

## Look for NY Bred Yearlings by Claiborne Stallions at Fasig-Tipton!



Arch - Liable, by Seeking the Gold

HIP 393 C. o/o Real Clever Trick

Half to G2 Nashua winner VEXOR

Consigned by RFHF Bloodstock, agt

HIP 489 C. o/o Animal Appeal

Dam was stakes-placed at Saratoga; **UPDATE:** only sibling to race has placed since the catalogue.

Consigned by Vinery Sales, agt

#### HIP 514 C. o/o Bullish Sentiment

Half to 3-time SW SASSY AGNES; immediate family of G3W STORMY'S MAJESTY

Consigned by McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds, agt



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

HIP 365 F. o/o Morrow (GB)

O/o a half sister to G1 Test & G1 Gazelle winner FLASHING

Consigned by Sequel New York, agt

#### EB CATHOLIC BOY

More Than Ready - Song of Bernadette, by Bernardini

HIP 391 C. o/o Rare Edition

Half to undefeated SW CRAWDADDY, o/o a half sister to millionaire TOUCH OF THE BLUES (FR)

Consigned by Vinery Sales, agt

HIP 520 F. o/o Charitable Link

Immediate family of New York-bred Horse of the Year DIVERSIFY

Consigned by Taylor Made Sales, agt

#### RUNHAPPY

Super Saver - Bella Jolie, by Broken Vow

HIP 448 C. o/o Truly Striking

O/o a young Smart Strike mare, from the immediate family of MG1W MY MISS AURELIA (Smart Strike)

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#### Here&There...in Saratoga

#### T-Shirt of the Day

I Don't Have The Time Or The Crayons To Explain It To You.

#### **License Plates of the Day**

2THEG8 (Thanks to reader Greg Russo). KEENLND, Ohio (welcome back, Glenn from Cincinnati).

#### By The Numbers

- **2:** People (from Ohio) booing a guy in a Michigan Football T-shirt at the track Wednesday.
- 5: Times Churchill Downs has run races in August in its 148-year history. The Louisville track hosts the Arlington Million card Saturday, the first time since a 93-day meet that ran from late April through Labor Day in 1984.

- **24:** Horses waiting at the quarter-pole gap off Union Avenue after the break Friday morning.
- 22: Congratulatory texts trainer Todd Wyatt received in the 15 minutes after State Of Affair won Wednesday's jump race.
- 50: More he received by the end of the day.
- 1: Text message Wyatt received about his fantasy football league Wednesday.

#### **Worth Repeating**

"You know, I could really use these text messages after the horse runs bad – you know, like 'Hey, keep your head up, buddy' . . . 'That wasn't so bad' . . . 'He'll be better next time.' Nobody texts you when you get beat."

Wyatt, speaking like a real horse trainer

#### Names of the Day

Mount Athos, second race. The 4-year-old colt is by Sky Mesa out of High Priestess. Mount Athos, a mountain and peninsula in northeastern Greece, is a UNESCO world heritage site and has been inhabited since ancient times, with a Christian presence since AD 800. Today, more than 2,000 monks reside there in a life apart from the rest of the world.

**Giramonte, sixth race.** Leah Gyarmati, who claimed the 4-year-old gelding in June, was apparently destined to train him.

**Ohtwoohthreefive, seventh race.** Somebody, maybe owner James Politano, is a Patriots fan as that's the zip code for Foxborough.

## Saratoga Che Saratoga Che Clal thisishorseracing.com

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#### Here&There...in Saratoga

#### **Worth Repeating**

"I paid for seven years of college. I thought he was a doctor."

Proud parent Larry Abner, about his son

"I'm down to only one job now."

Brook-Ledge's Glenn Brok, who used to run a breeding farm too, about "retirement"

"She's a few French fries short of a Happy Meal."

Mark Casse, on Steve Byk's At The Races radio show Tuesday, discussing his temperamental filly Our Flash Drive, who won the De La Rose Stakes at Saratoga Sunday.

"He's normal. He's the only normal Serpe. Sort of normal."

Trainer Phil Serpe, introducing his brother Russell Serpe

"They're like dinosaurs."

The Special's Amanda Hammersla, about Clydesdales compared to Thoroughbreds

"Is the President here today or something?"

The Special's Tom Law, watching a line of traffic head toward the track on East Avenue at 12:50 p.m. Friday

"I have forwarded this to my friends and have told them to pony and be a Thoroughbred."

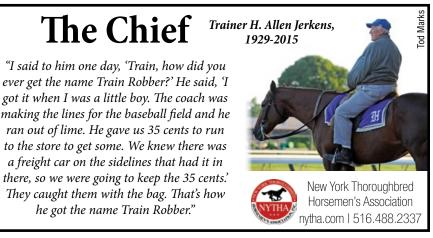
Reader Danielle Brewster, helping spread the word about advertiser Sasha's of Saratoga

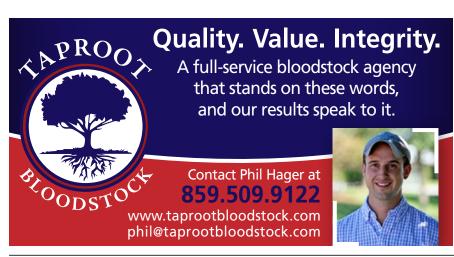


Tod Marks

The King of Horses. Budweiser Clydesdale Steve takes a break in the Saratoga Race Course winner's circle Wednesday afternoon.

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#### Here&There...in Saratoga

#### NY-bred sale begins Sunday

Sales season rolls on Sunday and Monday with the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale. Sunday's opening session, featuring Hips 301-400, starts at 7 p.m.; while Monday's session, featuring Hips 401-583, starts at noon.

Fasig-Tipton comes into the New York-bred sale after a record-breaking select sale Monday and Tuesday. Last year's New York-bred sale also posted strong returns, with 203 yearlings selling for a total of \$18,566,500, an average price of \$91,461 and median of \$70,000. The New York-bred sale was not conducted in 2020 due to the pandemic but the 2021 figures were increases over the 2019

Showing started on the sales grounds Friday and will pick up considerably over the weekend. Horsemen competing at the Saratoga meet will be among the large group of buyers expected Monday and Tuesday. Here's what a few had to say:

Trainer Steve Asmussen: "It's a great financial opportunity. You see a horse like Bankit that has made over a million dollars and most of it has been in New York-bred races with a few wins and several placings. It's good for him to get in the winner's circle, but it's made that amount of money possible for this horse."

Trainer Michelle Nevin: "They have amazing bonuses for New York-breds. If you can get your hands on one that's good and hard knocking, they can be so much fun and grind out a lot of extra bonus money for you, too. It's a good deal."

Trainer John Kimmel: "I'll definitely be over there looking. It's a great program because they offer tremendous purse money, stakes races, against a limited group of horses. You don't have to compete in the open market and you've got a big chance to knock out your purchase price which makes the investment in a New York-bred all the more enticing. If you go through your conditions you can probably earn upwards of a hundred grand which is terrific."

#### **Round Table set for Sunday**

The Jockey Club's Annual Round Table Conference on Matters Pertaining to Racing returns to Saratoga Sunday at 10 a.m. Held at the Saratoga Springs City Center on Broadway, the conference will be live-streamed on multiple media and industry outlets including jockeyclub.com.

A video replay and an official transcript of the proceedings will be available on The Jockey Club website following the conference. First held July 1, 1953 in New York City, the conference moved to Saratoga Springs the following year.

Speakers this year include Jockey Club chairman Stuart Janney III and Jockey Club Information Systems president Carl Hamilton, Shannon Kelly with an update on the Jockey



Wednesday debut winner Conman sold at the 2021 New York-bred sale.

Club Safety Net Foundation, NTRA president and CEO Tom Rooney on the NTRA in Washington, D.C., Swedish Horseracing Authority's Dennis Madsen on crop rules and Dr. Lauren Stiroh of NERA Economic Consulting on the trends in racing and breeding.

In addition, Jockey Club President and COO Jim Gagliano will interview John Penza of the 5 Stones intelligence firm and U.S. Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer will speak (virtually) about the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority and HISA CEO Lisa Lazarus will also speak about HISA.

The conference is expected to last approximately two hours.

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## NY Bred YEARLINGS AUGUST 14 • 7 PM

**AUGUST 15 • 12 PM** 



#### With Phil Serpe

Blue Heaven. The oasis inside an oasis, and home to trainer Phil Serpe on the Saratoga Race Course backstretch for years.

The annual visit to Serpe's string near the fiveeighths pole came right after turf works Friday morning, with all but two members of the group tucked away. Serpe got off to a quick start this season, winning three of his first five starts including a double with King Angelo and Ampersand July 24.

Serpe joked the day after those two wins that he won't comment on the fast start and did the same Friday.

"You know this place, it will kill you," Serpe said, joined for this year's tour by his brother Russell Serpe, in from their native New Jersey.

The barn made its 11th start of the meet Friday, sending Bank On Anna out to victory in the \$125,000 Union Avenue Handicap against older New York-bred fillies and mares. That gave the barn its eighth victory of 2022.

"We don't have a lot of horses but we have some nice horses," Serpe said before going over most of the string with The Special's Tom Law.

**Security Code:** WellSpring Stable's 2-year-old daughter of Frosted finished second behind Maple Leaf Mel in Wednesday's sixth race, a 6-furlong maiden on the main track. "She ran a good second the other day. Has a nice pedigree. We're looking to run her longer as we get down the road. She's a nice filly and we like her a lot. Coach (Bill) Parcells' horse won the race, Maple Leaf Mel. She looks like she's going to be a nice filly. That's good, he puts his money up."

Leave No Trace: Purchased by Dr. Robert and Laura Vukevich's WellSpring Stable for \$40,000 at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale, daughter of Outwork provided the barn with its first winner in 5 1/2-furlong auction maiden special weight July 20. Out of the winning Good Journey mare Tanquerray, she's breezed twice since, including a half Friday in :49.88 on the main track. "Great race opening week. We're contemplating running her in the Spinaway at the end of the meet. She had a nice breeze today. We'll see how it goes with her. Obviously, there's going to be some monsters in there, but that's Saratoga. You have to go with that. There's not a whole lot to go into it. You have 2-year-olds that broke their maiden pretty easily. You've got to take a shot. There is some turf in her pedigree, so the jury is out on that. She's a filly that's gone through a huge growth spurt. She went through some kind of time warp on the van ride up here. She grew like a foot in each direction. We're really looking forward to running more ground. A lot more than 7 furlongs actually. We're going to see



Tod Marks

Leave No Trace, a debut winner July 20 for Serpe, could turn up next in the Spinaway.

how things go. We'll probably take a shot there with her. You have to and it will give us some direction when we get back down to Belmont at Agueduct."

**Streaming Tap:** Serpe and WellSpring claimed 3-year-old Ontario-bred son of Tapiture for \$50,000 at Gulfstream in early February. Winless in four starts for Serpe, he's entered for \$16,000 in maiden claimer Sunday at Monmouth Park. "He's a claiming horse that needs to step up. Period. We sent him down to New Jersey and he'll run at Monmouth so we'll see how he does there. We took a shot and claimed him down at Gulfstream and it hasn't panned out yet, but there's still time to get things done."

**Wave Action:** WellSpring Stable's 2-year-old colt by Creative Cause out of the winning Union Rags mare Coogee Beach colt cost \$3,000 as a weanling. He's turned in three breezes at Saratoga, including a half on the Oklahoma turf in :53.11 July 31. "Hopefully he'll make a start up here, maybe by the end of the meet."

**King Angelo:** The big horse. Owned by Tom Farone's Farone Stables, 5-year-old son of Lemon Drop Kid is 3-2-4 in 10 starts with \$209,150. Successful on dirt and turf, he won 5 1/2-furlong state-bred optional claimer on the grass July 24. "We love King Angelo. He ran an excellent race. We're going to most likely run him back on the 24th, looking forward to another big

race. He's an exceptionally nice horse. I can't wait to run him. He's probably my barn favorite. Really like him a lot. He won his one- and two-other than conditions for New York-breds so he'll go in an open one-other-than. If there was some kind of stake sprinting on the grass for New York-breds we'd go there but there isn't. This seems like a logical step, and the purse is \$115,000 and he gets the New York-bred bonus. Tom is the breeder, so that's a big payday. The breeding program in New York, anybody that races here that doesn't foal their horses in New York if they're breeders they need to look at that a lot closer. New York-breds are really stepping up. These horses are winning Grade 1s, classics and everything in between. This all started with two guys - Carl Lizza and Chester Broman. These guys really took the breeding program in New York to a whole different level. Unfortunately, we lost Carl. Mr. Broman, whether he owns them or breeds them, you still see, horse after horse he breeds such nice horses. People are paying \$2 million for them at the sale. It saddened me to see Mr. Broman phase out because not only does he have incredibly nice horses but he's the best guy in the world to train for. He really is. He understands what goes right and what goes wrong. Such a great guy. I can't say enough good things about him. Of course Carl, we certainly miss them (Lizza's Flying Zee Stable runners Cosmonaut, I Lost My Choo, Golden Commander and others were Serpe mainstays for years). They were the bulk of our

#### **Stable Tour** —

#### **Continued from page 8**

stable and they were good people. They did a lot for racing and for myself and my staff. We do miss him a lot."

Itsallcomintogetha: Hilly Fields Stable homebred 2-year-old colt by former Serpe stable star Weekend Hideaway finished third in debut Wednesday, beaten only 3 lengths after troubled trip. Hilly Fields' Tony Smith provided the heads up on the name Thursday morning: "Mike Hoffman, who owned Weekend Hideaway, that's his expression, it's all coming together, so when we needed a name I said. 'That's it.' " He's out of Ladywell Court, a Saratoga winner for Serpe and Hilly Fields in 2012. She's out of Commander's Lady, who won two races and \$112,043 for Hilly Fields and Serpe from 2002 to 2005, "It's all in the family with him. He had a really rough start, kind of stumbled when he got sandwiched, then took the worst of it, rallied and finished third. Maybe could have won. Who knows? You can't tell about those things but it looks like he has a bright future. That's most important. We don't really try to crank our 2-year-olds up a lot. We want them to have a future. Horses aren't the same as they were 20 years ago, so you have to take it easy and bring them along. If you're hard on them early it will take its toll. He's a horse we're looking to do well with. He happens to be in Weekend Hideaway's stall. Honestly, I wasn't here when the horses got here and he went in that stall by chance. That's a good thing . . . We were really excited about running the Weekend Hideaway, obviously because we had Weekend Hideaway. We had that horse's two sisters win stakes here, his mother won here. Like I said, it was all in the family."

Safe Conduct: The classic winner. Last year's Queen's Plate winner won an optional claimer in early May at Belmont Park before a second in the Grade 3 Monmouth Stakes and a fifth in last weekend's Fasig-Tipton Lure Stakes. Owned by WellSpring, 4-year-old son of Bodemeister is 4-3-1 in 14 starts with \$735,864 in earnings. "When he finished fifth the other day we had a plan on that race going in and it probably worked against us. The



Tod Marks

Phil Serpe.

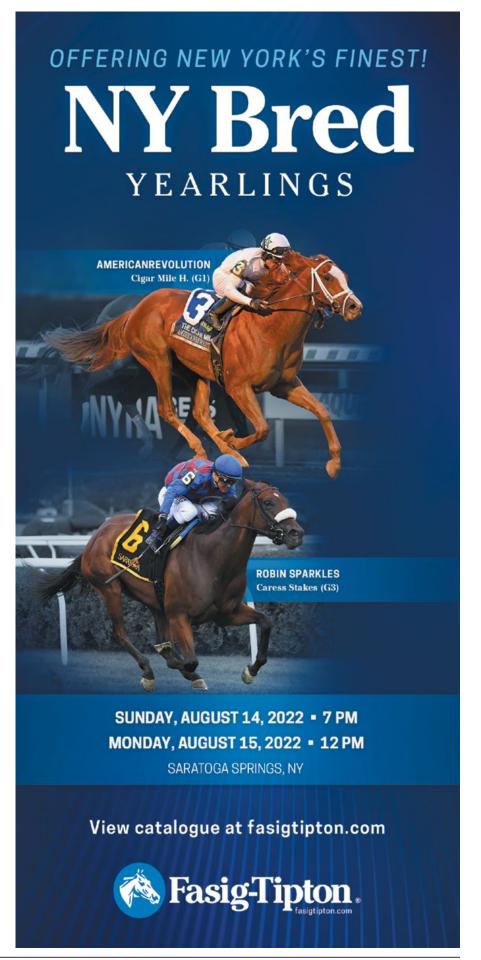
fractions were really quick early. He was laying second and we probably should have let him relax a little bit and finish. We'll regroup with him, look for something late in the meet or early down the road. He has a win under his belt this year and there's still a lot of good spots for him."

**Exaggerator-Cupid's Arrow colt:** Farone Stable's 3-year-old half-brother to King Angelo. "We're very excited to get him to the races. We were hoping to get him to the races at Saratoga but things are taking just a little longer than expected."

Bernardino: Another barn mainstay, 7-yearold son of Paddy O'Prado returned from halfmile breeze in :48.74 Friday on the Oklahoma turf course. Fifth in a 1 1/16-mile turf maiden on the inner course July 15. he's winless in nine starts with a second and a third for \$39,895 in earnings. "Believe it or not one of my favorites in the barn. The problem, he doesn't get to run a lot because he's turf and Tom likes to give his horses the winter off. Takes a little while to get him going, you have to duck the rain, this and that, so hopefully he's going to run back here and hopefully get to break his maiden. He just breezed on the turf. Up here we thought he was in position to win and he kind of ran flat on us. Horses will do that sometimes, especially here. We're looking forward to next time, his third start. which usually is a strong start. Hopefully he can rebound and get the job done at Sarato-

**Bank On Anna:** Cash that check, again. WellSpring's 3-year-old daughter of Central Banker was a \$46,000 RNA at the Fasig-Tipton Select Yearling Showcase in September 2020. Before her Union Avenue victory Friday she finished fifth in an open-company allowance against older fillies and mares going 6 furlongs July 23. The victory in the Union Avenue was her fourth in six starts this season and she improved to 4-1-1 from eight starts with earnings of \$256,200. "She's been a nice consistent filly for this year. She had a really rough trip here in her first race, broke kind of flat-footed because there was a gate delay. Then she made a move up the rail and got shut off. Not much else to do after that . . . She's earned her way up there. We like her a lot, another for WellSpring Stable. With the loss of Mr. and Mrs. Broman we have Dr. and Mrs. Vukovich, and they're just incredibly great people. They really are. It's a pleasure to train for them, they understand the business and enjoy themselves. It's been great."

Assertive Attitude: WellSpring's 2-year-old colt by Violence out of the stakes-placed Girolamo mare Backwood Bay breezed a half in :52.18 Friday on the main track, his second work at Saratoga after seven on the Belmont Park training track this spring and summer. "Unfortunately, he got a little bug back at Belmont so he's a little bit behind and we'll see how it goes."



# Tod Marks

Regal Glory rolls into today's Fourstardave with four consecutive wins.

## History Chaser

Regal Glory puts unbeaten Spa mark up against boys in Grade 1

#### BY SPENCER RIPCHIK

Got Stormy became the first filly to win the Fourstardave Handicap in 2019. Then she did it again in 2021.

Now a new challenger will take on the boys in Saturday's 2022 edition, looking to continue a run of success for fillies and mares in the Grade 1 turf stakes. The challenger is 6-yearold mare Regal Glory, who takes on four others in the \$500,000 stakes.

"It's time to step her up and meet new challenges with her," Chad Brown, who trains Regal Glory for Peter Brant, said Thursday morning about taking on males. "She's done everything we have asked this year. It seems like a good spot as far as the distance of the race, and the spacing between her last race."

#### **FOURSTARDAVE HANDICAP PREVIEW**

Regal Glory, a daughter of Animal Kingdom out of the More Than Ready mare Mary's Follies, comes in as the 6-5 morning-line favorite on the strength of her seven wins in 12 starts at a mile. Regal Glory also comes in on a four-race win streak, the latest in the Grade 1 Just A Game on the Belmont Stakes Day undercard.

The streak started in Del Mar in late 2021 in the Grade 1 Matriarch Stakes. She added the Grade 3 Pegasus World Cup Filly and Mare Turf Invitational at Gulfstream Park and Grade 1 Jenny Wiley at Keeneland after that. In the two months since the Just A Game



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#### Fourstardave —

#### **■** Continued from page 10

and Fourstardave, Regal Glory has turned in four 5-furlong breezes on the Oklahoma Training Track turf course, including a 1:00.29 Sunday.

"She's been doing really well," Brown said. "We have been pointing to this race for quite a while."

Regal Glory has won 12 of 19 starts since starting her career for her breeder, the late Paul Pompa Jr., as a 2-year-old in 2018. She has racked up \$2,111,009 in earnings in four years and is the only member of the Fourstardave field with more than \$1.5 million in earnings. Pompa died in October 2020 and Peter Brant bought her in a dispersal for \$925,000 at the 2021 Keeneland January horses of all ages sale.

Regal Glory also brings a 3-for-3 record at Saratoga to the Fourstardave, winning the Grade 2 Lake Placid and Grade 3 Lake George as a 3-year-old in 2019 and the Fasig-Tipton De La Rose Stakes in 2021.

"With Saratoga, you hope they just handle it well," Brown said. "She's shown in the past that she can."

Jose Ortiz is back aboard Regal Glory, as he's been for her last nine starts and seven wins.

"He knows the filly really well," Brown said. "He has ridden her for a couple of years, so he has good judgment with her."



Tod Marks

Casa Creed won the 6-furlong Jaipur in his last start.

Brown also entered Juddmonte's Masen in the Fourstardave. The English-bred son of Kingman comes off a win in the Grade 3 Poker going a mile June 18 and the Seek Again Stakes at the same distance May 22, both at Belmont Park. Masen started his career in Ireland for trainer Ger Lyons and made his first start for Brown when second by a nose in the Grade 1 Maker's Mark Mile in April at Keeneland.

"He came to me in good shape," Brown said. "Masen, he's always been a nice prospect. Always

well thought of. I like the Juddemonte team. He's been a real pleasure to train. It's another race that I had penciled in for him a few months ago. I'm happy he's here and ready to go."

Flavien Prat has the mount on Masen, the 2-1 second choice.

Brown, a native of nearby Mechanicville and four-time leading trainer at Saratoga, has yet to win the Fourstardave.

"I'd love to win the race," Brown. "It's one of the few races I haven't won yet. We've tried a few times. Hopefully, I have the right horse between [Regal Glory] and Masen."

Bill Mott sends out the 5-2 third choice in LRE Racing's and JEH Racing Stable's Casa Creed. The 6-year-old son of Jimmy Creed also comes in off a win on Belmont Day, a half-length score in the Grade 1 Jaipur going 6 furlongs on the turf.

Casa Creed has a bankroll of \$1,428,308, second most of the field. Luis Saez, aboard for Casa Creed's last three starts that also included runs in the Middle East, takes the return call.

Front Run The Fed and Get Smoking complete the field. The former comes off a victory in the Van Clief Stakes July 18 at Colonial Downs for trainer Caio Caramori and owner George Sharp. Get Smokin goes out for trainer Mark Casse, who saddled Got Stormy to her historic Fourstardave victories. The 5-year-old son of Get Stormy hasn't won since the Seek Again Stakes in May 2021 at Belmont. "It's a solid group," Brown said. "It should be an exciting race for sure."

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## Regal Legacy

#### Turf star a tribute to breeder/owner

#### **BY JOE CLANCY**

See that cover image on today's edition? The star mare getting a smooth from her jockey Jose Ortiz after a major turf win. . . the two-tone green silks of Peter Brant about to go to the winner's circle . . . where Brant and trainer Chad Brown will greet

Now imagine it all a little bit differently. The horse, Regal Glory, is the same. The trainer and jockey, the same. The silks are different though - mostly white with red sleeves, a big green circle with a red P in the middle and a red cap. And owner/breeder Paul Pompa Jr. stands next to Brown, as proud as a father on his daughter's wedding day while considering lofty goals like a start against males in today's Grade 1 Fourstardave Handicap.

"He would be all about it," Brown said Friday. "He'd be so proud of her."

Of course, he can't be because Pompa died in October 2020.

#### **FOURSTARDAVE HANDICAP PREVIEW**

He was just 62 and though a prominent owner in the game, on the verge of even bigger things with an expanding broodmare band and quality horses like Regal Glory, eventual 2022 Dubai World Cup winner Country Grammer and others in the barn.

"He was so primed with just getting Connect to the breeding shed and having curated his broodmare band," said Allaire Ryan of Lane's End Farm, where Pompa kept his mares. "He had just sold his company, he was ready to be all in on every front."

Instead, Lane's End held a dispersal. Thirty-eight horses sold for \$6,790,200 at Keeneland January 2021, closing the books on Pompa's racing stable. And ending an era. Owner of Truck Rite Corp., a Brook-

**Continued On Page 16** 



Owner/breeder Paul Pompa Jr. leads in Regal Glory after the 2019 Lake George.



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#### Pompa —

#### **■** Continued from page 14

lyn-based trucking company, Pompa campaigned his first Thoroughbreds in 2000. He bought 2008 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner Big Brown as a 2-year-old, bringing on IEAH Stable as a partner, plus owned \$1.3 million earner Connect, Grade 1 winner Backseat Rhythm, graded winner D'Funnybone and plenty of others.

Pompa's connection to Regal Glory started in 2009 when he and trainer Rick Dutrow Jr. bought Mary's Follies after she won the Grade 3 Boiling Springs Stakes at Monmouth Park. She finished second in Saratoga's Lake George, won the Grade 2 Mrs. Revere at Churchill Downs and was retired after starting just twice in 2010 and once in 2011. Her 2012 foal, Night Prowler, won eight races and earned \$535,682.

Four years later, Regal Glory (a daughter of Animal Kingdom) was born. Sent to Brown, she won her first two starts as a 2-year-old and became a graded stakes winner the next year with the Lake George and Lake Placid double at Saratoga. First or second in her first seven starts, she closed 2019 with a sixth in the Grade 1 Queen Elizabeth II at Keeneland. Her 2020 included a September win in the Grade 3 Kentucky Downs Ladies Turf.

Her owner/breeder died a month later.

"It was sudden," Ryan said. "When he passed away it was so unexpected. He was a very good businessman, and he knew he needed to cull a certain amount of mares and yearlings each year. He did that. He was always happy to keep the good ones and he had a wonderful business plan in place. That fact that it had to be cut short and dispersed at that stage was disheartening. He was somebody you wanted to do really well for because he was a joy to work for."

Ryan recalled conversations with Pompa, who kept track of his horses and took notes about matings, mare covers, who was in foal, who wasn't, yearling plans, sales placement, veterinary work, all of it.

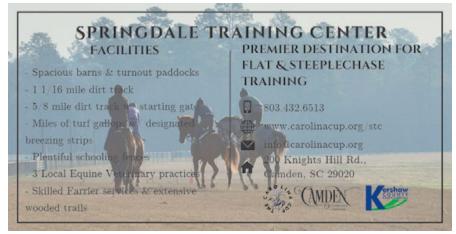
"He wanted all the information," she said. "He was such a positive guy. No matter what kind of news you had to give to him, he took it. He always ended the call with, 'OK, this is what we're going to do. This is our plan. Everything's going to be OK.' "

It was much the same for Brown, Todd Pletcher and other trainers – only earlier.

"Sometimes he'd call you at 5," Brown said. "He'd be driving to work. He really enjoyed giving us that early-morning call. He wanted us to know he was headed to work too. He was a hard-working man, would be making a long drive to his trucking company and call you. We had some really good talks through the years."

Pompa worked at his racing business, melding a small but growing pool of homebreds with strategic purchases of young horses. Success flowed.

"He had people work with him, agents and such, but he was very involved and managed his own horses," Brown said. "For a guy that didn't have a lot of horses in training per year, he had a very high percentage of good horses. He didn't have a ton



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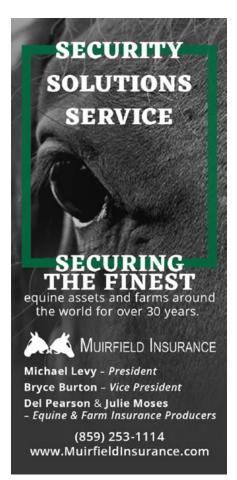
Ken Doll

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#### Pompa —

#### ■ Continued from page 16

of broodmares, he had a mixture of some homebreds, horses they purchased, never a lot, but I have to tell you through the years at any given time if I had seven horses in training for Pompa four of them were stakes horses. That's hard to do."

Brown trained Regal Glory for Pompa through 11 starts over three seasons. She won going 6 furlongs as a 2-year-old maiden, blossomed into a 3-year-old star with two

graded wins around two turns at Saratoga and capped her 4-year-old season in 2020 with a Grade 3 win at a mile at Kentucky Downs. Her future was bright, how bright nobody knew for sure.

"I thought she was going to win multiple graded stakes and I would tell Paul that when she was younger," Brown said. "I thought that was her limit, which was a really, really good filly. But I wasn't sure she was a Grade 1 horse."

Enter Brant.

When the Pompa horses headed to the dispersal, the owner talked to Brown about buying the chestnut. Brant bought other Brown mares owned by others – Grade 1 winners Newspaperofrecord and Uni for two – to add to the broodmare band. Regal Glory fit the profile, except Brant



wanted to keep her in training. He spent \$925,000 and has been rewarded ever since as Regal Glory won three last year – capped by the Grade 1 Matriarch at Del Mar in November. She's been even better this year, with wins in the Grade 3 Pegasus World Cup Filly and Mare Turf in January, Grade 1 Jenny Wiley at Keeneland in April and Belmont Park's Grade 1 Just A Game in June.

"It was all Peter's idea to buy her, and it was his decision to run her this year."

Brown said. "He knows the horses in my barn probably as well as I do because he's there a lot. He's very observant, always looking to learn. He's an excellent horseman and he pays attention and has great appreciation for good horses even if he doesn't own them."

And now it's Fourstardave time. The earner of \$2,111,009 faces four male rivals going 1 mile while looking for her fifth consecutive win and 13th in 20 starts while trying to join 2019 and 2021 winner Got Stormy as the only fillies/mares to win the turf stakes. Pompa wouldn't have missed it.

"He'd be really enjoying this right now," Brown said. "I just hope she's able to get a good trip and hopefully make a little history. We'll see."

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Connie Bush

Trainer Michelle Lovell and lead pony Elwood (right) take Damon's Mound out for some exercise Friday morning at Saratoga.

## Love In

## Churchill winner Damon's Mound ships in from Colonial for Lovell

#### BY TIMOTHY LITTAU

Michelle Lovell is not a familiar face around Saratoga. She has never saddled a horse here, and rode five races here in 1993, three of which she finished second.

But she is turning heads astride her big roan pony, Elwood – who drinks a Guinness daily – since she arrived from Colonial Downs with a 2-year-old colt named after a little town. Damon's Mound is the 7-5 second choice in today's Grade 2 \$200,000 Saratoga Special after winning his July 2 debut by 12 12 lengths at Churchill Downs.

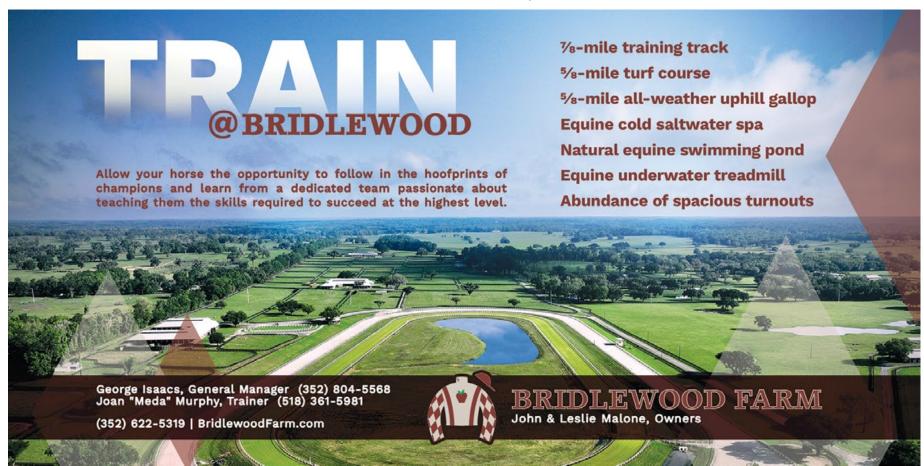
"I've been in awe of the places I've gotten to be acquainted with, starting out in Texas as a trainer. Moving to Louisiana, Kentucky, a little bit of Illinois, Indiana and New York a

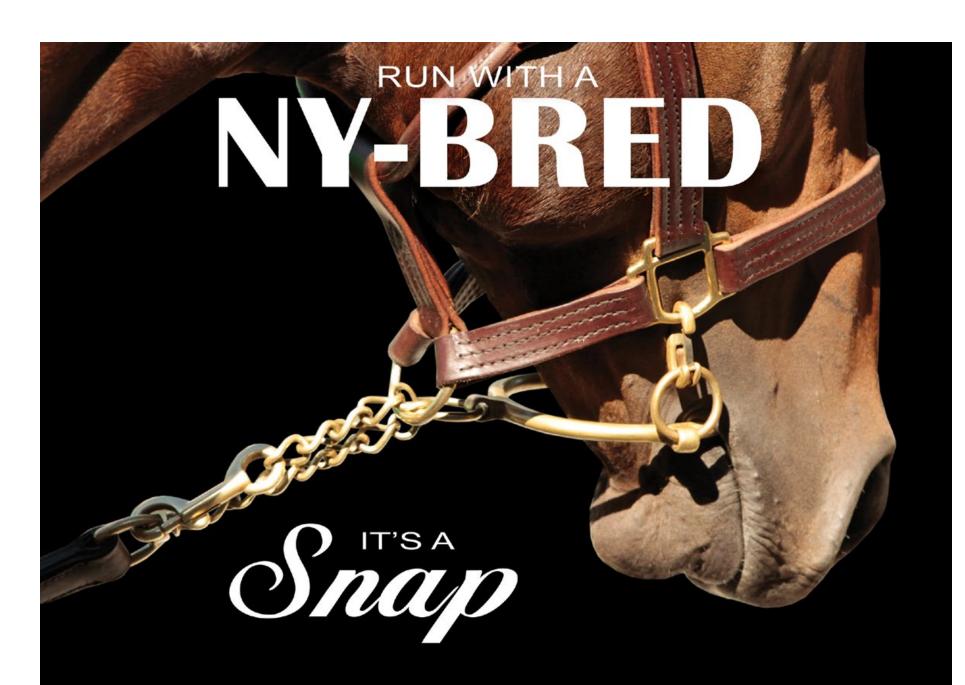
#### **SCHUYLERVILLE PREVIEW**

few times. And now Saratoga is the icing on the cake – with a really nice horse," Lovell said. "This is my first time at Saratoga. Saratoga's just special. Having a 2-year-old this time of year is special and exciting because the sky's the limit."

Cliff and Michele Love's Florida-homebred blazed through his 6-furlong maiden in 1:09.84. Two days later Gulfport won the \$173,000 Bashford Manor Stakes by 12 1/4 lengths, completing the 6-furlongs in 1:09.25 for trainer Steve Asmussen.

"It would be awesome, it would mean the world to me to win at Sara-





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#### **Special** –

#### **■** Continued from page 20

toga, in any race," Lovell said. "This horse is really special, that's why we brought him. I'm looking forward to it. I'm expecting big things from him."

Asmussen also has high expectations for the 4-5 morning line favorite.

"He's extremely impressive on the racetrack. He's a beautiful mover and he looks very fast. We expect a big run from him on Saturday," Asmussen said. "(The field is) really fast, that's the trend. An extremely high level of ability and a small number of horses. But it's a great opportunity, the Saratoga Special is a very important race on the calendar. We feel that Gulfport, after his first two races, we're high on him, as high as you can get on a racehorse."

Bred by Diamond Creek Farm and owned by Bill and Corinne Heiligbrodt, Jackpot Farm, Whispering Oaks Farm and Coolmore Stud, the son of Uncle Mo fetched \$275,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Yearling Sale. Meanwhile, the Loves bred their Texas-bred homebred San Antonio Stroll to Girvin who stands for \$6,000 this year. Yet here is Damon's Mound and Gulfport starting just one post away from each other in one of Saratoga's biggest stakes for juveniles.

"I've watched Gulfport train in

person, so obviously he's the horse to beat, he's the favorite," Lovell said. "There's some other good horses in there, and they're babies, it can all change when they take steps forward. I expect mine to take a step forward, too, but Gulfport is the horse to beat, because he's already won two."

She's seen him train, and she also watched alongside the Heiligbrodts when Gulfport and Damon's Mound schooled in the paddock Thursday afternoon underneath the same tree.

Damon is a small town in Texas, with a population of 552, and part of it is situated atop a salt dome, called Damon's Mound.

"Damon's Mound is 30 minutes from where we grew up," William Heiligbrodt said.

"No kidding, what a small world," Lovell said.

"Where did they get the name?" Corinne Heiligbrodt said.

"Cliff is from Houston, but he told me that when they were kids his parents and all of their aunts and uncles used to drop all of the kids off at Damon's Mound at their grandmother's house and they all got to play while their parents were partying in Las Vegas," Lovell said.

Two couples' horses, more than 1,800 miles away from where their owners grew up, in one of the most highly anticipated juvenile races this year at the nation's most venerable track, the chances are astronomical.



Connie Bush

Elwood the lead pony enjoys a Guinness after work Friday.



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#### **Special** —

#### **■** Continued from page 22

The possibility of a rivalry could be in the cards depending on where they race next.

"It could be the Iroquois or the (Breeders Futurity) at Keeneland so we'll see, it'll probably be one of those. Either way it's two turns, we planned on running him in the Saratoga Special and if he comes out of this race awesome, we're going to think about (two turns)," Lovell said. "Nothing's marked off, we definitely could run in the Hopeful to stretch him out just a little bit more. But I think two turns makes sense. We'll just let him rest in between races and go home then at Churchill."

While Lovell is not entirely certain where Damon's Mound's next start will be. Asmussen knows exactly where he wants Gulfport to run next.

"We're hoping to use this as a prep for the Hopeful, same as Gunite last year, same as Jackie's Warrior before," Asmussen said. "Our main tar-

get at Saratoga with 2-yearolds is always the Hopeful, and I think this is the right prep to get him there."

Asmussen has won the Saratoga Special five times and the Hopeful three times, the last three years. Jackie's Warrior gave Asmussen his last win in the Saratoga Special in 2020, when he also captured the Hopeful, Asmussen's only horse to do so. If Gulfport wins the Saratoga Special, it will give Asmussen a record-tying sixth win, Gulfport exits a win in the Bashford Manor.

whose wins during 1904-29.

For Lovell, a win with Damon's Mound in the Saratoga Special would be her first win at the Grade 2 level, and, if she takes either the Hopeful or Breeders Futurity she will have her first Grade 1 win.

"It's just years and years of doing all kinds of stuff in this business," she said of her career as a rider, breaker and trainer.

"You just get opportunities, and doors open," Lovell said. "I've just taken my opportunities and did my best with them."

In Saturday's fourth race at 2:47, both trainers have the chance to reach a career achievement with owners who are connected by geography but could not have gotten their horses in more contrasting ways.

There are three other horses looking to pull off an upset. Super Chow won his debut at Gulfstream for Jorge Delgado. Valenzan Day won his debut at Belmont but was third in the Tremont and ninth in the Sanford Stakes. Trainer Rudy Rodriguez adds blinkers. Tom Amoss adds blinkers to Bashford runner-up Owen's Leap.



Coady Photo





#### **SARATOGA ENTRIES**

Saturday, August 13.

<b>1ST (1:05PM). \$105,000, MSW, 2 Y</b> Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pi	c 5, Daily Double		
1 1Full Coverage	J. Rosario	C. McGaughey III	7-2
2 2Reckoning Force	J. Ortiz	J. O'Brien	6-1
3 3	F. Prat	C. Brown	3-1
4 4Baie Longue			
5 5Calycanthus			
6 6Lord of the Navy	R. Santana. Jr	M. Maker	12-1
7 7Torigo	K. Carmouche	D. Gargan	6-1
8 8Fire Baron	L. Saez	M. Maker	12-1
9 AE-MTO.Funtastic Again	Rider TBA	W. Ward	5-1
2nd (1:39PM). \$50,000, CLM \$35,00		ULV DOUBLE	
EXACTA, QUÍNELLA, TRIFECTA, SUI	TENTEUIA, PIU 3, PIU 4, DA	I Dice	7 (
1a 5Charger	J. Lezualio	L. NICE	1-2
2 2Motion to Strike	I. UI IIZ, JI	L. NICE	1-2
3 3Mount Athos			
4 4Fast N Fearious	J. Gomez	B. Brown	12-1
5 6Jake Rocks			
6 7Pico d'Oro	I. McCartny	C. Caramori	12-1
7 8Cold as Hell	L. Saez	D. Lukas	6-1
8 9Gaslight			
9 10Resist the Devil	J. Urtiz	K. KICE	10-1
3RD (2:15PM). \$50,000, CLM \$35,0		1/2F (TURF)	
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Da	ally Double	D. Handal	0 4
1 1No Payne	D. Davis	K. Handal	8-1
2 2Cadencia	J. UTIZ	vv. iviorey	5-2
3 3Blazing Star (GB)			
4 4 Train to Artemus			
5 5Take the Backroads			
6 6Rigby	I. Ortiz, Jr	IVI. IVIaker	3-1
7 7Constitutionalrage	J. Gomez	B. Brown	15-1
8 8Idaka			
9 9Ulikeapples			
10 AE-MTO.Mommasgottarun	L. Saez	B. Cox	2-1
<b>4TH (2:47PM). \$200,000, STK - THE</b> Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta,		0, 6 1/2F	
1 1Super Chow	L. Saez	J. Delgado	8-1
2 2Damon's Mound			
3 3Valenzan Day	T. McCarthy	R. Rodriguez	12-1
4 4Gulfport	J. Rosario	S. Asmussen	4-5
5 5Owen's Leap	I Ortiz Jr	. T. Amoss	8-1



		. <b>\$95,000, ALW, 3 YO'S</b> & I, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4			
1	1	Tosconova Beauty	N. Alvarado	I Dixon	7-2
2	2	Sweet Mystery	J. Lezcano	P Quick	3-1
			I. Ortiz, Jr		
4	4	Sweet Maeve	B. Hernandez	N. Huertas	20-1
			S. Gonzalez		
6	6	Sunset Louise	J. Ortiz	B Levine	o . 8-1
			J. Davis		
			J. Gomez		
				. 11. 04011	
Exa	cta, Trifecta	. <b>\$95,000, ALW, 3 YO'S</b> & ı, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 6	Daily Double		
1	1	.Street Culture	J. Lezcano	. L. Rice	12-1
2	2	.Two Down	L. Saez	. J. Englehart	8-1
3	3	.Neuro	J. Castellano	. R. Ribaudo	5-2
4	4	.Giramonte	E. Cancel	. L. Gyarmati	12-1
5	5	.Golden Hornet	R. Santana, Jr	. L. Rivelli	4-1
6	6	.Tommy the Torch	J. Flores	. J. Tebbutt	20-1
7	7	.Sheriff Bianco	I. Ortiz, Jr	. L. Rice	2-1
			L. Cardenas		
9	9	.Courageoous Oh La	N. Alvarado	. L. Dixon	15-1
10	AE-MTO	.Majority Partner	J. Castellano	. L. Rice	2-1
7TH	l (4:29PM).	. <b>\$105,000, MSW, 2 YO,</b> ı, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5	6F		
1	tia, IIII6tia 1	Rourhon Rach	F. Prat	D Lukac	1_1
			K. Carmouche		
			T. McCarthy		
			J. Ortiz		
4 5	4	Ckallia	J. Rosario	. II. Do raz	13-1
ο	5	What a Plact	R. Santana, Jr.	. J. Itiiaiiuva, II	4-1 10 1
			L. Saez		
			D. Davis		
			I. Ortiz, Jr		
			J. Alvarado		
			J. Castellano		
8TH	I (5:03PM).		), 3 YO, 1M (INNER TURF		10-1
1	1	Portfolio Company	J. Rosario	C. Brown	2-1
ģ	1	Midnight Worker	L. Saez	T Pletcher	12-1
3	3	Overhore	F. Prat	W Ward	15-1
			J. Gomez		
т 5	¬	Pinua	J. Alvarado	H Motion	15-1
			K. Carmouche		
			I. Ortiz, Jr		
			E. Cancel		
			T. McCarthy		
			D. Davis		
11	11	Daunt	J. Ortiz	R Rihaudo	6-1
			R. Santana, Jr		
			F. Prat		
			J. Castellano		
			. Rider TBA		
			. Rider TBA		
Exa	cta, Trifecta	. <b>\$105,000, MSW, 3 YO'</b> , Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily	Double		
			I. Ortiz, Jr		
			J. Castellano		
			J. Rosario		
			K. Carmouche		
4	4	.For Good	J. Ortiz	. C. Brown	7-2
			J. Alvarado		
6	6	.Gimme Love	J. Gomez	. N. Zito	30-1
			F. Prat		
8	8	.Final Approach	D. Davis	. D. Lukas	6-1
9	10	.Lupo's Legacy	L. Saez	. J. Englehart	15-1
10	11	.Southern Flag	J. Lezcano	. W. Mott	8-1

#### **SARATOGA ENTRIES**

#### 10TH (6:13PM). \$500,000, STK - THE FOURSTARDAVE, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF) Exacta Trifecta Superfecta Daily Double

	naoia, mnooi	a, ouportoota, baily	Double			
1	1	Casa Creed	L. Sa	ıez W	/. Mott 5-	.2
2	2	Front Run the Fed	I. Orl	tiz, Jr C.	. Caramori 10-	٠1
3	3	Regal Glory	J. Or	tiz C.	. Brown 6-	-5
4	4	Masen (GB)	F. Pra	at C.	. Brown 2-	-1
5	5	Get Smòkiń	J. Ca	stellano M	l. Casse 8-	-1

#### 11TH (6:47PM). \$52,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (TURF)

J. Abreu 12-1
J. Kimmel 6-1
S. Joseph, Jr 5-2
D. Seyler 30-1
M. Nevin 6-1
J. Antonucci 30-1
M. Maker 3-1
W. Morey 8-1
C. Martin 8-1
M. Maker10-1
D. Seyler

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3	Blazing Star Rigby Cadencia	Blazing Star Rigby Take The Background	Cadencia Ulikeapples No Payne	Cadencia No Payne Blazing Star	Rigby Ulikeapples Take The Backroads Damon's Mound
4	Gulfport Damon's Mound Super Chow Sweet Mystery	Gulfport Damon's Mound Owen's Leap Tosconova Beauty	Gulfport Damon's Mound Valenzan Day Tosconova Beauty	Gulfport Damon's Mound Owen's Leap Captainsdaughter	Gulfport Owen's Leap Know it All Audrey
5	Captainsdaughter Sunset Louise	Captainsdaughter Know It All Audrey	Sweet Mystery Early Edition	Sunset Louise Tosconova Beauty	Sweet Mystery Tosconova Beauty
6	Golden Hornet Neuro Sheriff Bianco	Neuro Sherriff Bianco Golden Hornet	Street Culture Sheriff Bianco Majority Partner	Neuro Sheriff Bianco Golden Hornet	Me' n Sap Golden Hornet Street Culture
7	Skellig Black Rain General Jim	General Jim Black Rain Bourbon Bash	Bourbon Bash Skellig Black Rain	General Jim Read On Bourbon Bash	Bourbon Bash General Jim What A Blast
8	Portfolio Company Al's Rocket Overbore	Portfolio Company Daunt Constutionlawyer	Constitution Lawyer Portfolio Company Ohtwoohthreefive	Mackillop Capone Al's Rocket	Piqua Portfolio Company Midnight Worker
9	For Good Pletcher entry Leading Contender	Pletcher entry For Good Happy Bob	Happy Bob Leading Contender Pletcher entry	Southern Flag For Good Expressman	For Good Unlimitedpotential Expressman
10	Regal Glory Masen Casa Creed	Regal Glory Casa Creed Masen	Regal Glory Casa Creed Masen	Masen Regal Glory Casa Creed	Masen Get Smokin Regal Glory
11	Growth Mindset Good Soldier Greg's Honor	Good Soldier Greg's Honor Calloway Peak	Greg's Honor Calloway Peak Good Soldier	Greg's Honor Smart Joker Calloway Creek	Smart Joker Greg's Honor Growth Mindset
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## **Bank Shot**

Serpe barn continues hot meet with Union Avenue stakes win

#### BY TIMOTHY LITTAU

Phil Serpe was elated to win the \$125,000 Union Avenue Handicap, a 6-furlong contest for New York-bred fillies and mares, with Bank On Anna, and could not help but sing the praises of the New York-bred program.

"We've had so many nice New York-breds because of Flying Z Stable, Mr. and Mrs. Broman and now Dr. Vukovich and his wife Laura," Serpe said. "These races are great. The New York-bred program is just a really good program for people. For a lot of money or not so much money, you can get in on some really solid horses and you've got to really like the programs they have here because there are stake races at every meet, Saratoga, Aqueduct, and Belmont.

#### **UNION AVENUE STAKES RECAP**

And it's just a good program."

Maybe that's because his most successful horse, Weekend Hideaway, won more than \$1.1 million and was purchased for a bargain price of \$40,000. But that was a decade ago, back to Serpe's star from yesterday.

"She is solid. She's got a lot of mass to her and she's always just digging in, a really nice horse," Serpe said. "That's four wins this year. And I'm happy, really happy because this is her first win without lasix. That was a big thing for us."

Bank On Anna, a 3-year-old Central Banker filly, sat in second behind 5-2 favorite Mashnee Girl before opening up in the stretch to win by 2



Dave Harmon

Bank On Anna floats to victory in Friday's Union Avenue for New York-breds.

3/4 lengths with Jose Lezcano aboard in a final time of 1:12.32.

"She broke good and I was right there - I didn't ask her for nothing," Lezcano said. "When I asked her, she went on and won the race."

Bank On Anna went off at 3-1 and improved her career to four wins from eight starts. Snicket finished sec-

ond at 6-1, and 3-1 shot Secret Love closed from fifth to third. Serpe thinks even more highly of her after a disappointing allowance race against open company on July 23 here that resulted in a fifth place finish.

"She's just a solid horse. Without

Continued On Page 32

## Cowboy Up

#### Graduates include:

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Hip 384. Tapiture-Positively Jean colt From the family of stakes winner Conradley.

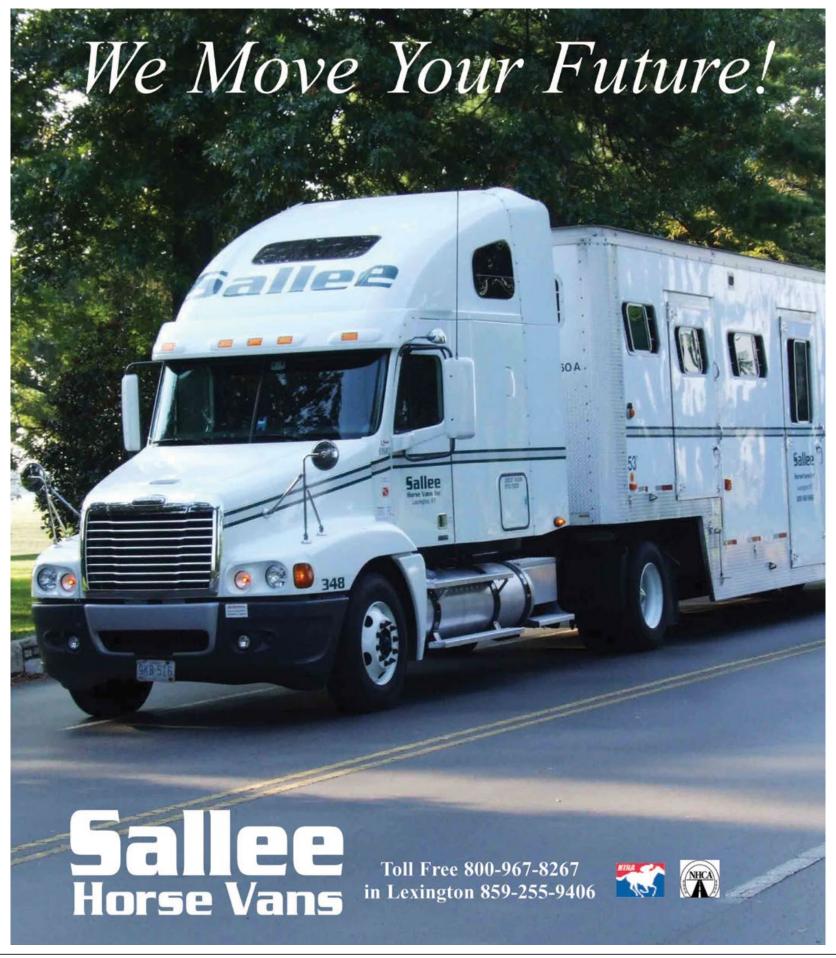
Hip 494. Preservationist-A True Pussycat filly Half-sister to multiple stakes winer Daring Duchess.

**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.* 



#### Friday Stakes —

#### ■ Continued from page 30

making up excuses, she had a rough trip last time out. Broke kind of flat-footed and got squeezed in on the rail and just lost all chance after that. She's been really training well up to this race, so we're really happy," Serpe said. "My roommate back in Long Island cut her off at the half mile pole so he's sleeping in the garage, Jose Gomez, when he gets home. But she redeemed herself today."

Redemption and more success help down the

"We'd really like to stay with the New Yorkbred program if we can but we're here to run so I don't know that she'll get to run back here off of today's effort, it's probably going to be back down (at Aqueduct) but we'll what happens."

Options restricted to New York-breds are the \$200,000 Fleet Indian Stakes on Aug. 26 for 3-yearold fillies and \$250,000 and the Empire Distaff at Aqueduct on Oct. 30.

#### **Bankit adds Evan Shipman**

Bankit had to bank on his nose to win the \$125,000 Evan Shipman Handicap in a photo finish over Sea Foam.

"He gutted it out today," said winning trainer Steve Asmussen. "The race didn't fill for him last



Dave Harmon

Bankit prevails in Friday's Evan Shipman.

time (the Commentator) and he ended up having a trapped epiglottis and had that cured.

"A couple breezes back and he's all class. I can't say how proud we are of him. Sea Foam has always run extremely well here at Saratoga and it was nice to come out on the right end of that."

Asmussen said that the 6-year-old son of Central Banker was not fully cranked for the 1-mile stakes for New York-breds, but it was only a fleeting con-

"I was really worried about it at about the sixteenth pole. He got there, but he just gutted it out in the last part," Asmussen said. "He's an extremely classy horse, he's always been. He's run some extremely good races and had a million in the bank before he got here today and it's just great to have a New York-bred stake here at Saratoga for him. It was a perfect spot and what he needed right now. He's extremely durable physically and mentally, and we expect him to be a quality New York-bred for a long time to come."

Bankit was kept in mid-pack by Ioel Rosario before moving on the outside of the hometurn and grinding through the stretch to catch Sea Foam.

"I thought Joel did wonderful with him from the one hole coming out the bend and then letting him get on his feet, He used a little of him to get some position and not to be behind everybody. It did take him a little while after that to get on his feet, but when he moved him out, he got there."

Rosario said the battle was tougher to win than he thought.

"It looked like we were going to go by and pass him, but it took a little time after. It looked like the horse in front kept moving forward and it was a good race at the end," Rosario said.

Despite the challenge, Asmussen is hopeful that he can square off with these horses again.

"I would love him to stay with New York-breds. It was a solid field here today that you would think would assemble again."



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# Dave Harmon

Wudda U Think Now prevails in Friday's John Morrissey Stakes.

## **Skid Rid**

Rodriguez lands Friday stakes for first score of Saratoga '22

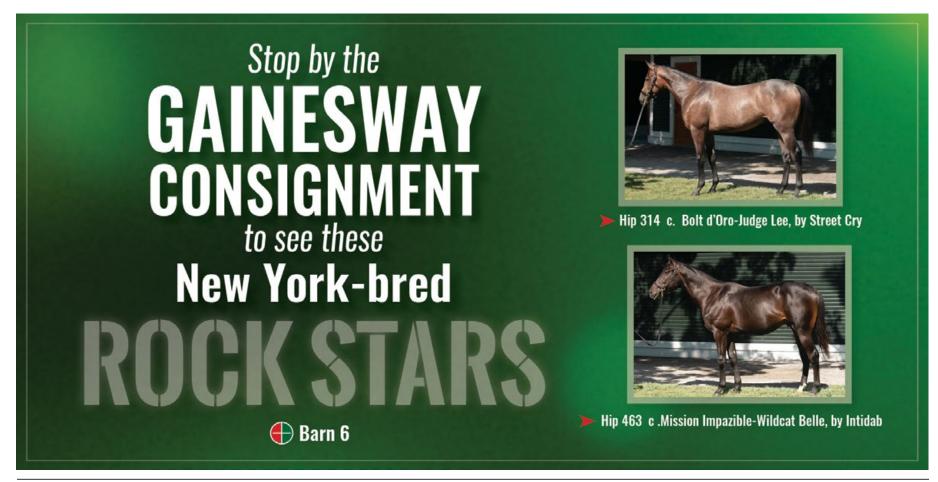
#### BY SPENCER RIPCHIK

Trainer Rudy Rodriguez stepped into the winner's circle and this time he wasn't going to go to talk to his jockey in defeat and walk out.

On his 45th start at the meet, Rodriguez got to stay in the winner's circle to take photos because his 5-year-old Wudda U Think Now won the \$121,250 John Morrissey Stakes Friday.

Rodriguez, a former jockey, had everybody cheering for him in the winner's circle. Every photographer, fan, trainer and person, in general, congratulated Rodriguez.

After getting off their mounts, losing jockeys





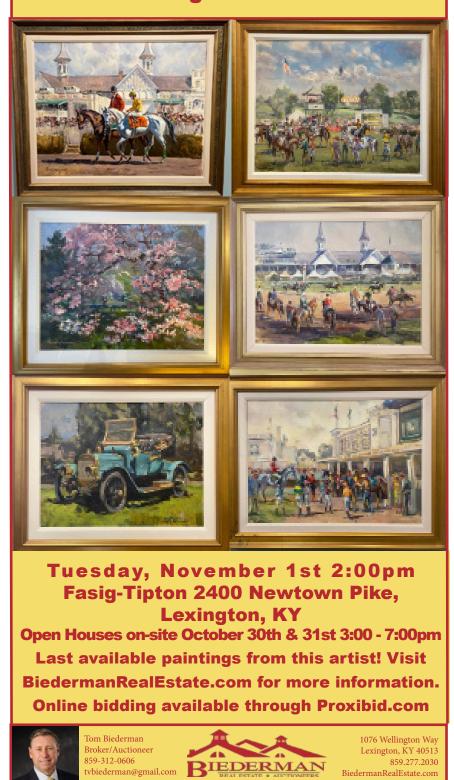
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#### Morrissey —

#### **■** Continued from page 34

Kendrick Carmouche and Jose Gomez fist bumped Rodriguez with smiles on their way to the scales.

"Everybody knows Saratoga is very hard, very difficult to win," Rodriguez said. "Everybody's rooting for you, even if you don't put them on the horses. It's a very rewarding to win in Saratoga and everybody's rooting for you even though it is competitive."

Rodriguez waited for his horse on the dirt just outside the rail and then turned around with a big smile to face the grandstand.

Owned by The Elkstone Group, Wudda U Think Now's name is fitting because Rodriguez said it's been a struggle to get to this point and many owners have left him, but he's finally gotten a win to show them that it's about patience.

"Putting so much pressure and trying to take away your family is hard, but you just have to be patient and you have to tell owners to be patient," Rodriguez said. "Some of the owners get frustrated and take their horses away from you, send the horses to the farms. This game, you have to be patient."

In the five-horse field, Saint Selby jumped out to a fast start and was followed closely behind by Trevor McCarthy and Wudda U Think Now. The positions stayed the same halfway through the turn, but at the top of the stretch Saint Selby took off. My Boy Tate tried to make a run on the inside, but couldn't find room. Just before the sixteenth pole Saint Selby ran out of gas while McCarthy energized Wudda U Think Now to win the sprint stakes by 1 ½ lengths in 1:11.65.

After the race, Rodriguez released a breath of relief because he finally has a win at Saratoga in 2022.

has a win at Saratoga in 2022.

"It's amazing," Rodriguez said
"I'm going to sleep good."

Wudda U Think Now, that son of Fast Anna and Unbridled Grace, secured his first win at Saratoga, too, after finishing fourth in an allowance at Parx, which broke up the would-be four-race win streak.

Rodriguez thought the loss at Parx was because of the sloppy conditions, the heat and that he bled.

"Today was the perfect day," Rodriguez said. "The last time he ran the heat was so hot, maybe the heat got to him. He's a big strong horse and I didn't prepare him for bleeding be-



Dave Harmo

Trainer Rudy Rodriguez (left) and owner Stuart Grant (second from right) help lead Wudda U Think Now to the winner's circle.







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## Morrissey —

### **■** Continued from page 36

cause he never did. Today I took all the precautions I could."

For the John Morrissey, the third race of the day, the weather was cool, partly cloudy and was one of the cooler days during the meet.

Rodriguez said the \$60,000 purchase was dealing with a quarter crack after his last win in the Hollie Hughes Stakes in late February, which caused the long hiatus before the fourth pace at Parx.

"I couldn't get him right," Rodriguez said. "I patched him, took the patch off — all the credit goes to Stuart Grant. He's very, very patient. With owners like that, they are patient like that, it makes our life easy."

In the winner's circle with Rodriguez was owner Stuart Grant, who was excited for Rodriguez to finally get his first victory.

Wudda U Think Now took a while to heal up, but it didn't concern Rodriguez heading into Friday's first out of three stakes.

"Some horses are different than the other ones," Rodriguez said. "Some horses take four or five days. Some horses take three to four weeks. Some horses take a long time. This guy, since I've started training this horse, it takes so long because he's a very heavy horse."

After the fourth at Parx, Wudda U Think Now breezed once at Belmont and then headed up north to Saratoga and breezed four times on dirt, twice at 4-furlongs and twice at 5 furlongs.

"He still wasn't 100 percent and then we cleaned it up with a patch and left it without a shoe for maybe 10 days," Rodriguez said. "Then, he started training the way he was supposed to and he showed today he can do it."

For what's next for the 5-year-old that's won four of his last five, Rodriguez smiled.

"I am going to enjoy this one," he said.

Behind Wudda U Think Now was Reggae Music Man after making a run at the end to edge Saint Selby in third.

The even-money favorite Ny Traffic missed the podium, finishing fourth. My Boy Tate rounded out the field in fifth.



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MARK PEARSON PHOTO

# No Joke

## Bar Of Gold's 2YO half-sister Im Just Kiddin wins first start

Friday's card at Saratoga Race Course got off to a scary start for trainer John Kimmel, who entered two 2-year-old fillies in the 5 1/2-furlong state-bred maiden special weight on the turf. Kimmel's second-time starter Kingsley Creek flipped in the gate, tossed Jose Gomez and ran loose for a few moments before being caught by an outrider.

"She looks OK," Kimmel said. "Horses can get wrecked when they get loose, but she didn't go very far."

Kingsley Creek was scratched but Kimmel's other entrant, 4-5 favorite Im Just Kiddin salvaged the day for the barn. Chester and Mary Broman's homebred daughter of Justify won by a length victory under Jose Ortiz.

"I certainly thought she'd give us

#### FRIDAY RACING RECAP

a good effort, Kimmel said. "I never got the chance to breeze her on the grass but she galloped on the grass. The mother (Khancord Kid) was a graded stakes winner on the turf, so I really wasn't worried about her ability to handle it. I was more concerned about the sprint because I really think she's screaming to go a little longer. He had to use her pretty hard to close in the first eighth of a mile (in the stretch) to get up in time to win."

Kimmel has high hopes for a big future for the half-sister to Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint winner Bar Of Gold.



Dave Harmon

Im Just Kiddin streaks to victory in Friday's opener.



## **Friday** —

### ■ Continued from page 40

"It looks like she's very ratable, she's probably going to stretch out in her next go whether it's on the turf or the dirt," Kimmel said. "Jose said he really liked her today on the grass, so we'll look at some opportunities on the grass and go from there. We could look at the Seeking The Ante (Aug. 26) which is named after another of Mr. Broman's horses. We'll look around and see what's out there, there's a nice Grade 1 race at Woodbine that might be nice at a mile, the Natalma (Sept. 17), a nice spot. I've gone up there and won that race before so maybe that would be something we could consider."

Kimmel also mentioned the \$150,000 P.G. Johnson Sept. 1 as an option.

#### - Timothy Littau

• The familiar maroon and silver diamond colors of Sackatoga Stable were joined in the winner's circle by Barclay Tagg and members of his team after they won the fourth race, a 1 1/16-mile maiden claimer on the turf for New York-bred fillies and mares, with Tapple Cider.

Dylan Davis rode the 4-year-old daughter of Tonalist to a neck victory over Latest Edition.

"We thought that if she got ridden just that way that she could win the race," Tagg said. "She drops all the way back, and then she kicks in and makes her run. That's the way she likes to do it. And last time she got pushed up against the wall – literally. This time she could get out and get going and Dylan knew what to do. He's a great kid."

Tapple Cider hadn't finished better than fourth in six prior starts, but after running on her favored surface on turf and not getting stuck in traffic she found the winner's circle.

"He gave her a great trip and he does whatever he has to do and he does it well," Tagg said. "And he's perfectly well at figuring something else out if that doesn't work."

Tagg was relieved Tapple Cide was not claimed and plans to step the onetime \$290,000 yearling purchase up in class to avoid that in the future.

"I'd prefer not to (run her in claimers)," he said. "She's big and strong, I don't want to lose her, we paid a ton of money for her."

#### - Timothy Littau

• The last race of the day was the first win of the meet for trainer Bob Klesaris, who sent out Theodora Grace to victory in the 1-mile inner turf allowance for New York-bred fillies and mares. Klesaris claimed the

**Continued On Page 42** 



Dave Harmon

Tapple Cider wins Friday's fourth for Sackatoga Stable.

## 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)



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 Furlonas

### 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

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 Furlonas

## DOGWOOD (GIII)



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



"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

1 1/16 Mile (Turf)

## LUKAS CLASSIC (GII)



JEFFERSON CUP (Listed)

Runs Sat., Oct. 1 Closes Sept. 17 \$275,000 Includes \$50,000 from KTDF Three Year Olds

\$400,000 Includes \$100,000 from KTDF Three Years Old & Up 11/8 Mile

Runs Sat., Oct. 1

Closes Sept. 17



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## Friday —

### ■ Continued from page 41

5-year-old Noble Mission mare for owner Alex Kazdan after her last start June 26 at Belmont Park.

"It's been a trying meet so far. I couldn't be happier," Klesaris said. "Just hoping that she'd hold on. Irad (Ortiz Jr.) gave her a perfect ride, perfect positioning, perfect saving her. Just the case was if she'd have enough to hold on."

Irad Ortiz Jr. raced in fourth with Theodora Grace before a wild stretch drive that left them a head in front of Whatlovelookslike. Waterville finished another head back in third and Dufresne a neck back in fourth.

"She looks like a colt, she's a big powerful filly," Klesaris said. "I just thought that she hasn't raced very much, she's older, and I just spaced her."

#### - Spencer Ripchik and Timothy Littau

• Julien Leparoux did not have any mounts Friday, but still took a trip to the winner's circle to receive the Mike Venezia Memorial Award for showing extraordinary sportsmanship and citizenship.

"It's something that, to be recognized for what you've done on the track but outside the track, it's a great feeling," Leparoux said. "The list of jockeys that have won it are all great people. The stories that I hear about Mike (Venezia), he was obviously a great, great guy. To have his family here today and



Dave Harmon

Julien Leparoux (center) received the Mike Venezia Award Friday.

presenting me the trophy, it's a big honor and it's something that means a lot to me and my family."

Leparoux hopes that he passes the values of sportsmanship along to his children and fellow riders, and appreciates what his colleagues have demonstrated to him and his peers.

"It's just how I was raised," he said. "It's very important to me to be a good person. I try to teach my kids that. There's a lot of guys that deserve this award that don't have it yet. Guys like Johnny Velazquez, a great friend of mine, he's a big role model for me and for all the jockeys in the jockey's room."

Leparoux did not expect the award but is glad if his positivity can influence the next generation.

"I don't think of myself to be a role model, but I'm glad if young kids look up to me."

- Timothy Littau

NOTES: Trainer Chad Brown won two Friday and has 25 for the meet, eight more than Todd Pletcher . . . Irad Ortiz Jr. won two and leads the jockeys with 33 wins. Joel Rosario and Luis Saez are tied for second with 25 wins . . . Jose Lezcano won three races Friday.

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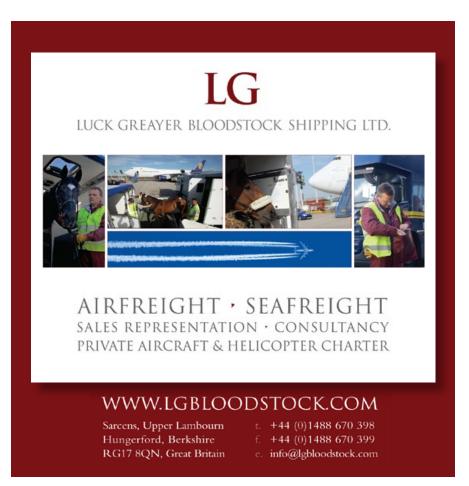


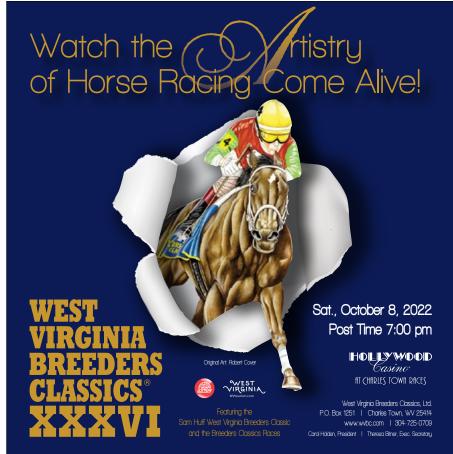
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## Poppy Power

Mott-trained filly rallies in time to win Thursday turf sprint stakes

#### BY SPENCER RIPCHIK

Owner Megan Jones only said two words to jockey Jose Ortiz in the paddock before he hopped on Poppy Flower for Thursday's feature \$150,000 Galway Stakes.

"Go win."

Go win was all Ortiz needed to hear to take Poppy Flower to the winner's circle, securing the 5 1/2 furlongs stakes on the inner turf for 3-year-old fillies.

Before the race, in a crowded paddock, trainer Bill Mott and Ortiz broke off from everyone else and talked standing near where the horses entered the paddock.

"I gave him no instructions," Mott said. "He rode her last time and rode her well."

#### **GALWAY STAKES RECAP**

Then Mott hung back, waited to be at the tail end of the crowd, and headed up to the grandstand.

The race went off and the posttime longshot Delmona and the favorite Empress Tigress jumped out to set the pace. Toward the back, second from last, was Poppy Flower.

With Delmona in front by a half-length, the quarter went in :22.25.

"I knew it was fast enough," Ortiz said. "My filly when she usually goes into the turn she pulls me a little bit. Today her being off the lead I knew it was fast. It felt like a 44 to me."

Ortiz was right. The half-mile went in :44.87. At the half-mile pole, the longshot was still out in front, but



Dave Harmon

Poppy Flower stretches for the finish line Thursday.

Ortiz started to move up, and at the exit of the turn, he jumped out wide to set up a big run.

On the outside, Ortiz and Poppy Flower hunted down the two leaders, kicking it into another gear halfway down the final straight to win by a length in 1:02.09.

"I could have waited longer to see if something opened up inside, but I felt like there was a blanket of horses and I didn't want to be a hero," Or-



## **Galway** —

### ■ Continued from page 44

tiz said. "I knew I had a lot of horse underneath me and she always finishes well, so I wanted to have a clean run home. I didn't want to give her any excuses. She can come flying."

After his filly crossed first, Mott made his slow victory walk down the grandstand stairs on his way to the winner's circle, which was his third stakes victory of the meet.

Jones along with the other owners and breeder Brenda Harding and two of her friends were ecstatic that one of the horses they bred found herself in the winner's circle at Saratoga.

After the race, Jones asked Mott if the four of them could walk the horse in together, and with two of them on each side, they did in their flower themed outfits.

"Yea, the outfits were totally planned," Jones laughed. Mott said after the race that he thought Poppy Flower wouldn't be as far off the pace as she was as at one point a couple lengths off the lead.

"She broke well," Mott said. "She was up there for a few strides, but she just wanted to settle. He let her do what she wanted to do. Sometimes you are better off letting the horse do what they want to do."

The daughter of Lea and Irish-bred Nisharora picked up her second win of 2022 and her third of her career. The other stake she won was the Stormy Blues at Laurel Park.

Jones of Arnmore Thoroughbreds has tried multiple times to win at Saratoga with Poppy Flower and sent her

to the Bolton Landing Stakes in 2021 when she finished second and the Coronation Cup Stakes where she also finished second.

Jones and her group walked through the clubhouse to the stakes room to celebrate with champagne for finally getting over the hump at Saratoga.

"It's unbelievable," Jones said. "It's our first stakes here with a homebred. I hope we have many more, but I am just very grateful to be here."

Empress Tigress, who drew a 7-2 post-time line, finished second, which was a flip-flopped order from the Coronation Cup on the second day of the meet.

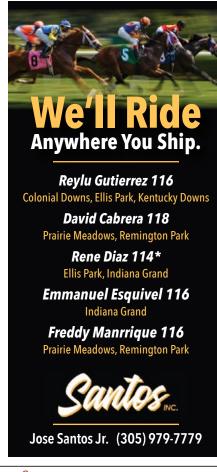
"Empress Tigress, she is a good filly and she got away with a nice lead, easy," Ortiz said about the Coronation Cup. "But today the 2-horse came out running and I think it paid the price in the end for Empress Tigress. Nothing against her. If she got an easy lead today she probably would've won again. She ran a good race. She's a nice filly also, but the race played differently today."

Thomas said jockey John Velazquez gave her a good ride despite the loss.

"I thought she had a nice trip where she was able to relax and pounce," Thomas said after the race. "The other filly just had a little more turn of foot."







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# Big Surprise

## Top Envoy scores debut win at 34-1

Laughed at and picked on, some even said around the track that Top Envoy looked like a pony.

Those opinions pushed the 3-yearold Honorable Dillon gelding's odds to 34-1 in Thursday's fifth race at Saratoga Race Course, the third longest price on the board for the 1 1/16mile state-bred maiden claimer on the inner turf course.

"They said, 'watch he'll go off at 99-1' and he practically did," Top Envoy's owner Maria Mann said about what the public thought of her gelding's chances. Mann's only horse, produced by the Simmard mare Madame Ambassador, pulled the upset by 1 1/4 lengths under Javier Castellano.

"The mare was a gift," Mann said.
"They called me up and said the owners were looking for a home for her, but she comes with the son of Honorable Dillion."

#### **THURSDAY'S RACING RECAP**

With her new gelding, Mann went to trainer Leah Gyarmati for help.

"I've known her since I was 13 or 14 years old," Gyarmati said. "We used to show horses together, jumpers and stuff. This is her horse and she came to me like nobody really gave her a shot. She said, "can you just train this horse and help me get to races because I think the horse is OK?" I was like 'Uh, all right.'

Gyarmati said it was Mann's idea to run Top Envoy on the turf for his debut. Mann also rides Top Envoy

"He has the foot for it, and his mother and grandmother ran on it," said Mann, also the horse's exercise rider. "There are no words. This is something we dream about for years. I have been doing this for 30 years and



Dave Harmon

Top Envoy pulls away in Thursday's upset win.

it's just something you'd think you never could do, but this is Saratoga."

Spencer Ripchik

• Trainer Charlton Baker picked up his first win of the meet after Happy Face Racing Stable's Catching Cupid won the opener, a 7-furlong maiden claimer for New York-breds.

"It feels great to break the ice," Baker said. "It's always nice to break the ice here at Saratoga."

The 3-year-old Cupid gelding bat-Continued On Page 47



## Thursday —

### **■** Continued from page 46

tled early with Cold Walker before taking over at the sixteenth pole. Catching Cupid and Joel Rosario won by 5 1/2 lengths over Cold Walker, with 47-1 longshot Datesfreedom third.

"It set up pretty good," Baker said.
"I thought he ran a good race. He was doing great. Since he got here he's been doing great. He's normally a star worker in Belmont, but here he was settled. He had the wide-open stalls, he's not fenced in and he's got a window behind him, so that settled him real good."

Catching Cupid was Baker's 13th entry of the meet, and he said "hopefully" this is creates a domino effect for the rest of the meet.

"We're hoping to get some more wins as the meet goes along," Baker said. "Hopefully we can get a few going. Hopefully this breaking the ice can get us prepared to win some racing going forward."

- Spencer Ripchik

• Dame Cinco broke from post 5 under Luis Saez in Thursday's third, raced three wide around the first bend out of the Wilson Chute, stayed wide and went even farther down the stretch on the way to victory.

"She was trying to get a hot dog or a beer in the grandstand," winning Cherie DeVaux joked after the filly won the \$25,000 claiming event. "Luis didn't lose his cool, he just regrouped and got her going straight. Lui's a great rider and doesn't panic. He was confident that he was on the best horse so he just had to get her back on course.

"She acted like she was going to win the last race and Luis was on her and said she did the same thing, she dawdled, she drifted, she lost contact with the horse next to her."

Second in a 6-furlong claimer April 28 at Keeneland, the 4-year-old Cinco Charlie filly's antics did not cost her the win this time. She pulled clear to win by 2 1/2 lengths over Preposterous.

"She broke her maiden at a mile, it's hard to find races that are at a one-turn mile for a filly like her," DeVaux said. "So for the wintertime we just put her on the shelf, brought her back

and at Keeneland we knew it was going to be too short but it worked out today. She's a miler, but I've tried her two turns and it doesn't work out."

Dame Cinco was claimed by Jose Camejo for owner Sanford Goldfarb for \$25,000.

DeVaux has two wins out of Saratoga's new mile chute, along with the Opening Day Wilton Stakes with Tarabi, but admitted she doesn't have any any special techniques to prepare her horses for it.

"It's just how it worked out, I guess," said DeVaux, who is 3-for-8 at the meet overall. "The majority of our stable is in Lexington and Louisville. We're Kentucky based. We really try to find the horses to come up here that can be most effective. We have the luxury of clients and our team where we really just try to bring the ones up here that are going to run the best. Some of our younger ones that we feel are really good because Kentucky along with Indiana have great racing down there but for us we just pick which horses to bring up here based on which races they have written for them."

- Timothy Littau

• Len Lo Lady was injured in the 2021 Gulfstream Park Oaks, but came through with a victory in the eighth for trainer Dale Romans. The 4-year-old daughter of Speightstown won the 7-furlong allowance for fillies and mares by 4 ½ lengths under Junior Alvarado in her first start since March 27, 2021.

"The way she was working, I thought she'd run really big," Romans said. "I didn't know she'd run this big but I thought she'd run well. You just never know after a year and a half if you've got enough foundation in them or not. But she's been working lights out and I was impressed by her.

"She just kept on having little bitty issues that you had to stop on for another two months, then another two months and another two months. Nothing major, and she finally put it all together early in the spring and we got her ready for here."

Len Lo Lady raced in second before taking the lead at the top of the stretch. She needed seven attempts to win her first race – for a \$50,000 tag in February 2021 at Gulfstream – but she's won two of her last four.





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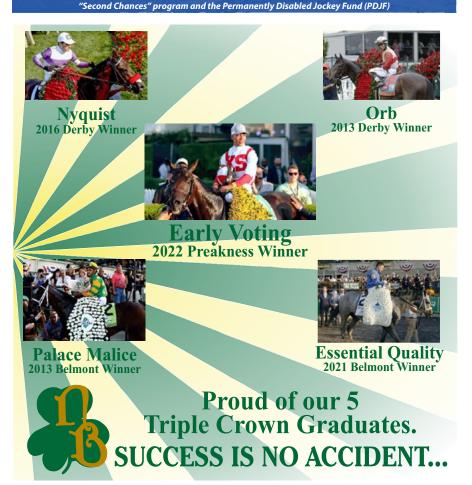
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## Thursday —

### **■** Continued from page 47

"Seven furlongs hits her right in the head," Romans said. "We were still trying to figure out as a 3-yearold we hoped to get around two turns and maybe get her into some bigger races as a 3-year-old but she got injured after the Florida race. And we didn't get her back until just now, but she's still young, 4 years old."

Junior Alvarado rode her for the first time, and Romans was impressed.

"Junior's a great rider," he said.
"He's one of the most underrated in
the game and he's one of those guys
that rides hard for fourth. He gives
you every ounce he has when he's in
a race."

The win was Romans' first of the meet and his first in nearly two years at Saratoga.

"It means a lot, last year I got shut out for the first time in 30 years so it's good to get my streak going again."

- Timothy Littau

• Saratoga Chrome broke her maiden in her eighth start in the finale, a maiden special weight at 5 1/2 furlongs on the Mellon Turf Course for New York-bred fillies and mares.

"She's a nice filly, she's just been very unlucky with her trips," winning trainer Michelle Nevin said. "She has a tendency to be nervous. I thought Joel (Rosario) did a great job, took her away from the pony, let that nervous energy out of her and just gave her a 'Joel' ride all the way around there. It was a perfect trip and that's hard to do from the 12-hole."

Nevin's patience with the 3-yearold California Chrome filly paid off, helping her overcome her bouts of nervousness by schooling her in the paddock.

"We've spent a lot of time schooling her in the paddock, and even though she still got a little hot today I still think that behaved herself a lot better than the last day," she said.

Saratoga Chrome raced in eighth through much of the race before kicking in down the stretch to win by a half-length over Succulent.

"Once I saw him get her in the clear and she was moving I was like 'she's got this,' "Nevin said. "She just keeps grinding for you."

- Timothy Littau







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## Isolate scores milestone for Amoss

#### BY TIMOTHY LITTAU

When New Orleans native Tom Amoss graduated from LSU with a marketing degree in 1983, he "went straight to the racetrack – no business interviews, just grabbed a shank and started walking horses."

He worked for Jack Van Berg, Frank Brothers, as an assistant to Larry Robideaux, as a veterinary assistant for a year and a year as an assistant to John Parisella New York from 1987 to '88. Amoss tried going out on his own at Sportsman's Park in Chicago in March 1987, before working for Parisella, winning three of 15 starts with an eight-horse operation that dispersed in April before Easter.

Success in Chicago did not come for Amoss then, but it did 35 years

### TALE OF THE CAT STAKES RECAP

later when Reeves Thoroughbred Racing's Isolate took the \$75,000 Work All Week Stakes June 11 at Hawthorne Race Course. That was a steppingstone to Isolate securing Amoss' 4,000th victory in Wednesday's \$125,550 Tale Of The Cat Stakes.

The 4-year-old Mark Valeski colt and Tyler Gaffalione led from the start and drew off to a 6-length win over Repo Rocks in 1:23.04 for the 7 furlongs.

"It feels great, nothing's lost on me right now," Amoss said. "When this horse came down the stretch, I had an opportunity to know my horse was clear and it was probably going to happen and I did a lot of reflecting in



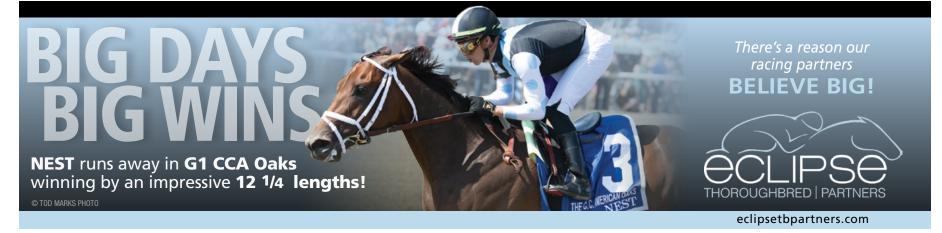
Tod Marks

Isolate strides clear to win the Tale Of The Cat Stakes, trainer Tom Amoss' 4,000th win.

a quick period of time. My family, the people that work for me, my teachers through the years before I became a trainer, and of course the owners and the horses they give me the opportunity to train.

"I thought about my mom and dad. They knew nothing about racing.

I'm one of six boys. When I decided I wanted to be a horse trainer after I graduated high school, they said one thing: 'you've got to get a college degree, but after that, we'll be behind you whatever you want to do.'"





## Amoss —

### **■** Continued from page 50

Amoss said that support from family is especially important in the long hours that are worked in the rigorous life of a trainer.

"I'd been familiar with the backside a bunch as I had part time jobs there, but my family's support, any trainer will tell you, you got to have a good family behind you because they make a lot of sacrifices. Of course, I have to thank my owners and all the great horses they've given me. You can't do it without them and I just feel very blessed."

Amoss did not always have the level of support from owners that he had today. In fact, it almost vanished overnight.

After going out on his own in 1988 following his year-long stint with Parisella, Amoss had a five-horse operation at Louisiana Downs, two of which were owned by one owner and the other three were owned by fragmented owners. Hesa Bear was the apple of Amoss' main client, and favored in the \$50,000 Gator Handicap at the Bossier City oval Sept. 17, 1988. Amoss and a small ownership group entered a massive longshot into the same race, aptly named Fire The Shot.

Fire The Shot lit up the tote board after his win, while Hesa Bear ran fifth, in the biggest win of Amoss' career to that point. Despite the win, Amoss felt empty that night.

"The fragmented ownership group, which was a big longshot, that horse (Fire The Shot) won," he said. "That bothered my owner, so he let me go that day and I was down to three horses."

Almost exactly six months after he had his first starter, Amoss prepared to fold his operation.

"I came home and I told my wife Colleen 'We're finished,' " he said, lamenting the hours, days and week of hard working taking care of his horses and trying to build his operation.

The phone rang the next day.

"I got a call from one of the biggest owners in the United States at the time, John Franks," Amoss said. "And he said 'I saw what you did, would you take a few horses from me?' Which was a blessing. He gave me three horses. In the next four

weeks I ran all three of them and all three of them won and we've never looked back since then. It's been really nice."

From Franks to Reeves, Amoss has amassed \$115,652,533 in earnings for his owners in a 35-year-career highlighted by a win in the 2019 Kentucky Oaks with Serengeti Empress for Joel Politi.

"You can't get anywhere without the horses and the owners that back you. I've had a lot of that and I'm so grateful to the owners and the athletes they gave me," Amoss said. "You dedicate your life to them. And the people who work for me on the backside certainly dedicate their lives to the horses they take care of. They're family. You can't get anywhere without the horses and the owners that back you. I've had a lot of that and I'm so grateful to the owners and the athletes they gave me."

After nearly four decades, winning is not getting tiresome for Amoss, and definitely not in Saratoga.

"I love working with animals and I love working with horses," he said. "It's easy to wake up here in the morning, no matter what you did last night. It's a spot you look forward to coming to in the mornings."

"More than anything else, more than the milestone, it's Saratoga and we won a big race here. That's so special in my heart. If you love racing, and you love this place, and you love the crowd and how they respect good performances. It wasn't lost on me, the audience clapping for him when he came back to the winner's circle. That's really beautiful in my mind."

Perhaps the applause was also meant for Amoss, too.

"Maybe so, maybe so."



Tod Marks

Trainer Tom Amoss, flanked by daughter Hayley (left) and wife Colleen, joined the 4,000-win club Wednesday.

## MORE RACING MORE MONEY



## **RUNNING THROUGH SEPTEMBER 7**



## Quick Jump

## Wyatt's State Of Affair romps in steeplechase off 2-week break

State Of Affair galloped to a 9 1/2-length victory in Wednesday's \$70,000 steeplechase allowance, bouncing back from a fifth-place finish July 27 that jockey Tom Garner put on himself.

"I will actually admit it now, I actually gave him a bad ride because my plan was to go out in front," Garner said. "Every time I have won (and) I have ridden him, I've gone from the front."

The 6-year-old Giant's Causeway gelding tracked the early pace set by Hurtgen Forest, took the lead approaching the sixth fence, opened a 6-length lead that widened to the finish of the 2 1/16-mile event.

State Of Affair won for the second time in seven starts over jumps for trainer Todd Wyatt and owner Gill Johnston.

"He's doing great," Wyatt said. "His biggest strength is his gallop. His form has shown, he's a big horse (and) probably needs a race. I'm probably more conservative than a lot of people so I could possibly not have him quite as good as I could have him

#### **WEDNESDAY'S RACING RECAP**

the last day. I thought he'd improve. I only came up here to win. We came back in two weeks.

"Mrs. Johnston, I wish she was here today. She was going to come but she couldn't make it up. It's so nice to win up here. It's just the best, we're so lucky."

State Of Affair finished second under Garner in an allowance race in May at Great Meadow then third in a handicap under Freddy Proctor two weeks later at Radnor.

"I managed to get a little bit of breathing room and then I just let him stride on because he has a great stride," Garner said. "He's fit, he feels fantastic. All credit to the guys back at Mr. Wyatt's barn. He's got a future. We always said he did, but he's not the easiest sometimes, but he's certainly one of my favorites.

Wyatt said State Of Affair could be headed to tougher company after his blowout Saratoga win.

"That's probably it up here," Wy-



Tod Marks

Sibelius pulls away to win Wednesday's fourth for trainer Jeremiah O'Dwyer.



Tod Marks

State Of Afair (left) tackles Hurtgen Forest with a lap to go Wednesday.

att said. "He'll probably have to run back in a stake. I'll see how he comes back. He's already been up here twice. I don't know if he'll run back up here."

– Spencer Ripchik

• Drink The Wind ran like the wind winning the second, a 7-furlong maiden claimer, by 22 1/4 lengths.

The 3-year-old More Than Ready gelding came into the race winless in four maiden special weights and Wayne Catalano dropped him in for \$20,000 Wednesday.

"He was doing well going into the race," Catalano said. "The best spot was to drop."

Catalano said it was not an easy decision to make with the Peachtree Stable homebred, but giving the horse the right opportunity to win was most important after running last of six in a 6-furlong maiden special weight here July 21. He went off the 1-5 favorite in his first start for a tag.

"We decided because the horse has little issues with training here and there (and) he's not the quietest horse in the barn," Catalano said. "We wanted to put him in a winning spot. Mr. John Fort agreed to do it, so I picked the spot...he said, 'go for it.' So, here we are."

Drink The Wind was claimed by Tom Morley for owner Cutair Racing.

Tyler Gaffalione, who had previously ridden Drink The Wind to a third-place finish in a 7-furlong maiden special weight July 3 at Churchill

Downs, rode the gelding to his easy win.

#### - Timothy Littau

• Sibelius continued his 2022 improvement for trainer Jeremiah O'Dwyer in the fourth, a 6-furlong optional claimer for older horses. The 4-year-old Not This Time gelding won by 3 3/4 lengths under Junior Alvarado over Mexican Wonder Boy.

O'Dwyer, the former Irish jockey, has trained Sibelius throughout his career for owners Delis Nash and Jun Park.

"The owners were offered a lot of money for him when he broke his maiden and they decided to keep him and train him with me," O'Dwyer said of the gelding's April 2021 win at Keeneland. "He's just really progressed now as a 4-year-old. He's getting stronger. He's gotten a lot quicker. We have been gradually cutting him back in distance. He's shown good speed in the mornings. He's just sharper stronger and a better horse now."

Sibelius shortened up to 6 furlongs for the first time since late February at Aqueduct and won for the first time from four starts at the trip.

"He's a very honest horse," O'Dwyer said. "He relaxes in his races. He does everything you want. I think sprinting is his game, 6, 7 furlongs. I'm not opposed to try him over 7 again, but we'll see what comes up for him in the program and were just trying to take it one step at a time."

- Spencer Ripchik

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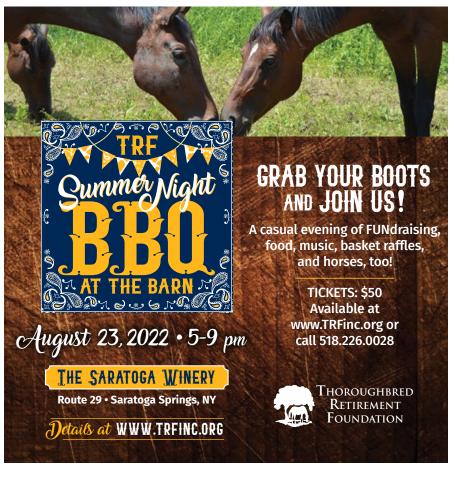
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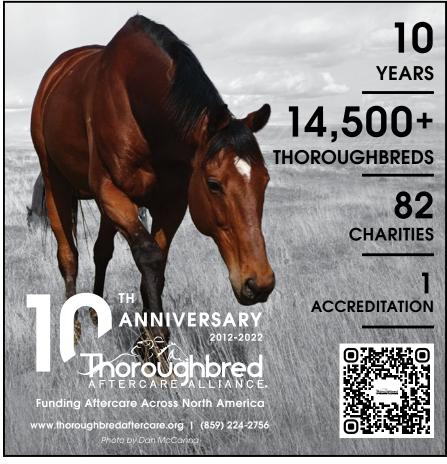
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### BY SEAN CLANCY

Eight horses.

Kissin Conquest. Kiss. He's been with us the longest. The light bay gelding with tips of white was a maiden on the flat, a maiden over hurdles and probably a maiden in the show ring, too. Annie asked what he was like way back in 2006 when I was trying to convince her that she would like him. "Is he nervous?" she asked. "Not nervous," I said. "More like enthusiastic." He showed a little, hunted a few seasons and babysat every new horse on the farm. Bred by John Franks, the 20-year-old is still enthusiastic. He jigs his way to the front field every morning, when you turn him loose, he launches in the air, spins and gallops a big loop like a crop duster. Enthusiasm never wanes, never wavers.

**Just Blue.** We rarely change a horse's name, registered as Linda's Blueberry (not the Name of the Day), we renamed him Just Blue and he goes by Blue. I bought him cheaply after two uninspiring starts with Mike Stidham in 2007. By With Approval, the gray gelding jumped the height of the standards the first day and we thought we were on to something. I wanted to make him a steeplechase horse, Annie wanted to make him a show horse. She was right there, he won ribbons everywhere before a knee injury closed the door. Autistic, he sometimes weaves in the middle of his 10-acre field, won't tolerate a blanket in the winter or a flysheet in the summer, shimmies out of his fly mask before you walk out of the field. He's the low man on the totem pole, but still part of the gang.

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## The Herd

of Dullahan, Silver Max and Two Months Rent on the flat before converting to steeplechasing. He won at Saratoga way back in 2013 before a tendon injury. He's 13, the quietest Thoroughbred I know, Annie's show horse, Miles' next horse. You could ride him to town, loop the reins over a bike rack, grab your coffee, the mail, chat with some friends and ride on home.

Eagle Poise. Bred by Juddmonte, the bay son of Empire Maker won the Grade 3 Valedictory in 2011 and hit the board in eight other stakes, including a nose defeat in the San Juan Capistrano. Someday we'll get over that one. Elegant and elastic, stoic and stern, he showed a little, hunted a little and carried ago. He hasn't had a saddle on him since. He rules the place – feed him first, catch him last, stay out of his way, play by his rules. I wish I could find his brass nameplate from the 2010 Keeneland November Sale, it lies somewhere deep in the rubble.

warmblood came here on a rehab assignment. He was a successful show hunter (not my wheelhouse, or I'd give you more) and became part of the team quickly. We put him on a crash diet, slapped on a muzzle for the paddock and he's coming around. He's a close talker, jutting his nose into your space, resting his chin on your shoulder when you pick or muck. He makes you like him.

Courage. Another warmblood on rehab with a round pen. We tried to jog him for the vet, we gave up, he simply won't trot. Walking him, he sidles behind you, like he's trying not to get called on by his math teacher. This summer, he stepped on the back of my foot, ripped my shoe off, tripped me, then lunged forward. The cartoon squares of farm life, at the end of the shank, one shoe, his white eye looking back at me like he had just stolen my car. As the

Apse. The son of Arch finished within 2 lengths barn burned down around him, he followed Misael like a Westminster winner.

> Lemonade Thursday. A Saratoga yearling graduate by Lemon Drop Kid. Oh, he was going to win the Kentucky Derby. Then the Grand National. None of that happened, but he did win twice on the flat and once over jumps. He came home last fall and is working on a new career. Beautiful mover, supple mouth, brave but not brazen, he's made me want to ride again.

Border Agent. Border, the gentle giant. Straight in front, shoulders like boulders, big, long, placid head, kind eye. Dad found him in a mud paddock, said we had to have him. By Pancho Villa (there's a Name of the Day), he won once for a tag at Lone me around the virtual Real Rider's Cup a few years Star Park in 2006. Annie showed him until she got pregnant with Miles. The 17-plus hand gelding showed some more, Olympic gold medalist Joe Fargis said we would win the 4-year-old series in Palm Beach. He didn't win the 4-year-old series in Palm Beach. Our dear friend Lynell Feyler made him a Gregor. Built like a Thelwell pony, the chestnut foxhunter. I hunted him a few times, he contributed to a couple of pinched nerves in my neck, not his fault, too strong for his own good. He went to the field and ruled the roost until Eagle Poise took over at the top.

Last year, we had to put down one of our old stalwarts, Teddy, because of laminitis. We walked him to the grass lot in front of the barn, held him, talked to him, consoled him as we started the brutal, but somehow, peaceful process. Border galloped thick tendon. He walks twice a day, turns out in the in loops with Blue and Kiss following him in the front field. As we guided Teddy to the ground for the final time, Border stopped at the top of the hill, the highest point of our farm, snorted, stomped, whinnied, bellowed in a cloud of dust, the 21-gun salute for his old buddy. I've always thought horses could talk, that day, I knew it.

Eight horses.

And a cat. Duchess came home.



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## FIRST-CROP YEARLINGS MAKE UP TO \$320,000 AT F-T SARATOGA

FOUR AT F-T NEW YORK-BRED SALE

Hip 308, f, Four Star Sales Hip 375, f, Hunter Valley Farm Hip 497, c, Four Star Sales Hip 572, c, RFHF Bloodstock LLC



## HIP 85, \$300,000 BUYER: TOM MCCROCKLIN FOR CHAMPION EQUINE CONSIGNOR: GAINESWAY, AGENT BREEDER: FRISCO VENTURES LLC



## HIP 191, \$320,000 BUYER: THORNDALE FARM CONSIGNOR: BEDOUIN BLOODSTOCK, AGENT BREEDER: SF BLOODSTOCK LLC

