses here, there's really good buyers here.' Just a great feeling."

John and Debby Oxley walked out of the sales pavilion after the final hip went through the ring with that feeling.

They bred and raised the sale's most expensive yearling, Hip 202, a colt by Gun Runner out of Grade 1 winner Heavenly Love, that brought \$2.3 million from the partnership of Coolmore's M.V. Magnier and Peter Brant's White Birch Farm. The

colt, the second foal out of the 2017 Darley Alcibiades winner from the family of Roamin Rachel, was one of three seven-figure yearlings sold by Gainesway.

Debby Oxley, who campaigned Heavenly Love and her dam, the Deputy Minister mare Darling My Darling in her pink colors, couldn't help but think of the latter mare's late trainer.

"It's kind of emotional because Darling My Darling, my husband bought for me because I loved

**Continued On Page 14**

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## Sale —

### ■ Continued from page 12

Roamin Rachel,” she said. “She was just this hard-knocking racemare who raced the Kentucky circuit. Darling has just brought a lot of joy in our lives. It’s so amazing to think, we have to pinch our selves. John Ward is up in heaven tonight doing a big dance. To think that we’re going to have a sale-topper out of our mare is just incredible.”

The purchase of Hip 202, the second foal out of Heavenly Love, landed Magnier on the results with three of the 14 seven-figure yearlings. He signed for another Gun Runner, Hip 186, a colt out of the unraced Giant’s Causeway mare Flag Day, Tuesday night; and Hip 78, a colt by Justify out of the Langfuhr mare Slews Golden Rule, for \$1.1 million Monday night.

“We’ve had horses with Peter in the past, and hopefully we’ll have a lot more in the future,” Magnier said.

Magnier and Coolmore team identified Hip 202 well before he arrived on the sales grounds late last week.

“Brian Graves was always saying he was a nice horse,” Magnier said. “We saw him earlier this summer and Mr. and Mrs. Oxley bred a very nice horse. What can anyone say about Gun Runner. He’s a very good sire; what he’s doing is very good.”

D. Wayne Lukas, a staple of the Saratoga sale when bidding for high-dollar yearlings from his favorite spot in the corner of the sales pavilion on the aisle in the 1980s and ’90s, turned back the clock again in 2022 and got the big night rolling when he struck for the seventh yearling through the ring.

Lukas went to \$1.35 million to buy Hip 114, a colt by Medaglia d’Oro out of the Grade 3-winning Tapit mare Walk Close, on behalf of John Bellinger. A half-brother to 2019 Breeders’ Cup Juvenile runner-up and \$459,491-earner Anneau d’Or, the colt was bred by Lochlow Farm and Godolphin and consigned by Four Star Sales, agent.

“Wonderful colt. Physically, he was really good physical,” Lukas said. “Obviously, we weren’t the only ones that liked him. I thought he had a tremendous walk and a tremendous disposition. I watched him come out

and back two or three times and he looked like he has a good head on his shoulders. He had a great walk.

“I have a hunch that horse will get over the ground pretty good. I have a theory on angles and skeleton, the way that they are put together. He did all of that for me.”

That early seven-figure buy set the stage for two more back-to-back offerings that sold for \$1 million or more, including the sale’s top-priced filly and second most expensive colt.

Expectations in the days leading up to the sale – and probably back to when the Saratoga catalog was released – pegged Hip 126 as a potential sale topper and likely top-priced filly. A full-sister to Grade 3 Pimlico Special winner and 2019 Saratoga sale topper First Captain, the daughter of Curlin out of the Grade 3-winning A.P. Indy mare America sold for \$2 million to West Point Thoroughbreds, Woodford Racing and 3C Stable.

West Point’s Terry Finley bid for the filly in the sales pavilion seated next to Woodford Racing’s and Lane’s End Farm’s Bill Farish.

“She reminds us a little bit of First Captain,” Farish said. “She’s a very athletic, strong-made filly. A lot of Curlin in her for sure. We have had luck with him and we are hoping to have some luck with her on the race-track as well. She is the kind of filly that will be a great broodmare one day.”

Stone Farm sold the filly for her breeder and celebrity chef Bobby Flay. Those two teamed up in 2019 to sell First Captain for \$1.5 million. First Captain, headed to the Grade 1 Jockey Club Gold Cup at the end of the Saratoga meet, is campaigned by West Point, Siena Farm, Flay and Woodford Racing.

Mark Taylor sensed something might be up when Mike Ryan stopped by the Taylor Made Sales Agency consignment Tuesday morning.

“Ah, he came around here today with his Zandon hat on,” Taylor said. “He was doing his little Jeff Drown tour today.”

Ryan indeed gave Drown a tour of the consignment and more specifically Hip 127, a chestnut colt by Curlin that became one of the talking horses on the grounds in the days leading up to the sale. Ryan put Drown together with a few partners and their collec-

**Continued On Page 16**

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# Sale —

## ■ Continued from page 14

tive proved enough to land the colt with the stallion's pedigree for \$1.75 million early in the session.

Ryan, bidding from behind the sales pavilion near the back walking ring, outlasted Mandy Pope and her Whisper Hill Farm manager Todd Quast, bidding from inside, for the colt out of the Grade 1-winning Bernardino mare Angela Renee.

"We put a group together, Jeff Drown is one of them and a couple others," Ryan said. "We're looking to the first Saturday in May hopefully. He's the complete package. It was very hard to find a hole in him. Great pedigree. You hear the same stuff all the time and I don't like to use ticked all the boxes but I couldn't fault him. Agile horse for a big horse, very smooth, beautiful pedigree, came off a good farm. If he's a Grade 1 winner he's worth a lot of money down the road. He's got a great stallion future."

Ryan thought the colt, a half-brother to graded stakes-placed 3-year-old Gilded Age from the family of Pilfer,

To Honor And Serve and Elnaawi, might bring close to his final hammer price.

"We were thinking around a million and a half, but when you get up to these kind of horses it's very hard to split them," he said. "If they're good they're good and they'll reward you. It was a little more than we thought we'd have to go but we thought he was the best colt in the sale, best bred horse in the sale and now we'll see if we are right or wrong."

Ryan said the colt would stay on the East Coast and go to "a top trainer here in New York."

Taylor Made sold the colt for breeder Don Alberto Corp. He's the third foal out of the winner of the 2014 Chandelier Stakes at Santa Anita Park. Don Alberto Corp. bought Angela Renee for \$3 million out of the Taylor Made consignment at the 2015 Keeneland November breeding stock sale.

That carried special meaning for the Taylors, along with another key connection to the colt's second dam, the Deputy Minister mare Pilfer.

"That family, we've had a connec-

**Continued On Page 18**



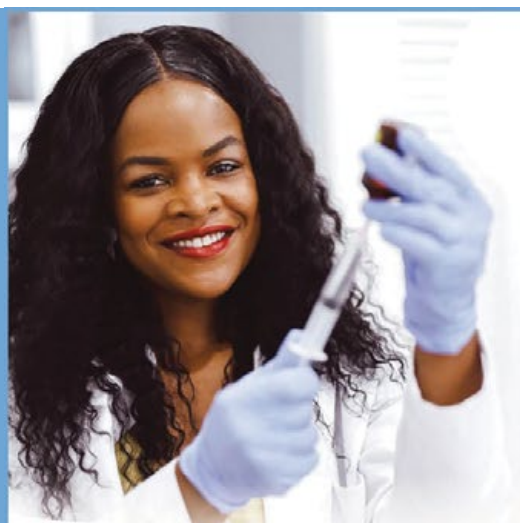
Fasig-Tipton

**Hip 150, an Into Mischief filly, heads to the ring before selling for \$1.2 million.**

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## MUNNINGS

**12** SWs in 2022 - only Into Mischief has more - including **Jack Christopher**, a 10-length winner of the Gr.1 Woody Stephens

## UNCLE MO

**10** SWs in 2022 - only 2 sires have more - including Gr.1 Belmont Stakes winner **Mo Donegal**, Gr.2-winning sprinter **Golden Pal** and unbeaten Gr.3-winning juvenile **Mo Strike**

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## Sale —

### ■ Continued from page 16

tion to it for a long time,” Mark Taylor said. “Rick Porter owned the mare Pilfer, we ended up selling Pilfer for Siena (Farm), we sold Angela Renee for Siena, but really all the credit goes to the team at Don Alberto. They’ve been doing big things in the business for a number of years but it’s really nice to see their whole program come to fruition and producing horses like that.

“He was just a really nice horse. He’s a horse you dream about seeing in the stallion barn someday.”

Donato Lanni, agent, purchased the second session’s and sale’s second highest-priced filly when he went to \$1.8 million for Hip 213, the third-to-last yearling through the ring. Consigned by Lane’s End, the daughter of Quality Road is out of the stakes-placed and stakes-producing Bluegrass Cat mare Ithinkisawapudycat. The filly is the eighth foal out of the mare, the dam of \$750,000 weanling and Grade 1 Spinaway Stakes winner Sweet Loreta and stakes-placed Bridlewood Cat.

Those seven yearlings were part of a group of 39 that sold for \$500,000 or more. Tuesday night’s blockbuster session saw 23 of those yearlings bring that price point.

The Tuesday session produced spectacular results, with 74 of 93 yearlings offered selling for \$38,025,000, an average price of \$513,851 and median of \$375,000. Those numbers far outgained last year’s final session, which Browning called “fantastic.”

“I get to come up here tonight and take all the credit ... but all the credit, that’s where the credit goes,” Browning said, holding up the catalog page listing Fasig-Tipton’s officers, administration staff and auctioneers and announcers. “And to the men and women who supported us with one hell of a group of horses to sell this year. That’s where the credit goes, and I’m fortunate enough to come up here and report the good news. It’s been a lot of good news most of the time in recent years.

“And the cool thing is, and I’ve said it before, and everybody thinks I’m lying, that group, they’ll be working on the Timonium sale, getting ready for the New York-bred sale, working on November, working on the California sale. What do we do different? We’re such maniacs we’ll sit down, it might wait until Thursday, ‘What can we do to make the 2023 sale better?’ ... It’s a tribute to those folks, the men and women who work for the organization and it’s a tribute to our customers. We appreciate them, buyers and sellers alike. Just a great 2022 Saratoga.”



Fasig-Tipton

The sales grounds were full, as were the statistics.

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2021 Keeneland November Average \$43,500

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# Keystone Kid

## Blackstone-bred hits \$1.1 million mark

BY JOE CLANCY

For the record, Christian Black stood outside the sales pavilion by a trash can while a colt he raised at Pennsylvania's Blackstone Farm sold Monday night at Fasig-Tipton's Saratoga select yearling sale.

"My other business partners were inside in the air conditioning watching it," he said Tuesday morning. "That's fine for them. I was standing over by my garbage can by myself. It's easier that way."

And after the result, he's not changing his stress-reducing strategy anytime soon.

Continued On Page 22



Tod Marks

Hip 78 makes a turn while showing for prospective buyers.



WON/PLACED IN

# 50

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(sold as a broodmare for \$1.7 Million)

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**Hip 319 • Flameaway filly**  
Out of **Kittenistic**



**Hip 337 • Flatter filly**  
Out of **Magical Cat**



**Hip 368 • Solomini colt**  
Out of **Nicole's Miss El**  
Half-brother to **\$215,950-earner**  
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**Hip 479 • Constitution colt**  
Out of **Akris Queen**  
Full brother **SP Breadman**

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**Hip 358 • Solomini filly**  
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## Blackstone —

### ■ Continued from page 20

Through consignor Warrendale Sales, Blackstone sold Hip 78 for \$1.1 million on a bid by Michael Wallace as agent for M.V. Magnier. The pricetag was the second highest on opening night, and the highest in Blackstone's history. The 350-acre farm near the state capital Harrisburg was established in 2006 but began focusing on a higher-end Thoroughbred program in 2010 when farm owner Doug Black teamed up with Christian Black (no relation).

The result has been a steadily growing broodmare band to about 50 and an even more steady rise through the ranks of commercial breeders in North America. Blackstone bred and sold millionaire Tom's Ready, multiple stakes winner Bronx Beauty, Grade 3 winner The Critical Way, Grade 3 winner Dark Nile and numerous Pennsylvania-bred champions.

"In 2010, Christian and I got together," said Doug Black. "We saw eye to eye on the vision of what we thought the farm could become and we put together a little program and plan. It's taken awhile, but it seems to be working."

The plan started with a trip to Keeneland November in 2010. Black bought two pregnant mares – River Brat (\$10,000) and Somethingto-

believe (\$24,000). Combined, they produced four foals to race, all sold by Blackstone including a \$157,000 Unbridled's Song-River Brat yearling in 2014.

Blackstone paid \$80,000 for Hip 78's dam Slews Golden Rule in 2014. The daughter of Langfuhr produced stakes winner Leddecka (a \$120,000 Saratoga yearling), three-time winner Cool Comedian (raced by Blackstone) and winner Sondos. Her 2021 colt by Triple Crown winner Justify made people look in Saratoga all week.

"He had such a presence about him," said Warrendale's Hunter Simms. "He would come out and show every time the exact same way. He never got tired, he put his head down, he would stand like a picture. You could lead him around like a puppy dog. His demeanor and his mind were great. The sales can be a very stressful environment for horses. You're taking them away from their friends, you're shipping up here for 14 hours on a van. They're in a new spot, you're showing them on end for four days consistently. For a horse to come in, settle in and show himself as well as he did is remarkable."

A chestnut like his father, the colt was that way from the start according to his breeders.

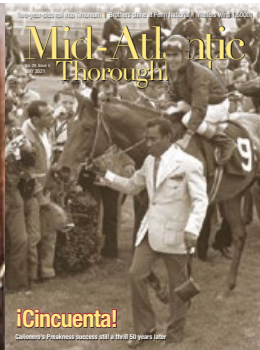
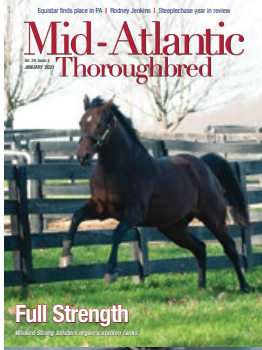
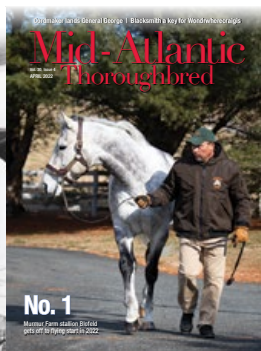
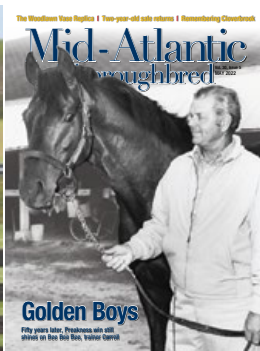
"I know we all say that about our horses but it's true," said Christian Black. "We never brought a yearling

**Continued On Page 24**



The Magnier buying team checks out Hip 78.

Fasig-Tipton



## Looking for another good read?

*Our August issue is now available on line or at the Saratoga Special office*

Always entertaining stories from those familiar *Saratoga Special* faces, Joe and Sean Clancy, and Tom Law. This issue boasts good stories from the regional tracks—Laurel Park, Penn National and Delaware Park—beautifully illustrated with great photography. And there's more: meet Sam Robinson and view his highly acclaimed paintings in our second of a series on regional equine sporting



artists. Celebrate Penn National's 50th anniversary. No one will tell these stories like *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*. The issue is available online at [MidAtlanticTB.com](http://MidAtlanticTB.com). Just join the Club and get the digital edition free! Better yet, stop by the *Saratoga Special* offices at 259 East Avenue for a hard copy, and enjoy the good read!

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*The heart and soul of the Thoroughbred in the region*

# Blackstone —

■ Continued from page 22

up here or to any sale that at that stage was as special as he is. He looks like his dad, whatever that might mean to people. He's a very strong horse, but he's light on his feet and has a very good walk. He's correct and he obviously jumped through all the hoops we have to jump through now in the sales environment. People that have shown they are willing to pay a million dollars for a horse were all lining up on him. We were hopeful, but you never expect it."

Blackstone might be on the wrong side of Appalachian Mountains for some Thoroughbred experts, but 116 Long Stretch Road could have a zip code starting with 405. There are barns, paddocks, rolling hills, even a gated entrance leading to a tree-lined driveway. Oh, and horses. Hip 78 was part of a crop of 35 or so born on the farm. They lived outside, ran, played and grew up.

"We believe in raising the horses the same way and they're all outside and playing around with each other," said Christian Black. "We believe in raising horses outside so he was on the same program as everything else on the farm, and eventually they get too playful and it becomes something else, where soundness or injury issues are something you worry about. Then we split them up. He was one who had to go by himself, not for anything else other than he was very dominant out there."



Fasig-Tipton

Continued On Page 26 Hip 78 lights up the scoreboards to \$1.1 million, a record for breeder Blackstone Farm.

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## 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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## Blackstone —

### Continued from page 24

Pine Grove, about 30 miles east of Harrisburg, is apparently Thoroughbred country and Blackstone is a perennial leader in the Pennsylvania breeding industry in terms of bonuses earned by horses who race at the state's racetracks Parx Racing, Penn National and Presque Isle Downs. Blackstone sells most of their horses, but keeps a few to race depending on the circumstances. The goal is the commercial market, national and regionally, and the Pennsylvania breeders' program.

"We're kind of a little bit away from everybody, kind of isolated," said Christian Black. "We are true believers that you can raise a horse in Pennsylvania as good as you can anywhere else. You have to compensate for things we do not have. We don't have the bluegrass, so we have to compensate for that with our feeding program and we think we are doing a good job."

Warrendale's Simms sees the Blackstone horses as foals and again

as yearlings each spring. The Justify colt improved at every visit.

"I really wanted the horse to sell on behalf of them," he said. "They breed to the top, they raise a good horse, they've had success and the progeny they're raising on the farm are hitting the track and winning stakes races. To start getting the horses they breed into very good hands and to top trainers is just going to allow the farm to keep growing."

Simms said the colt showed more than 200 times leading up to the sale and attracted attention from all levels of the market. Saratoga can be a grind on a sales horse, especially one in demand, and Hip 78 handled it.

"Buyers have four days to look at the horses," he said. "They get here Thursday morning, you give them all day Thursday to hang out. They show Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and the horses that sell on Tuesday are here for five days. Buyers have plenty of time to pick horses apart, come back and look. A serious buyer would look at him two or three times. With a horse like him, it's in and out of the stall, in and out of the stall, in

**Continued On Page 27**

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# Blackstone —

## ■ Continued from page 26

and out of the stall. We showed him with the chain over his nose the whole time. The only time he had a chiffronee (bit) in his mouth was when he went to the ring. He didn't turn a hair or do anything."

Tuesday morning the colt was relaxing in his stall at Warrendale's section of Barn 1 along Madison Avenue. With his hip toward the door, he threw a sideways "I'm resting here" look over his back like he knew the expectations to come. Pennsylvania breeders' awards are not the goal.

"He might get some if he wins the Pennsylvania Derby, but no he isn't one who is going to earn us many breeder bonuses," said Christian. "It's a compliment that buyer like that would look at our horse. There were some underbidders because our reserve was much lower. That means people with the good eyes about horses at that level liked your horse. That is a big boost."

Slews Golden Rule, bred in Florida by Live Oak Stud and from the family of Unbridled Humor, Win Win Win and others, died foaling this year. She'll be missed around Blackstone, as will her son.

"She left us with a nice legacy," said Doug Black. "He was a little bit of a standout from the beginning and you could always tell he was a little special. We'll miss him too, but I look at it like he's just graduated high school and he's off to college and we hope he does well at college. Basically, we wish the best for every horse we sell. We hope they turn into runners and winners at whatever level."

NOTES: Blackstone sold four other horses on the first night, all going for \$170,000 or more as part of the Taylor Made consignment. Hip 100, a Gun Runner colt, went for \$300,000 to Stephen Smith and Elements Racing. Hip 105, an Arrogate filly, went for \$200,000 to Frankie Brothers as agent for Starlight. Hip 14, a More Than Ready colt, went for \$250,000 to Anthony Stabile. Hip 59, a Bernardini filly, went for \$170,000 to Highbury Bloodstock . . . Warrendale sold a Medaglia d'Oro colt (co-bred by Blackstone with Godolphin and Dr. William Hess) to Spendthrift Farm for \$400,000.

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ARLINGTON MILLION	GARDEN CITY	PRIORESS
AWESOME AGAIN	GRAND NATIONAL HURDLE	QUEEN ELIZABETH II
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BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC	HOLLYWOOD TURF CUP	SPINAWAY (2)
BREEDERS' CUP TURF (2)	IROQUOIS HURDLE (2)	SPINSTER
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DIANA STAKES	KENTUCKY DERBY (2)	TEST
DELAWARE HANDICAP	KING'S BISHOP	UNITED NATIONS (2)
DONN HANDICAP (2)	LONESOME GLORY HURDLE	VANITY HANDICAP
DUBAI WORLD CUP	MAKER'S 46 MILE (3)	WHITNEY HANDICAP (2)
FLORIDA DERBY	MANHATTAN (2)	WOOD MEMORIAL
	MAN O' WAR (4)	
	MATRIARCH (2)	

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Tod Marks

Empress Tigress (right) and Poppy Flower renew acquaintances after finishing 1-2 in the Coronation Cup.



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# Ready to Go

## Begg 3-year-old filly takes shot in crowded turf sprint Thursday

BY TIMOTHY LITTAU  
AND SPENCER RIPCHIK

At roughly 3 years old, a child starts to make personal decisions and 3-year-old filly Delmona is at the age where she wants to make her own decisions, too.

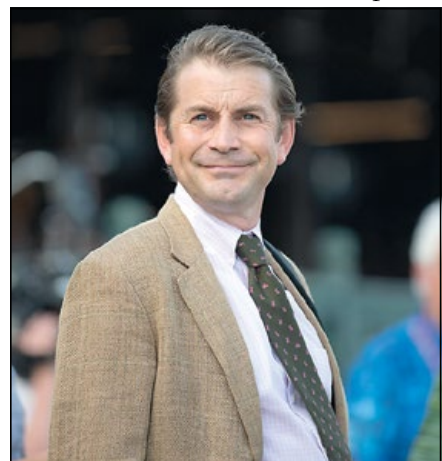
"She can be a little fickle about certain things and she kind of wants things her own way," trainer Jamie Begg said.

The independent personality can make Delmona, part of a 10-horse field in Thursday's \$150,000 Galway Stakes, difficult to ride meaning jockey Luis Saez could have his work cut out for him in the 5 1/2-furlong turf sprint.

Begg has his hands full, but he was an assistant to Mark Casse for six years, and said he learned plenty from the Hall of Famer.

"He gives a lot of his assistants a lot of freedom to kind of try things," Begg said. "He's very open-minded. I think that would probably be the biggest thing coming out of his barn. With his horses, I was able to try out some things and see what worked."

The Irish-bred daughter of Dandy Man is one of the four longshots at 15-1 on the morning line and only two wins, in her debut and an option-



Jonathan Thomas.

Tod Marks

### GALWAY STAKES PREVIEW

al allowance claiming three races ago.

Begg added the filly to his barn after she finished last of six in the Grade 3 Senorita Stakes at Santa Anita for trainer Jeff Mullins May 7. She has appeared in three graded stakes in a dozen starts (the first eight in Europe). In her only start with Begg, she finished second to Thursday's rival Benbang in the Blue Sparkler Stakes at Monmouth Park in mid-July.

"I'm really happy with her," Begg said. "She ran pretty good coming in from California, we didn't train her that hard into that stake at Monmouth and we thought she had a good opportunity to win that. She kind of hung a little bit. I'm not sure if she ran short or the hanging, but we added blinkers for this race to see if we can combat that."

After the second at Monmouth, Begg shipped Delmona to Saratoga where she has breezed once, going 4 furlongs on turf in a bullet :47.72 July 31. Begg said she has liked Saratoga so far for it being her first time here.

"She's put on weight, and she's settled in," Begg said. "She can be a high-stress horse, but she seems to have relaxed and settled in here pretty well. I'm happy with her . . . I'm pretty confident going into the race. It's a tough race, but I think we have a decent shot."

Empress Tigress already scored a stakes win this meet, the \$150,000 Coronation Cup in just her second career start July 15. Trained by Jonathan Thomas for Augustin Stable, the filly looks to improve her record to 3-for-3, including a 6-length win on debut over the Woodbine Tapeta.

"She was doing well at the time and it was a straight 3-year-old maiden for fillies, which is kind of a rare condition," Thomas said. "We

Continued On Page 30



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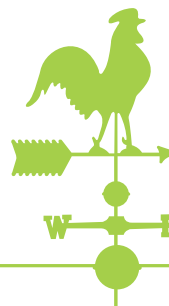
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### Hip 67 c. OMAHA BEACH

Savannah Sky, by Sky Mesa

### Hip 73 c. UNION RAGS

Shop Again, by Wild Again

### Hip 79 c. ARROGATE

Smart Shopping, by Smart Strike

### Hip 86 f. FLATTER

Splash Hit, by Flower Alley

SELLING TUESDAY, AUGUST 9th

### Hip 118 f. OSCAR PERFORMANCE

Wild Silk, by Street Sense

### Hip 182 c. OSCAR PERFORMANCE

Fastbridled, by Unbridled's Song

### Hip 208 f. ACCELERATE

Indian Wildcat, by Indian Charlie

NY BRED SELLING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 15th

### Hip 422 c. PAYNTER

Special Charm (IRE), by Dansili (GB)

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## Previews —

### Continued from page 29

bought her off the (synthetic) at Ocala so we thought she'd handle that. When the horses are right you start looking around and it was good timing, she was ready to run."

By Classic Empire out of the Tale Of The Cat mare Tigress Tale, Empress Tigress already has \$115,243 in earnings from two wins, both at 5 1/2 furlongs, and is the 5-2 morning line favorite from post 7 for John Velazquez.

"She seems to be a talented filly, I like the post. She drew outside again, she can show speed but doesn't have to get the lead, unless (Makin My Move) outside of us shows a little speed. We might be in a nice tactical position. She came out of the race well, it's back a little bit quick, just less than a month, but she seems to be doing pretty well."

Thomas also entered Benbang for owner Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners. She breaks from post three and is 10-1. The Shanghai Bobby filly out of the Street Sense mare Indian Street



Tod Marks

### Artos runs in Thursday's Galway Stakes.

also enters the race on a two-race winning streak, taking the \$102,000 Blue Sparkler at Monmouth going 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf July 16. Prior to that, she won a 5 1/2-furlong allowance at Monmouth that was moved off the turf.

"She's done really well, she's a hard-knocking filly. She came out of her last race well. Both are giving us more indications to run than to not run," Thomas said of the turnaround after less than a month's break.

Thomas believes both fillies would prefer to be forwardly placed but can be flexible.

"I think maybe the first eighth (for Benbang) is faster than my other filly (Empress Tigress). She seems to run really well being forwardly placed. The post position emphasizes that

you want to break out of there running. However, she could sit a trip too and I think the post works pretty good for (that) also," Thomas said. "I think that she runs best when she's ridden aggressively and put onto the leader and into the race, at least on speed figures early it seems like she might not get to the lead easily, but she'll try."

Thomas is leery of the competition just to the outside of Empress Tigress, in John Kimmel's trainee Makin My Move. The New York-bred Carpe Diem filly is out of the More Than Ready mare Hard To Stay Notgo and also comes into the race with a two wins in a row, one in a 5 1/2-furlong turf allowance July 22, the other a 7-furlong allowance on Belmont's

**Continued On Page 32**

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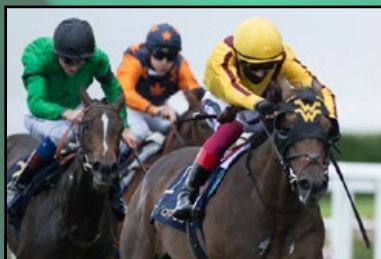


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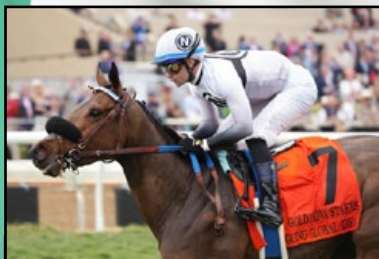
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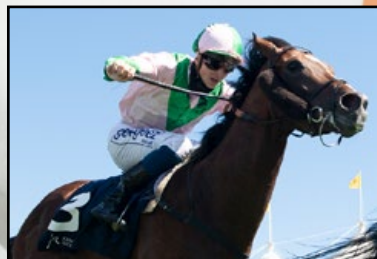
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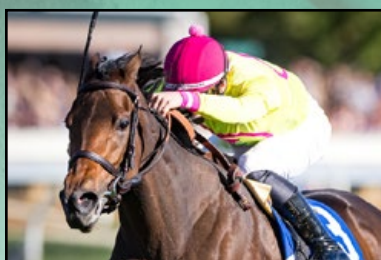
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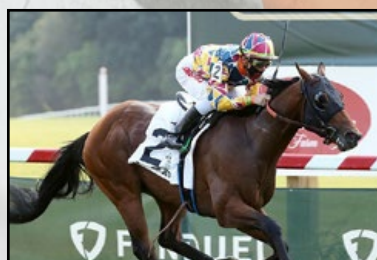
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# Previews —

■ Continued from page 30

turf July 2. She was seventh and sixth in her previous two starts on the dirt.

“Going back on the turf, she’s really just shown us now that her turf affinity is what’s made her more special. I think she kind of struggles on the deeper dirt tracks,” Kimmel said. “This dirt track tends to be a little bit deep and trying so I think we’ll stick on the turf for the short term.”

It is all in the family for the homebred Makin My Move, Kimmel and owners Chester and Mary Broman Sr.

“Mr. Broman has the mare and is getting some additional black type in the family, I have the half-sister Gotta Go Mo and she was a good turf filly in her own right, a turf sprinter as well. They’re both forward, both of those horses, and it breathes through from the mare. Hard To Stay Notgo was a very difficult filly to train. She had basically one idea and that was to go as fast as you can as long as you can. This filly’s not far off from being that kind of a job.”

Kimmel has handicapped the race and figures Empress Tigress is the competition for jockey Irad Ortiz Jr.

“We decided we’d take a shot now, she’s in good form, she’s run well on this track. Even though her Beyer numbers look a little lower than some of them, her Equibase speed figures were in line with the Thomas horse which won the previous sprint race for 3-year-old fillies,” Kimmel said. “There’s a ton of speed in the race, (Makin My Move) is very quick in her own right. She’ll probably do similar to what she did in her last start, she’ll sit behind some of the speed. She’s drawn a little more outside, and it just kind of depends. You’ll leave those decisions up to the rider, things can change based off of the break and we’ll see what happens from there.”

Breeze Easy is the second choice at 4-1, cutting back in distance and breaking from post six for Christophe Clement. She began her career in Europe with eight starts for trainer David Evans before making her American debut at Belmont in the



Tod Marks

**An easy winner last time, Tiernan steps up to New York-bred stakes company in Friday’s Evan Shipman**

Grade 3 Soaring Softly Stakes at 7 furlongs where she finished second May 28. She then stretched out to a mile in the Wild Applause on June 25 at Belmont, finishing third.

Clement’s other entrant is 5-1 shot Derrynane, who won on debut here at Saratoga last year, also going 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf. The Quality Road filly has not won since winning the Woodbine Cares Stakes last September, but has raced exclusively in stakes competition since and finished third in the Coronation Cup last out.

Trainer Bill Mott drew the one stall for his filly Poppy Flower, who finished just behind Empress Tigress in the Coronation Cup. Poppy Flower was transferred to Mott from Welsley Ward after a fifth in the Grade 3 Futurity Stakes. She has since had

two starts, other than the Coronation Cup, winning the Stormy Blues Stakes and then a fourth in an allowance.

Trainer Trombetta’s Half Is Enough exits a second in the Grade 3 Victory Ride Stakes at Belmont in early July. The daughter of Frosted has three wins in four starts, but is making the transition from dirt to turf.

“This distance should be fine, the 5 1/2 will be fine, it’s the surface that I have to try and figure out if she likes turf or not,” Trombetta said. “We’re giving it a try to see how she does.”

The \$150,000 Ironhorse Racing Stable purchase has trained once on turf at Saratoga, breezing 4 furlongs in 50.82.

**Continued On Page 33**



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# Previews —

## ■ Continued from page 32

“She’s been training well,” Trombetta said. “She’s looked pretty good on the grass. We tried her the other day and it went well.”

Trainer Rusty Arnold’s Artos is one of the three Irish-breds in the race and is also 15-1 on the morning line. The daughter of Kodiak has just one win in a maiden special weight in late May at Churchill Downs in her seven starts. Arnold has tried Artos at five stakes and has already ran at Saratoga this year in the Coronation Cup Stakes in mid-July, finishing fifth.

Jeremiah Englehart’s Freedom Speaks is an also eligible and Todd Pletcher’s Mystic Eye is a main track only entrant.

## Other Features

Wednesday, five sprinters clash in the 7-furlong Tale Of The Cat. Trainer Tom Amoss sends Isolate out after a 6 1/2-furlong stakes win at Hawthorne June 11. The 4-year-old has worked four times at Saratoga. Southern District rides a three-race winning streak for trainer Chad Brown while Repo Rocks and Mr. Phil exit graded stakes starts. Awesome Gerry won at the distance at Keeneland in April.

Friday, New York-breds take the stage with three stakes. My Boy Tate and Ny Traffic square off in the \$125,000 John Morrissey, a 6-furlong sprint that promises to be a battle. My Boy Tate, a 10-time winner, finished second in the race last year. Ny Traffic exits a fourth in the Grade 1 Alfred Vanderbilt. They take on four

## Saratoga Leaders

<b>TRAINERS</b> .....	<b>1ST</b>
Chad Brown .....	21
Todd Pletcher .....	15
Mike Maker .....	10
Christophe Clement.....	9
Bill Mott .....	8
Steve Asmussen .....	7
Jorge Abreu .....	5
Brad Cox .....	5
Tom Morley .....	5
Wesley Ward .....	5

<b>JOCKEYS</b> .....	<b>1ST</b>
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

others in the day’s third race.

The 6-furlong Union Avenue for fillies and mares drew a field of seven including stakes winner Secret Love, three-time winners Mashnee Girl and Bank On Anna, plus nine-race winner Grudge making her second start for trainer Eduardo Jones (who claimed her for \$10,000 in June).

The Evan Shipman, run at a mile out of the Wilson Chute, drew millionaire Bankit from trainer Steve Asmussen’s barn. The 6-year-old hasn’t run since finishing sixth in the Godolphin Mile in Dubai in March. The 6-year-old has won four New York-restricted stakes. He meets Brooklyn Strong, Sea Foam, Three Jokers, Market Alert, Tiergan and Thereisastormbrewin.



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SARATOGA ENTRIES

Wednesday, August 10.

1ST (1:05PM). \$70,000, ALW, 4 YO'S & UP, 2 1/16M (HURDLE)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double			
1	4	Take Profit	G. Watters W. Dowling 4-1
1a	7	Bright Eyed Eagle (IRE)	B. Foley K. Neilson 4-1
2	1	Hurtgen Forest	J. Bargary A. Kingsley, Jr. 3-1
3	2	Grey Giant	T. Davies J. Davies 5-1
4	3	Spring Heeled Jim (IRE)	B. Dalton K. Brion 7-2
5	5	Baltimore Kid (IRE)	P. Hendriks K. Brion 5-2
6	6	State of Affair	T. Garner T. Wyatt 6-1

2ND (1:39PM). \$40,000, MCL \$20,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double			
1	1	Prince of Fenton	J. Gomez G. DiPrima 6-1
2	2	Kobe's Legacy	J. Lezcano C. Englehart 8-1
3	3	Offutt Cole	R. Santana, Jr. J. Barkley 5-2
4	4	Readyseekgo	E. Cancel J. Antonucci 5-1
5	5	Drink the Wind	T. Gaffalione W. Catalano 1-1
6	6	Papi On Ice	A. Castillo R. Persaud 20-1
7	7	Sharpoon	M. Luzzi L. Fisher 30-1

3RD (2:13PM). \$88,000, MSW, 2 YO, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double, Quinella			
1	1	Blue Soldier	J. Cruz R. Rohena 30-1
2	2	M. C. Double R	M. Franco R. Rodriguez 8-1
3	3	General Banker	J. Gomez J. Ferraro 7-2
4	4	Conman	T. Gaffalione M. Casse 4-1
5	5	Sorpreso	E. Cancel R. Rohena 20-1
6	6	Itsallcomintogetha	L. Saez P. Serpe 9-2
7	7	Boss Jim	J. Ortiz C. Martin 5-1
8	8	King of Comedy	D. Davis M. Maker 6-1
9	9	Makar	I. Ortiz, Jr. B. Cox 9-2
10	AE-MTO	Storm the Empire	Rider TBA J. Englehart 8-1
11	AE-MTO	Nobilis	E. Cancel G. Weaver 5-1
12	AE-MTO	Arctic Arrogance	J. Lezcano L. Rice 4-1
13	AE-MTO	Max Foster	Rider TBA J. Englehart 12-1

4TH (2:49PM). \$120,000, AOC \$62,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double			
1	1	Montauk Daddy	I. Ortiz, Jr. O. Noda 5-1
2	2	Higher Standard	D. Davis T. Amoss 7-2
3	3	Mexican Wonder Boy	M. Franco S. Joseph, Jr. 2-1
4	4	Prime Factor	L. Saez C. DeVaux 8-1
5	5	Sibelius	J. Alvarado J. O'Dwyer 3-1
6	6	Kinetic Sky	T. Gaffalione B. Cox 9-2

5TH (3:21PM). \$50,000, CLM \$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 6, Daily Double			
1	1	Watchntheirlsgoby	E. Cancel M. Heinen 20-1
2	2	Parquetry	D. Davis B. Tagg 5-1
3	3	Moon Mischief	K. Carmouche C. Caramori 20-1
4	4	Be the Boss	J. Castellano M. Trombetta 15-1
5	5	Tonal Impact	T. Gaffalione M. Maker 8-1
6	6	Writeitontheice	L. Saez R. Rodriguez 6-1
7	7	Super Wicked Charm	J. Samuel E. Jones 20-1
8	8	B C Glory Days	J. Gomez O. Barrera, III 15-1
9	9	Inflation Adjusted	M. Franco C. Brown 3-1
10	10	Skylander	J. Alvarado W. Mott 4-1
11	11	I Found It	J. Cruz R. Rohena 20-1
12	12	Assiduously (GB)	T. McCarthy E. Caramori 10-1
13	AE-MTO	Perfect Silent Cat	K. Carmouche J. Sharp 2-1

6TH (3:55PM). \$88,000, MSW, 2 YO, F, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double			
1	8	Love My Candy	I. Ortiz, Jr. M. Maker 7-2
1a	AE	Red Hot Chick	J. Gomez R. Rodriguez 7-2
2	1	Pebble Lane	D. Davis R. Schosberg 10-1
3	2	Spinning Colors	J. Velazquez M. Hennig 8-1
4	3	Here We Go Again	J. Alvarado M. O'Connor 15-1
5	4	Blanchiment	K. Carmouche R. Atras 12-1
6	5	Joey the Fish	E. Cancel G. Weaver 12-1
7	6	Security Code	T. Gaffalione P. Serpe 5-1
8	7	Maple Leaf Mel	J. Rosario J. Englehart 5-2
9	9	Book and Cancel	R. Santana, Jr. R. Rodriguez 6-1
10	10	Our Rosie Diamonds	J. Castellano A. Chichakly 20-1
11	AE	Im Just Kiddin	J. Ortiz J. Kimmel 2-1
12	AE	La Chance	E. Cancel R. Rohena 30-1
13	AE	August Bloom	L. Saez J. Sharp 8-1

7TH (4:29PM). \$70,000, STR \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double			
1	9	Vocalize	F. Prat L. Rice 5-1
1a	AE-MTO	Charger	I. Ortiz, Jr. L. Rice 5-1
2	1	Just Say When	I. Ortiz, Jr. W. Ward 5-2
3	2	Cousin Andrew	K. Carmouche L. Rice 8-1
4	3	Fore Harp	J. Lezcano R. Reid, Jr. 10-1
5	4	Starrystarryknight	J. Ortiz J. Kimmel 6-1
6	5	King Moonracer	J. Castellano G. Weaver 4-1
7	6	Uncle Remi	H. Harkie L. Smith 20-1
8	7	On Our Way Boyz	E. Cancel J. Kirby 30-1
9	8	Montatham	D. Davis J. Lee 8-1
10	10	Stainless Steel	L. Saez J. Sharp 10-1
11	AE	Propensity	J. Gomez J. Kimmel 10-1

8TH (5:05PM). \$135,000, STK - THE TALE OF THE CAT, 4 YO'S & UP, 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double			
1	1	Isolate	T. Gaffalione T. Amoss 4-1
2	2	Awesome Gerry	I. Ortiz, Jr. S. Joseph, Jr. 7-2
3	3	Southern District	M. Franco C. Brown 7-5
4	4	Repo Rocks	A. Wolfson G. DiPrima 9-2
5	5	Mr Phil	K. Carmouche R. Atras 3-1

9TH (5:39PM). \$95,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double			
1	1	Albie	T. McCarthy M. Ferraro 30-1
2	2	Major Spin	J. Lezcano L. Rice 12-1
3	3	War Terminator	L. Saez J. Thomas 5-1
4	4	Golquist	E. Cancel G. Weaver 30-1
5	5	Frank's Art	J. Rosario C. Clement 9-2
6	6	Battle Scars	R. Santana, Jr. R. Atras 8-1
7	7	Mr. Kringle	J. Castellano J. Terranova, II 8-1
8	8	Front Line Dancer	I. Ortiz, Jr. T. Pletcher 7-2
9	9	Breadman	J. Velazquez J. Terranova, II 10-1
10	10	Sonic Speed	K. Carmouche B. Russell 20-1
11	11	Timbuktu	M. Franco B. Cox 4-1
12	AE-MTO	Blitz to Win	J. Castellano B. Tagg 5-2
13	AE-MTO	Whittington Park	M. Franco B. Cox 9-2
14	AE-MTO	Great Workout	I. Ortiz, Jr. L. Rice 2-1

10TH (6:13PM). \$105,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 3/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta			
1	1	Vintage Year	J. Lezcano G. Arnold, II 15-1
2	2	Tiz a Giant	J. Velazquez M. Trombetta 10-1
3	3	Remote	J. Rosario C. Clement 6-1
4	4	Evan Harlan	L. Saez H. Motion 9-2
5	5	Clubbing	T. McCarthy C. McGaughey III 8-1
6	6	Flute Master	T. Gaffalione S. Asmussen 15-1
7	7	Running Bee	M. Franco C. Brown 4-1
8	8	Most Wanted Man	I. Ortiz, Jr. C. Brown 7-2
9	9	Cloud Forest	F. Prat W. Mott 4-1

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*Half-sister to multiple stakes winner Daring Duchess.*

**Hip 505. Leofric-Betroff Tough colt**  
*First crop from of Grade 1 winner.*

**Hip 530. City Of Light-Crimson Frost colt**  
*SW dam earned \$476,278; family of Awakino Cat*

**Hip 553. Laoban-Esken Lady colt**  
*Sire power; family of champion Glorious Song.*

**Hip 577. Twirling Candy-Goldenmine colt**  
*From family of G2 winner Classic Elegance.*

# the Power grid

Race #	 <b>John Shapazian</b>	 <b>Tom Law</b>	 <b>Charles Bedard</b>	 <b>Rob Whitlock</b>	 <b>Jessica Paquette</b>
1	Baltimore Kid Griswold entry Spring Heeled Jim	Hurtgen Forest Spring Heeled Jim State Of Affair	Hurtgen Forest Griswold entry Grey Giant	Spring Heeled Jim Hurtgen Forest Baltimore Kid	Hurtgen Forest Baltimore Kid Spring Heeled Jim
2	Drink The Wind Offutt Cole Prince Of Fenton	Drink The Wind Offutt Cole Kobe's Legacy	Readyseekgo Drink The Wind Offutt Cole	Drink The Wind Prince Of Fenton Offut Cole	Offutt Cole Kobe's Legacy Drink the Wind
3	Arctic Arrogance Itsallcomintogetha Makar	Itsallcomingtogetha King Of Comedy Makar	Max Foster Makar M. C. Double R	Makar Conman Boss Jim	Makar King Of Comedy Boss Jim
4	Prime Factor Sibelius Montauk Daddy	Sibelius Mexican Wonder Boy Higher Standard	Higher Standard Mexican Wonder Boy Kinetic Sky	Higher Standard Sibelius Mexican Wonder Boy	Prime Factor Kinetic Sky Higher Standard
5	Perfect Silent Cat Inflation Adjusted Skylander	Inflation Adjusted Skylander Writeitontheice	Perfect Silent Cat Inflation Adjusted Writeitontheice	Skylander Tonal Impact Be The Boss	Be the Boss Inflation Adjusted Skylander
6	Maple Leaf Mel Im Just Kiddin Three Diamonds entry	Maple Leaf Mel Love My Candy Pebble Lane	Im Just Kiddin August Bloom Love My Candy	I'm Just Kiddin Maple Leaf Mel Love My Candy	Spinning Colors Security Code Love My Candy
7	Just Say When Rice entry King Moonracer	Just Say When King Moonracer Starrystarrynight	King Moonracer Rice entry Cousin Andrew	Just Say When Fore Harp Starrystarryknight	On Our Way Boyz Stainless Steel Just Say When
8	Southern District Mr Phil Isolate	Southern District Isolate Awesome Gerry	Mr Phil Isolate Southern District	Isolate Awesome Gerry Southern District	Southern District Awesome Gerry Repo Rocks
9	Great Workout Frank's Art War Terminator	War Terminator Frank's Art Timbuktu	Great Workout Front Line Dancer Battle Scars	Timbuktu Major Spin Front Line Dancer	Timbuktu Frank's Art War Terminator
10	Running Bee Remote Clubbing	Most Wanted Man Remote Tiz A Giant	Running Bee Cloud Forest Most Wanted Man	Vintage Year Remote Running Bee	Remote Tiz A Giant Evan Harlan
2022 Records	<b>65/194</b>	<b>56/194</b>	<b>56/194</b>	<b>49/194</b>	<b>46/194</b>



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# Best of The Special

## In Session

*Editor's Note: Ten years ago, we were covering the Hall of Fame induction of –among others – jockey John Velazquez and trainer Roger Attfield. In the Aug. 11, 2012 edition of The Special, Joe Clancy wrote a column about Velazquez's moment at the ceremony.*

Class.

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony – no matter who gets inducted or how long the speeches last – is about class.

The class of the past inductees showing up every year. They wear their blazers, come to the front of the room, get saluted once more.

The class of the connections made over the eras. Allen Jerkens went into the Hall in 1975 and he was there Friday, part of the honoree lineup. Ron Turcotte rode all-time greats Northern Dancer and Secretariat and there he was again, proud of his career once again. Chris McCarron, Kent Desormeaux and Edgar Prado each rocketed through their apprentice years back in Maryland – and sat in the same row Friday. Angel Cordero, still the king of Saratoga all these years later, received the loudest response – until Jerkens. “Chiiiiieef” rumbled through the audience as he stood up.

The class of jobs well done. Trainers Bill Mott, Nick Zito, Shug McGaughey, Wayne Lukas, Jerkens, Janet Elliot finished work at the barn, cleaned up and came to the ceremony as Hall of Famers and fans like the rest of us.

The class of the presenters. Friday, David Willmot and Todd Pletcher introduced Roger Attfield and John Velazquez, respectively, with grace and aplomb. Tom Durkin steered the ship, the only emcee who also holds sport coats.

The class of the venue. Now a few years in, Fasig-Tipton's renovated sales pavilion sparkles for a full house of Hall of Famers, officials, fans.



Tod Marks  
John Velazquez, at  
the mic, in 2012.

The class of inviting the public. I've never been to any other sport's Hall of Fame induction and I'm sure they're similar but the open door to racing's fans – from children to that guy with the disposable camera – to come along for the ride should never change.

The class of the presentation. Keeneland's G.D. Hieronymus puts together the video clips every year and they were again stellar – mixing the history of Civil War era horse Planet and jockey Anthony Hamilton with the sheer brilliance of Ghostzapper, the unduplicated success of Attfield, the old-school horsemanship of Robert Wheeler. And how about the mustache Velazquez sported back in the day?

The class of real history. Hamilton and Planet starred in the 1800s, a time of great unrest and uncertainty. I'm floored we know anything about them at all.

The class of the recipients. Humans truly humbled make for great theater.

Attfield was smooth, told a great joke (in the version I heard the jockey yells “Alley Oop” at the fences) and paid proper tribute to the animals and the people who made his career happen. He also gave a miniature state of the sport address, telling

racing to “get rid of the rubbish.” Put the Hall of Famer on the list of potential keynote speakers.

Leaning on a cane, Sarah Wright, great-granddaughter of Planet's owner Maj. Thomas Doswell, sported an orange top in honor of her family's Bullfield Stable's racing silks, proudly spoke of the horse they called “The Great Red Fox.” Planet's picture hung in the front hall. Now his plaque hangs in The Hall.

Wheeler's grandson Jeff mentioned how proud his family was of “Gramps,” who passed away in 1992.

The class of the horse. Elfrida Stronach, wife of owner/breeder Frank, thanked the Hall for Ghostzapper's honor – then brought up how much the stallion enjoys eating carrots at the farm.

And then there was Velazquez.

If there's one thing he can do other than ride a horse, it's talk. Ask him about a horse or a race and be prepared to keep up. Years ago, I talked to him about Ashado and off he went, comparing her to Serena Williams while sitting outside the jocks' room at Saratoga. He clucked, he chirped, he clapped his hands, he pointed, he walked around, he rolled his eyes and he kept talking. My recorder nearly gave out. Friday, the Hall of Fame moment left him speechless. A life, a career came to a point right there in the sales pavilion and Velazquez couldn't hold it. He put down his notes, took a loooong pause, crossed his arms, inhaled deeply, stepped away from the podium. The crowd brought him back, with a settling wave of powerful applause. His wife, Leona, joined him at the podium, steadying her man. He talked about his mother, his father, his wife, his children, a long list of people who influenced his life – now fellow Hall of Famer Angel Cordero, Ralph Theroux Sr., Pletcher, Cordero's late wife Marjorie, John Hertler, Zito, Mickey Preger, father-in-law Leo O'Brien, John DeStefano and on and on and on.

Now that was class.

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# Best of The Special

## Horseman

*Editor's Note: Ten years ago, we were covering the Hall of Fame induction of – among others – jockey John Velazquez and trainer Roger Attfield. In the Aug. 11, 2012 edition of The Special, Sean Clancy wrote a column about Attfield's life as a trainer.*

Roger Attfield sat down between two radio hosts, maneuvered a headset over his ears, held his Hall of Fame plaque in his lap and began to answer questions, as quietly, politely, delicately as he's trained his horses for the past 42 years. The British-born, Canadian-based trainer joined Thoroughbred Racing's Hall of Fame Friday morning.

Dapper as ever, Attfield seemed to hesitate when he was asked to remove his suit coat and slide on the navy blazer with the Hall of Fame patch on the lapel. It ruined his look.

After speaking, posing, signing and shaking, Attfield stuck to his word and joined Mike Penna and Jude Feld on HRRN's broadcast of the induction ceremony. Speeches had been made, tears had flowed, photos had flashed, the pavilion had all but emptied, only some O'Brien children running roughshod on the bottom floor and a few window-shoppers inspecting the art.

Attfield looked like a boy on his first school-bus ride, holding his plaque and answering questions. We leaned in to hear him, waiting for his words, his thoughts, from his childhood days with horse swappers and vagabonds in Newbury, England, to his first of eight Queen's Plate winners, Norcliffe, in 1976 to his years as private trainer for the Canadian powerhouse Kinghaven Farm to his first Breeders' Cup win last year with Perfect Shirl.

"There are magical moments in your life, for me to go into the American Hall of Fame after going into the Canadian Hall of Fame, is very special for me," Attfield began. "Norcliffe launched my ca-



Trainer Roger Attfield, at the Hall of Fame, in 2012.

reer, the Queen's Plate is such an important race in Canada, he was a very special horse, after that, the years I had with Kinghaven were special, we had some great moments, there are too many races to pick one out, the Breeders' Cup was the icing on the cake, in the respect that I had had some near misses without having a lot of opportunity to run in those kind of races, with a homebred, from a stallion I trained, it was all very special."

In a biting world where grudges are easier to come by than accolades, Attfield has earned his peers' respect, sending out competitive horses who look the part and run the part.

There is nothing in racing as synonymous with class as a Roger Attfield horse, compliant in the task, decked out in a navy and red quarter sheet, leather bridle stitched in the king's court, checkerboard across its hind-quarters, returning year and year, winning year after year.

Asked about Musketier, 10, and Simnard, 7, who battled the length of the stretch in Grade 3 Singpiel this summer, Attfield didn't really see it as heroic or out of the ordinary.

"I think, basically, it's just common sense and old-fashioned horsemanship, really, if you know

your horses and you're around your horses as much as I am, they'll sort of tell you if you're over-doing it or under-doing it," Attfield said. "You've got to catch the details almost before they happen, as far as keeping them sound is concerned, you've got to pick up on the red lights or when the lights are flickering, before something bad happens, you can't get that right all the time, but, basically, it's just keeping your horse healthy and happy, it's just horsemanship."

Asked if he learned this the hard way, Attfield smiled and paused.

You could almost see him view his life, the projector with the big wheels of film, clicking, clicking, clicking before finally lighting up the wall. Gypsies, horse shows, amateur steeplechase career, emigrating to Canada, climbing the rock.

"The hard way is when you look at all the years you were starving to death, I grew up riding at quite an early age, growing up in England, my parents couldn't afford to buy me ponies, so I did it all with dealers, horse traders and farmers," Attfield said. "I was a decent enough rider to work my way up the ranks that way, I was lucky to be around a lot of really good, old-time horsemen, I always asked a lot of questions to try to learn and I'm still trying to learn. That's what life's about."

Asked about the people who he admired, emulated or had taught him the most, Attfield paused again, thinking about his life, his mentors, his heroes, the film again ticking past his eyes.

"I really admire Allen Jerkens, I think he's a really good horseman, he's a little bit like me in the respect that I don't like a lot of conversation, a lot of talk, 'show me, don't tell me.' He's a hands-on guy and I have a lot of respect for him," Attfield said. "There are some old guys, way back, when I was in my early teens, Guy Russell, nobody would have ever heard of him but he was a great horseman . . ."

Must have been a great teacher too.

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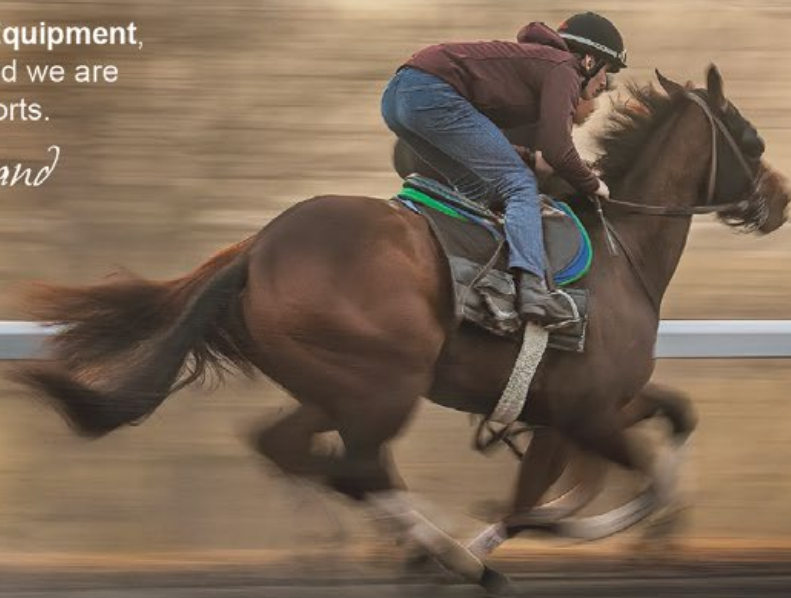
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BY JOE CLANCY

# Names

Amidst the chaos of showing yearlings to prospective buyers Monday morning, consignor Bridie Harrison said her only client Peter Blum would love to talk about his horses, and their names. Sure, I should give him a call. Sure, she could give me his number.

A few hours, and three calls, later Blum's 404 Georgia area code connected to my Delaware 302 and we talked for 25 minutes. About horses, Allen Jerkens, Bobby Frankel, the Barbara Fritchie Stakes, pedigrees, historic wall art, luck and an old horse (owned by John Kimmel's father) who would slide out of his stall and sleep in the shedrow.

First, the names.

Blum, a Thoroughbred breeder for decades, gives the yearlings he sends to the auction ring with Harrison official Jockey Club names. He's not the only breeder to do so, but he's among a select few. The reason is pretty simple.

"I've been in Thoroughbred horse racing since I'm a kid, and I used to see a lot of bad names and one of the things I kind of thought about was, 'I wonder if I could make a difference if I start putting a lot of thought into it,'" he said. "But I realize that it probably doesn't influence many people. Now I just think it's nice to have the majority of the horses I breed named well."

And they are. Blum-bred yearlings in Fasig-Tipton's 2022 yearling sale included:

- Undercover. Hip 36, the filly is by Omaha Beach and out of Night Time Lady.
- Moonlight. Hip 97, the colt is out of Sundown.
- Practical. Hip 106, the filly is by Practical Joke and out of Tortuga Lady.
- Thoughtful. Hip 108, the filly is out of Truth-

ful. The all-Blum female family goes back through Faithful, a daughter of Vindication and Chosen Lady.

- Ambition, Hip 212 is out of Inspired.

"For the most part, people appreciate the names, but it's just something I do," he said.

New owners are, of course, free to change the names before the horses run.

Harrison brought those five yearlings to Saratoga for Blum, her only client. Opening night's three-horse draft produced one sale – Hip 106 for \$185,000 – but Hip 108 went for \$400,000 Tuesday. Like Blum, the consignor appreciates the names and even more so the relationships.



Bridie Harrison's consignment features horses bred (and named) by Peter Blum.

Tod Marks

"When he can't sleep or he's bored, he comes up with horse names," Harrison said. "Other people go golfing or go bowling, he thinks on his names. That's his hobby. I like Thoughtful, out of Truthful. He's that kind of breeder. He's into everything he does with it."

Blum bred \$3.9 million earner Devil His Due, 2020 Horse of the Year Authentic (out of Flawless), multiple graded stakes winner Multiple Choice and scores of other success stories.

He rewound to 1975, however, to find a truly influential horse from his past.

"I went to Keeneland in January," he said. "I went solely to buy one mare. Mono was her name."

Mono's racing career wasn't much to speak of – \$3,752 earned – but her pedigree and produce record attracted Blum's attention. The pedigree was old-school, very, as Mono's family traced back to the legendary Man o' War – twice. On the top side, he was in her fourth generation as her sire Better

Self was out of the War Admiral mare Bee Mac. Mono's female family went back to Masda, a full-sister to Man o' War foaled in 1915. Blum noticed.

"You could see Man o' War on the catalog page," he said. "How many horses do you see that?"

Mono's dam San Igual was out of Igual, the dam of King Ranch's Triple Crown winner Assault. San Igual's sister Equal Venture produced Prove Out, upsetter of the great Secretariat in 1973.

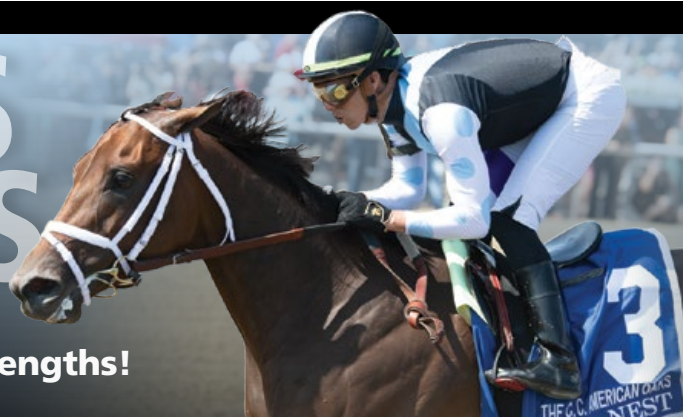
Owner J. Howard Rouse, the farm manager at King Ranch, sent Mono to the stallion Kentucky Pride three times, and each won at least 10 races.

**Continued On Page 44**

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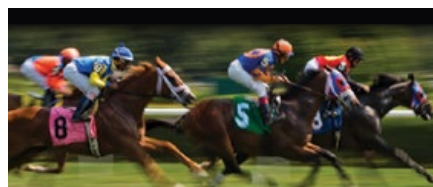


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## Outside Rail —

■ Continued from page 42

One, Wildcat Country, raced in New York in the 1970s and won 15 races. He started 18 times (each) in 1971, 1972 and 1973.

“Allen Jerkens told me he’d never seen a horse as tough as Wildcat Country,” Blum said. “Then I told him about his dam being in the sale.”

Jerkens replied with a simple, “I bet you’d love to have her.”

Blum spent \$17,500 to acquire Mono from Rouse’s estate. Bred to Groshawk, she produced 25-time winner Raven Delight. Bred to Mr. Prospector, she produced stakes winner Rare Performer. Bred to Ack Ack, she produced stakes winner A Sure Hit. In the end, Mono’s 14 foals bred by Rouse and Blum included a dozen winners. Her daughter Mine Only (by Mr. Prospector) produced Grade 2 winner Academy Award and Grade 3 winner Statuette.

“I don’t want to sound like I’m in any way bragging,” Blum said. “I’m just saying I got lucky. I think I had the foresight to play the hand out

and breed her to good horses. That family is so prolific and it’s still going strong.”

Mono appears in the pedigree of Hip 36 from Monday night and Hips 108 and 212 from Tuesday night. Leofric, a Grade 1 winner and now a stallion bred by Blum, traces to Mono through dam Lady Godiva.

Years and generations removed from that purchase at Keeneland, Blum is still at it – selling at Saratoga and other auctions and trying to solve the mystery that is breeding Thoroughbred racehorses. He sells the ones that are sellable, keeps others to race, and hopes for the best. He and Harrison are a team, and Doug Cauthen helps plan matings as well, but Blum puts in the work.

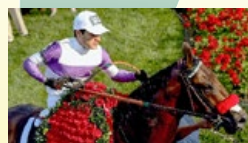
“The reason Bridie and I make a good combination is that I let her do, within reason, what she wants to do in terms of raising these horses,” he said. “I think she has confidence in my ability to breed to the right horses and bring the families along. I’ve been doing it a long time and I consider myself extremely fortunate.”

Harrison agreed.

“We know how each other thinks,” she said. “It all just works. We have all the respect for each other. Peter respects me and I respect his breeding and his knowledge and his programs. Forty years I’ve been knowing Peter and looking after his horses. We’ve had all these since the very beginnings, everything on these pages I foaled and foaled the mothers and grandmothers.

“You get to know them. There’s not too many we would forget.”

Names or no names.



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The rain has come. To put the poor big beauty to sleep. The smoke, the smolder, the smell will soon be gone. The Loudoun County fire department has come each day to temper the flames that flare up at night. They're sweat-soaked and spent at 6 o'clock in the morning, talk about a tough first set. The kindness and compassion somehow resonate through a hundred pounds of fireproof gear. They see it all the time, God, I hope I only see it once.

We wait for the fire to snuff out, we wait for the insurance company, we wait for the fire marshal, we wait for the cleanup crew. We wait for the final funeral, the removal of the body, the procession. Our old sage friends tell us to get it out of here as soon as we can, it's not good to look at it, not good to dwell on it, not good to think about it.

That's the worst part, seeing our old friend each morning, each time you drive out the driveway, each time you drive in the driveway, each time you open the front door, each time you look out the window, each time a friend sees it for the first time and you see it in their sad, sickened eyes. A tangled, twisted jumble of dreams. The giving tree has fallen down.

I found a bell boot today. Two fly masks. A lead rope. Half a broom. Rubber bricks strewn like confetti. The wooden ladder to the shedrow loft still stands, it leads to nothing, steps to the sky. I wonder about the hay hook that hung below the cupola, put in the day it was built, I wonder if that's in there. A relic, a reminder, hopefully of what it once was and not what it is.

We trudged another day forward today. Step by painful step. It doesn't feel like forward progress when you've been launched back a thousand yesterdays, dealing with the rudimentary tasks of tasks you've already accomplished. Restocking. Regrouping. Researching. We'd recycle, but there's nothing to recycle. I guess the busted slinky of what was once a roof counts as recycling, it just doesn't give you the same satisfaction.



Charles Lee, a rock-solid friend, part of our family and the handiest of handymen, and I spent the day building Eli's new house and pen. Annie told our friend Jen from down the street that we needed a shelter for our pygmy goat. She found a shed that her friend wanted to get rid of and recruited Donwan Tines to deliver it. They arrived at 9 o'clock last night with a wooden shed on the back of his flatbed and a wasp sting to her neck. He went back for his skid loader. Then spent a solid hour maneuvering and cajoling the shed off his trailer and into a nook near the shed in the front field.

At one point, the wood cracked and crackled, a board popped off the side and the shed lurched like a drunk trying get off his stool. I asked Charles if it was OK.

# Rain Out

"It ain't nothing we can't fix...so far."

So far never came and Donwan placed the wooden hut perfectly in the corner of Eli's new pen. Charles asked him what we owed him.

"I'm just trying to help out a neighbor," Donwan said. "Let's have a beer someday."

I handed him some cash and his license plate, busted off in the process of delivery and promised him that beer.

"Sorry, about your license plate."

"Minimal," he said.

He had seen our "maximum." The kindness, patience, empathy from a man who had worked all hot day, a man we had never met, provided another swipe of salve to the shattered.

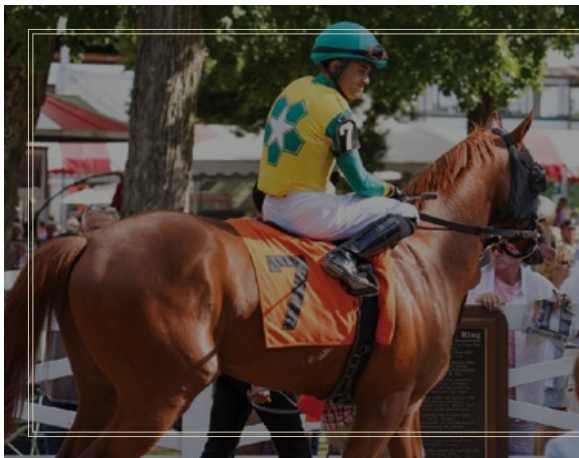
Hopefully Eli likes his new digs. He's lived his life with horses and his cat, Duchess, who we still haven't seen since late Saturday night. He'll be next to Kiss, Border, Blue and EP, the four pensioners in the front field. His new buddies. We are hoping his cat will somehow know he's home and somehow walk out of the woods. We walk around the farm and call for her, wait for her, wish for her.

Lemonade, Gregor and Apse will move to Kinross Farm in the morning. Our savior, Julie Gomena, will ship them. Our next savior, Skippy, will have the stalls bedded down, water in the buckets, hay in the corners.

The kindness of our friends, the kindness of our readers, the kindness of strangers who drop off a shed in the middle of the night.

There's a frozen lasagna in the freezer, an orchid on the windowsill, a set of bandages and a bucket of mints on the porch, a gift certificate to the Tack Box waiting in town, two dry erase boards in the laundry room, six packs of IPA tucked in the fridge, a bottle of wine on the table, four pairs of gloves on the shelf, a dozen eggs on the counter and a thousand other gestures of generosity.

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