

Year 22 • No. 15

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

The *Saratoga*

Special

Saratoga's Racing Newspaper since 2001

House Rules

Casa Creed shines in Fourstardave

Shug McGaughey Stable Tour
Jump star Snap Decision
returns to Saratoga

Damon's Mound, Lovell
take the Special
Entries & Handicapping

LEA



POPPY FLOWER

Won the Galway Stakes at Saratoga for her second stakes victory this summer!

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Spa Stampede. Neuro (3) leads everybody late in Saturday's sixth race while winning for owner Marc Keller and trainer Bobby Ribaud.

Dave Harmon

Here&There...in Saratoga

T-Shirt of the Day

Life's A Game. Horse Racing Is Serious.

By The Numbers

5,256: Words written by Timothy Littau in Saturday's edition of The Special.

140: Cases of kiwis given away at the free Kiwi stand at Saratoga Race Course last Friday.

50-60: Kiwis in a case.

1: Set of half-sisters in the entries for Wednesday. Lemon Taffy runs in the fourth and Ruler Of The Night is part of the seventh. Both fillies, out of Salt Water Reign, were bred by Hibiscus Stable.

186: Texts Michelle Lovell had received by the time she got back to the photo office8 after Damon's Mound won the Saratoga Special Saturday.

1: Tiz The Law Travers canoe hidden away on the backside.

Stable Tour Rewind

In 2016 and 2017, steeplechase star Snap Decision was in trainer Shug McGaughey's barn.

2016 (2-year-old): "He worked on the grass (Monday, a half in :48.79). Nice horse, or I think he is. He worked this morning like he was."

2017 (3-year-old): "Fourth in the Hall of Fame, came back and finished third in the Better Talk Now, just got beat, ran really fast. I think he wants to go a little farther than a mile, mile-and-a-sixteenth. I'm going to let him get over those two races and try to find something. He's a nice horse."

Names of the Day

Lemon Taffy, fourth race. The 4-year-old filly is by Lemon Drop Kid out of Salt Water Reign.

Ocean Air, 10th race. The 5-year-old mare is by English Channel out of Refreshing.

Happy Warrior, seventh race. The 2-year-old filly is by Runhappy out of Army Brat.

Emboite, sixth race. Jordan Wycoff's Irish-bred 3-year-old is out of Dancing Shoes. It's French for a ballet step where the dancer stands on the toes with legs together and springs up while swinging one foot out and around to the front of the other.



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Here&There...in Saratoga

Worth Repeating

"A horse is truly lucky when he finds his calling."

Bill Casner, former owner and breeder of the now-retired Mr. Hot Stuff, who started in the 2009 Kentucky Derby and became a Grade 1 winner over jumps eight years later

"Even my friends are rooting for you."

The Special's John Shapazian, to handicapping rival Tom Law

"Does Todd Pletcher say, 'I don't know' as much as I do?"

Trainer Jack Fisher; not quite, but he says it

"I know a rabbit's foot is good luck, but what are two whole rabbits?"

Fisher, while grazing Snap Decision, with company, Tuesday morning at the stakes barn

"You want more? We got some on the backside too."

Trainer Shug McGaughey, extending a stable tour

"I thought it would be good but I didn't think it was going to be quite this good."

Taylor Made Sales Agency's Frank Taylor on the New York-bred sale

"He was a tick over 16.2 hands. A big colt, but he's balanced and he hit the ground light. He didn't pound the ground like a big horse, he floated, and I believe that's what attracted everybody to him."

Consignor Jim Perrone on Hip 378, a Hard Spun colt which sold for \$600,000 to top the first session of the New York-bred sale Sunday



Connie Bush

Derby Horse. Kentucky Derby winner Rich Strike checks out his Saratoga home in advance of next week's start in the Travers Stakes.

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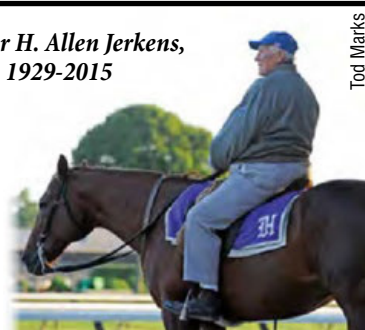
Jamie Nicholson

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The Chief

Trainer H. Allen Jerkens,
1929-2015

"Admiral Vee had a great groom. Top, top. Jimmy Harris. He would be tough to hold while he was washing him, and I'd be holding him while he washed him. He'd look at me and say, 'I wish there was a post here.' I'd say why? He said, 'To tie him to it, because he might as well be tied to a post with you holding him.'"



Tod Marks



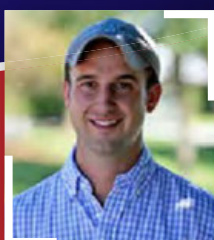
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Quote of the Day

**"Yes. We were going to buy the horse."
Bloodstock agent Tom McCrocklin,
on if he would have gone higher than \$700,000
to purchase the Fasig-Tipton New York-bred yearling sales-topper**



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With Shug McGaughey

The Phipps barn in the far northeast corner of the Oklahoma Training Track stable area at Saratoga Race Course goes way back, and played host to some of Thoroughbred racing's all-time best. Pick an era, they were there.

"It's such a good place," said trainer Shug McGaughey, the barn's current occupant along with 30 or so of his horses for mainstay clients Phipps Stable and Stuart Janney plus others from the upper reaches of racing. "It does have a lot of history, way before me. They say Sunny Jim [Fitzsimmons] planted those trees there."

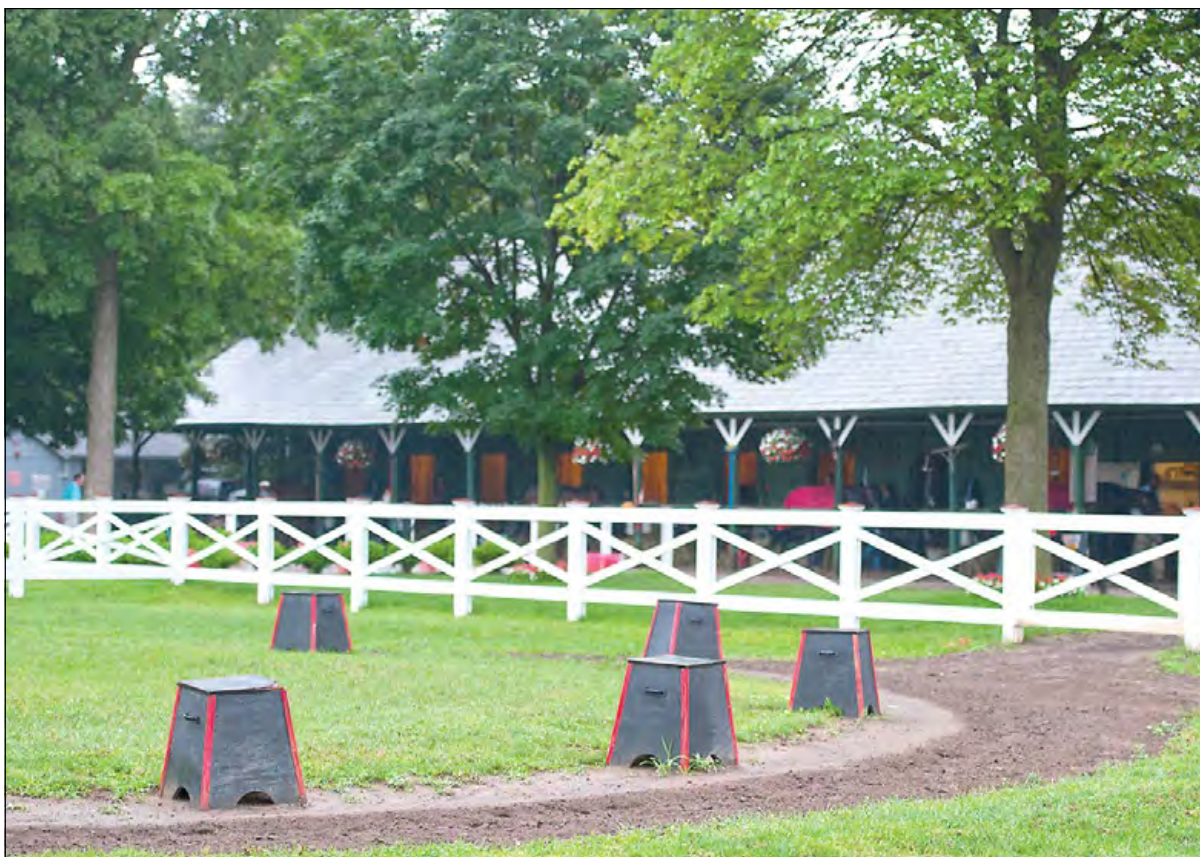
The trees shading the barn look that old, like a Hall of Famer who trained Triple Crown winners Gallant Fox and Omaha in the 1930s could have planted them or at least had them planted. Fitzsimmons trained for the powerhouse Belair Stud early in his career, then steered the mighty Wheatley Stable horses for the Phipps family. Bold Ruler was Horse of the Year in 1957 and champion sprinter in 1958 for Wheatley. He never ran at Saratoga, but he might have been in the barn. Champions High Voltage and Misty Morn (who won the Diana in 1955) were there.

Buckpasser, another Phipps colossus, won the 1965 Hopeful for trainer Bill Winfrey. A year later, under the guidance of Eddie Neloy, the son of Tom Fool won the Travers.

"It's hard to imagine the horses sometimes," said McGaughey. "Buckpasser, all of them. I remember Mr. Phipps (Ogden, who died in 2002) talking at Payson Park one time. We were going around there and he was telling me about the time they wanted to see the Tom Fool colt out of Busanda. He asked Bill Winfrey, 'Where is he? Where's the Tom Fool colt?' Winfrey said, 'Ahhh, he's over in the other barn somewhere . . .' It was Buckpasser. Can you imagine?"

No. Well, sort of.

McGaughey's relationship with the Phipps family goes back to 1986, and he's only added to the barn's history with the likes of Personal Ensign, Easy Goer, Rhythm, Seeking The Gold, Heavenly Prize, Inside Information, Storm Flag Flying, Coronado's Quest, Orb and scores of others. He and the staff take care of the barn like it matters – raking, watering, sprucing, tending while sweating the details about the horses.



Tod Marks

It's a 10-year-old photo, but it wouldn't have to be.

"The barn keeps itself pretty good and we try to help it a little bit," he said. "It's such a good setting for horses. Even those hot days, it seems like we get a breeze come through here. We use them, but I've never have been a really big fan guy because I just don't know how that air blowing on them all the time is good for them. Just like us. That breeze really keeps it nice back here most of the time."

McGaughey's 2022 Saratoga strings leans a little heavy with 2-year-olds, who are "coming along" as only he can say but also boasts Jockey Club Gold Cup hopeful First Captain, graded stakes winner Greatest Honour and others here and at Fair Hill Training Center in Maryland and in Kentucky with assistant and son Reeve McGaughey.

The Hall of Famer walked the shedrow with The Special's Joe Clancy Monday morning.

Spinzar. Two-year-old Tapit cold owned by LNJ Foxwoods sold for \$450,000 at Fasig-Tipton's Saratoga select sale last year. Second dam Fleet Indian won \$1.7 million. He's in the first stall, closest to the Oklahoma track, though he doesn't mind the activity. "I like him so far. Everything goes right, he's going to run here Saturday."

Never Explain. Courtlandt Farm's 4-year-old Street Sense colt returned from a layoff to win at Pimlico in May and then finished seventh at Belmont Park in July. "He's going to run here the first of September. I like this horse."

Limited Liability. Stuart Janney's 3-year-old colt by Kitten's Joy comes from the Meghan's Joy (Ironicus, Norumbega, On Leave, Seal Cove...) line. Dam Hold Harmless won once in seven tries, and he's won twice in six. Maiden winner here last summer has placed in three graded stakes. "He's going to go down and run in the Virginia Derby (at Colonial Downs Sept. 6). I'll send him down to Fair Hill early. It breaks up that trip. Instead of getting on a van from here to Colonial for 11 hours or whatever, I'll send them down there a week or so before they run."

Conversing. Two-year-old Into Mischief Colt is out of Texting, who won three for Sarah Sharp Farish and Chad Brown including Grade 3 La Prevoyante in 2018. Has worked at Fair Hill and Saratoga including a half-mile on the turf in :52 Aug. 14. "It's tough enough here but I'm trying to get some of these 2-year-olds going. Some have just advanced along and are a little bit ahead of the others."

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Stable Tour —

Continued from page 6

Big City Momma. Courtlandt's 4-year-old Quality Road filly won at Keeneland last fall, and returned to finish third here Aug. 7 after a winter break. "She wants to run long and I ran her seven-eighths the other day and she got beat about a length. I thought she ran really, really well. She's a great big filly and the time helped her."

Greatest Honour. Courtlandt 4-year-old colt was on the 2021 Kentucky Derby trail with graded wins in the Holy Bull and Fountain of Youth, followed by a third in the Florida Derby. He missed almost a year and has run three times in 2022 — most recently a fourth in the Grade 3 Westchester Stakes at Belmont. "I'm trying to get him ready the middle of September, third week of September. We'll see where he takes us."

First Captain. Four-year-old owned by West Point Thoroughbreds, Siena Farm, Bobby Flay and Woodford Racing continues to prep for the Grade 1 Jockey Club Gold Cup here Sept. 3. Breezed 5 furlongs in 1:00.80 over the main track Sunday. Fasig-Tipton Saratoga yearling graduate has won five of eight, including two graded stakes. "He's just made progress. He didn't get to run when he was a 2-year-old and that was really why I pulled the plug on him last year. I said, 'You know, this horse needs to mature some.' He hasn't run much — four times last year and four times this year. I think he can keep improving."

Vigilantes Way. Phipps Stable 5-year-old mare is winless in three this year — but about 2 lengths from being undefeated. Second in two stakes and third in another, daughter of Medaglia d'Oro has won six of 18 (with five seconds and four thirds) and earned \$437,014. Her half-brother Snap Decision is favored in today's Grade 1 Jonathan Sheppard steeplechase stakes. "She's a sewin' machine. The way she trains in the morning, you just push the button and she goes on and does it. She's going to run September 3 at Monmouth or the 10th at Pimlico. She's fun."

Pleasant Passage. Two-year-old filly by More Than Ready is out of Peaceful Passage, a half-sister to Grade 2 winner Hungry Island. The latter won six races and \$758,704 for McGaughey and owner/breeder Emory Hamilton. "You can tell I'm trying to get some of these 2-year-olds kind of going. It's time."

Battle Of Normandy. Purchased by West Point and Woodford Racing for \$500,000 at Fasig-Tipton Saratoga select sale last year, 2-year-old colt by City Of Light won debut going 1 1/16 miles on the turf here Aug. 6. Next stop could be the P.G. Johnson Stakes Sept. 1. "He's nominated and I'll wait and see. He did everything right that day."



Tod Marks

Shug McGaughey.

Signator. Purchased for \$1.7 million in April, Lane's End Racing and West Point Thoroughbreds 2-year-old Tapit colt is headed for a debut next month. Ought to be familiar to McGaughey thanks to a Phipps female family — Pension, Furlough, Blitely, "all of those." McGaughey is aiming for a Sept. 3 maiden race. "This is a really nice colt. I just train them and try not to get ahead of myself. They spent a lot of money, but you can't let that make your decisions for you."

Skims. Andrew Rosen homebred 3-year-old filly won in November and February, then finished third in two Grade 2 stakes this spring before a fifth in the Lake George here July 22. She's headed to the Riskaverse next week.

Candle. Will Farish homebred 2-year-old by City Of Light is out of Grade 3 winner Casual Smile, whose dam Casual Look won the English Oaks in 2003. Fifth in debut here July 31 after leading early going 1 1/16 miles on the turf. "When they've got a pedigree like that behind them, it matters. She's going to run back here on the 28th."

Adam's Angel. Courtlandt's 3-year-old Into Mischief filly finished second in her debut at Aqueduct last fall and returned to finish eighth here off an eight-month layoff July 27. "I ran her back here the other day and the quarter pole caught her. She'll be fine. She's going to run back here the end of the month."

Celestial City. Janney homebred 3-year-old colt made his debut in January and won at Gulfstream Park in March. Second in the Jersey Derby at Monmouth Park in May and third in the Grade 2 Hall of Fame here Aug. 5, son of Uncle Mo eyes a return in the Saranac here Sept. 3. "Nice horse and he's going to get better. He's done well up here."

Perform. Good Magic 2-year-old colt finished second in debut at Belmont July 3, and returned to finish fourth behind Steve Asmussen first-timer Disarm here Aug. 6. "He's OK. I'm going to breeze him on the grass."

Baby Blythe. Courtlandt's 4-year-old daughter of American Pharoah won a maiden race here last year and an allowance race at Bel-

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Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 7

mont in June. Seventh here going 1 3/8 miles on the turf July 31. “I made a mistake. It was going long, and they went three-quarters in 1:19 and change and she wants to be forward but he couldn’t really ever get her covered up and nothing went right.”

Ohana Honor. Two-year-old Honor Code colt came running late to finish second behind 8-length winner Bourbon Bash in 6-furlong debut here Aug. 13. “He ran a really good second. I like his demeanor, I like the way he moves, I liked his race the other day, he did everything the right way. Demeanor is important. The soundness thing you can’t do anything about, but the demeanor part of it, that’s something you can do.”

General Jim. Courtlandt 2-year-old colt by Into Mischief finished third behind Ohana Honor. “That Lukas horse got on the lead and they weren’t doing much about him, but they both ran good. They’ll be OK.”

Self Confident. Phipps 2-year-old filly by Into Mischief out of Sabbatical, who won twice at Saratoga and is a half-sister to Grade 1 winner Imagining. Has worked out of the gate here three times (including a half-mile in :48.40 Sunday) after starting her breezes at Churchill Downs in June.

Stolen Holiday. Annette Allen’s 5-year-old War Front mare has won four of 10 including Monmouth Park’s Grade 3 Eatontown in her last start. She won her debut as a 3-year-old, but ran just twice that season. Last year, she won a Belmont allowance in October, one of four starts of the year. She opened



Tod Marks

Battle Of Normandy won here Aug. 6.

2022 with a win at Tampa and a second in the Sand Springs Stakes at Gulfstream. She won the Eatontown by a length over stablemate Vigilantes Way, and heads to the Ballston Spa on Travers Day, “but maybe wait for something else too.”

Code Name. Pedigree much? Will Farish’s 2-year-old Noble Mission colt is out of Reunion, a half-sister to Travers winner and \$2.9 million earner Code Of Honor (also by Noble Mission). The dam won once for Farish and trainer Neil Howard.

Fort Washington. Bred and owned by Joe Allen and Peter Brant, 3-year-old War Front colt won the Tale Of The Cat Stakes at Monmouth June 26. The Virginia Derby at Colonial Downs

could be next. “I ran him in the Penn Mile (in June) and it was really soft. He didn’t like that and finished fifth. He was much better at Monmouth. I haven’t been able to run him as far as I want to.”

First To Act. Andrew Rosen homebred 4-year-old filly sports two wins and two seconds in four starts, all this year. She’s in Friday’s Summer Colony Stakes against graded winners Army Wife, Envoutante, Leader Of The Band and Bonny South. “That came up a whole lot tougher than it usually does. We’ll find out about her anyway.”

Flanigan’s Cove. Emory Hamilton’s 4-year-old filly by Kitten’s Joy and out of Grade 2 winner Hungry Island is winless in four tries this year – but has been second or third three times and was fourth in the Grade 2 Glens Falls here Aug. 6. “She runs long and I’ll probably run her in a two-other-than (after Saratoga) and then that mile-and-a-half race at Keeneland (the Dowager). She’s got a big future going long on the grass once she gets doing it more.”

Game Change. Another Hamilton homebred, 2-year-old Candy Ride colt is out of Sweet Corine, a half-sister to graded winners and now sires Verrazano and El Padrino. Aiming for a debut Saturday. “I like the way he goes, he’s been breezing good and I think he wants to run a distance of ground. He’s got a beautiful way of going.”

Juan Valdez. A \$900,000 purchase at Fasig-Tipton’s 2-year-old sale at Gulfstream Park in March by West Point and Lane’s End, the Medaglia d’Oro colt is a half-brother to Grade 1 winner and sire Constitution. He’s been prepping at Fair Hill since June. Monday he was getting his mane pulled in Saratoga, and

Continued On Page 9

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Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

loving every second of it. “He’s a really nice colt. Hopefully we’ll run him here right before we leave or when we get back to Belmont.”

Bees And Honey. Bred and owned by Gainesway Stable and Rosen, 4-year-old filly won the Comely at Aqueduct late last year and finished fourth in the Grade 2 Delaware Handicap July 9 after training in Kentucky. “She was ambitiously placed based on where she was in her training at Delaware, but came up here after that and she’s been training really well.”

African Waters. Two-year-old daughter of War Front and the A.P. Indy mare Vaulcluse, who won all three starts and was purchased by Gainesway for \$600,000 as a broodmare. She has produced eight winners including Canadian champion Lukes Alley. “I can’t even pronounce her mother’s name, but this is a really nice filly. She’s progressing along. She’s a great big filly and they said just take your time. I took her over to the gate when we first got up here and she got to kicking in the gate and cut her back leg. I lost a week with her, basically. I just couldn’t really do what I wanted to do with her. You lose a week here, the meet’s over. She could be really something when I get her there. She trains every day, she’s doing well, but she remembers her experience over there. It’s interesting how they are. I think the time has really helped her. Watching her gallop this morning I was thinking she was moving so much easier now. She’s growing up a little bit.”

Dripping Gold. Owned by West Point, NBS Stable and Titledown Stable, 3-year-old Lemon Drop Kid colt won his debut here last summer and finished fifth in the Grade 1 Summer Stakes at Woodbine last September. Missed the rest of the year and returned in June. Seventh here July 16. “We gave him time and his two races back have been bad, but I think he’s going to run back here on the 25th and he’s going to run a lot better. We’ll put blinkers on him and it’s going farther. It’s just different with some horses coming back sometimes.”

Dreams Of Tomorrow. Phipps homebred 5-year-old by Speightstown and Sabbatical won twice last year and placed in Pimlico’s Henry Clark Stakes. He took the winter off and joined the Saratoga string after some prep at Niall Brennan Stable in Florida. “He got bone-bruising and we just had a hard time getting it to heal up, so he’s coming back now.”


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Snap Decision, here winning at Nashville in May, is favored in today's Jonathan Sheppard. Tod Marks

Spa Return

Snap Decision shoulders 164 in search of another Grade 1

BY JOE CLANCY

JONATHAN SHEPPARD PREVIEW

In 2019, trainer Jack Fisher brought Snap Decision to Saratoga Race Course for a first-level allowance hurdle race. He won by a sixteenth of a mile (38 1/2 lengths officially). In 2020, Snap Decision shipped from Maryland twice and won two novice hurdle stakes at odds-on while carrying 162 and 165 pounds.

Last year, he stayed home.

And that's a big reason why Fisher and the Bruton Street-US colorbearer are back in New York for today's Grade 1 Jonathan Sheppard despite a 164-pound weight assignment.

"Last year, people were like 'Where's Snap Decision?' and I couldn't do it because of the weight he would carry and trying to get him

to the race at Far Hills in October," Fisher said. "So, for the fans, for Saratoga and for Snap too, we'll run. He's giving everybody a lot of weight, but we'll give it a shot."

The 6-5 favorite on the morning line faces six rivals in the \$150,000 stakes going 2 3/8 miles. The others carry 153-140, meaning Snap Decision and jockey Graham Watters give away at least 11 and as many as 24 pounds to the others. Post time for the Sheppard, formerly the New York Turf Writers Cup, is 1:05 p.m. as the day's first race.

English import Song For Some-

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SPENDTHRIFT

Sheppard —

■ Continued from page 10

one, a winner of seven jump races overseas, makes his American debut for trainer Leslie Young at 153 pounds. The 7-year-old hasn't run since March, when ninth going 3 miles at the Cheltenham Festival. Tom Garner rides at 5-2. Trainer Kate Dalton returns with A.P. Smithwick winner Down Royal at 9-2 and 143 pounds. The 8-year-old New York-bred mare has won her last three. Smithwick runner-up Chief Justice carries 144 and is 10-1 for trainer Cyril Murphy and jockey Barry Foley. Murphy also runs Belfast Banter, a winner at England's Cheltenham Festival in 2021, with Jamie Bargary at 20-1 and 146 pounds. Young also brings Redicean, fifth in the Smithwick and a winner here in 2019 at 15-1 and 142 pounds with Harrison Beswick. Trainer Keri Brion runs Going Country, third in the Jonathan Kiser here Aug. 3 after winning twice in April. Danny Mullins flies in from Ireland for the ride at 140 and 12-1. Stablemate Historic Heart will scratch.

Capable, if unproven at the Grade 1 level, they have one horse to beat. The handicap conditions, in place to help field size and wagering, favor the lightweights as Turf Writers/Sheppard winners have carried 148 or less in 12 of the last 16 runnings.



Down Royal (right) and Chief Justice return after going 1-2 in the Smithwick.

Tod Marks

Winston C won as the 154-pound highweight in 2019. Demonstrative did the same in 2014. Hirapour shouldered 158 in 2005 and three consecutive winners carried 160 or more in the 1990s — champions Warm Spell (161) in 1993, Mistico (168) in 1994 and Lonesome Glory (166) in 1995.

The challenge isn't lost on Fisher.

"If he can win carrying that much weight and giving that much away, he's a Hall of Fame horse or in that kind of conversation anyway," the trainer said of his 8-year-old. "When I had Good Night

Shirt and some others there were more Grade 1 opportunities that were weight-for-age so you could pick and choose more. Now we only have one Grade 1 in the spring (the Iroquois) and one in the fall (the Grand National)."

Regardless, Fisher won't worry about his horse's readiness. The son of Hard Spun and the Unbridled mare Salute (dam of Grade 1 turf winner Mr Speaker and current Shug McGaughey stakes runner Vigilantes Way) opened 2022 with a second in April's Temple Gwathmey while conceding 14 pounds to winner Iranistan and then dismantled six rivals in the Iroquois May 14. Snap Decision went after leader Pistol Whipped on the final run up the backstretch, singed three fences in a row and left the others reeling in a 7 1/4-length score.

Fisher skipped the A.P. Smithwick here last month, but used a start in the Colonial Turf Cup at Colonial Downs July 27 as a tightener. In his first flat race in almost four years, Snap Decision finished third behind Red Knight and a head out of second after having to idle briefly behind horses on the final turn. That effort nearly sent Snap Decision to Saratoga's John's Call on the turf next week — until the nomination list included graded-stakes runners Arklow, Cross Border, Reigning Spirit and blossoming 4-year-old Irish-bred Balthus.

Continued On Page 14

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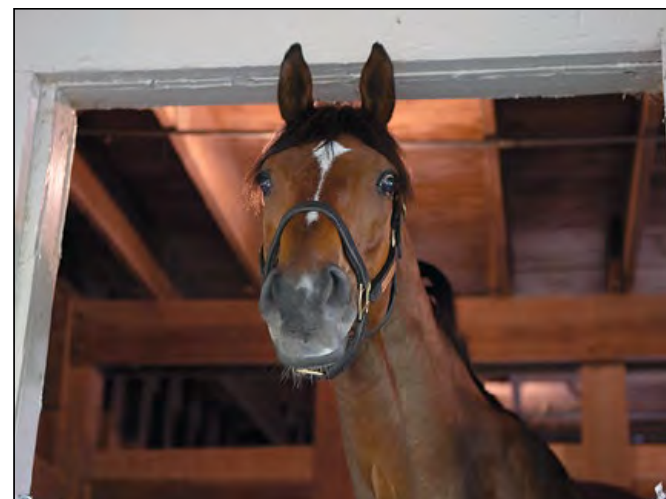
■ Continued from page 12

"I might as well have tried the (Grade 1) Sword Dancer," Fisher said with a laugh. "He ran great at Nashville in the Iroquois and I think we have that horse again, but I don't know. I never know though, we're just trying to get him there as well as we can get him there and give him the opportunity."

Bred and campaigned by Phipps Stable through three seasons, Snap Decision won two races on the turf for McGaughey. He also finished second to future Horse of the Year Bricks And Mortar in an allowance race, third in the 2017 Better Talk Now Stakes and fourth in the Grade 2 Hall of Fame before selling to Bruton Street and Fisher.

"He came to us in December (2018) and normally with horses like that I just give them some time off," Fisher said. "We probably started him jogging in January and started jumping when the ground was good. He was a natural. I don't make jumpers, they have it or they don't, and he was a good horse when I got him. He loves his job, he loves to race. He just goes out there and has fun."

In 15 starts over jumps, he has won 10 and finished second five times while piling up \$525,900. The abbreviated racing schedule of 2020, when there were no steeplechase stakes after August, cost him a chance at an Eclipse Award. Last year, two seconds to The Mean Queen cost him another chance. A win today would give him two Grade 1 stakes victories this year, with two remaining.



Tod Marks

Snap Decision eyes his 11th win over jumps.

Tuesday morning, Snap Decision went to the main track and "about ran off with me at a jog," said Fisher. Head high, ears up, he crossed Frank Sullivan Place to the Clark Stakes Barn, had a roll in the sand, messed around on the wash pad while getting a bath and grazed as long as he wanted.

"Every time he runs, it's just so cool to watch," said Fisher assistant Sandra Webb. "He's such a good jumper, ears pricked the whole way. It's my favorite thing to watch. He's a nice horse to deal with and he loves doing what he does. And he knows he's good at it."



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Rise Up

Edition Farm homebred Shinsun ready for another challenge

BY TIMOTHY LITTAU

Shinsun did not show any promise when working out before his mid-June debut.

So little that trainer Barclay Tagg told breeder and co-owner Vivien Malloy of Edition Farm that it might not be worth keeping the 3-year-old A Shin Forward gelding in training.

"I told them, 'This horse probably isn't going to be a racehorse. He hadn't shown a thing,' Tagg said. 'But the owners persisted, and here we are.'"

Here they are with an entrant in today's \$150,000 Cab Calloway division of the New York Stallion Series Stakes, a 1-mile test on the inner turf for runners sired by Empire State-based stal-

CAB CALLOWAY STAKES PREVIEW

ions and eligible for the series.

Shinsun won a New York-bred maiden claimer in his debut on the Belmont Park turf June 17, and comes off of a third in a 1 1/16-miles turf starter allowance at Saratoga July 23.

"He ran his race and it was a pleasant surprise. It makes you wonder how much you really know," Tagg said with a laugh. "He never showed anything. That's all right with me, but he could've whispered it to us or something like that."

Tagg now knows Shinsun can exceed expectations and is hopeful for

Continued On Page 18



Connie Bush

Trainer Barclay Tagg, perhaps getting set to school the lead pony over a hurdle, runs Shinsun in today's Cab Calloway.

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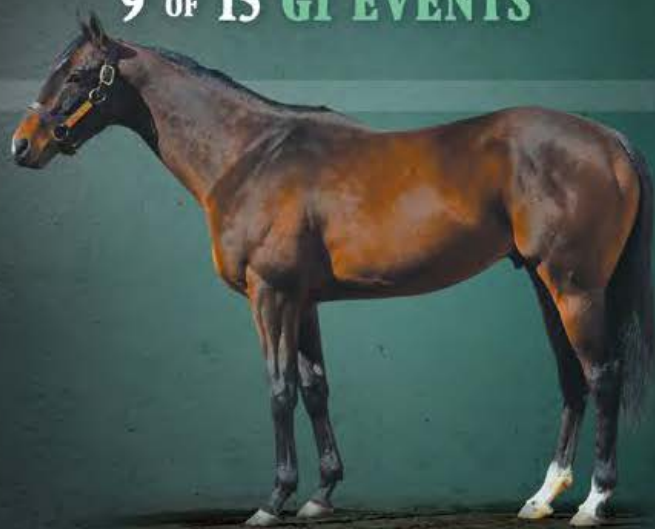
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Calloway —

■ Continued from page 16

another strong showing.

"He'll run well, and that's all you can hope for," Tagg said. "It's all a guessing game, but it looks like a good spot. He's doing well, training well, eating well so we've got to try it."

Robin Smullen, Tagg's partner and longtime assistant, agreed.

"Why not give it a shot?" she said. "It seems that he still has more improvement, even since his last race so maybe that puts us on the board. He seems to be improving all the time. And that being said, Luis Saez is willing to stay on him. So, if they are, then we'll give him a shot. He'll finish well."

Smullen has an eye on the morning-line favorite and knows he will be difficult to beat.

"Dakota Gold is probably going to be even-money or close to it, and if we can finish well and finish third, it'll help Vivien going forward," Smullen said. "They've only got a couple of horses racing right now so if they can hit the board in a stake it'll make everything look good."

Danny Gargan, who trains Dakota Gold for Reeves Thoroughbred Racing, hopes to do one better than the colt's last performance when he was second by a head to Practice Squad in the 1 1/16-mile Rick Violette Stakes over Saratoga's turf July 21. Leading jockey Irad Ortiz Jr. has the return call.

"Last time he kind of got hung out wide," Gargan said. "He ran really good. Irad said he didn't see that horse come up his inside. He's doing really well. I'm really happy with him, his numbers keep getting better with age. But he's training phenomenal coming into the race. I liked his breeze the other day a whole lot and I'm happy with how he's doing."

The 3-year-old Freud colt worked a half-mile in :49.12 on the dirt on the Oklahoma Training Track. Gargan, disappointed by Dakota Gold's close defeat last time, has spoken with Ortiz about how they can better set up for a win this time.

"I love to see the horse on the inside's (Tetragrammaton) got speed, there's plenty of speed in the race for him," Gargan said. "If he could get a good trip, sit in third or fourth and run home it'd be nice. I told

(Irada) I don't want to play with him, I want him to get aggressive and get them. Don't wait too long to make your move. Because he likes to hang around with other horses, he's a bit of a colt so I think he played around as much as anything last time. He ran up to that horse, and it takes him a stride or two to go by a horse because he's so coltish.

"If they go slow he'll be right there. If they go too fast he'll sit a couple of lengths off of them. But we're not going to play around and leave him too much to do. At the eighth pole I want to be in front, I don't want to wait, because he'll draw away at the eighth pole if he's in front, he just has to get away from them."

Marinara Sauced is the 5-1 second choice on the morning line for trainer Chad Brown and jockey Manny Franco. The son of Laoban won his debut at Belmont May 21 but has been winless in his two starts since.

Barrel Of Quests, the 8-1 co-third choice with Shinsun, breaks from the outside in the field of 10 for David Donk. The son of Mission Impazible broke his maiden going 1 1/16 miles on Aqueduct's turf April 24 and comes off of a third in an allowance here July 16. Tetragrammaton, Cagney, Born Dancer, Silent Running, Stop The Spread and He's Got It complete the field.

Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS	1ST
Chad Brown	27
Todd Pletcher	20
Christophe Clement.....	10
Mike Maker	10
Bill Mott	10
Steve Asmussen	8
Linda Rice	8
Wesley Ward	6
Jorge Abreu	5
Brad Cox	5
David Donk	5
Tom Morley	5

JOCKEYS	1ST
Irada Ortiz Jr.	35
Joel Rosario	28
Luis Saez.....	26
Flavien Prat	20
Javier Castellano	19
Manny Franco	17
Jose Ortiz.....	16
Tyler Gaffalione	11
John Velazquez	11
Jose Lezcano	10

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SARATOGA ENTRIES

Wednesday, August 17.

1ST (1:05PM). \$150,000, THE JONATHAN SHEPPARD, 4 YO'S & UP, 2 3/8M (HURDLE)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double			
1	1	Down Royal	B. Dalton 9-2
2	2	Belfast Banter (Ire)	J. Bargary C. Murphy 20-1
3	3	Song for Someone (Ger)	T. Garner L. Young 5-2
4	4	Going Country (Ire)	D. Mullins K. Brion 12-1
5	5	Redicean (GB)	H. Beswick L. Young 15-1
6	6	Snap Decision	G. Watters J. Fisher 6-5
7	7	Chief Justice (GB)	B. Foley C. Murphy 10-1
8	8	Historic Heart (Ire)	P. Hendriks K. Brion 12-1

2ND (1:39PM). \$42,000, CLM \$16,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double			
1	1	Greeley and Ben	E. Cancel D. Jacobson 1-2
2	2	O'Trouble	R. Santana, Jr M. Shirer 5-1
3	3	Winning Drive	J. Gomez R. Rodriguez 6-1
4	4	Quick Return	L. Saez J. Sharp 4-1
5	5	Casals	J. Lezcano S. Jerkens 15-1
6	6	Manifest Destiny	K. Carmouche W. Younghans 30-1

3RD (2:13PM). \$35,000, CLM \$16,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 6 1/2F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double, Quinella			
1	1	Handle the Truth	H. Diaz, Jr R. Metivier 20-1
2	2	Wicked Happy	J. Castellano L. Gyarmati 8-1
3	3	Perfect Provision	I. Ortiz, Jr S. Joseph, Jr 7-2
4	4	Keen Dancer	E. Cancel R. Persaud 15-1
5	5	Game Theory	H. Harkie E. Jones 20-1
6	6	Mommasgottarun	M. Franco B. Cox 1-1
7	7	Backed by Gold	L. Rodriguez Castro G. DiPrima 5-2

4TH (2:49PM). \$50,000, CLM \$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double			
1	1	Freedom Machine	J. Gomez R. Schosberg 6-1
2	2	Lemon Taffy	J. Samuel J. Ferraro 20-1
3	3	Synonymous	T. McCarthy J. Pregman, Jr 12-1
4	4	Tales of Makenna	J. Lezcano L. Rice 5-1
5	5	Kemba	J. Rosario R. Handal 2-1
6	6	I'm Buzzy	J. Castellano M. Dini 4-1
7	7	French Franc (Fr)	T. Gaffalione M. Casse 3-1
8	8	Miss Invincible	M. Luzzi A. Chichakly 20-1

5TH (3:21PM). \$105,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 6F

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 6, Daily Double			
1	1	Socially Selective	J. Lezcano W. Mott 8-1
2	2	Implicated	F. Prat C. Brown 6-1
3	3	Bulsara	L. Saez M. Trombetta 10-1
4	4	Souper Slews Cash	R. Santana, Jr M. Trombetta 12-1
5	5	Mija	J. Velazquez T. Pletcher 7-2
6	6	Padma	J. Alvarado W. Mott 9-2
7	7	Binsky	I. Ortiz, Jr L. Rice 4-1
8	8	Justifying	J. Rosario S. Asmussen 3-1

6TH (3:55PM). \$115,000, AOC \$80,000, 3 YO, 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double			
1	1	Emboite (Ire)	J. Castellano M. Maker 10-1
1a	AE-MTO.Totalizer	L. Saez M. Maker 10-1	
2	5	Mo Rewards	L. Saez R. Rodriguez 6-1
2b	AE-MTO.Funny Joke	Rider TBA R. Rodriguez 6-1	
3	2	Seal Beach	T. Gaffalione M. Maker 5-1
4	3	Legends Can't Die	M. Franco G. Weaver 6-1
5	4	Maritime Wings (Ire)	J. Velazquez T. Pletcher 6-1
6	6	Analogy	I. Ortiz, Jr T. Pletcher 4-1
7	7	Wish Me Home	T. McCarthy P. Schoenthal 12-1
8	8	Mackillop	F. Prat C. Brown 3-1
9	9	Hashtag No Wonder	J. Rendon C. David 15-1
10	AE-MTO.Malibu S S	Rider TBA T. Amoss 12-1	
11	AE-MTO.Warrior Johnny	J. Alvarado P. Bauer 3-1	
12	AE-MTO.Unbridled Bomber	Rider TBA J. Ryerson 8-1	
13	AE-MTO.Icarus	M. Franco B. Cox 8-1	
14	AE-MTO.Nabokov	I. Ortiz, Jr C. Brown 5-2	

7TH (4:29PM). \$83,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double			
1	1	Risk Free	E. Cancel E. DeLauro 12-1
2	2	Red Hot Chick	L. Saez R. Rodriguez 8-1
3	3	Ruler of the Night	K. Carmouche S. Klesaris 12-1
4	4	Oh Donna	I. Ortiz, Jr R. Handal 4-1
5	5	Amazon Barbie	T. Gaffalione W. Catalano 5-1
6	6	U Glow Girl	F. Prat B. Cox 5-2
7	7	Crypto Mama	J. Rosario K. Breen 3-1
8	8	Happy Warrior	J. Castellano T. Morley 8-1

8TH (5:05PM). \$95,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double			
1	1	U Guys Are No Fun	J. Rosario J. Englehart 5-2
2	2	Silken Dollar	L. Saez R. Schosberg 3-1
3	3	Gringotts	T. McCarthy R. Klesaris 12-1
4	4	Sunset Louise	J. Ortiz B. Levine 9-2
5	5	Caramocha	J. Castellano M. Friedman 7-2
6	6	Mia Bea Star	J. Alvarado R. Persaud 3-1

9TH (5:39PM). \$150,000, THE NEW YORK STALLION SERIES, 3 YO, 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double			
1	1	Tetragrammaton	K. Carmouche J. Sweezey 20-1
2	2	Cagney	H. Diaz, Jr D. Schettino 30-1
3	3	Shinsun	L. Saez B. Tagg 8-1
4	4	Born Dancer	F. Prat M. Nevin 15-1
5	5	Marinara Sauced	M. Franco C. Brown 5-1
6	6	Silent Running	J. Castellano H. Bond 30-1
7	7	Stop the Spread	T. McCarthy E. Caramori 30-1
8	8	Dakota Gold	I. Ortiz, Jr D. Gargan 3-5
9	9	He's Got It	J. Lezcano J. Ryerson 20-1
10	10	Barrel of Quests	J. Ortiz D. Donk 8-1

10TH (6:13PM). \$50,000, CLM \$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta			
1	1	Bells On Her Toes	E. Cancel R. Metivier 30-1
2	2	More Mango	J. Gomez J. Ferraro 15-1
3	3	Boca	T. Piermarini J. Falk 20-1
4	4	Dixie Cannon	K. Carmouche B. Russell 8-1
5	5	Go Big Green	T. McCarthy T. Amoss 6-1
6	6	Cafe Fleur (FR)	I. Ortiz, Jr C. Brown 5-2
7	7	Funwhileitlasted	J. Castellano B. Russell 9-2
8	8	Aziza	J. Ortiz M. Hemingway 4-1
9	9	Princess Pinky	M. Franco M. Nevin 12-1
10	10	Ocean Air	L. Saez M. Giangiulio 6-1
11	AE-MTO.High School Crush	J. Gomez E. Barker 6-1	

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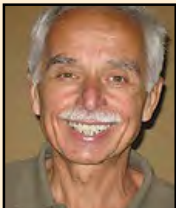




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the Power grid

Race #	 John Shapazian	 Tom Law	 Charles Bedard	 Rob Whitlock	 Jessica Paquette
1	Snap Decision Song For Someone Down Royal	Snap Decision Chief Justice Down Royal	Chief Justice Down Royal Snap Decision	Snap Decision Down Royal Going Country	Snap Decision Redicean Historic Heart
2	Greeley And Ben Quick Return O'Trouble	Greeley And Ben Quick Return O'Trouble	Greeley And Ben Quick Return Winning Drive	Quick Return Winning Drive O'Trouble	Quick Return Greeley And Ben Winning Drive
3	Mommasgottarun Perfect Provision Backed By Gold	Perfect Provision Mommasgottarun Backed By Gold	Mommasgottarun Perfect Provision Wicked Happy	Mommasgottarun Backed By Gold Perfect Provision	Mommasgottarun Perfect Provision Backed By Gold
4	Kemba I'm Buzzy French Franc	I'm Buzzy Kemba French Franc	French Franc I'm Buzzy Freedom Machine	Kemba French Franc Tales of Makenna	Kemba French Franc I'm Buzzy
5	Mija Justifying Implicated	Justifying Mija Padma	Binsky Souper Slews Cash Bulsara	Mija Justifying Padma	Mija Justifying Souper Slews Cash
6	Nabokov Mackillop Seal Beach	Mackillop Analogy Mo Rewards	Mackillop Warrior Johnny Maker entry	Maritime Wings Mackillop Mo Rewards	Wish Me Home Maritime Wings Seal Beach
7	U Glow Girl Crypto Mama Oh Donna	U Glow Girl Crypto Mama Oh Donna	Crypto Mama U Glow Girl Ruler Of The Night	Crypto Mama U Glow Girl Oh Donna	U Glow Girl Crypto Mama Happy Warrior
8	Silken Dollar Caramocha Sunset Louise	U Guys Are No Fun Caramocha Mia Bea Star	U Guys Are No Fun Mia Bea Star Caramocha	U Guys Are No Fun Silken Dollar Sunset Louise	Sunset Louise Silken Dollar Carmocha
9	Dakota Gold Shinsun Marinara Sauced	Dakota Gold Shinsun Barrel Of Quests	Dakota Gold Barrel Of Quests Marinara Sauced	Dakota Gold Marinara Sauced Shinsun	Barrel Of Quests Silent Running Shinsun
10	Cafe Fleur Funwhileitlasted Dixie Cannon	Cafe Fleur Ocean Air Go Big Green	Cafe Fleur Dixie Cannon Go Big Green	Cafe Fleur Dixie Cannon Go Big Green	Boca Funwhileitlasted Go Big Green
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Coming True

Dream Central looks for third stakes win

BY TIMOTHY LITTAU

Nobody wanted to buy filly Dream Central.

Offered as a weanling in the 2019 Fasig-Tipton New York Saratoga fall mixed sale, the daughter of Central Banker did not meet her reserve on a \$17,000 bid. As a short yearling she failed to meet her reserve again on a \$14,000 bid at the 2020 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky February mixed sale.

Breeder John Jayko of Fedwell in Saratoga Springs did finally sell the New York-bred daughter of Central Banker to Eddie Fazzone for an un-

Continued On Page 23



Dave Harmon

Dream Central (left) returns after winning the Suzie O'Cain July 20.

ALL SARATOGA REPORTS,
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Statue of Liberty —

■ Continued from page 22

disclosed amount in April 2021 as a 2-year-old.

Just like her sales history, the beginning of the Gary Sciacca-trainee Dream Central's career was far from spectacular. She started in a 6-furlong off-the-turf maiden special weight Nov. 12 at Aqueduct. She finished ninth. Same type of race, same finish Nov. 26. Dream Central's Dec. 4 race at Aqueduct, a 1 1/16 miles maiden special weight that stayed on the turf, she ran fifth. Back to the dirt at a mile Jan. 6, she finished eighth.

Then came a four-month layoff and a change of track to Belmont Park.

"We gave her some time off in the winter, brought her back and she ran third on her first time out," Fazzzone said. "She had a bad trip her second race back and then we went to the stake race (Cupecoy's Joy division of the New York Stallion Series) as a maiden. And Jose (Lezcane) gave a great ride. She ran great and the rest is history from there so far."

After winning the \$150,000 Cupecoy's Joy at 40-1 June 19 at Belmont, Dream Central went on to take the \$125,000 Suzie O'Cain Stakes July 20 at Saratoga Race Course. Now she's a major player and the 5-2 second choice for Thursday's \$150,000 Statue of Liberty division of the New York Stallion Series.

"She seems to improve every race and is getting better and better," Fazzzone said. "Hopefully she continues to move forward, race by race and just hope for the best once the gates open. Anything can happen but hopefully we get a good clean trip and she runs her race."

Sciacca said that the earner of \$164,667 has been training just as well entering Thursday's race as the Suzie O'Cain.

"Took a little time, got herself together, the grass, she liked that," Sciacca said. "She had a couple of rough trips earlier. The Stallion Stakes wasn't that tough but she really put it together in her last race. Hopefully she can come back and put it together again. She's been doing really well. Hopefully a big race comes out of her."

No matter what happens in the Statue of Liberty, the filly that would

not sell has already fulfilled a dream for Fazzzone.

"Jayko didn't sell her, but it sure worked out good for me," Fazzzone said. "She's very special, she's right up there with (stakes winners) Lobsta and Chowda, they're nice horses and she's right up in there. She's for sure a special horse, she gave me my first win here at Saratoga, it was a stake race, couldn't ask for anything more than that."

Javier Castellano gets aboard Dream Central for the first time as Jose Lezcane — the only jockey to ride Dream Central into the winner's circle — has opted to ride Jorge Abreu-trained Busy Morning. The 2-1 morning-line favorite, Busy Morning finished third in her May 12 debut going 1 mile on Belmont's turf before returning with a 6-length win going 6 furlongs June 25.

War Dancer is the sire of three entrants in the Statue of Liberty — Busy Morning, Royal Dancer and Tara Dancer. Royal Dancer, the 9-2 third choice for trainer Michelle Nevin, comes off a second in a 5 1/2-furlong turf maiden for New York-breds July 23. Tara Dancer is the most inexperienced filly in the field, her lone start a third going 1 1/16 miles on the turf at Saratoga July 16 for trainer Horacio De Paz.

Golden Rocket, Robyn And Eli, Howdyoumakeurmoney and Eros's Girl complete the field.

- Friday's card includes two stakes. The \$135,000 Summer Colony attracted a field of seven including graded stakes winners Bonny South, Leader Of The Band, Envoutante and Army Wife as the eighth of 10 races. One race later, 2-year-olds clash in the Skidmore sprinting 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf. Meet winners Jeremy's Jet, Noble Huntsman and Appraise are in the field of 10 along with Belmont winner Oxymore, who moves to Chad Brown's barn from Adam Rice's.

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Dave Harmon

Casa Creed surges past Regal Glory in the stretch of Saturday's Fourstardave.

FOURSTARDAVE STAKES RECAP

Double Booked

Casa Creed ousts odds-on Regal Glory for third G1

BY TOM LAW

The way Lee Einsidler sees it, a conversation and a decision back in August 2019 landed Casa Creed where he is today.

"After his 3-year-old year up here we were going to run him at Kentucky Downs," Einsidler said Saturday at Saratoga Race Course.

Casa Creed earned the trip off a victory as the favorite in the 2017 Grade 2 Hall of Fame Stakes. The son of Jimmy Creed placed in three other stakes that season and started the year with a victory in the Kitten's Joy Stakes in early

Continued On Page 26



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Fourstardave —

■ Continued from page 24

January at Gulfstream Park. A run at Kentucky Downs, likely in what is now the \$400,000 Gun Runner Stakes going 1 mile on the grass, seemed logical.

Until Bill Mott said otherwise.

“We’re not going to go to Kentucky Downs,” Mott told Einsidler, who races Casa Creed in partnership with long-time New York sports radio personality Mike Francesa’s JEH Racing Stable. “I’m putting him away for the winter, you’ll see him in the spring, he’s too good, I don’t want to lean on him anymore.”

Einsidler and Francesa heeded, and Mott and Casa Creed rewarded.

“It was that decision that gave us three Grade 1s,” Einsidler said.

The third Grade 1 came in Saturday’s \$500,000 Fourstardave over three-time Grade 1-winning mare and 1-2 favorite Regal Glory. Luis Saez rode Casa Creed, who earned an automatic bid to the Breeders’ Cup Mile with the 1 1/2-length win. He’d already earned an automatic berth in the Breeders’ Cup Turf Sprint from his second straight victory in the Grade 1 Jaipur on the Belmont Stakes Day undercard.



Tod Marks

Co-owner Lee Einsidler (right) and assistant trainer Neil Poznansky lead Casa Creed toward the winner’s circle after Saturday’s Grade 1 win.

Casa Creed ran in last year’s Breeders’ Cup Mile at Del Mar, finishing eighth and 3 1/2 lengths behind Space Blues. Mott wasn’t about to decide this August about spots down the road, preferring to relish in Casa Creed’s latest – and perhaps best – victory.

“I wouldn’t be surprised,” Mott said when it was suggested the Fourstardave was Casa Creed’s

best. “He’s run two pretty good Jaipurs and incredible races, but he’s put several races back-to-back. He’s put four races back-to-back this year. He’s traveled and come back and still run well.”

Casa Creed embarked on a Middle Eastern sojourn this winter, finishing second by a neck in the Grade 3 Turf Sprint Cup on the Saudi Cup undercard at King Abdulaziz Racecourse and fifth in the Grade 1 Al Quoz Sprint on Dubai World Cup Day at Meydan. Those two races came at 6 1/2 and 6 furlongs, respectively, with the Jaipur also at 6 furlongs.

“I think 6 to 7 [furlongs] is probably his best; he’s somewhere in between,” Mott said. “But he was drawing away going a mile today. I guess it depends on the trip and how he’s doing on the day.”

Casa Creed, the 4-1 third choice in the field of five behind Regal Glory and her stablemate and 7-2 second pick Masen, benefited from a patient trip in the Fourstardave under Saez.

Get Smokin, fourth in the Grade 3 Forbidden Apple the second day of the meet, set the pace as expected under Javier Castellano. They opened up 2 lengths on Masen through the opening quarter-mile

Continued On Page 27

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Fourstardave —

■ Continued from page 26

in :24.01, with Front Run The Fed third and Regal Glory just to his outside. Saez let Casa Creed trail heading into the backstretch, 5 lengths back.

Regal Glory inched a bit closer on the run up the backstretch and into third through a half in :47.94. Saez kept an eye on the favorite all the way up the backstretch, and raced less than 2 lengths behind her and just 3 1/2 back through the half.

"We weren't worried about the pace, we just wanted to follow Regal Glory," Saez said. "I know that filly pretty well, I used to ride her and I know she has a big turn of foot so I just wanted to be following her and get ready for when to make our move we'd be right on top of her."

Masen and Regal Glory took on Get Smokin at the top of the lane and through 6 furlongs in 1:11.24, with the former able to stick a nose in front of the stubborn leader inside the sixteenth pole. Casa Creed followed Regal Glory into the straight before Saez tipped him out and ran past his four opponents in a blink. They drew off just as quickly, widening in the final sixteenth to win in 1:34.20 over the firm inner turf.

"Casa Creed is a horse that always wants to give you everything at the top of the stretch," Saez said. "He wants to get there first. He beat her today. He made a big move and came away with the victory."

Regal Glory outfinished Masen by a half-length for the second spot, with Get Smokin another three-quarters of a length back in fourth and a neck clear of Front Run The Fed.

"She just looked like she was second best today," said Regal Glory's trainer Chad Brown. "It was a bit of a wide trip but, you know, that's what it is. That's the way she likes to run clear though. She just didn't have what it took to win. She ran really well in defeat. She did run second."

Casa Creed gave Mott his fifth Fourstardave victory, adding to previous wins with Tourist (2016), Seek Again (2014), Silver Tree (2007) and Hap (2000). A \$105,000 purchase by Einsidler's LRE Racing at the 2017 Keeneland September yearling sale, Casa Creed improved to 7-for-27 with four seconds and four third, and earnings of \$1,703,308.

As for where Casa Creed lands at the Nov. 4-5 Breeders' Cup at Keeneland — in the Mile, where he finished eighth at Del Mar in 2021 and 12th at Keeneland in 2020 or the Turf Sprint — that, too, will come after a decision by Mott. And Einsidler is perfectly fine with that.

"He's 6 years of age and he's better than ever," Einsidler said. "And he just won at a mile and beat a filly that they gave the trophy to before the race."

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

LOCUST GROVE (GIII)

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

POCAHONTAS (GIII)

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

LOUISVILLE THOROUGHBRED SOCIETY

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

OPEN MIND (Listed)

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

SENECA OVERNIGHT STAKES

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

BOURBON TRAIL

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

HARRODS CREEK

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

DOGWOOD (GIII)

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

ACK ACK (GIII) "Win and You're In Dirt Mile Division"

Runs Sat., Oct. 1
Closes Sept. 17
\$300,000
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF
Three Year Olds & Up
1 Mile

LUKAS CLASSIC (GII)

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

JEFFERSON CUP (Listed)

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



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Picture Time

Damon's Mound gives Lovell first Saratoga win in Grade 2

BY TIMOTHY LITTAU

Michelle Lovell finished an interview with Fox Sports before Saturday's Grade 2 Saratoga Special Stakes and then walked with friends between the outside rail and the fence at the edge of Saratoga Race Course's clubhouse apron. The trainer couldn't help but notice a few photographers shooting her strange looks.

"I guess we shouldn't be here," Lovell said to her friends after they walked into the winner's circle with two minutes to post for the \$200,000 stakes.

She was right where she belonged as Damon's Mound went on to victory to give Lovell a win in her first start at Saratoga. Damon's Mound won by 4 1/4 lengths and some of those same

SARATOGA SPECIAL STAKES RECAP

photographers instead wound up shooting pictures of Lovell and her team in the winner's circle.

"It's awesome to be here, I'm in awe, but not intimidated," Lovell said. "You can't be if you're going to win."

Lovell folded her hands in prayer from the time they started loading the four-horse field for the Special until they crossed the wire. Damon's Mound broke a step slow under Gabriel Saez and was at the rear of the field early.

Unfazed, the 2-year-old son of Girvin launched his bid on the outside

Continued On Page 29



Tod Marks

Damon's Mound speeds to victory in Saturday's Saratoga Special.

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Saratoga Special —

■ Continued from page 28

heading into the far turn and pulled away in the stretch to win by 3 1/4 lengths over Gulfport.

"I was so happy where we were laying and where we were tracking," Lovell said. "Gabe couldn't hold him any longer and he just let him creep on up there and make his little move. He did his job here."

Saez was pleased with how Damon's Mound was able to settle after the tardy start.

"He's not as quick breaking out of there, so by the two or three (strides), he'll find himself in a nice, comfortable position and that's what he did today," Saez said. "Next thing I know he's moving along. For a four-horse field, not too much traffic and I was able to squeeze him out into the clear and make my move when I really wanted to. When I asked him to kick that gear, he did it."

The Steve Asmussen-trained Gulfport rallied to be second after jockey Joel Rosario checked toward the end of the turn with Super Chow to his inside and Damon's Mound rolling past on his outside.

"It looked like we had no room in there," Rosario said. "The horse on the inside (Super Chow) and I couldn't really tell if the outside horse (Damon's Mound) both came out at the same time and I had to check my horse."

Saez thought that Super Chow was the instigator.

"(Super Chow) comes out on Rosario a little bit and at the same time I'm moving along so it kind of got a little tight for Joel, but nothing really major so I was able to go on and that was it," Saez said.

Lovell did not know what to think at first.

"It scared me, obviously for the horse," she said. "I didn't know if we had anything to do with it. I was a little bit stunned at that. And then we went off easy so I didn't think we caused any trouble. It just took a minute to figure it out and to be sure."

Without a steward's inquiry or an objection — Rosario did talk to the stewards on the phone but



Michelle Lovell greets Damon's Mound after the Special win.

Tod Marks

didn't claim foul — Damon's Mound improved to 2-for-2. He won his debut by 12 1/4 lengths July 2 at Churchill Downs, but his big moment at Saratoga has been an even longer time coming for his owners and breeders Cliff and Michele Love.

In 1984, Dancing Axe was retired at 3 with four starts, never finishing better than ninth in a Laurel Park maiden or earning one penny.

The underwhelming daughter of The Axe II's final race came in her 3-year-old debut Jan. 24, 2014 at the now-defunct Bowie Race Course where she finished 10th. She failed to meet her reserve on a \$15,000 bid at the Keeneland November breeding stock sale later that fall. She eventually returned to the Keeneland sales ring in 1990 and sold for \$1,100 to Durwood Beach.

After buying her privately, Dancing Axe became the matriarch of a six-generation family bred and owned by the Loves. Her great grandson five generations later is Damon's Mound, who is out of the Stroll mare San Antonio Stroll, who the Loves bred to Girvin. Damon's Mound is only the 18th horse they have raced.

The Loves received offers for Damon's Mound after his dominant maiden win, but they were not selling their eventual first Grade 2 winner.

"I couldn't be happier for his owners," Lovell said. "They're breeders, they stay hooked, they

didn't sell him and they got rewarded for it. I wouldn't have traded him for any horse. I thought he had an awesome chance, and he showed it."

Damon's Mound is named after a salt dome in Cliff Love's grandmother's town in Texas, while Gulfport is the hometown of co-owner and Mississippi-native Terry Green. Damon's Mound was bred on a \$6,000 stud fee while the Uncle Mo colt Gulfport was a \$275,000 purchase at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July sale of selected yearlings.

"The connections (of Gulfport) speak for themselves," Lovell said. "Steve Asmussen is an awesome trainer and the owners have been in the business a long time. Their horse is a real well-bred horse and ran two beautiful races, so we had our work cut out for us. But I thought my horse would step forward and that would get us there."

Damon's Mound won the 6 1/2-furlong Saratoga Special in 1:17.94 as the second choice behind the 2-5 Gulfport. Super Chow finished 7 lengths behind Gulfport in third, with Valenzan Day last of the quartet.

"He has a huge future," Lovell said. "We have a couple spots. We'll see. We'll cool him out and see what we've got. He's been a super sound and mature animal and I just look forward to his future."

Lovell said this week that Damon's Mound could run in the Grade 3 Iroquois Sept. 17 at Churchill Downs or the Grade 1 Claiborne Breeders' Futurity Oct. 8 at Keeneland Race Course.

While the Saratoga Special win was not a total surprise to Lovell, a visit from a friend of 30 years was.

"My friend drove over from New Jersey just to surprise me a few minutes before (the start of the race)," Lovell said of Donna Galat's 3 1/2-hour trek, before reflecting on her Saratoga moment. "It's a dream. It's a dream that it happened here with this special horse on an awesome day. It's a dream and it means a lot. I never thought I'd be a trainer, so I never thought I'd be standing right here in the winner's circle after a Grade 2 at Saratoga with an amazing 2-year-old. It's been a steady progression, a grind to get here."

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East Avenue winner's circle

Vallelujah thrills ownership group

Good luck to the winners of any race the next three weeks looking to top the raucous scene that unfolded in the winner's circle after the fifth race Saturday at Saratoga Race Course.

Vallelujah and jockey Jackie Davis set it off, slipping through a seam on the inside of Tosconova Beauty to win the \$95,000 allowance event at 7 furlongs for New York-bred fillies and mares. Sent off 24-1 in the field of seven, the 3-year-old daughter of Teuflesberg gave Davis her first victory at Saratoga, her father and trainer Robbie Davis his first since Sandyinthesun won at 23-1 in 2013 and the East Ave Racing Stable its first since being formed during the spectator-less pandemic meet in 2020.

SATURDAY RACING RECAP

"Unbelievable," said Robbie Davis, who didn't need to do an impersonation of Jim Valvano winning the 1983 NCAA basketball title and looking for someone to hug after the final buzzer. "I told her to stay off the rail, how smart am I? I'm sure she was like, 'whatever dad.'"

There were no shortage of hugs, high fives and back claps, thanks to the 18-member strong East Ave Racing group, co-owner and breeder Carolyn Karlson, the Davis family and everyone else that gathered for the appropriately named J. David Richardson Celebration Race.



Dave Harmon

Vallelujah and Jackie Davis hit the finish line in Saturday's fifth for East Ave Racing.

"David would have loved it," said Brant Laue, one of the late "Doc" Richardson's closest friends.

East Ave Racing Stable came together through friendships formed during training hours in the summer of 2020. A crowd of racing fans gath-

ered almost daily on East Avenue to catch a glimpse of horses training on the Oklahoma Training Track. As the summer wound down, Barry Bornstein, a photographer and East Avenue regular, joked to friend Jeff Deet

Continued On Page 31

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Photo by Dan McCanna

Saturday —

■ Continued from page 30

that if the group owned a horse they'd be able to make it inside the gates.

Deet took it from there and reached out to longtime friend Karlson, a New York breeder who became acquainted with the group as she'd pass in the mornings on the way to see a horse she owned stabled near the Oklahoma gate on Fifth Avenue.

Karlson offered up a 56 percent stake in Vallelujah, out of her Southern Image mare Ave Ravina and foaled at Hickory Hills Farm in Fort Edward.

"Any Saturday afternoon at Saratoga when you have a horse you bred and owned run is special but this is the first time a win has happened to me and I've dreamed about this since I was 6 years old," Karlson said. "I dreamed about this forever. She's my baby girl. I was there when she was born and she means everything to me. To share her with these wonderful friends is amazing."

Deet was among the revelers basking in Vallelujah's 1 3/4-length upset victory over 2-1 favorite Sweet Mystery.

"Have you ever tried to play the lottery? And you keep playing and you finally win? That's what this feels like. It ain't giving birth, but it's almost as exciting," Deet said. "It's really wonderful. And we've got Robbie Davis as our trainer, you couldn't ask

for a better guy and a better trainer. He is the best, and I will say it for nobody but him.

"And she's only had eight races and she has two wins already and a third. That's a testament to how good of a trainer he is to get that much out of a horse. We only paid \$15,000 for her so he gets everything out of her. All the credit goes to her and him. We just go along for the ride."

Jackie Davis said she was "beside herself" after her winning ride and making the almost three-minute walk back to the jocks' room.

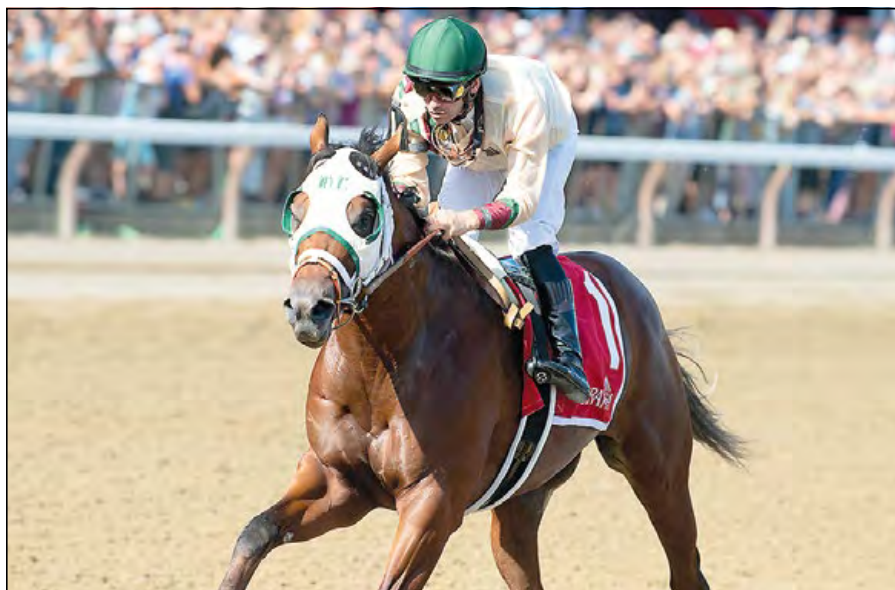
"I am so happy I'm going to cry. This is my very first win in Saratoga," she said, walking through a packed tunnel of fans through the clubhouse and into the backyard. "I was just telling my sister, there is so much more pressure going out there for family because I know how hard my dad and mom worked to get this horse together and all the owners and what went into it. And I'm just so happy, we grew up here. I'm on Cloud 9."

— Tom Law, Timothy Littau and Joe Clancy

- Trainer Bruce Brown upset the Grade 3 Caress Stakes July 23 with Robin Sparkles at 16-1 for his first win of the meet. He got his second win in Saturday's second, a 6-furlong claimer, with another 16-1 longshot Fast N Fearious.

"I thought he would run better last time, and in hindsight I think that I

Continued On Page 32



Tod Marks

Bourbon Bash scores in Saturday's seventh.

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THE SARATOGA SPECIAL

Saturday —

■ Continued from page 31

just ran him back too quick,” Brown said. “When a race comes up in Saratoga, a lot of times you get a little anxious and jump at it. He just was flat and didn’t run his race. His races early on were very good for his first couple of races on the dirt. I thought it might wake him up a little bit to get him back on the dirt so that was kind of my thinking. And a lot of times the pace isn’t so crazy in a lot of dirt races.”

The difference was the dirt “and giving him the right amount of time,” Brown said. “I think he’s still OK on the turf, but he only had those first couple of races on the dirt so it’s hard, for those early races, to see how good he really was on it.”

The 4-year-old Palice Malice gelding **Train To Artemus leads the way late in Saturday’s third.** led from the start on the way to win by 3 1/2 lengths over odds-on favorite Mount Athos.

“I thought we were the speed of the speed but that we would be pressured,” Brown said. “But when that horse (Jake Rocks) was a late scratch then that definitely cleared things up for us. And then when I saw him down the backside get that length lead, having a cushion I thought ‘well he can hit the board and show up’ and then he just kept going down the stretch.”

Jose Gomez was aboard for the win, the apprentice jockey’s fourth of the meet.

“He breezed him here, his last work Jose was on him,” Brown said. “He’s a bright kid. He’s got a bright future. It’s tough up here with the best of the best. But just the fact that he’s riding against these guys is going to be lightyears of experience for him rather than being at a smaller track where he’d be head and shoulders better. Riding against the top riders here is going to make him that much better.”

— Timothy Littau

• Owner Ken Ramsey won the third, a 5 1/2-furlong claiming race on the Mellon Turf Course, with



Tod Marks

Train To Artemus and felt something missing on his first trip to the Saratoga winner’s circle this season.

“It feels good to be back but it’s bittersweet,” he said as his voice cracked and tears slid down his cheeks. “My wife’s always been with me. We lost her May 26.”

Sarah Ramsey passed away at age 83 in May. Saratoga is usually paradise for Ken Ramsey, but he admitted it was not the same this year.

“It’s my very favorite racetrack. I got a house, I call it backyard heaven, it backs up to the Oklahoma track and I watch them train every morning,” Ramsey said. “It’s good to be back in the winner’s circle. We’ve been the leading owner here twice. But I’ve been downsizing so I don’t have very many horses now. This one, my hometown is Artemus. I named it after my hometown, Train To Artemus.”

Artemus is the hometown of both Ken and Sarah, located in southeastern Kentucky and of the Cumberland River with a population of 590. Despite becoming one of the largest owners and breeders in North America, they did not forget about paying tribute to the town where they grew up and met.

Train To Artemus, a 4-year-old Tapizar filly ridden by Flavien Prat, won by 1 3/4 lengths for trainer Saffie Joseph Jr.

“She needed the race, but she had the thumps, but we got that calmed down and it worked out well,” Ramsey said of the condition that affects a horse’s heart-beat and is often caused by an electrolyte balance. “Saffie’s on the way up, that’s three wins for him here, his first win for me at Saratoga. I bet her with both hands. Everything clicked today.”

— Timothy Littau

• Marc Keller’s Neuro loves sprinting on Saratoga’s Mellon Turf Course and he proved it in the sixth, a 5 1/2-furlong allowance for New York-breds.

“He loves Saratoga. Last year we got to run three times, which is unusual, so he won, he was a close fourth and just got beat a zop the last week of the meet,” winning trainer Robert Ribaud said.

“We got beat a zop when we came here off the layoff in his first start here this year. The only thing you worry about with him is the trip because he comes from out of it. He worked out a great trip today but you can’t count on it all of the time.”

The 5-year-old son of Tizway now sports a record of two wins and two seconds from five starts going one turn on Saratoga’s grass. Ribaud admitted it took him a couple years to really figure the horse out.

“Jose Ortiz finished second going a mile last year, then going a mile and a sixteenth he finished fourth and came back after that race and said we should probably try sprinting this horse. And we’ve been sprinting ever since,” Ribaud said. “You depend on those riders to give you good information.”

Javier Castellano rode Neuro Saturday, working his way through traffic on the way to a 2 1/4-length victory over Tommy The Torch.

“It’s not easy to ride these horses going 5 1/2; it’s easy to get into trouble,” Ribaud said. “He had a

Continued On Page 33

BIG DAYS BIG WINS

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

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Saturday —

■ Continued from page 32

great trip and that's all that you can ask for."

— Timothy Littau

• When D. Wayne Lukas wins, the kids do, too. After winning the seventh, a 6-furlong maiden special weight for 2-year-olds, Lukas continued his tradition of bringing children to the winner's circle. He didn't know they were the sons of jockeys Javier Castellano and Kendrick Carmouche and they didn't know he was D. Wayne Lukas.

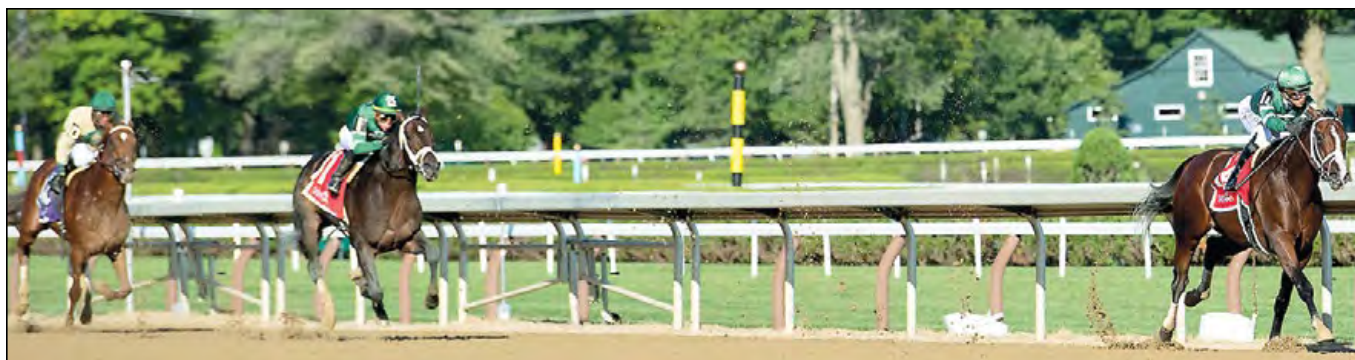
"I was looking around and they didn't have any parents with them, so that was kind of odd, but I brought them along anyhow," Lukas said.

Confusion aside, Lukas also got Bourbon Bash to the winner's circle for the first time in his second start. The City Of Light colt finished second in his debut July 24 and won Saturday by 8 lengths.

"When I ran him here the other day he was a little short," Lukas said. "The other thing I'm finding is that these horses that came from Kentucky and around different areas are going to run better second time over this racetrack.

"Bourbon Bash has never trained over this track, only over at the Oklahoma, but I think all of them are going to improve on their second try. I'm anxious to run Naughty Gal back and see how she handles things again."

Naughty Gal won the Grade 3 Adirondack Stakes Aug. 7 and may run in the Sept. 4 Spinaway, while Bourbon Bash will likely run in the Sept. 5 Hopeful Stakes.



Tod Marks

Expressman runs away with Saturday's ninth race for Todd Pletcher.

"We'll look at the Hopeful," Lukas said. "You know me, when they're good I like to run them back. That was not a hard race on this horse. If he bounces back like he should, we've got 22 days, that should be good."

The owners will let Lukas decide what spot is best for Bourbon Bash.

"It's in his hands," said John Bellinger of BC Stables. "The first concern was would he slow down, because in his last race he slowed down and didn't have the energy. But since his last race (Lukas) has worked him really hard and built up his stamina and he clearly showed the results of what Wayne's been doing."

Lukas was impressed, too, especially at the final time of 1:11.77.

"That'll work," he said. "Boy, he cruised home, that's significant right there. I've been telling John he's been improving. He's a very immature-looking horse if you look at him closely. But he's starting to get his act together. He happened to have one

out, the rest of the field didn't have any. He got away beautifully and Flavien (Prat) put him at a high cruising speed and away he went.

"He's very professional. I told Flavien 'you can do anything you want with him, just don't do anything too crazy. He's going to take you where you want to go so just ride your race.'"

Lukas and Bellinger have a lot to look forward to in the coming years after purchasing a \$1.35 million Medaglia d'Oro colt, \$425,000 Into Mischief colt and \$425,000 Munnings filly at last week's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale of selected yearlings last week.

"I've been friends with Wayne for eight years, and this year we pulled the trigger and picked up five horses with Wayne," Bellinger said. "We've got three yearlings that we bought Monday and Tuesday night. We bought one of the best colts in the whole sale on Tuesday night, it's just so special. We're in it for the long run."

— Timothy Littau

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Big Invasion coasts to victory in Sunday's Mahony Stakes.

Double Tough

Big Invasion takes over Mahony

BY TIMOTHY LITTAU

SUNDAY RACING RECAP

Big Invasion has taken over the turf at Saratoga Race Course, winning his second straight stakes on the surface in Sunday's \$150,000 Mahony for 3-year-olds. Under Joel Rosario, the Declaration Of War colt also won the Grade 3 Quick Call Stakes July 17, both races at the 5 1/2-furlong trip.

Trainer Christophe Clement called Sunday's effort "his best race."

"He's a very good horse, he keeps winning, so there's no doubt about it, but today I thought he behaved better than he's ever done," Clement said. "He looked better than he's ever done and you know, he came from out of it. He broke well, he took him back, he behaved well and he finished very well, so I'm thrilled. I'm very happy."

Big Invasion settled in fifth early, 7 lengths off the lead of That's Right for much of the race before making a four-wide rally at the top of the stretch. He took the lead at the sixteenth pole and drew off to a 3-length win in 1:01.42 over the firm course.

"The horse relaxed and it looked like they ran away from him a little bit," Rosario said. "It was very good and he really came with a run like he always does. He's getting there mentally.

"He was a little more relaxed and let them get away from him a little bit and he was just kind of off the bridle nice and came with a run. He relaxed a little and sometimes he can jump in the bridle, but he was all good today and it worked out perfectly. I had a lot of confidence in him turning for home. I know when I asked to go he was going to go."

Clement also thinks highly of the colt owned by Dean and Patti Reeves' Reeves Thoroughbred Racing, and has lofty ideas for what may be in store for the rest of the year.

"I've always thought he was the best 3-year-old in the country on the grass sprinting," Clement said. "We just don't have a program with Grade 1, Grade 2; that's the way the program is made. I don't know, I'd have to talk to Mr. Reeves. I need to give him some time at some stage and maybe we can think about a race like the Breeders Cup (Turf Sprint) even if it's very ambitious. Why not?"

Big Invasion improved to 6-for-7 with \$444,045 in earnings. He's won

Continued On Page 35

Sunday —

■ Continued from page 34

six straight, and continues to improve.

“He was very immature and difficult to ride, actually,” Clement said. “And as the year goes on he’s gotten better and better, which is great.”

Cadamosto, who has been training here with Irish conditioner Joseph O’Brien’s small string, finished second in his U.S. debut. He raced just behind pacesetter That’s Right, who led the field through fast splits of :21.76 and :44.14, before fading to sixth. Determined Kingdom, second longest price on the board at 26-1, closed to finish third for trainer Phil Schoenthal.

- Charlton Baker lost 6-year-old mare **Prairie Fire** in a winning effort for a \$20,000 tag at Belmont Park June 4. The owner/trainer that day, Baker reached back in to claim the daughter of Posse for \$25,000 for owner Michael Dubb in her next start June 19. She finished sixth day. Dropped to a \$16,000 tag Sunday, **Prairie Fire** repaid the confidence with a win in the third race.

“We had her before and she was a hard-knocking filly,” Baker said. “She would always give her all for whoever would ride her. I knew her, everything about her, so I figured I would be OK with her. And when I lost her we won with her, so I figured we could get her back and try and get another win with her.”

Manny Franco was aboard the New York-bred for the win. They stalked from fourth before fending off a late surge from Shadolamo to win by a head.

“Manny rode a great race,” Baker said. “He did all he had to do, he’s a strong rider and finisher.”

Baker believes putting **Prairie Fire** in the right spot is key to getting the best showing from her.

“She has been better in her past but I think at six or seven furlongs she is (best),” Baker said. “So we dropped her from where we got her and it made it a little easier, although the race came up a little tougher than we expected it to. But we tried to make it a little easier for her.”

Prairie Fire was tagged once more, Mertkan Kantarmaci did the signing for Krakow Racing.

- **Out Of Sight** flew down the stretch after launching her run from sixth with Irad Ortiz Jr. and she got up to win by a half-length in Sunday’s seventh, a 1 1/16 miles allowance on the inner turf for New York-bred fillies and mares.

“He gave her a great ride,” winning trainer David Donk said. “I’ve been around those guys since they were bug boys, tried to help them out, get started. Once they made it, it’s hard for me to get them anymore. I’m a big fan of them both, they helped me out when they were kids. I’m really happy to be around them and watch their success and they’re future Hall of Famers.”

The daughter of **Not This Time** went off at 5-1 and completed the 1 1/16 miles in 1:42.26. She improved her career record to 3-3-2 from 13 starts. The 4-year-old filly won twice at Belmont this spring and finished fourth earlier in the meet.

“She had a tough trip last time,” Donk said. “And she got a good trip, Irad gave her a great ride and she kicked on better than I thought she could.”

Donk said that if conditions allow she may run in another allowance or step up to state-bred stakes competition.

“She’s nominated to the Yaddo in a couple weeks,” Donk said. “I’m not sure. I don’t think that division is overly strong, so anything’s possible.”

- Jeremiah Englehart won Sunday’s finale, a starter allowance going a mile on the inner turf, with **Brazilionaire**.

Owned by Englehart’s brother, Jesse and ridden by Javier Castellano, the son of **Candy Ride** improved his win streak to three. The Engleharts claimed the 5-year-old gelding from Tom Morley in his last start July 23.

“I just liked how Tom kept him in good form. I just tried to stay out of his way and see what he would do. Obviously he won those two races really nice for Tom and I just thought I’d give him a shot here,” Englehart said. “I thought the race came up a little salty but Javier did such an amazing job getting him to settle behind the eight. And that was the key to the race, was getting him to be able to relax behind a horse to keep that last eighth of a mile kick and that was the difference.”

Castellano kept **Brazilionaire** in third before going on to win by 1 1/4 lengths in 1:35.71. **Brazilionaire** began his win streak with one-turn wins at Belmont and Saratoga.

“I didn’t have any confidence, this was more or less a stab in the dark trying to keep a good horse right,” Englehart said. “My brother liked the horse and decided we’d give it a shot with this race in mind and it worked out OK.”

Winning for his brother made the win extra special for Englehart, and reminded him about the beginning of his 19-year career.

“He and I first started with horses together and as you get bigger in this game you forget about the moments that led you up to here and he’s the reason why I’m here,” Englehart. “He and my dad. It’s really special winning for him here.”



OSCAR PERFORMANCE

of the meet

- 1. Life Is Good.** Blasted out of the gate in Whitney and kept right on blasting.
- 2. Jackie’s Warrior.** Three Gr. 1 Saratoga wins in three years? He’s like a mini-Fourstardave.
- 3. Nest.** Take that 3-year-old filly division. Next stop Alabama. Or Travers?
- 4. Casa Creed.** Went a mile in Fourstardave the way he did 6 furlongs in Jaipur.
- 5. In Italian.** Her Diana score was something. Grade 1 win, course record. Bellissimo.
- 6. Epicenter.** Second in Derby, second in Preakness, first in Jim Dandy. Travers next.
- 7. Clairiere.** Gutsy 4-year-old filly knocked off rival (and fellow Curlin daughter) Malathaat.
- 8. Kimari.** Ripper of a Grade 2 sprint win in the Honorable Miss.
- 9. Just Cindy.** Kentucky arrival delivered a masterpiece in Schuylerville.
- 10. Mo Strike.** Cox trainee served notice with Sanford score.

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Strength to Strength

More records fall at NY-bred sale

BY TOM LAW
AND TIMOTHY LITTAU

FASIG-TIPTON SALES

The momentum from last week's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale of selected yearlings carried through to this week's record-breaking New York-bred yearling sale.

Fasig-Tipton reported sales on 188 of the 233 yearlings offered over the two sessions for a record total of \$20,175,000, an increase of 8.7 percent from last year's total and previous record of \$18,566,500 for 203 sold.

Average price for the sale - \$107,314 - was second best in history and an increase of 17.3 percent from last year's \$91,461. The record average for the New York-bred sale was set in 2018, \$107,512. Median was also second best in history and up 5.7 percent to \$74,000. The sale's buyback rate also dropped from 21.3 percent to 19.3 percent.

The positive results followed sim-

ilar blockbuster gains at last week's Saratoga sale of selected yearlings.

"We just had a wonderful week starting last Monday evening and the last 166 hours have been really heartening, encouraging, satisfying and just reflective of the quality horses that people have given us the opportunity to sell," said Fasig-Tipton President and Chief Executive Officer Boyd Browning Jr. "It's reflective of the interest and enthusiasm, particularly in the racing product and particularly in New York.

"It begins and ends with our inspection process. The grounds for both sales were stocked with really high quality, physical individuals. They've done a fabulous job identifying the horses that fit into the sales and it's done hand in hand with the consignors and owners of the horses."

Monday's session proved partic-



Fasig-Tipton

Hip 573 topped the New York-bred yearling sale at \$700,000.

ularly strong, with 124 of the 149 yearlings through the ring sold for \$13,2745,000, an average price of \$107,056 and median of \$72,500.

"A lot of people got outbid last night, so they came back today, with, if not fire in their belly, then with money in their pocket and it certainly helped create a demand," Browning said.

The sale's most expensive horse sold during Monday's session when Tom McCrocklin, agent for Champion Equine, outlasted fellow bloodstock agent Jacob West to buy Hip 573 for \$700,000.

A full-brother to flashy Del Mar maiden winner Cave Rock, the colt by Arrogate is out of the graded stakes-winning Bellamy Road mare Georgie's Angel. The significant catalog update came Saturday when Cave Rock, won a maiden special weight Saturday at Del Mar by 6 lengths.

"I was kind of hoping (Cave Rock) wouldn't run as well as he did because it made him a little more expensive, obviously," McCrocklin said.

McCrocklin said the sale-topper would go to Ocala, where a decision will be made whether he'll be pointed to a 2-year-old in training sale or kept to race.

"Obviously, a lot depends on the brother," McCrocklin said. "That's a big update, his full brother, very impressive first time out, runs a 101 Bey-

er. But we didn't buy the brother, we bought this horse so we have to make this work.

"I thought he would bring (\$600,000 to \$700,000). We were in the ballpark. It's been a very strong market. July, the select sale, this sale."

Hip 573 was consigned by Eaton Sales, agent for Longford Farm. He's the sixth foal out of 2011 Schuylerville Stakes winner Georgie's Angel, who is also the dam of winners Take Charge Angel, Frosted Angel and Rue d l'Ange.

"We thought 300 to 400 coming in but that was before a pretty significant update," Eaton Sales' Reiley McDonald said. "When his full brother won the other day, we knew that just added to his luster. I didn't know if it would add three to four hundred to his value, but I knew it would add a lot.

"Then the horse has shown here like a superstar. Normally they start off fresh and get tired. This horse started off ok and got better every day. That really helped him because he was doing final shows here today and was moving beautifully and nicely."

Longford Farm purchased Georgie's Angel, carrying the New York-bred sale topper in utero, for \$75,000 at the 2020 Keeneland November

Continued On Page 37



Fasig-Tipton

Hip 378 topped the first night at \$600,000

Sale —

■ Continued from page 36

breeding stock sale.

The sale's second most expensive yearling sold Sunday night when a half-brother to 2014 champion New York-bred 2-year-old filly, multiple stakes winner and Grade 1-placed Wonder Gal sold for \$600,000.

Al Gold, owner of recent Grade 1 Haskell Stakes winner and Travers contender Cyberknife, landed the Hard Spun colt, sold as Hip 378 and consigned by Perrone Stables Ltd., agent. Bloodstock agent Joe Hardoon handled the bidding for Gold. The colt is out of the unraced Dixie Union mare Passe.

"He's a big, beautiful chestnut colt," Hardoon said. "A lot of size, a lot of leg to him. For how big he is, he's very light on his feet, a beautiful mover. Really everything you look for in a colt. It really looks like he'll be a good two-turn horse, and he's a New York-bred on top of it."

Consignor Jim Perrone called the sale "absolutely fantastic."

"The folks are just small breeders," Perrone said. "They raised her, these people are tremendous horsemen, but we didn't imagine it would bring that kind of money. It felt like 300, 360 would be a good price for the horse. This market is just unbelievable. We just love it."

Cyberknife's success, which also included a victory in this year's Grade 1 Arkansas Derby and a run in the Kentucky Derby, also played a role in Gold's interest in the session-topping colt.

"When you have a horse like Cyberknife, you always got to try to look for the next one," Hardoon said. "Al's put so much into this game and he's waited so long for a horse like Cyberknife. We'd like to try to find the next one. And not make him wait as long until he can get the next one so we'll try to find them sooner rather than later."

Less than three hours after winning Sunday's featured \$150,000 Mahony Stakes and a day removed from Senbei being crowned champion New York-bred 2-year-old male for 2021, Dean and Patti Reeves' Reeves Thoroughbred Racing went to \$370,000 to land the sale's top-priced filly. Offered as Hip 341 and consigned by Vinery



Fasig-Tipton

Buyer Tom McCrocklin.

Sales, agent, the Good Magic filly is out of the graded stakes-winning Unusual Heat mare Majestic Heat.

"I loved her when I saw her, I thought she just looked fabulous," said Patti Reeves. "They had her whittled down to the shortlist. When I came and saw them I said, 'if you're going to get one, get that one.'"

Bred by Rockridge Stud in Hudson, the filly is the third foal out of the Grade 2 Bayakoa Stakes winner who earned \$578,329 racing in Southern California. Rockridge purchased the mare, carrying Hip 341 in utero, for \$130,000 at the 2020 Keeneland November breeding stock sale. Majestic Heat is the dam of two foals of racing age and Hip 341's 2-year-old full sister, the \$52,000 Keeneland September yearling Magic Glass, who her debut July 30 at Canterbury Park.

"We really are enjoying the New York program," Dean Reeves said. "We've been successful in it, we're having a good time with it. The New York program, the incentives are being able to get a lot of money back out of the horse quickly up here in New York. It's a big deal for us. It turned the money back over for us."

Dean Reeves said they would probably take on some partners on the session-topping filly.

"We've got some people we like to partner with so they'll come in for different percentages, but we'll be a majority partner," he said. "The New York-breds are really a memorable part of our stable. We really look at them whether it's here, Keeneland or the 2-year-old sale. If they happen to be New York-bred, that's an added incentive for us."

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Life slowly, numbly goes on.

It's been 10 days since the fire, since the old bank barn went up in smoke and our lives went with it. There have been jolting moments of reality, stabs of despair, glimmers of goodness, a time or two to celebrate and an onslaught of logistics, preparation and paperwork, details and decisions.

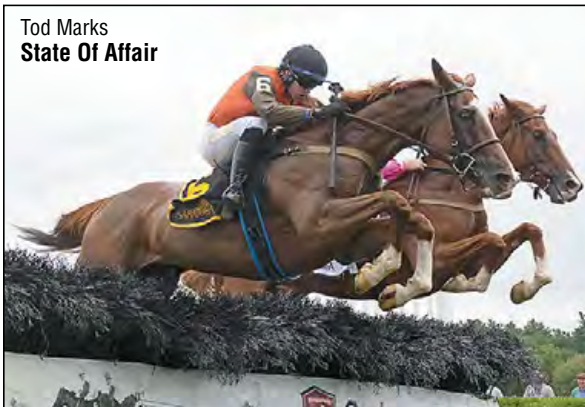
The garage door of the 12' by 12' pod in the backyard, our new feed room, jolts the farm to life each morning. Industrial, like opening up a warehouse, it's nothing like the serenity of a barn door. Eli has settled into the Taj Mahal of goat sheds, as my sister Sheila says, "You're going to need a bigger goat." He's comfortable, albeit confused. Border, Blue, Eagle Poise and Kiss bound toward me each morning, still edgy but learning the new system in the front field. I feed them on the fence and tell them it's OK while wondering if it is.

Duchess is living under the tractor shed, she comes out for Annie, won't come out for me. She steps through two bicycles, around a bucket of nails, over a toolbox and eats two meals a day, we don't see her the rest of the day. Seeing her the first time provided a rare moment to rejoice, the salvation of knowing that no animal, no person died.

The house painters leave for the day, no one has checked their work, they're grateful for that. The architect and the contractors tinker and tweak the final moves of the house renovation. I used to think living through a house renovation was stress. Miles hits a plastic ball with a plastic bat in the backyard; whack, walk, whack, walk, whack, walk, the story of an only child.

The barn smolders. The flames shot 10 feet into the night air Sunday. I called the fire company again, they quietly, collectively, resolutely doused it again. The sheriff, or at least an officer in a sheriff cruiser, checked it out. "Sorry for your loss," she said, while rain began pelting off her shoulders. The sweet, soothing rain. She couldn't have been more kind.

Tod Marks
State Of Affair



I was low that night, after our friends had gone home, after the fire trucks had gone home and I was left alone with the black-charred frame, beams and boards falling in acts of surrender, one by painful one.

I drift between numbness, pain, guilt, depression, exasperation, fragility, frustration, chore achievement and the fact that I should be feeling grateful. No. One. Died. Sean. I've never felt so many emotions in a shorter amount of time. Maybe I have, but that's the thing about emotions, they're raw when they're raw and I can't seem to ever find the lessons of ones before to soften the ones of now.

The great escape that Saratoga has provided for so many summers hasn't happened this season. A late start, a weekend cold, a few blissful days with Miles, a trip home, then a bit of rhythm into sales week. Then poof. I had to look up the dates to realize it's been 10 days. Seems impossible. Our lives have stood still.

I watched a few races Saturday, tried to feel the vibe, tried to care. Michelle Lovell sounds like a good story. I wish I met her the morning before, walked with her, heard her story, spun her tale.

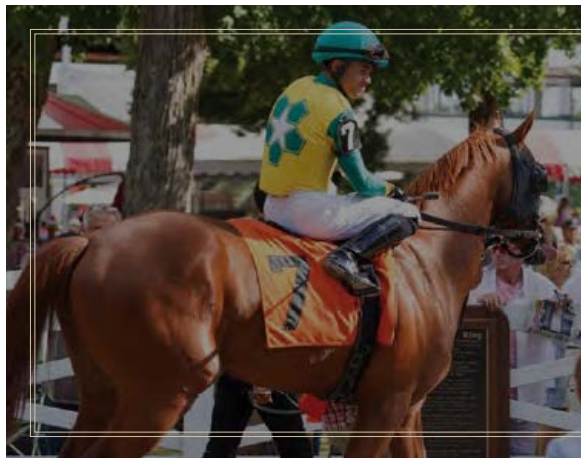
Valllelujah, well, that's as good as it gets. A group of people who met on East Avenue when Covid had

locked them out, watching morning training from behind a chain-link fence. A few photos of their group still hang on the fence, faded, water stained. They bought a horse, she won at Saratoga. At least something good came from Covid. The Davis family, hard-working, hard-trying, lifers. I wish I was there to hear Robbie Davis, the patriarch, his voice rising in a twisted twang of Idaho, New York and complete elation, his daughter riding a winner for him at Saratoga. My man, Rob Griffo, in the winner's circle. A relatively new friend, an old soul, he works the veteran crisis hotline, now that's a man who needed a moment.

Julie Gomena told me State Of Affair won the allowance hurdle last week. I sat under a tree, stifling tears while our old friend Lynell Feyler dropped off a dish of scalloped potatoes, because "that's what we do." We were waiting to ship three horses to their new digs at Kinross Farm, another temporary home for the homeless, when Julie walked out of her house and said that State Of Affair had won. There was a moment of distraction, a blip of respite.

I thought back to when we "bought" him at Tattersalls Horses in Training Sale in 2019. We went to £55,000 and the hammer dropped at £60,000. Matt Coleman, Blair and Todd Wyatt, Gill Johnston and I were crestfallen, the last horse we loved and the last order to fill. The next morning, Matt's phone rang and there was a snafu with the horse's handicapped mark, a pound too low for the Saudi Arabia assignment he was purchased for the night before. Do we want him? At 55, sure. We bought him for 55. The next day we went to see him, and he had a red plastic tag clipped to his halter – "SAUDI" it read. I patted him on the neck and said, "Buddy, you got lucky." He's paid everyone back, winning two races, including one at Saratoga. One that ever so slightly softened a hard time.

Hopefully I'll be back in Saratoga next week. Thanks for the thoughts.



AND THE WINNER COULD BE YOU!

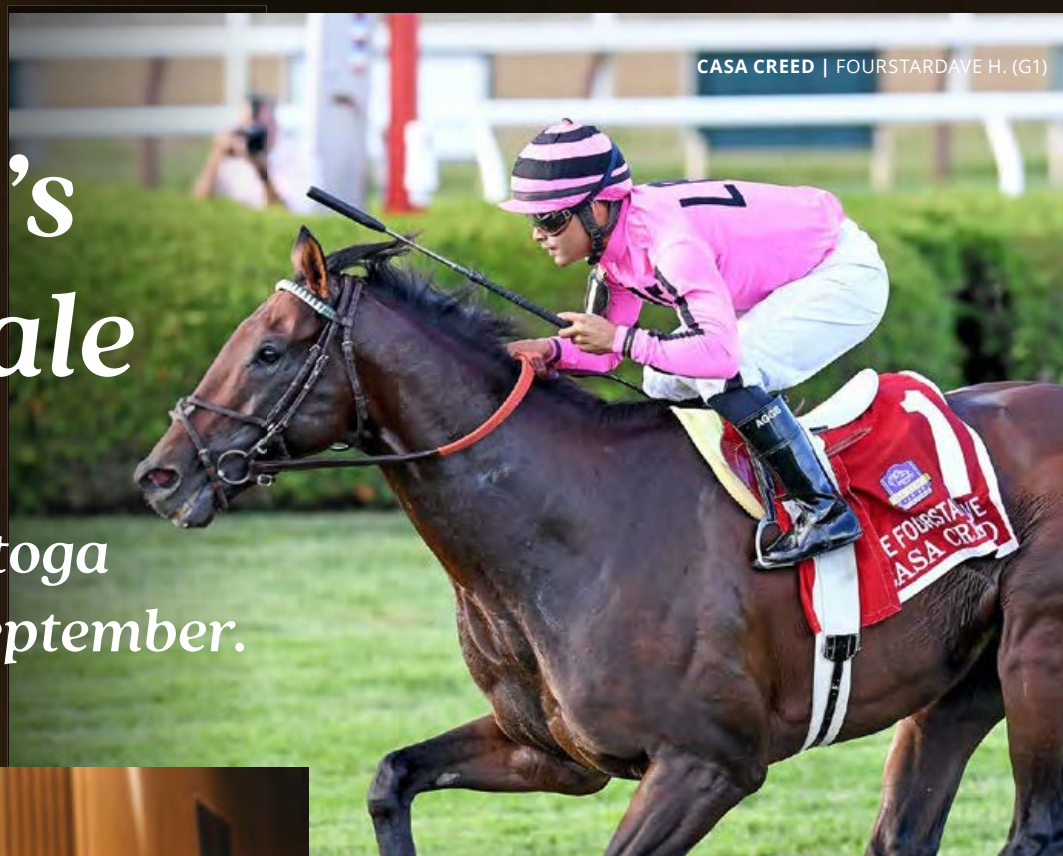
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