

Year 22 • No. 16

Saturday, August 20, 2022

*The* **Saratoga**

# Special

Saratoga's Racing Newspaper since 2001

## Bama Bird

**Nest seeks second Gr. 1 of meet**



**Danny Gargan Stable Tour  
Snap Decision rules jumps**

**Robin Sparkles eyes repeat  
'Moonlight' tests Lake Placid**



# WOW

## OUTSTANDING FIRST FOALS

c. o/o Chastise



c. o/o Heels



c. o/o Lope



c. o/o Sky Garden (GB)



LOOK FOR **WEANLINGS** AT THE SALES THIS FALL

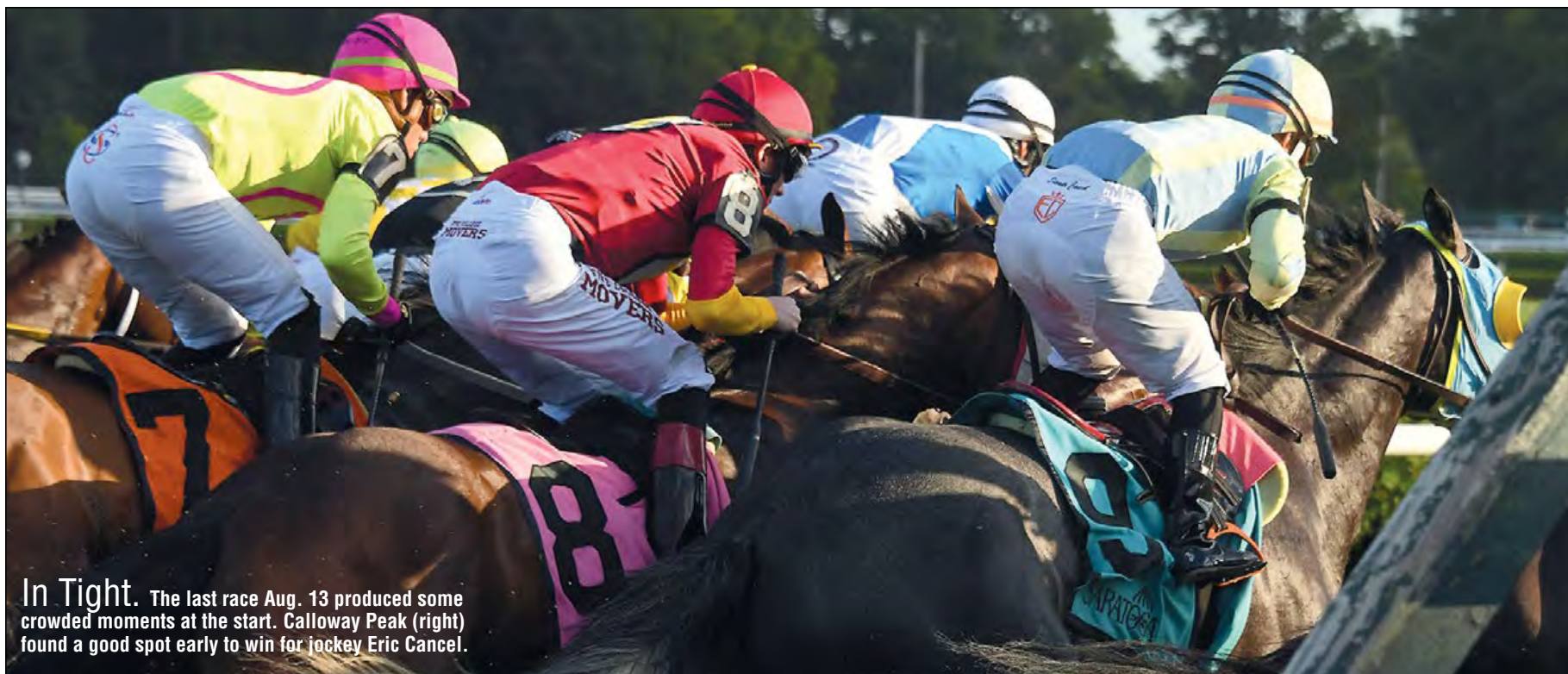
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**In Tight.** The last race Aug. 13 produced some crowded moments at the start. Calloway Peak (right) found a good spot early to win for jockey Eric Cancel.

Susie Raisher

## Here&There...in Saratoga

### Pedigree Lesson

Who knows what any of it means, but how about Hard Spun? The stallion, who won the King's Bishop here in 2007, is versatile enough to sire Grade 1 steeplechase winner Snap Decision (a winner at 3 miles in May), 2021 Breeders' Cup Sprint winner Aloha West and 2021 Met Mile winner Silver State.

### Pedigree Lesson 2

Snap Decision gets quality from his sire (see above), but the female family counts for something – maybe more. Dam Salute won for the Phipps Stable and has produced Grade 1 winner Mr Speaker, Grade 3 winners Vigilantes Way and Fire Away and winner State Flag. Salute, 20, had a Sky Mesa colt at Claiborne Farm this year. She was bred to Blame, but didn't get in foal. Salute's dam Personal Ensign is a Hall of Famer, and the dam of Breeders' Cup winner My Flag, Grade 1 winners Miner's Mark and Traditionally, and Grade 1-placed Our Emblem among others.

### Rant of the Day

Unless named for swells in smart suits and fancy hats, today's co-feature is the Smart And Fancy Stakes, not the Smart N Fancy as listed seemingly everywhere but The Special. Smart And Fancy won 14 of 28 starts, earned \$826,433 and otherwise blazed a path of awesomeness in turf sprints from her native Maryland for trainer Tony Dutrow and Win and Place Stable.

### By The Numbers

**48:** Years since a horse had a chance to win a jump race at all three NYRA tracks. Snap Decision could run next at Aqueduct Sept. 15. He won at Belmont Park in 2020, Saratoga in 2019, 2020 and 2022. The Mean Queen could also turn the feat as she won at Saratoga and Belmont last year. Champion Top Bid, perhaps the last to do it, won twice each at Aqueduct and Belmont in 1968 and at Saratoga in 1969. A Phipps-bred like Snap Decision, Top Bid also finished third in the 1966 Hopeful and the Saratoga Special as a 2-year-old.

### Names of the Day

**Conversing, fifth race.** Sarah Sharp Farish's homebred 2-year-old colt is out of Texting.

**Philharmonic, fifth race.** Mossarosa's 2-year-old colt is by Mendelssohn out of Practice.

**Caravel, ninth race.** The 5-year-old mare is by Mizzen Mast. A caravel is a small sailing ship used in the 15th century by the Portuguese. Two of Christopher Columbus' three ships from the 1492 voyage, the Nina and the Pinta, were caravels.

**Nostalgic, 10th race.** Godolphin's homebred 3-year-old filly is out of Been Here Before.



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# Here&There...in Saratoga

## By The Numbers

**1:** Win in the New York Turf Writers Cup/Jonathan Sheppard steeplechase stakes for trainer Jack Fisher after Snap Decision's victory Wednesday. He's won the A.P. Smithwick four times, finished second in the Turf Writers/Sheppard four times and trained Footlights, who won the 2007 Turf Writers for trainer Roger Horgan.

**2:** Years in a row Saratoga's Grade 3 Caress Stakes gave the winning trainer a first graded stakes victory. Caravel landed the 2021 version for Lizzie Merryman while Robin Sparkles took the 2022 race for Bruce Brown. Both horses run in today's Smart And Fancy.

## Worth Repeating

"If I put him in a jumble in Jack Fisher's yard and said 'OK, pick out the good horse,' you'd go to him straight away. It's the presence he has."

**Jockey Graham Watters, about steeplechase star Snap Decision**

"It's sheer admiration for the horse, just to be a part of it. I'm 30, I've been riding nearly 15 years. I'll never come across him again. I'm just trying to soak him up, just soak him in all the time. I want to appreciate him. I'll never forget him."

**Watters, on being part of Snap Decision's success**

"Three-course steak dinner . . . and I also borrowed all of Dylan Davis' lead."

**Watters, on tacking 164 pounds on Snap Decision**

"I don't like to be around people my age. Here's the deal, if you're at dinner with another couple your age, or even close to your age, within two minutes, they'll start talking about their health, 'Yeah, I've had my knee operated on...my doctor says I've got to do this...' The whole conversation will all of a sudden turn to everybody's health. If you go to dinner with three or four 30-year-olds, they'll never mention their health, it won't even be a subject, you can't even bring it up and get them to mention it. The young people keep me young. I like to hang out with the young ones."

**Trainer D. Wayne Lukas on the secrets of aging gracefully**

"There's barely a hill in the whole state."

**Consignor Bill Reightler about a client prepping sales yearlings by "walking hills" in Delaware**

"If you know someone, you've got a place to stay."

**Rick Hammerle about the art of sleeping on couches in Saratoga**

"We've got to get that guy a rearview mirror."

**NYRA TV host, and former jockey, Richard Migliore as Graham Watters looked over both shoulders for competition aboard Snap Decision Wednesday**



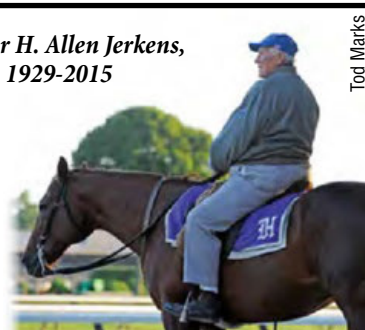
Tod Marks

**Bad Donna.** Two-year-old first-timer Oh Donna and Irad Ortiz Jr. warm up – in their own way – before Wednesday's seventh race.

## The Chief

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

"One day we run a horse, late in the fall, he was a bad maiden, didn't run any good, Jimmy Harris knew I lived out in Huntingdon and he lived in Connecticut. He said, 'Boss man, why you waiting around here?' I said, 'Don't you want me to take you home?' He said, 'I might want to go up on the avenue.' He stayed with me until he retired, then he'd come visit us. I had some of those old guys, they were the absolute tops. Some of those horses would eat you up, they would tie a rag around their nose. I didn't want to rub them."



Tod Marks



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## Quote of the Day

"When we were making money, they all got a car, too. There was a time when every one of them had a Jeep Wagoneer. We got away from that, my accountant said you're slowly going broke. I said I don't mind if I do it slowly."

**D. Wayne Lukas on the perks of being an assistant trainer**



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# SHIP-HOORAY!



Churchill MSW winner **Fun And Feisty** and easy Stakes winner **Back To Ohio** are more top two-year-old recruits by **Midshipman** – also including **Top Recruit**, winner of the \$125k Ellis Park Juvenile Stakes running a top-10 juvenile Beyer of the year.

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## Darley



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## with Danny Gargan

The furniture outside of Danny Gargan's barn near the Morning Line Kitchen on the main track is unlike any other. Some barns have picnic tables and other patio tables and chairs, but Gargan's courtyard features Adirondack chairs with his biggest owners' silks painted on them.

"We started that three years ago," Gargan said. "Patti Reeves organizes it. It was about three years ago we started buying them and I think everybody loves them. I'll look around and there'll be an owner sitting down having a cup of coffee in their chair and reading the form or handicapping and I won't even know they're here."

"They're beautiful, it's great. It's all my bigger owners, this is my first owner ever, Jonathan Thorne. Spedale, Randy Hill, Dean (Reeves), Armmore, Jason Provezano, West Paces and Flying Partners is the newest chair. I guess we'll have to make this pad a little bigger as we've grown and we add one chair every year."

The chairs come in more varieties than the ages of his horses – the top horses in his barn are juveniles.

"We've got a bunch of 2-year-olds and only about seven older horses here," Gargan said. "We've got a lot of horses that haven't run yet. A couple of these colts just getting started will be good, but the fall is when they'll start winning."

"This dirt course is really demanding. To run here on the dirt, all of the 2-year-olds are needing a race on it because it's really heavy. There are a couple of dirt colts I'm going to run but I'm not going to push them hard enough to win first time out. They'll be more second-time-out horses. When horses have a race it's a big advantage. We'll get a couple of them to start here. I'd love to see if they run third or fourth and then wheel it off of that race. So, it's going to be fun getting a couple of them running."

While Gargan looks forward to those 2-year-old debuts or second starts, he knows success will take time and isn't rushing the process.

"This is the first year we have this many (2-year-olds), we used to be a stable that only had six or seven. This year we have 16 of them here," he said. "It's a lot more. You have to be patient and take your time. The key is getting them to the races and



Connie Bush

### Pull up a chair at Danny Gargan's barn and take a tour.

keeping them racing. If a horse needs a race, it's OK. Owners will figure that out in the future if it's better for them in the long run. There's only ever been one horse to break its maiden on Saratoga's dirt and win the Derby, a lot of people don't know that. Winning Colors is the only horse. Just to get started up here is good, you don't need to be running. With time there's going to be a lot of good horses that come out of here."

Gargan walked the shedrow, and around the Adirondack chairs, with The Special's Timothy Littau Tuesday morning.

**Ice Princess:** Owned by Flying P Stable, R.A. Hill Stable, Gargan and Flying Partners, the 5-year-old mare finished second in a 1 3/8 miles allowance here July 31. She won the Maddie May Stakes in 2020 and has hit the board in five stakes since. "She'll probably run in the Yaddo."

**Stunning Princess:** Owned by R.A. Hill Stable and Brereton Jones, the 4-year-old daughter of Cairo Prince finished eighth

in the Fasig-Tipton De La Rose Stakes Aug. 7. She registered a second in the Tropical Park Oaks, a third in the Grade 3 Endeavor and a third in the Sand Springs before a light freshening before her Saratoga effort. "She didn't run that well the other day, but her and Secret Time both may run in the two other-than coming up."

**Secret Time:** German-bred daughter of Camacho finished fifth in an allowance optional claiming here Aug. 4 going 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf. Owned by Spedale Family Racing, Jonathan Thorne and R.A. Hill Stable, the 5-year-old mare won once in France before coming here in 2020. She won a 7-furlong turf allowance at Belmont in June.

**Missy Greer:** Purchased for \$200,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearling Sale and now owned by West Paces Racing, Flying P Stable, Peter Callahan and Flying Partners, the daughter of Nyquist, began her career on the dirt. After finishing 13th in the Black-Eyed Susan, she made the transition to turf in her last start, a July 30 allowance, in which she finished

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# Stable Tour —

Continued from page 6

third. “She is going to run in the 3-year-old filly stake on the 25th, the Riskaverse.”

**La Maquina:** Purchased for \$160,000 at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-old in training sale last spring, the 3-year-old improved with every start this winter, finishing fourth, second and winning a maiden at Gulfstream in February for Spedale Family Racing, Flying P Stable and R.A. Hill Stable. Off since that win, the gray colt has breezed five times over the Saratoga turf. “He might run here, he won his maiden race down at Gulfstream last time. He’s had some time off, he’s a nice Quality Road colt.”

**Riot House:** The Arnmore Thoroughbreds homebred gelding is 2-for-2 in 2022, breaking his maiden in March and winning an allowance at Gulfstream Park in April. He’s been off since but has posted four breezes over the Oklahoma turf. “He’s a 3-year-old that’s won two in a row, he’s running in a stake here on the 28th, a mile race.” The Better Talk Now Stakes.

**Snow’s Island:** Fellow Arnmore Thoroughbreds 4-year-old homebred gelding broke his maiden here July 14. Making his fifth career start, the son of Animal Kingdom rallied from seventh to score by a half-length and pay a cool \$19.40. He’s breezed twice on the Oklahoma turf since. “There’s an allowance race coming up.”

**Tax:** Owned by R.A. Hill Stable and Gargan, the son of Arch was claimed out of a maiden claimer in October, 2018. He won the With-



Tod Marks

Tax eyes a start in the Jockey Club Gold Cup.



Tod Marks

Danny Gargan.

ers and Jim Dandy in 2019 and the Harlan’s Holiday in 2020. He made one start in 2021, a 10th in the Pegasus and one this year, taking the Battery Park Stake at Delaware Park in June. He’s aiming at the Jockey Club Gold Cup Sept. 3. Gargan after winning the 2019 Jim Dandy: “What a horse. I knew he was good, right now he’s the best he’s ever been. I’ve been a nervous wreck all week. To win the Jim Dandy, growing up here at Saratoga, I’ve been here my whole life, it’s pretty special. It hasn’t hit yet. You’re so excited you haven’t realized what you’ve accomplished, it’ll come in a day or two.” And then he went look for his phone, lost in the melee of winning a Grade 2 at Saratoga.

**Dakota Gold:** The Fasig-Tipton New York Saratoga Fall Mixed graduate of 2019 took Gargan to the Breeders’ Cup last year in the Juvenile Turf where he finished fifth. The 3-year-old New York-bred colt owned by Reeves Thoroughbred Racing is a budding star in the barn that is headed to Del Mar at the end of the season to take on the Grade 1 Hollywood Derby in November. He is one that Gargan compares his juveniles to after his successful season last year. After the son of Freud won his debut, he won the Nownownnow Stakes at Monmouth and got the green light to go to the Breeders’ Cup. This year, he’s won two of three, including the Cab Calloway here Aug. 17. “There’s a lot of young horses but we have some talent and this fall’s going to be a lot of fun for us. Hopefully we just wait it out, we just need a couple of them to be as good as Dakota Gold and we’ll have a couple more stake horses for next year. And that’s the goal to have horses that make the races and keep running and let them develop into nicer horses with time.” As for the Breeders’ Cup: “We have to see if any of them show up. Last year at this time I had two horses that I thought were that good, and one of them ran and ran second, James Aloysius. And he came out of it with bad shins and he didn’t make (the Breeders’ Cup). And Dakota Gold made it. If one of them breaks their maiden and they run first or second in a prep for it, the goal is to be in those races for the owners and we have two or three shots if they run well enough in

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## Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 7

their next races that we could end up with one. I definitely think that Dubyuhnell and Champions Dream are that kind of horse. We just have to hope it works out.”

**Dubyuhnell:** The 2-year-old son of Good Magic has breezed nine times on the dirt at Saratoga, including a 4 furlong drill in 48 seconds Aug. 13. “He’s one of the most talked about horses that I have. West Paces and Stonestreet own him. He’s the horse that’s been breezing with Tax, he’s a very nice colt. He’ll probably debut opening weekend at Aqueduct, or around then. We’ll work him out of the gate this week and then we’ll talk about where to run him.”

**Champions Dream:** Purchased by Rose-down Racing Stable, the gray colt is the most friendly horse in the barn, or the one with the longest neck, or maybe both, he was eager to get a pat. “This is a really nice horse here, he’s a Justify colt, his name’s Champions Dream. I’ll probably run him Sept. 3. He’s really nice, him and Dubyuhnell are my best two 2-year-olds.”

**Listentothemusic:** Reeves Thoroughbreds’ son of Macleans Music ripped a half-mile from

the gate in :47.22 Aug. 14. That move was the third fastest of 126 breezes on the main track that morning. “This is another 2-year-old that we think a lot of, he’s going to run on Sept. 1, he’s a talented colt.”

**Showemyourheels:** A two-time Fasig-Tipton graduate, the daughter of Munnings enticed a \$130,000 bid from Cherry Knoll Farm in the Kentucky February Mixed Sale in 2021 and returned to fetch \$350,000 from GMP Stables, Vekoma Racing and West Paces at the Saratoga New York-bred Sale last summer. She finished fourth in her debut here July 28. “She’s running on the last day and she’ll be tough to beat. She’s a really nice horse. She ran really well, I’m really looking forward to running her, I think she’ll be super ready.”

**Torigo:** Purchased by Gargan Racing at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Yearling Sale last July, the son of Munnings, owned by Armore Thoroughbreds and Belmar Racing and Breeding, finished fourth Aug. 13. “Torigo ran good the other day. He’s a very nice horse.”

**America’s Guest:** Owned by Flying P Stable, West Paces Racing, R.A. Hill Stable and Flying Partners, the 2-year-old son of Candy Ride made his debut on the turf here July 30. “America’s Guest ran fifth the other day, ran well home. I think he’s going to run on maybe the 27th.”

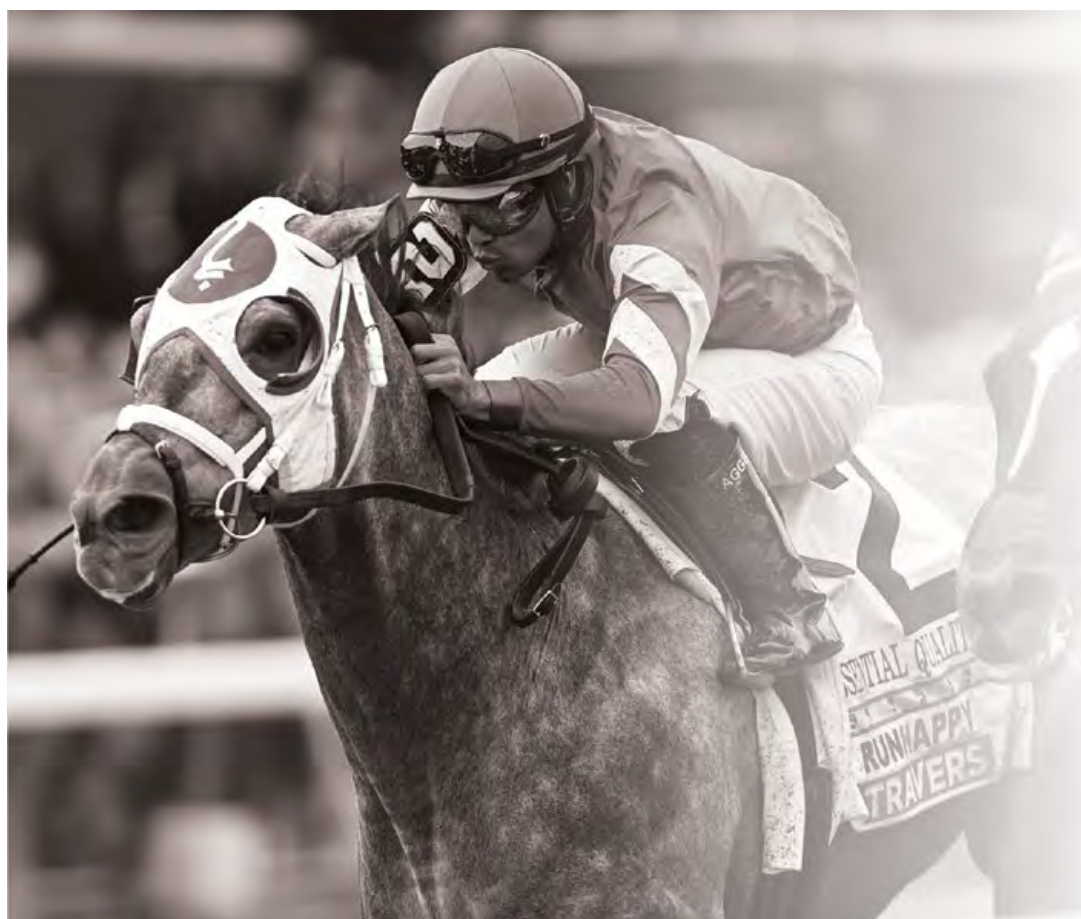
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# Grad School

Pletcher, Lukas fillies meet again in Grade 1

BY SEAN CLANCY

Todd Pletcher knew he had to make the call to D. Wayne Lukas. It was 2005, the longtime assistant had a few clients lined up and a dream to chase, Pletcher called his boss and told him he was going to hang his own black and white stall plaques.

"It was nerve-racking to have to make that call and tell him. I told him I would give him as much notice as he needed," Pletcher said. "It was not only nerve-racking to have that conversation but also

**Continued On Page 12**



Tod Marks  
CCA Oaks starters (from left) Secret Oath,  
Nostalgic and Nest meet again in today's Alabama.

to open up with seven horses at Hialeah and none of them looked like Thunder Gulch or Tabasco Cat or any of those we had been around."

Lukas had fielded those calls before (Hennig, McLaughlin, Bradshaw, Stewart...), he asked Pletcher to stay through the Breeders' Cup (Folklore won the Juvenile Fillies) and wished him well.

"I think I picked really good people," Lukas

said this summer. "Those guys who worked for me, they're wonderful young people. They're not that young anymore. They were a joy to be around. I'm not so sure they didn't take me where I went rather than me taking them where they went. It might be the other way around."

**Continued On Page 12**



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4. Army Mule	9	-
5. Into Mischief	8	1
5. Justify	8	2



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## Alabama —

### ■ Continued from page 10

Whichever way, mentor and protégé meet again in the Grade 1 Alabama, the 10th race on a three-stakes card Saturday at Saratoga Race Course. Pletcher sends out Coaching Club American Oaks winner Nest, the 1-2 favorite, while Lukas tries to avenge that defeat with CCA Oaks runner-up Secret Oath, 4-1 second choice in the \$600,000 stakes. As far as equine rivalries go, this one is even with Secret Oath stamping a 2-length defeat on Nest in the Grade 1 Kentucky Oaks and Nest stomping a 12 1/4-length defeat on Secret Oath in the CCA Oaks. As far as human rivalries go, this one is even, too.

"Todd is like family, it's fun to compete with him," Lukas said. "Every one of them that I hired, I always felt in my heart that they would go out on their own. Every one of them left with my blessing. Every one of them got the pony they were riding. I gave them the pony and the saddle."

Pletcher can't recall the pony or the saddle, but he certainly can recall the lessons and the lore.

"He was very good to me, and we left on very good terms. I appreciated the 6 1/2 years I spent with him, Jeff (Lukas) and the whole team," Pletcher said. "I've always said he's the best of all time. He's the only person that I can think of who has revolutionized

the training game. He changed the training game in the U.S. For me, it's all about respect to him and I'm happy to see him doing well and having important horses and on center stage where he belongs."

Lukas was the stage for decades. His horses earned at least \$4 million and as much as \$17 million each season from 1983 to 2005. Four Eclipse Awards. Fourteen Triple Crown wins. Twenty Breeders' Cup wins. And now battling from his worst season in 2020, the Covid year, and back at Saratoga with Saturday horses.

"2020 was brutal. It hit me really hard. Hell, I was really bad, I was that close. I said goodbye to my wife, my grandson, I didn't think I'd make another 15 minutes. That took care of that," Lukas said. "Last year, I didn't think we had the horses that were the quality that we needed. We probably would have won some races but you have to win some major ones in order to make any sense out of this. We bounced back pretty well. This year we've got some nice horses. Really nice."

Those really nice horses — impressive 2-year-old winner Bourbon Bash, Adirondack winner Naughty Gal and millionaire Secret Oath — have put Lukas squarely back in the Saratoga limelight.

"It is the place to be in the summer. You need to have horses who can run, you don't want to come up and

**Continued On Page 14**



Alabama favorite Nest stops traffic on the way to breeze last week.

Susie Raisher





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# Alabama —

## ■ Continued from page 12

be guessing,” Lukas said. “This filly has surprised me, coming through the program she’s come through, they only raise two or three horses a year, sell two and keep one and here we go.”

Bred and owned by Stacy and Robert Mitchell, Secret Oath won four of her first six starts, including three straight (two stakes) at Oaklawn Park this winter. She finished third against the boys in the Grade 1 Arkansas Derby before getting first run on Nest in the Kentucky Oaks. Fourth in the Preakness and freshened for the CCA Oaks, the daughter of Arrogate raced wide and in the clear throughout the 9-furlong stakes before fading to second behind the runaway Nest. Lukas, who trained Secret Oath’s dam Amsinthe Minded, thinks the best is still to come.

“One who is built like her, they’re not going to fill out and get that muscle tone and weight on them when they’re 3, they’re going to get that later in life,” Lukas said. “Her mother was a big, rangy thing and she finally got to looking like a racehorse when she was 4 and ran better at 4. (Bob) Baffert said she’s more like Arrogate than anything he’s seen. He said, if you watch her move, you’d swear



Tod Marks

**Trainer D. Wayne Lukas (left) keeps an eye on Secret Oath before the CCA Oaks.**

it’s him. He said she is his foal. That’s encouraging.”

Lukas doesn’t need encouragement. A born optimist, he’s used that natural penchant to scale mountains.

“I’ve always been that way. I don’t do anything else, that’s a character flaw,” Lukas said. “I’m really competitive and overly optimistic.”

He’ll need both to topple Nest in the Alabama.

Owned by Repole Stable and Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, the daughter of Curlin hasn’t finished off the board in eight starts. She broke her maiden at Belmont Park in September, finished third in the Tempted and won the Grade 2 Demoiselle to finish her 2-year-old season.

“We started her a mile and a sixteenth,” Pletcher said. “We were looking for a race between the maiden win and the Demoiselle, unfortunately, the Tempted is a one-turn mile, she ran well. The Demoiselle, the mile and the eighth was right for her.”

This year, she won the Suncoast by 6 lengths at Tampa Bay Downs in February and the Grade 1 Ashland by 8 1/4 lengths at Keeneland in April.

“The race at Tampa, timing wise, set us up well for the Ashland,” Pletcher said. “Even though it was just a mile and a sixteenth, we felt like was a good prep for the Oaks and it’s an important race on its own, a Grade 1, that’s why we went that direction.”

Nest finished second in the Kentucky Oaks after waiting momentarily as Secret Oath pounced definitively.

“Maybe two things happened,” Pletcher said. “She ran so great in the Ashland that she didn’t quite run as well that day, she got stuck inside, had to wait that little bit, at the same time as she was

**Continued On Page 16**



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## Alabama —

### ■ Continued from page 14

waiting, the other filly was sprinting clear. When she did get out, that filly from California was laying on her, she kept grinding away but never really quickened that day.”

Lukas wheeled back Secret Oath in two weeks for the Preakness and Pletcher did his tried-and-true move of waiting five weeks (and a day) for the Belmont. Nest nearly pulled that off, overcoming a stumble to finish second, 3 lengths behind stablemate Mo Donegal. Originally, Pletcher was going to skip the CCA Oaks and wait for the Alabama. Nest changed that plan with soldier-like precision in her morning work.

“Conventional wisdom would have told us to wait,” Eclipse Thoroughbreds’ Aron Wellman said. “She stumbled, put her in the race, ran hard, got stopped and still came running. She actually ran the fastest last quarter of anybody that day. You’ve got to worry about how

much that would take out of her. This is a tough series but the more we’ve thrown at her, the better she’s gotten. She’s loving it.”

Klaravich Stable’s Gerrymander attracted the second-choice tag on the morning line. Trained by Chad Brown, the daughter of Into Mischief broke her maiden here last summer and exits a win in the Grade 2 Mother Goose at Belmont in June.

CCA Oaks-third Nostalgic, two-time winner Scratchy Cat for red-hot Phil Bauer, Pletcher-trained Goddess Of Fire and maiden winner She’s Keen complete the field.



Joe Labozzetta/NYRA

Gerrymander exits a win in the Mother Goose.

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# Coming About

Sail By eyes an upset in Grade 2 turf stakes

BY TIMOTHY LITTAU

Trainer Leah Gyarmati and owner Jeff Treadway of Treadway Racing Stable may be smaller racing outfits, but they have plenty of accomplishments. Most notably, winning three Grade 1 stakes together with Sweet Reason in 2013-14. The Spinaway, Acorn and Test, now that's a triple. Last year Gyarmati captured her first graded stake since 2014, winning the Grade 2 Miss Grillo Stakes with Sail By.

"Jeff and I have had a lot of success together,

**Continued On Page 20**



Joe Labozzetta/NYRA

Sail By tries to pull an upset in today's Lake Placid.

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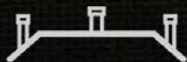
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## Lake Placid —

■ Continued from page 18

and it's cool to be able to do this together again," Gyarmati said this week. "He bred the filly, so that's fun."

Gyarmati has been training for Treadway for 15 years, and she still has reminders of the time spent working together in her barn.

"My pony, Thunder Chief, we bought him as a 2-year-old at Timonium," she said. "He was the third horse we had together."

And because Treadway is a breeder, "It's fun training mothers and then training the babies," Gyarmati said.

Sail By's dam, Fly By, was trained by Gyarmati and won her debut, but four races later had to be retired from recurring issues.

"She had talent," Gyarmati said of the Johar mare.

Sail By seems to have inherited that from Fly By and her sire, Australian-bred Group 1 winner Astern. Sail By has a chance at another Grade 2 in Saturday's \$200,000 Lake Placid Stakes for 3-year-old fillies at 1 1/16 miles on the inner turf and, despite being the longest shot in the field of eight at 20-1, Gyarmati is confident in her conditioning.

"She's been great, we've been walking over to the Oklahoma to breeze on the grass there and she's had some nice breezes finishing up real strong," Gyarmati said. "She shows up every time. There's a little bit of time in between the races just because we had a couple back-to-back. She's doing good."

In her most recent start, Sail By finished third in the Grade 3 Soaring Softly Stakes at Belmont May 28. From seven starts, she sports a 2-1-3 record. Her only time missing the board was a troubled trip in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf. Gyarmati knows she faces stiff competition here but reflected back to when Sail By proved her wrong in her debut.

"She does everything you ask her to do, but before her first race her breezes were mediocre. Jeff and I were just talking about this yesterday, her works were just so-so, I wasn't sure



Chelsea Durand/NYRA

**Dolce Zel (right) and Eminent Victory meet again after going 1-2 in the Lake George July 22.**

if she was fit enough," Gyarmati said. "The option was to wait the next three or four weeks and he just said 'let's see where we're at, let's put her in.' So we did and she won really easy and I said 'I guess she was fit' because she came flying. And that helped us with this decision, too, because sometimes you just have to take a chance."

Sail By takes her chances against tough customers, headlined by With The Moonlight, who returns in 13 days from winning the Grade 3 Saratoga Oaks.

The Godolphin-owned Charlie Appleby-trainee is the 9-5 morning line favorite and picks up Luis Saez after Godolphin's first call William Buick went back to England. With The Moonlight won three times in England before venturing this way. She finished second to McKulick in the Belmont Oaks July 9 and turned the tables on that rival in the Saratoga Oaks Aug. 7.

"We're very happy with her, she's been eating up well. She's in good form, she's come out of the race really well. She did a little blowout on the main track. She did a little gallop on the turf track Sunday, on the Oklahoma. She's been showing all the right signs. Her personality is shining through," Appleby's assistant Chris Connett said. "Patrice (Pot), who rides her everyday, is happy with her. They're the best gauge on everything. They'll soon tell you if they're not quite where they think they should be or how they feel normally. So it's important to have good members of staff. It's like a big jigsaw, as long as everyone does their little piece of it,

**Continued On Page 22**



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# Lake Placid —

■ Continued from page 20

hopefully it comes together really well.”  
Connett is banking on With The Moonlight’s natural speed and versatility to work out a good trip from the inside post.

“I don’t think that’s a bad position for her. She likes to jump and be handy on the pace, so if she can do that from stall one that would be ideal,” he said. “She’s very versatile, if there’s pace in the race there and horses want to go forwards then that’s great but she’s the kind of filly that jumps well and if nobody really wants to go forward and make any pace then she can just wind her own tempo up and lead. She’s pretty relaxed like that. She’s pretty straightforward so hopefully Luis will get a straightforward run around and she’ll run her race.”

Chad Brown’s quartet comprises half of the field, with 7-2 Consumer Spending figuring to be his best shot. The daughter of More Than Ready comes off a third in the Grade 1 Belmont Oaks July 9. Before that effort, Klaravich Stable’s gray filly won the Memories Of Silver and Grade 2 Wonder Again. Manny Franco has the return call.



With The Moonlight tries to add the Lake Placid to Aug. 7 win in the Saratoga Oaks.

Tod Marks

Despite running ninth in that race, the Brown-trained Haughty is 9-2 after winning the Penn Oaks at Penn National June 3. Owned by Bradley Thoroughbreds and Belmar Racing, the daughter of Empire Maker has notched two wins and two thirds in five starts, including a half-length loss in the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf. Joel Rosario rides for the first time.

Brown also sends out the 1-2 finishers of the

Grade 3 Lake George Stakes here July 22. Dolce Zel came out on the winning end of that photo and is 6-1 for Madaket Stable, Michael Dubb, Robert LaPenta and Michael Caruso. The French-bred has secured two wins, a second and a third in four starts since coming stateside. Irad Ortiz Jr. has the return call.

Owned by Dubb and The Elkstone Group, Eminent Victor finished second, beaten a nose, in the Lake George. Purchased from an Arlington Park maiden win for trainer Michael Puhich last summer, the daughter of Mr. Z won the Wild Applause at Belmont in her 3-year-old bow. She’s 5-1 with Flavien Prat.

Koala Princess made her 3-year-old debut in the Lake George, closing to finish third for trainer Arnaud Delacour and owners Runnymede Farm, Peter Callahan and John Oxley. Trevor McCarthy rides the 12-1 shot from the

outside post.

Joining Koala Princess at that price is Canisy. Owned by Blue Devil Racing, the daughter of Point Of Entry makes her stakes debut for trainer Christophe Clement and jockey Javier Castellano. They’ve combined for two wins from three starts so far, including a wire-to-wire win against allowance rivals here July 14.

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# Back In Town

NY-bred mare Robin Sparkles ready for next turf sprint test

BY TOM LAW

Michael Schrader has never seen Robin Sparkles race.

He wasn't there when she bashed her head in the starting gate before a maiden race in July 2020. Nor for her first win at Saratoga in August 2020, or first stakes win in the Mount Vernon in May 2021 at Belmont Park, or the Grade 3 Caress July 23 at Saratoga. Never being never, of course.

Schrader has seen her plenty though through the years, almost always at his In Front Training Center in Ghent, where the 5-year-old New York-bred daughter of Elusive Quality spent time before and after those starts and every other one during her successful career.

## SMART AND FANCY PREVIEW

Just don't expect him Saturday at Saratoga Race Course when Robin Sparkles looks for back-to-back stakes wins and three victories in four starts this year in the \$150,000 Smart And Fancy on the Alabama Day undercard.

"Nope, never," Robin Sparkles' trainer Bruce Brown said, driving a golf cart along the outside rail of the Oklahoma Training Track Friday morning while the mare jogged the wrong way toward the starting gate. "He's never watched her run, so he's not going to start now."

Continued On Page 26



Tod Marks

New York-bred Robin Sparkles goes after her third stakes win of 2022.



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## Smart And Fancy —

■ Continued from page 24

Robin Sparkles, 6-1 on the morning line for jockey Javier Castellano and against eight others entered in the body of the 5 1/2-furlong turf stakes, comes off a front-running victory in the Caress. She defeated four of the Smart And Fancy entrants – Lady Edith (third), Miss J McKay (fourth) and Caravel (ninth) – in the Caress as the second longest price on the board at 21-1.

Brown expects a bit tougher test Saturday, with graded stakes winner Change Of Control shipping in from Virginia for trainer Michelle Lovell, Illegal Smile going for trainer Wesley Ward and Too Sexy adding strength to Christophe Clement's three-way uncoupled entry that also includes Miss J McKay and Lady Edit.

"It's just as tough, or maybe a little tougher than the graded stakes last time," Brown said. "A lot of the same ones and that horse coming from Colonial is nice. With Caravel you can't figure what happened to her is going to happen two times in a row. She'll be bringing her A game. We're a little bit more inside this time (post three versus post six in the Caress). As long as we break good, so she can do her thing."

Robin Sparkles did things in a relaxed way Friday morning. After being tacked up and taking a short walk on the ring outside Brown's barn inside Horse Haven, Robin Sparkles took the short stroll to the Oklahoma. She jogged a full circuit of the main track and again up the homestretch to the starting gate.

Brown slipped under the outside rail and stood at the end of the small schooling gate while Robin Sparkles walked in, stood and backed out as calm as a pond in the Adirondack High Peaks in the middle of the night.

"She's really steady with everything," Brown said. "She loves training. She really loves it up here, loves the window in her stall, like most horses do."

Robin Sparkles returned to Brown's barn early this week, after trekking down to Schrader at In Front a few days after her victory in the Caress. Brown liked what he saw when the

bay 5-year-old walked back into her end stall next to his office, and didn't breeze her before the Smart And Fancy.

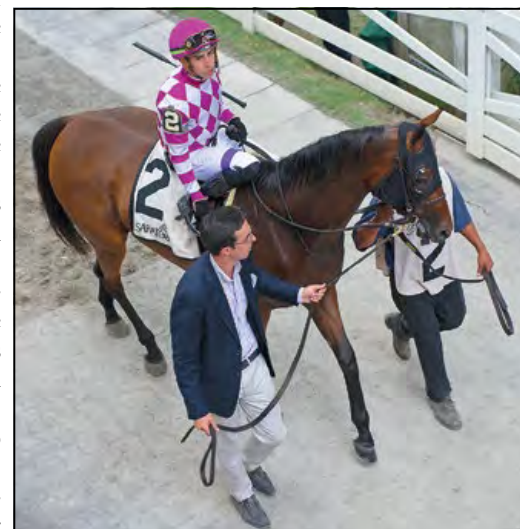
Robin Sparkles didn't breeze before the Caress, but did once before her third in Monmouth's Goldwood Stakes June 25 and four times before her win in the off-the-turf Politely Stakes at Monmouth May 21.

"Now that she's been running she keeps herself pretty fit," Brown said. "And Mike does such a great job with her at his place. It would almost be that you'd do more harm than good. She does well with some good open gallops once she comes back."

Caravel, the 2-1 favorite trying to defend her title in the Caress, broke from post one in that race and endured a troubled trip. She steadied about halfway through the race, dropped back and checked in last of nine. Luis Saez takes over the riding assignment for trainer Brad Cox from post nine. She's the 4-1 co-second choice with Miss J McKay and Irad Ortiz Jr., behind the 7-2 favorite Change Of Control and Colby Hernandez.

Too Sexy, fifth behind Miss J McKay in the License Fee May 1 at Belmont Park, is 5-1 on the morning line with Joel Rosario named to ride, while Illegal Smile and Jose Ortiz and Lady Edith and Trevor McCarthy are both listed at 8-1. Sarah Harper and Fouette are double-digit longshots and Spicy Marg is entered main track only.

The Smart And Fancy goes as the ninth race Saturday with post time set for 5:02 p.m.



Miss J McKay looks for her sixth win.

Tod Marks



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1	.....1.....	Fazaro .....	J. Gomez .....	A. Williams .....	12-1
2	.....2.....	Sebaray .....	J. Rosario .....	R. Handal .....	7-2
3	.....3.....	Billy Price .....	M. Franco .....	G. Weaver.....	6-1
4	.....4.....	Floki's Flight .....	L. Saez .....	R. Rodriguez .....	2-1
5	.....5.....	Myplayalinda .....	K. Carmouche.....	B. Levine .....	20-1
6	.....6.....	Street Vendor .....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	T. Pletcher .....	5-2
7	.....7.....	Pistol Or Shotgun.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	R. Diodoro.....	5-1

2ND (1:04PM). \$35,000, CLM \$16,000, 3 YO’S & UP, F & M , 1M

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double					
1	.....1.....	Holiday Jazz .....	K. Carmouche.....	B. Russell.....	5-2
2	.....2.....	Ice Kreem Sundae .....	T. McCarthy .....	R. Rodriguez .....	6-1
3	.....3.....	Gagliano.....	J. Davis.....	O. Barrera, III .....	8-1
4	.....4.....	Spooky Road.....	L. Saez .....	M. Maker .....	3-1
5	.....5.....	Starship Precious.....	K. Coa .....	M. Ferraro .....	5-1
6	.....6.....	U Cant Handle This .....	J. Gomez .....	R. Rodriguez .....	3-1
7	.....7.....	Simple Sugar .....	J. Samuel .....	G. Giglio .....	12-1

3RD (1:39PM). \$115,000, ALW, 3 YO’S & UP, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double					
1	.....1.....	Risk Profile	J. Lezcano	L. Rice	6-1
2	.....2.....	Ryan's Cat	M. Franco	G. Rodriguez	6-1
3	.....3.....	Peaceful Waters	L. Saez	A. Stall, Jr.	9-5
4	.....4.....	Favorite Outlaw	J. Rosario	S. Asmussen	7-5
5	.....5.....	Striking Speed	H. Harkie	E. Jones	20-1
6	.....6.....	Malibu S S	J. Leparoux	T. Amoss	8-1
7	.....7.....	Steinbeck	J. Velazquez	N. Cash	15-1

4TH (2:11PM). \$88,000, MSW, 3 YO’S & UP, F & M , 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double					
1	.....1.....	Road to Remember .....	J. Gomez .....	N. Lynch.....	5-1
2	.....2.....	Rent Control.....	E. Cancel.....	A. Chichakly .....	8-1
3	.....3.....	My Cara Mia Mine .....	J. Castellano .....	M. Friedman .....	3-1
4	.....4.....	Royal Currency .....	J. Rosario .....	C. Baker.....	9-2
5	.....5.....	Shinfull.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Schosberg .....	7-2
6	.....6.....	Ard Macha.....	F. Prat .....	J. Abreu .....	9-2
7	.....7.....	Buntly Windermere .....	J. Ortiz .....	J. Ryerson.....	8-1
8	.....8.....	Pomme Sauvage .....	T. McCarthy .....	M. Gory.....	20-1

5TH (2:45PM). \$105,000, MSW, 2 YO, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double					
1	.....1.....	Coach Petro .....	M. Franco .....	B. Cox .....	3-1
2	.....2.....	Conversing.....	J. Rosario .....	C. McGaughey III .....	7-2
3	.....3.....	Philharmonic.....	J. Samuel .....	N. Zito .....	30-1
4	.....4.....	Taking Candy.....	L. Saez .....	C. DeVaux.....	8-1
5	.....5.....	Rarified Flair.....	J. Leparoux.....	K. McPeek.....	4-1
6	.....6.....	Activist Investing (GB) ...	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	C. Brown .....	5-2
7	.....7.....	Wideright .....	J. Alvarado .....	W. Mott .....	10-1
8	.....8.....	J'adorn .....	J. Lezcano .....	L. Rice .....	12-1
9	.....	AE-MTO.Desert Wolf .....	Rider TBA.....	T. Pletcher .....	3-1
10	.....	AE-MTO.Funtastic Again .....	J. Velazquez .....	W. Ward .....	6-1

6TH (3:18PM). \$95,000, ALW, 3 YO’S & UP, 1M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 6, Daily Double					
1	.....1.....	Win for Gold.....	L. Saez.....	R. Rodriguez.....	1-1
1a	.....6.....	Best Idea.....	J. Velazquez.....	T. Pletcher.....	1-1
2	.....2.....	Blitz to Win.....	J. Castellano.....	B. Tagg.....	6-1
3	.....3.....	Forever Wicked.....	A. Castillo.....	R. Persaud.....	20-1
4	.....4.....	Whittington Park.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	B. Cox.....	8-1
5	.....5.....	Dr. Blute.....	J. Ortiz.....	S. Joseph, Jr.....	8-1
6	.....7.....	Dangerous Edge.....	M. Franco.....	R. Atras.....	9-2
7	.....8.....	Forty Comets.....	J. Lezcano.....	J. Ryerson.....	30-1
8	.....9.....	Rhymes Like Dimes.....	J. Alvarado.....	S. Joseph, Jr.....	6-1

7TH (3:52PM). \$105,000, MSW, 2 YO, 6 1/2F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double					
1	.....1.....	Expected Value .....	F. Prat .....	C. Brown .....	7-2
2	.....2.....	Good News Rocket.....	J. Alvarado .....	W. Mott .....	8-1
3	.....3.....	Summonyourcourage ....	L. Saez .....	T. Pletcher .....	9-2
4	.....4.....	Bat Flip.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	T. Pletcher .....	6-1
5	.....5.....	Echo Again.....	J. Rosario .....	S. Asmussen .....	9-5
6	.....6.....	Spinzar.....	J. Castellano .....	C. McGaughey III .....	8-1
7	.....7.....	Game Change.....	J. Velazquez .....	C. McGaughey III .....	15-1
8	.....8.....	Classic Legacy .....	J. Ortiz .....	W. Mott .....	10-1

8TH (4:26PM). \$200,000, STK - THE LAKE PLACID, 3 YO, F , 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double					
1	.....1.....	With The Moonlight (Ire)	L. Saez.....	C. Appleby.....	9-5
2	.....2.....	Sail By.....	J. Lezcano .....	L. Gyarmati .....	20-1
3	.....3.....	Eminent Victor .....	F. Prat .....	C. Brown .....	5-1
4	.....4.....	Consumer Spending .....	M. Franco .....	C. Brown .....	7-2
5	.....5.....	Dolce Zel (Fr) .....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	C. Brown .....	6-1
6	.....6.....	Haughty .....	J. Rosario .....	C. Brown .....	9-2
7	.....7.....	Canisy .....	J. Castellano .....	C. Clement.....	12-1
8	.....8.....	Koala Princess .....	T. McCarthy .....	A. Delacour .....	12-1

9TH (5:02PM). \$150,000, STK - THE SMART N FANCY, 4 YO’S & UP, F & M , 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double					
1	.....1.....	Change of Control .....	C. Hernandez .....	M. Lovell .....	7-2
2	.....2.....	Fouette .....	J. Lezcano .....	L. Rice .....	20-1
3	.....3.....	Robin Sparkles.....	J. Castellano .....	B. Brown .....	6-1
4	.....4.....	Sarah Harper .....	F. Prat .....	R. Moquett .....	12-1
5	.....5.....	Too Sexy .....	J. Rosario .....	C. Clement .....	5-1
6	.....6.....	Miss J McKay .....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	C. Clement .....	4-1
7	.....7.....	Illegal Smile (Ire) .....	J. Ortiz .....	W. Ward .....	8-1
8	.....8.....	Lady Edith .....	T. McCarthy .....	C. Clement .....	8-1
9	.....9.....	Caravel .....	L. Saez .....	B. Cox .....	4-1
10	.....	AE-MTO.Spicy Marg.....	J. Velazquez .....	W. Ward .....	4-1

10TH (5:35PM). \$600,000, STK - THE ALABAMA, 3 YO, F , 1 1/4M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double					
1	.....1.....	Skratch Kat .....	J. Leparoux.....	P. Bauer.....	30-1
2	.....2.....	Goddess of Fire .....	J. Velazquez.....	T. Pletcher .....	20-1
3	.....3.....	Gerrymander .....	J. Rosario .....	C. Brown .....	7-2
4	.....4.....	Nest .....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	T. Pletcher .....	1-2
5	.....5.....	Nostalgic .....	J. Ortiz .....	W. Mott .....	12-1
6	.....6.....	She's Keen .....	J. Lezcano .....	G. Arnold, II.....	30-1
7	.....7.....	Secret Oath .....	L. Saez .....	D. Lukas.....	4-1

11TH (6:07PM). \$50,000, CLM \$35,000, 3 YO’S & UP, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta					
1	.....1.....	American Pure .....	L. Saez.....	M. Maker.....	12-1
2	.....2.....	The Big Grey .....	A. Castillo .....	R. Persaud .....	50-1
3	.....3.....	K P All Systems Go .....	R. Santana, Jr.....	J. Englehart.....	20-1
4	.....4.....	Wicked Fast.....	J. Lezcano .....	J. Abreu.....	7-2
5	.....5.....	El Mayor.....	J. Leparoux.....	J. Toscano, Jr.....	20-1
6	.....6.....	Saratoga Flash .....	J. Castellano .....	B. Tagg .....	6-1
7	.....7.....	Aviano .....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	T. Pletcher .....	3-1
8	.....8.....	Barnegat Light.....	J. Alvarado .....	T. Hamm.....	12-1
9	.....9.....	Cause to Cruise.....	K. Carmouche.....	B. Cox .....	10-1
10	.....10.....	Sonic Speed .....	F. Prat .....	B. Russell .....	15-1
11	.....11.....	Gussy Mac (Ire) .....	T. McCarthy .....	N. Saville .....	12-1
12	.....12.....	Box N Score .....	M. Franco .....	J. Thomas .....	5-1
13	.....	AE.....Bryce Canyon.....	K. Carmouche.....	J. Toner .....	12-1
14	.....	AE.....Chess's Dream .....	J. Ortiz .....	M. Maker .....	6-1
15	.....	AE-MTO.Air Show .....	Rider TBA.....	R. Rodriguez .....	4-1
16	.....	AE-MTO.Corkman .....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	O. Noda .....	7-2

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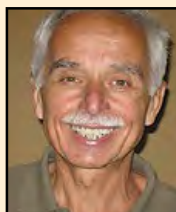
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Bedard**



**Rob  
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**Jessica  
Paquette**

Race #

**1**

Floki's Flight  
Pistol Or Shotgun  
Sebaray

Sebaray  
Street Vendor  
Floki's Flight

Floki's Flight  
Street Vendor  
Fazaro

Sebaray  
Floki's Flight  
Billy Price

Billy Price  
Sebaray  
Street Vendor

**2**

Spooky Road  
Holiday Jazz  
Gagliano

Spooky Road  
Gagliano  
Holiday Jazz

Spooky Road  
Gagliano  
Holiday Jazz

Spooky Road  
Holiday Jazz  
Ice Kreem Sundae

Holiday Jazz  
Spooky Road  
Ice Kreem Sundae

**3**

Favorite Outlaw  
Peaceful Waters  
Steinbeck

Peaceful Waters  
Favorite Outlaw  
Ryan's Cat

Favorite Outlaw  
Peaceful Waters  
Risk Profile

Peaceful Waters  
Favorite Outlaw  
Malibu S S

Favorite Outlaw  
Peaceful Waters  
Malibu S S

**4**

Shinfull  
Road To Remember  
Bunty Windermere

Shinfull  
My Cara Mia Mine  
Royal Currency

Ard Macha  
Rent Control  
Road To Remember

Rent Control  
Royal Currency  
Ard Macha

Bunty Windermere  
Shinfull  
Ard Macha

**5**

Activist Investing  
Conversing  
Coach Petro

Coach Petro  
Conversing  
Activist Investing

Desert Wolf  
Taking Candy  
Coach Petro

Coach Petro  
Rarified Flair  
Taking Candy

Conversing  
Coach Petro  
Taking Candy

**6**

Repole entry  
Dangerous Edge  
Dr. Blute

Repole entry  
Whittington Park  
Dr. Blute

Repole entry  
Dangerous Edge  
Rhymes Like Dimes

Repole entry  
Whittington Park  
Dangerous Edge

Best Idea  
Whittington Park  
Dangerous Edge

**7**

Echo Again  
Expected Value  
Good News Rocket

Echo Again  
Summonyourcourage  
Spinzar

Expected Value  
Good News Rocket  
Spinzar

Echo Again  
Summonyourcourage  
Game Change

Spinzar  
Echo Again  
Classic Legacy

**8**

With The Moonlight  
Consumer Spending  
Eminent Victor

With The Moonlight  
Eminent Victor  
Haughty

With The Moonlight  
Consumer Spending  
Haughty

With The Moonlight  
Consumer Spending  
Dolce Zel

Haughty  
With The Moonlight  
Koala Princess

**9**

Change Of Control  
Caravel  
Robin Sparkles

Change Of Control  
Caravel  
Too Sexy

Change Of Control  
Caravel  
Illegal Smile

Change Of Control  
Caravel  
Too Sexy

Change Of Control  
Caravel  
Lady Edith

**10**

Nest  
Gerrymander  
Secret Oath

Nest  
Nostalgic  
Gerrymander

Nest  
Secret Oath  
Gerrymander

Nest  
Gerrymander  
Secret Oath

Nest  
Secret Oath  
Nostalgic

**11**

Aviano  
Wicked Fast  
Saratoga Flash

Aviano  
Wicked Fast  
Saratoga Flash

Wicked Fast  
El Mayor  
Aviano

Aviano  
Cause To Cruise  
Barnegat Light

Box N Score  
Cause To Cruise  
Aviano

2022 Records

**89/275**

**82/275**

**72/275**

**73/275**

**62/275**



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# Easy Call

Snap Decision beats foes, weight in Gr. 1

BY JOE CLANCY

One owner, Mike Hankin, felt ill. Another, long-retired amateur jockey Charlie Fenwick, compared it to riding in his first race as a 16-year-old kid. Even trainer Jack Fisher, one of the world's great smart alecks, fretted.

That's what happens when you run a 164-pound highweight in a Grade 1 steeplechase at Saratoga Race Course. And the public sends him off at 1-2.

In about four and half minutes on the inner turf course Wednesday afternoon, Snap Decision told everybody – Hankin, Fenwick, Fisher, rivals, skeptics, even jockey Graham Watters – to keep calm.

Conceding 11-24 pounds to six rivals in the \$150,000 Jonathan Sheppard Handicap, Snap Decision jumped the first fence in fifth but rolled around

Continued On Page 33



Tod Marks

Snap Decision jumps a fence midway through his front-running score in Wednesday's Jonathan Sheppard.

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# Sheppard —

■ Continued from page 32

everyone to take command after a furlong. From there he ran and jumped, pricked his ears, ran and jumped, pricked his ears, ran and jumped some more, pricked his ears and won by 13 ¼ lengths while Watters looked for competition and encouraged appreciation. The crowd cheered as he crossed the finish line, and again as he came to the winner's circle.

Snap Decision became the first horse to win the Sheppard, formerly the New York Turf Writers Cup, under 160 pounds or more since Hall of Famer Lonesome Glory shouldered 166 in 1995. The 8-year-old, purchased from breeder Phipps Stable in 2018 after 18 starts on the flat, won for the 11th time in 16 jump starts (he was second in the other five), collected \$90,000 to make his steeplechase earnings \$615,900 and grabbed the lead in the race for the 2022 Eclipse Award as champion steeplechaser.

"It was somewhere between exciting and wanting to be really sick," said Hankin, of watching it all unfold. "I had told myself over and over again that even if he didn't win, he's still a great horse, but I really wanted him to win. Not for us. For him. He knows when he's winning, and he knows when he's not."

And, despite all that success, winning had proven to be somewhat elusive as Snap Decision had lost three



Tod Marks  
Snap Decision and Sandra Webb head to the paddock for the Sheppard.

of his last four over jumps – two last year to eventual champion The Mean Queen and one this year to Iranistan. In all three, he gave away weight. In all three, he finished second.

Wednesday, weight was the topic. He'd won carrying 162 and 165 at Saratoga in 2020, but those were under allowance conditions and the spread was tighter. Last September at Belmont, his winning streak ended at nine while carrying 164 pounds to The Mean Queen's 157. She beat him again in October, getting the eight-pound mare allowance, in the American Grand National. In April, Iranistan got 14 pounds and handed

Continued On Page 34

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CHURCHILL DOWNS

## 2022 September Meet Stakes Schedule

SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 2

### IROQUOIS (GIII)

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

### LOCUST GROVE (GIII)

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

### POCAHONTAS (GIII)

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

### LOUISVILLE THOROUGHBRED SOCIETY

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

### OPEN MIND (Listed)

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

### SENECA OVERNIGHT STAKES

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

### BOURBON TRAIL

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

### HARRODS CREEK

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

### DOGWOOD (GIII)

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

### ACK ACK (GIII)

"Win and You're In Dirt Mile Division"

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

### LUKAS CLASSIC (GII)

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



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# Sheppard —

■ Continued from page 33

down a 2 ¼-length defeat. Snap Decision righted the ship with a win in the Grade 1 Iroquois, at level weights, in May leaving his connections to ponder a summer trip to Saratoga – where the two open stakes are handicaps.

Fisher ran his stable star on the flat in the Colonial Cup Stakes July 27 and he finished third, beaten 1 ½ lengths by graded stakes winner Red Knight. The Maryland-based trainer thought about next week's John's Call, especially after seeing the weights, then stuck with the jumpers. The decision was both sporting and opportunity-seizing.

"I wanted to run him at Saratoga because NYRA has been very good to steeplechase racing," said Fisher, who heard some feedback about skipping the Spa with Snap Decision last year.

He also wanted to win, and the Sheppard was a mixed bag with The Mean Queen still on the sidelines.

Down Royal upset the Smithwick to extend her winning streak to four, but faced her toughest test. Belfast



Tod Marks  
Snap Decision pours it on late while conceding 24 pounds to runner-up Going Country.

Banter had good form overseas, but his one American start was dismal. New import Song For Someone hadn't won since December 2020. Going Country won twice in seven days this spring, but gave away years of experience. Redicean won by default in May, his first score since 2019. The in-form Chief Justice lost to Snap Decision three times in 2019-20 and hadn't tried him since.

Snap Decision led by a length over the second fence, extended the advantage with a long leap at the third as Chief Justice took second, followed by Going Country and Song For Someone. Being in front wasn't nec-

essarily Plan A, but Watters wasn't about to take back.

"The guys jumped out sharp and being drawn out number six I was worried about getting caught in behind horses and not being able to use him," said the jockey. "That was my worry today, getting trapped. I won a 3-mile race with 16 fences on him in May, 2-mile and 3 (furlongs) might be a bit sharp for him, but he stays and he quickens. The main thing today was to just let him do his thing, let him run and jump."

Fisher felt the same way, and didn't want to create a problem where there wasn't one.

"He was on the best horse, so don't go crazy fast if they want to go crazy fast but if not just go and be on the lead and say, 'Come and get me,' " the trainer said of some pre-race strategy. "Could they beat him? I didn't think they could beat him."

Snap Decision's feet came up over the brush at the fourth as Watters tried to throttle him down a little. That energy made everybody else play defense though. Three lengths up with a lap to go, Snap Decision and Watters saw their stride from a long way back at the third-last and flew it

Continued On Page 35

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# Sheppard —

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to apply more pressure. Chief Justice stayed second, 5 lengths ahead of Going Country and Song For Someone. By the backside the final time, the others began to falter. Snap Decision attacked the last fence like a fresh horse. Chief Justice cracked, Down Royal couldn't stay on, and Going Country took up a futile chase.

Fisher – whose last win came with Snap Decision in May – watched from the stands, tried to think like Watters, and loved it.

“He had a lot of horse left, he knew he had a lot of horse,” said the trainer. “The way he jumped the last down the backside, a tired horse chips in (gets closer to the fence) but a horse with a lot of energy stands back and he stood back.”

Watters – ditto Fisher in the most recent win department – felt it, knew it.

“My thing was to keep the revs up on him,” he said. “He'll gallop along with his ears pricked up front and I just wanted to keep him jumping and keep him going forward rather than get into a bad habit of popping. Sometimes when they come up a little bit too long, you're a bit hesitant. But he was pretty sure of himself. He's got so much power from behind, he pushes off with those hind legs and you just flow over them.”

A maiden to start the year, Going Country finished second, 3 1/2 lengths clear of Redicean after 2 3/8 miles in 4:32.88.

*Additional reporting  
by Timothy Littau.*



Tod Marks  
Mike Hankin (left) and Jack Fisher sweat the details before the Sheppard.

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# Shiny Stuff

## Dakota Gold keeps Reeves rolling

BY TIMOTHY LITTAU

Dean Reeves remembers the leaner years.

“Eight winners all together. I remember the days when I begged for just one win up here, and that wasn’t that far back,” Dean Reeves said Wednesday at Saratoga Race Course. “It’s been unbelievable, but there was a lot of work done by a lot of good people on our team before we got here.”

Dakota Gold gave Reeves Thoroughbred Racing its fifth stakes win – and eighth total counting partnerships – of the meet Wednesday, taking the \$150,000 Cab Calloway division of the New York Stallion Stakes Series. The 3-year-old son of Freud won by a length under Irad Ortiz Jr. as the odds-on favorite over Marinara

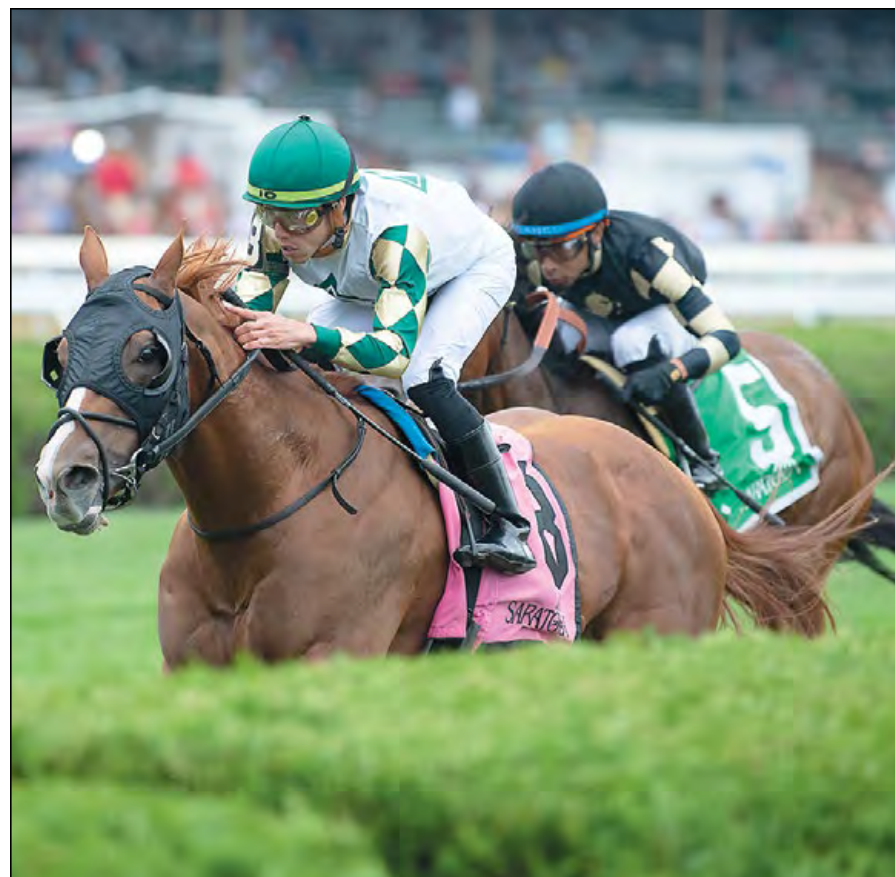
### WEDNESDAY RACING RECAP

Sauced. Trained by Danny Gargan, Dakota Gold won the 1-mile stakes over the firm inner course in 1:37.20.

“They’ve done a lot of work preparing these horses,” Reeves said. “They gave them a lot of time off and then when they got here, our trainers just did a great job of getting them ready for these races. We were really gunning for Saratoga. That’s when I’m going to be here, and we want to run and win some races here.”

Dakota Gold led the field of eight every step in the Cab Calloway. Second by a head in the \$125,000 Rick Violette Stakes July 21, Dakota Gold avenged that with a 1-length win in

**Continued On Page 37**



Tod Marks

**Dakota Gold heads for the finish of Wednesday's Cab Calloway.**

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# Wednesday —

## ■ Continued from page 36

1:37.20 over the firm turf.

“We played around with the field last time and it got me beat,” winning trainer Danny Gargan said. “I couldn’t take that chance today. He’s a little better if he stalks, but I didn’t want to take any chances. Let’s just go and get it out of the way – that was our plan and it worked out. Next time, we’ll try the open company and I probably won’t send him [to the lead], it depends on the pace scenario.”

Reeves is thrilled with the New York-bred program and the success he and his wife Patti’s operation has had in it. He’s also investing for the long run.

“We think this is a great program and we will continue to buy New York-breds,” he said. “We bought a lot of nice ones at this past sale (Fasig-Tipton’s New York-bred yearling sale Aug. 14-15), and we bought some as weanlings a year ago that we’re excited about. So, we should be pretty tough next year.”

In the short-term, Gargan is excited for Dakota Gold’s next start.

“There’s a race at Keeneland (Grade 3 \$300,000 Bryan Station Oct. 29) that I’m looking at,” he said. “There’s a race at Aqueduct (Grade 2, \$300,000 Hill Prince Oct. 22). There are a couple of different options. He could show up at Keeneland going a mile for straight 3-year-olds. I’ll get with the team and think of our next plan. We’ll try something a little different, but I think he’s better at a mile.”

After that, lofty goals – Grade 1 goals – are in store.

“The Hollywood Derby (in November) is where we’re going to end the year,” Gargan said. “We’ll go to there, a straight 3-year-old race. He’s only 3, we’ll see where he ends up in his 4-year-old career. But this year we’re only going to keep him against 3-year-olds and after that Hollywood Derby he’ll go back to the farm in Ocala like we did last year, give him a couple months off and try to keep doing this again for another year.”

Reeves has won five races individually, with three victories coming while teaming up with others. In addition to Dakota Gold, the stakes wins have

**Continued On Page 38**

## BOOK ONE • Barn 5

### Tuesday 9/13

#### 250 c. SPEIGHTSTOWN – Foolish Living

1st foal out of a young Medaglia d’Oro mare from the family of Champion HALFBRIDLED.

#### 333 f. CURLIN – Malibu Bonnie

Out of a Graded SP daughter of Malibu Moon from the family of G1 2yo SW WHYWHYWHY.

#### 371 f. JUSTIFY – Overheard

From the second crop of Champion JUSTIFY out of multiple Graded SW (\$548,656) OVERHEARD.

## BOOK TWO • Barn 34

### Wednesday 9/14

#### 397 c. VINO ROSSO – Quippery

Half-brother Graded SW BEYOND BLAME from the first crop of Breeders’ Cup Classic-G1 winner VINO ROSSO.

#### 453 f. MEDAGLIA D’ORO – Spring Party

Half-sister to GSW MARZO out of a SW by SMART STRIKE. Family includes G1 SWs CONSTITUTION, EMCEE, etc.

#### 494 f. UNCLE MO – Tonasah

Half-sister to Graded SP 2yo UNION GABLES out of a Graded SP MALIBU MOON mare.

#### 539 f. MORE THAN READY – Athena

Out of ATHENA (\$459,222), won/placed in 10 stakes. Family of multiple G1 SW BEACH PATROL, etc.

#### 568 c. INTO MISCHIEF – Carolina Bertie

1st foal out of a half-sister to multiple G1 SW BEACH PATROL (\$2,532,945) Arlington Million-G1, Turf Classic-G1, etc.

#### 668 f. FLATTER – Harlee Honey

Out of a half-sister to Santa Ynez-G2 winner CALIFORNIA NECTOR, SW REDSTART, and SP Star Rocker.

#### 751 f. MUNNINGS – New Angel (GB)

1st foal out of a daughter of Graded SW ANGEL TERRACE, from the family of G1 SW ORDER OF ST GEORGE (Ire).

## BOOK THREE • Barn 6

### Saturday 9/17

#### 1162 f. HARD SPUN – Revel in the Win

#### 1210 f. PRACTICAL JOKE – Stormandaprayer

#### 1232 c. CURLIN – Tangere

#### 1324 c. STREET SENSE – Bernadetta

#### 1329 f. FLATTER – Beyond Blame

#### 1414 f. CAIRO PRINCE – Exclude (GB)

#### 1416 c. CATHOLIC BOY – Fancy and Flashy

#### 1468 c. GHOSTZAPPER – Katie’s Kiss

#### 1546 c. GHOSTZAPPER – Orageuse

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# Wednesday —

## ■ Continued from page 37

come with Big Invasion (two), Isolate and City Man. Klaravich Stable leads all owners with 11 individual victories.

- Kemba rolled along to a wire-to-wire win in Wednesday's fourth, a \$35,000 claimer for fillies and mares going 1 1/16 miles on the Mellon Turf Course, for trainer Ray Handal, his third win of the meet.

"I don't know if (going to the front) made a difference, I think she was just really comfortable. (It works well) when she can dictate things her way and just get comfortable. Even when she came from off the pace she was kind of comfortable sitting on the outside of horses, I think that's where she likes to run," Handal said. "The :25.01 on the front end was probably the most important thing going on there. And then she was able to improve from there and hold off the rest of the frontrunners. Joel (Rosario) said she was just kind of playing around with him. He let her out of



Tod Marks

### Kemba shows the way late in Wednesday's fourth.

the bridle and she dropped a little bit, then he squeezed her back into it and she'd give him some more."

The 5-year-old Hard Spun mare, who went off as the 9-5 favorite, completed the 8.5 furlongs in 1:43.26

after going : 49.30 for the half. Rosario took Kemba wide coming off the final turn to ensure she would be comfortable down the stretch.

"That's kind of his thing, he wants to make sure that if anyone is going to

beat him it's going to be somebody on his inside and he can make them uncomfortable," Handal said. "We also talked pre-race; she doesn't like having horses on the outside, so if there was a way she was going to get beat it would be if she was uncomfortable."

Owned by her trainer, CTR Stable, Anthony Amarosa and Daniel Wells, Kemba won for the second time in 21 starts and will get extra time in between her next race after running here July 16 and at Belmont June 19.

"We'll see what kind of numbers she had and probably give her a little extra time because we ran her back a bit quick here three times in a row trying to get her in another race here at Saratoga," Handal said. "So we'll probably come back in five to six weeks."

- Bruce Levine got his third win of the meet in Wednesday's eighth, a 1 1/8-mile allowance for New York-bred fillies and mares, as Sunset Louise drew off late to score by 5 3/4 lengths with Jose Ortiz aboard. Fourth in her last start June 24 at Belmont, the 3-year-old Tonalist filly was

**Continued On Page 39**



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# Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 38

in winning form Wednesday

“Last race, she just kind of needed the race. I was getting her ready for up here and the book fell a mile-and-an-eighth, and I didn’t want to run her off the bench so I ran her a mile-and-a-sixteenth off the bench, she really wasn’t fit,” Levine said. “I told Jose (Ortiz) ‘Don’t worry about it, next start will be the start.’ She just wasn’t fit enough, she got a lot out of it, she came up here and has trained really good and she did her thing.”

The 4-1 shot, owned by Vincent Stanzi-one, stalked from third before stopping the clock at 1:40.09.

- Tom Amoss got his 4,000th win last week, but the trainer who doubles as an analyst for Fox Sports admitted that even he does not always know best.

“If (jockey Trevor McCarthy) had done what I thought he should have done, we would have run second,” he said of his win in Wednesday’s finale, a \$35,000 claimer going 1 1/16 miles on the Mellon Turf Course for fillies and mares, with Go Big Green, who went from last to first in the field of eight.



“I knew, being at the back of the pack, that we had to make a move and I thought that at the time of the race, being an armchair quarterback that it was time to go around everybody,” Amoss said. “Trevor knew better and he waited and bided his time. He was able to slip through, save some ground turning for home, it opened up for him and the rest was Trevor finishing hard on my horse. He rode a great race.”

Dave Harmon

Go Big Green scores in Wednesday’s finale for Tom Amoss and Trevor McCarthy.

The quarter was run in :25.01 and half in :50.05, but the slow pace did not faze the 4-year-old daughter of Ghostzapper. Amoss knew the filly’s training would pay off late.

“She trained very well,” Amoss said. “If you look at her workouts at Saratoga, I made a comment the other day when Isolate won the stake here that horses either like it or they don’t, and she’s one of the ones that has also shown that she enjoys training up here.”

Amoss and owner Joel Politi lost Go Big Green, who was claimed by Natalia Lynch for Norman Rader.

“Unfortunately we lost her, but we’ll go from there. We’ll find you another winner,” Amoss said to McCarthy. “You get all the credit.”

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# Lift Off

## Golden Rocket, Gomez upset Statue of Liberty

BY TOM LAW

Jose Gomez couldn't stand still, waiting to start his post-race interview on Fox Sports' Saratoga Live. He grinned from ear-to-ear, basking in his first Saratoga stakes victory aboard 33-1 longshot Golden Rocket in the \$150,000 Statue of Liberty division of the New York Stallion Stakes Series.

Gomez called it the "best feeling in the world."

Chad Anshelewitz, who co-owns the 3-year-old Alpha filly with Robert Lambe, couldn't have agreed more, though the celebration was muted a bit after some overzealous cheering – first in the box seats and later in the winner's circle.

"I got so excited a busted a blood vessel in my

Continued On Page 41



Dave Harmon

Golden Rocket pulls an upset in Thursday's featured Statue of Liberty Stakes.

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# Statue —

■ Continued from page 40

eye,” Anshelewitz said, wiping away some tears from his left cheek. “This filly has been a gem. She’s done everything right since we’ve had her and we’re excited about her future. Why not?”

Lambe and Anshelewitz were hoping for some excitement when they claimed Golden Rocket for \$16,000 out of a Monmouth Park turf race this spring. They looked at the filly’s speed figures and made the claim with Patricia Farro, with an eye on Saratoga and the restricted Statue of Liberty.

By former New York sire Alpha, who won the Jim Dandy, Travers and Woodward at Saratoga, Golden Rocket won in her first start for the new connections, a starter allowance July 3 at Monmouth, before an off-the-board effort in an open allowance on the grass July 23.

“We knew she was New York-bred,” Anshelewitz said. “We got her in the barn, we saw she was all right and ran her in the starter. ... We wanted to see if she was this caliber (and) she proved that obviously.

“I know her very well and I know she’s going to finish. We thought she’s going to give whatever her 100 percent is. If it’s good for third or fourth, or if she’s going to win, she’s going to give 100 percent. The 100 percent got her to the winner’s circle.”

Gomez not only celebrated his first stakes win, but his first victory on the grass at Saratoga.

Golden Rocket raced sixth in the strung-out field as Howdyoumakeurmoney ran off to a 7-length lead through the opening half-mile in :47.13. The leader’s advantage shrunk to 2 lengths after 6 furlongs



Tod Marks  
**Jose Gomez picked up a stakes victory on Monmouth Park shipper Golden Rocket.**

in 1:12.22 and Gomez guided Golden Rocket into fifth position while wide around the far turn.

Busy Morning took over in the stretch as Howdyoumakeurmoney retreated and Royal Dancer made her late run from third. Golden Rocket, who bumped with Suzie O’Cain Stakes winner Dream Central at the three-sixteenths pole, continued with her run on the outside and got up in time to win by a half-length. Royal Dancer finished second, 1 ¼ lengths clear of Busy Morning with Dream Central fourth.


“My hands were nice and relaxed, and she wasn’t fighting me,” Gomez said. “So, I just slowly tried to make my way out and in the stretch we just came home. I watched the replays and looked at her past races. I’ve seen her one race over at Monmouth and I just tried to give her that same ride.”

Golden Rocket, who won in 1:36.22, improved to 3-for-8 and boosted her bankroll to \$117,135 with the \$82,500 first-place check for the Statue of Liberty victory.

“My wife is back home,” said Mike Farro, assistant to Patricia Farro. “She’s probably trying to call me. She’s probably glowing like a worm. This is awesome. I’ve won a couple races here, but this is awesome.”



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# Big Win

## Hemingway gets first Saratoga win with turf sprinter Immortalization

BY TIMOTHY LITTAU

When Michelle Hemingway worked as an assistant trainer in South Africa, winning under her own name at Saratoga Race Course seemed unlikely. Winning at Saratoga after taking out her trainer's license 10 months earlier sounded impossible, yet she did it in Thursday's seventh race with Immortalization.

"When I graduated (from college) in 2005, I got offered a job in South Africa to go over and be an assistant, I wanted to go somewhere my family hadn't been," she said. "It's the first win of my career at Saratoga. It's just amazing and I don't think there could be a more fitting heart-horse for me than for Immortalization to do it."

### THURSDAY RACING RECAP

Immortalization took the lead in the claiming race at 5 1/2 furlongs on the Mellon Turf Course and never slowed down, winning by 2 3/4 lengths in a 1:03.11 under Hector Rafael Diaz Jr.

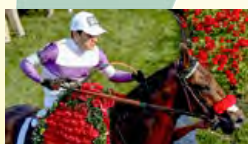
"Hector did everything like I hoped he would," Hemingway said. "I wanted him to stay out for as long as he could and just save him and then open up when he got in the lane and that's exactly what he did when he got to the lane. I know this horse can go with really heavy pace fractions and he just flourished. The horse

Continued On Page 43



Dave Harmon

Immortalization cruises to victory in Thursday's seventh race.



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# Thursday —

■ Continued from page 42

has been training super for me. He's my heart horse and I knew I had a risk of losing him, which I really didn't want to, but I knew that anything can happen so I just knew that if we were going to lose him then we were going to win, so I expected to win."

The win was bittersweet, as the 4-year-old Honor Code gelding was claimed by Norm Casse for AJ Suited Racing Stable for \$35,000.

"You have to do what's best by your owners and horses," Hemingway said. "I think that every race, whether it's here at Saratoga or Charles Town, I love the horses as much equally as anywhere. No matter what track you're at, it's just about the animal and helping the animal do the best they can wherever they are."

Hemingway broke and trained 2-year-olds before she began training in October.

"For me to win at Saratoga in my first year of training, I don't think there are words for me to say how special it is," she said. "It's been not even a year. I took out my license in October. It's just been a whirlwind and every different emotion and I couldn't do it without the faith of (my owners)."

- Warrior Johny gave Phil Bauer a surprise in the eighth.

"I don't think you ever expect them to win by that much," Bauer said after the Cairo Prince gelding won the 9-furlong allowance by 8 1/2 lengths. "He's a horse that in the mornings was telling us he was doing really well and I almost thought I had him short coming into this because his works had been so easy for him but I think that fresh horses are good horses and that was the key today. We wheeled him back too quick at Churchill. We gave him ample time today and he rewarded us."

Phil Bauer improved to 4-for-7 at the meet, but wasn't sure about his chances of winning with Warrior Johny after the first half-mile in :48.27 seconds.

"To be honest, I wasn't very happy down the backside," Bauer said. "I thought we were sitting the perfect trip and then we started to press the is-



Dave Harmon

**Warrior Johny wins Thursday's eighth for trainer Phil Bauer.**

sue and then he started taking pressure. Junior (Alvarado) came back and he said, 'I felt confident I had the horse underneath me.' So you got to trust them. When you have a game plan and things go your way you just take them as they come. He's a seasoned rider, he knows what he's doing and things just worked out."

Warrior Johny, who went off at 5-2 might have bigger targets down the road.

"We'll go black-type somewhere," Bauer said. "His maturity has been very good for him and he just keeps getting better so I don't know where but we'll look and see. Obviously, we'll take a non-winner of three if it's presented but we'll try some type of stakes somewhere."

- "It was time to try a new (distance)," Antonio Arriaga said of Bustin Bay after he won the second, a 1-mile optional claimer for older New York-bred

fillies and mares by 5 3/4 lengths. Despite going winless in six months, the increase from 6 furlongs to a mile – and from claiming to allowance ranks – proved to be the right change.

"I had her before, a year ago. She was doing well and I wanted to give her another chance again," Arriaga said of claiming the 4-year-old Bustin Stones filly for \$25,000 two starts back at Belmont. "I was expecting a big race from her, she was doing very well."

Irad Ortiz Jr. was aboard for the win, and stalked from fourth with her.

"The pace was perfect. She's not really a sprinter," Arriaga said. "When the horse is training well, you got to give them a chance. If they don't feel good, they don't train well. They only train well when they feel good and are comfortable. She broke the conditions, so maybe a stakes race next."

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# Drive a Wedge

Clean start proves key  
for Leader Of The Band

BY TOM LAW

Will Schwartz and his partners claimed the 4-year-old Sir Cat filly Catsuit for \$32,000 May 25, 2004 at Philadelphia Park, hoping one day she'd become a productive broodmare.

Catsuit ran once for SMD Ltd., finishing fifth when not risked for a tag about a month later, and headed off to a second career. Eighteen years, 10 foals, eight winners and now a stakes winner in Leader Of The Band later, Schwartz found himself uttering a familiar phrase in the fading sun Friday

**Continued On Page 45**



Dave Harmon

Leader Of The Band scores in Friday's Summer Colony.

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Photo by Dan McCanna



# Summer Colony —

■ Continued from page 44

at Saratoga Race Course.

"This is the dream, right?" Schwartz said after Leader Of The Band defeated a stronger-than-usual field for the \$135,000 Summer Colony Stakes, a 9-furlong stakes restricted to fillies and mares which hadn't won a graded stakes in 2022.

Leader Of The Band, a daughter of the late Maryland sire Bandbox, was already the dam's first stakes winner and took it a step further to become the first Saratoga winner for her owner and breeder. She won last year's Grade 3 Monmouth Oaks for SMD Ltd. and trainer John Servis and came into Friday's race off a second in the Grade 3 Molly Pitcher July 23 at Monmouth Park.

"We claimed the mare back in 2004," Schwartz said. "We still have her, too, she's back in foal to Divining Rod. She's produced quite nicely for us and it's a nice little family. Pays some bills."

Leader Of The Band earned \$74,250 to put toward those bills and padded her bankroll to \$552,940 from a record of six wins in 15 starts with four seconds and three thirds.

"This is great. To do it here with my son, it doesn't get any better," Schwartz said, flanked by his son Drew. "We've never won a stakes at Saratoga; and never won a race at Saratoga. We were second in the Alabama with a filly named Joint Return back in 2014, with John."

Servis credited Schwartz with picking out the Summer Colony for Leader Of The Band's next start after her run-

ner-up to Search Results in the Molly Pitcher. The 4-year-old filly fit the conditions after winning two of her seven starts this season, a state-bred allowance at Parx Racing in late March and the ungraded Lady's Secret Stakes two starts back at Monmouth.

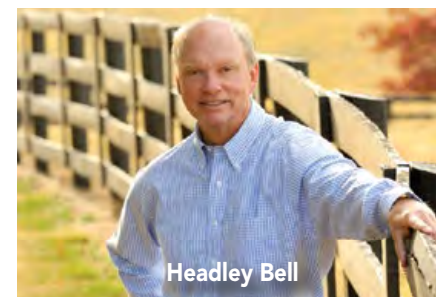
The oddsmaker gave Leader Of The Band some respect off her last effort, pegging her as the 4-1 fourth choice behind graded stakes winners Bonny South, Envoutante and Army Wife on the morning line. She wound up the 6-1 fifth choice at post under John Velazquez, who picked up the mount from an ailing Joel Rosario before the races Friday.

Envoutante and Julien Leparoux took the early initiative, leading First To Act around the first turn and through opening splits of :23.70 and :47.81. Velazquez kept Leader Of The Band in the clear in third, with Army Wife to his inside heading up the backstretch. Envoutante, winner of the last two editions of the Grade 2 Falls City at Churchill Downs for trainer Kenny McPeck, continued to lead through 6 furlongs in 1:11.87 before coming under pressure from First To Act and jockey Irad Ortiz Jr.

First To Act, making her stakes debut and just her fifth start, took over shortly after the field passed 6 furlongs and turned for home in front of a briefly resurgent Envoutante to her inside. Velazquez tipped Leader Of The Band four or five paths off the fence, just ahead of a rallying Bonny South to his outside and a backpedaling Army Wife to his inside.

Envoutante, First To Act and Leader Of The Band stacked up three across at the eighth pole. Envoutante backed out of the battle first, and Leader Of The Band

Continued On Page 46



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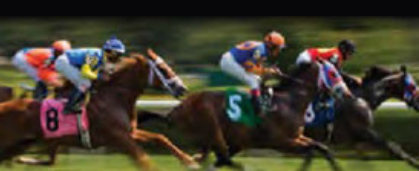
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## Summer Colony —

■ Continued from page 45

edged away from First To Act inside the sixteenth pole to win by three-quarters of a length in 1:49.65 over the fast track. First To Act held second, 3 ¾ lengths ahead of Envoutante with 5-2 second choice Bonny South fourth and 5-2 favorite Army Wife fifth.

"It was perfect. (Servis) told me, 'Make sure she breaks well. She has the tendency to sit in the back, so make sure she breaks good,' " said Velazquez, who won three on the card and is three shy of 1,000 for his career at Saratoga. "She behaved really well in the gate. She did everything good. When she popped out, I made sure I got her in position. From then on she was going really easy the whole way, so I was pretty confident. She was doing everything right through the race. She finished nice, finished up really well, as soon as I got to the outside."

For the first time in her career, assistant starters backed Leader Of The Band into the starting gate. They also used a padded wooden triangle wedge, clipped to the top of the back doors, after talking with the gate crew

at Monmouth and Servis.

"She has a horrible habit of sitting back on the doors before she breaks," Servis said. "So when the front doors open she sits back and then breaks, subsequently getting herself back a length or 2. So we started putting a wedge in there but even with the wedge a couple times we've had to take her out and put her back in because she's so used to sitting on these back doors that we couldn't get the wedge in."

Servis said the gate crew at Monmouth would take Leader Of The Band around to the front of the gate, put the wedge in and back the filly in to help her stand up instead of lean back. He said she broke better in the Summer Colony than in any of her prior 14 starts.

"It slides in there like a puzzle right inside of the back doors, so it cuts the back doors off so she can't back up as much," Servis said of the wedge. "They have (a wedge here). I had the starter at Monmouth call (the gate crew at Saratoga), tell them about backing her in, the wedge, the whole nine yards. He called me back and goes 'She's good, they're all on board. So, it was good.'"

*Additional reporting  
to Timothy Littau.*



Dave Harmon

Leader Of The Band (center) breaks from the gate of the Summer Colony.

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# SUCCESSES AT SARATOGA



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# Fend Off

## Oxymore denies rival in stretch

BY TIMOTHY LITTAU

Second choice No Nay Hudson looked poised to roll past favored Oxymore inside the final furlong of the \$150,000 Skidmore Stakes, but the latter put up a defense as strong as a wall and led to the wire of the 5 1/2-furlong turf event Friday at Saratoga Race Course.

"I think it was very telling of him to rebreak again, so to speak, or fend off that horse," said Chad Brown, who trains Oxymore for Michael Dubb, Madaket Stable, Bailey Morris and William Rucker. "It's a testament to his stamina. He's a kind of a narrow, very tall horse. The last thing you would think he'd want to do is 5 1/2, so I couldn't be more excited about getting him out to a mile."

The Astern colt, now 2-for-2,

### SKIDMORE STAKES RECAP

trailed longshot Jeremy's Jet in the early stages before taking over through the opening quarter-mile in :21.75 under Jose Ortiz. They continued to lead through the half in :44.77, repelled the challenge from 7-2 second choice No Nay Hudson in the stretch and won in 1:02.74.

"I was a little worried down the stretch, but this horse showed his heart," Brown said. "Adam Rice, who trained this horse previously, did a great job. This ownership group bought the horse and then moved him to me. I was very impressed. The horse is well-broke and well-prepared and we just kept him moving forward."

Continued On Page 49



Dave Harmon

Oxymore scores in Friday's Skidmore Stakes.

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# Skidmore —

## ■ Continued from page 48

“Jose knows the horse really well. He rode him in his debut and he knew just what to do there. I was very impressed with his heart and his stamina to just keep on going. When you look at the horse, he doesn’t look like a sprinter, so I’m excited to get him out in distance. He looks like a pure route horse.”

Oxymore won a 6-furlong turf maiden in his July 1 debut for Rice, who bought the gelding for \$30,000 at last year’s Keeneland September yearling sale.

He prepped for that debut at Presque Isle Downs and moved to Brown’s string at Saratoga shortly after the private purchase.

Now the two-turn plans may unfold in his next start.

“I’m looking at that race at Monmouth for a half-million (Nownown-ow Stakes Sept. 17),” Brown said. “I’ve been looking at that race since they sent this horse to me. On the stretch out going two turns with this horse and a much different pace at that point, it’s pretty exciting.”

Ortiz agrees with the plan of going longer.

“He’s a nice horse,” he said. “He actually went 6 furlongs first time out and honestly, I didn’t think Chad would want to back him up to 5 1/2, but he was the favorite in this stake and he ran a great number so he decided to go here and the horse ran a very good race. He was game. Wesley horse (No Nay Hudson) ran good. I knew he was going to improve on turf, he’s a really nice horse. But he (Oxymore) is a really nice horse and honestly he’s going to be better going a little bit longer eventually.”

Ortiz is not just excited to ride this horse, he is happy for the owners and his family.

“It’s a nice win. It means the world to my brothers-in-law, both of them,” he said, referring to Adam and Kevin Rice. “They broke the horse, they bought him, so it’s nice to sell him and see him do well. It world to them and I’m happy for them, for everybody, the new owners. They made a purchase and they expect to get a nice horse and he proved it. Hopefully he keeps developing and going forward.”

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Wesley Ward .....	7
Jorge Abreu .....	5
David Donk .....	5
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George Weaver.....	5

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Through Friday

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# Touchdown

## Parcells 2-year-old wins turf maiden

Let's Go Big Blue won his debut for Bill Parcells' August Dawn Farm in Friday's sixth race at Saratoga Race Course, a 1 1/16-mile maiden special weight for New York-bred 2-year-olds on the inner turf. He needed to survive a stewards' inquiry after appearing to drift out and bump runner-up Provision.

"He was leaning in a little bit, he was a little green. I was just doing my best to keep him straight," said winning jockey Eric Cancel. "I didn't hit my horse many times to keep him focused on what he needed to do. But I knew it could go either way, I was just waiting for the decision."

Trained by George Weaver, the 2-year-old Cairo Prince gelding came from last of 10 to win by 1 3/4 lengths in 1:45.02.

"He acted like a pretty decent horse," Cancel

**Continued On Page 52**



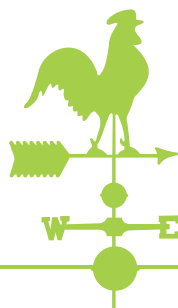
Dave Harmon

Two-year-old Let's Go Big Blue wins Friday's sixth race.

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# Friday —

## ■ Continued from page 50

said. “He’s just a little bit green still, but that will go away with time and he’ll be much better and focused.”

Parcells, a two-time Super Bowl-winning coach and member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, was excited for the victory.

“I live here six months out of the year and am just very, very happy that I have a couple wins here,” he said. “Hopefully we keep them coming. It’s two wins in 10 days. I’ve only ran three horses. I’m very happy.”

As for the next start, “I don’t have a crystal ball, but we won this week and we will have another game coming up.”

— Timothy Littau

• Mark Hennig is now 1-for-1 with his horses on a day he attends a wedding. Not only that, Hennig collected his first win of the 2022 summer meet when Alan Brodsky’s Top Of The Mint took Friday’s fifth.

John Velazquez’s rode the 6-year-old Central Banker gelding in the

7-furlong claiming event for the first of his three wins on the card. Top Of The Mint broke well and settled behind early pace-setters Joey Loose Lips and Nicholas James. Top Of The Mint let those battle through the first quarter-mile in :22.73 and the half in :45.83. Top Of The Mint benefited from the speed duel and drew off in the stretch to win by 5 3/4 lengths.

Hennig, in a rush to get to the wedding, was elated afterwards.

“We’ve had a couple of seconds and it’s always tough getting that first one here,” he said. “Everything went well. We got a dream trip. It was exactly what Johnny and I talked about. We had a nice trip, just what we wrote up on paper, which rarely happens.”

Hennig wasn’t sure when or where the gelding will run next; perhaps something to consider after the wedding of the daughter of a client.

“[Top Of The Mint] has always been doing great on training,” Hennig said. “He’s always been the horse we’ve been waiting for to put it together. Maybe we just needed to find the right level and put it together today. We’ll take it one race at a time.”

— Christian Avard



Dave Harmon

Top Of The Mint scores in Friday’s fifth for Mark Hennig.

• Miss Bonnie T ended her drought and broke her maiden in her 14th start in Friday’s second, a maiden claiming for fillies and mares on the inner turf for Philip Antonacci.

Antonacci claimed the 4-year-old daughter of Animal Kingdom for \$75,000 two starts back.

“She was always a consistent filly,” he said. “She always had good form against good horses, and I like to claim horses that are really consistent. She always shows up so it’s not hard to work with horses like that.”

Antonacci said it’s even better to work with Flavien Prat, who rode his winner.

“Every time you’ve got Flavien up you’ve got a good shot,” he said.

“Last time we ran her, I just wish she had a little more kick. We made some adjustments with the bridle and Flavien gave good feedback about making some holes in her blinkers. That’s the type of feedback you need to make adjustments and it seemed to work today and give her some extra push.”

A start at another competitive meet may be in the cards for Miss Bonnie T.

“I’ll talk to Sandy (Goldfarb) and the other owners,” Antonacci said. “A filly like this, you might be OK at Kentucky Downs going longer so I’ll see what his ideas are for what our next steps should be.”

— Timothy Littau

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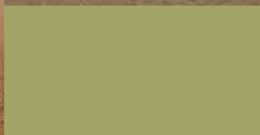
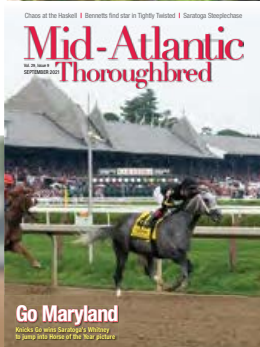
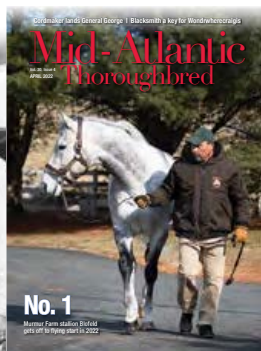
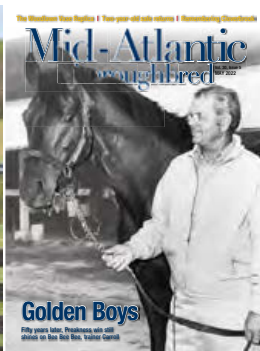
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# Morning Talk

It's been two weeks. Thank you for being there. It's time to pivot. Sometimes you have to look back to look forward.

Saturday morning in Saratoga. Whitney Day. Life Is Good. The heart of sales week. Sleep-deprived but energized. Two papers down, four in a row to go. I met the Godolphin contingent a little after 7 at Bill Mott's barn to preview the Saratoga Oaks, the feature on a three-stakes Sunday. Dan Pride, Michael Banahan, Charlie Appleby and William Buick meandered along Mott's shaded barn apron. I asked Appleby for an interview and figured I'd catch Buick Sunday morning. Clockwork.

I hit record. Two weeks later, I hit play on File 11 of 11, spanning 54 minutes and three seconds. It must be good if it's that long.

I didn't remember the birds, but on the recorder, they're chirping like a sales-week warmup band. I didn't notice the banter and the beat, horses walking just beyond our backs, an old friend from horseback saying hello to Appleby and another one saying hello to me, the rider bond, the secret handshake. I didn't remember Mott riding into the fray on Buggy and offering Appleby a ride to get out of a long interview.

"I'll jump on the back with you," Appleby said.

He wouldn't dare.

Appleby rested a hand on the outside rail of the horse path and talked about life at Godolphin, the morning before sweeping the Saratoga Derby and the Saratoga Oaks with Nations Pride and With The Moonlight. For me, transcribing it two weeks later provided a slice of Saratoga, a slice of normalcy. The subject secondary, the act primary.

"I love to come to these places," Appleby said on his first visit to Saratoga. "I was keen to see the tracks, see the setup. Experience is huge, the more you can gather on your trips, hopefully, that will come into play. I can see why everyone looks a lot younger and a lot happier here. It's fantastic, I've

been here less than 24 hours, but you get a good vibe."

Yeah, that Saturday-morning-in-Saratoga vibe. It's cool, breezy, long before the afternoon humidity. The day has just begun, you feel like you can control it, like you've got a handle on the pressure, your hand on the hand brake of the Saratoga Express. That dissipates, dissolves, but for now, it's dynamic.

I asked the 46-year-old trainer, the 23-year Godolphin veteran, about the journey from galloping horses to running the top string at the world's largest racing operation.

"I joined Godolphin and traveled around the world. I didn't want to do anything different. I never thought of anything else really, I was in my dream job, working for a great company and seeing good horses," Appleby said. "It just organically happened. I was one of the lads riding and doing the stalls and then I started traveling, and then traveling on the international scene, then the size of Godolphin was getting bigger. I had started a family and I started staying back in the barns and my roles changed to more management, running a barn, then becoming an assistant to Saeed (bin Suroor), early doors. It came to a point when one position was left void and I was approached and asked to take the role on, it was one of those very surreal moments."

Appleby turned that surreal moment into a launching pad for his training career and a revitalization for Godolphin. He concentrated on winning races, any races, during his first year, just to quiet the naysayers.

Outstrip won the 2013 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf within the first six months. Better races, better



horses followed. Blue Point won 11 of 20, finishing with a five-race win streak and three straight Group 1 victories. Ghaiyyath won nine of 13, including three Group 1 stakes. Two standouts in an arsenal of standouts, two bridges on Appleby's ascent.

"I've had the most confidence in Blue Point and Ghaiyyath. They were exceptional horses, they wanted to train in the morning and they wanted to run in the afternoon," Appleby said. "They excited you because you trained them harder because they were giving that to you and that's what brought them to the top. They taught me how to train good horses better."

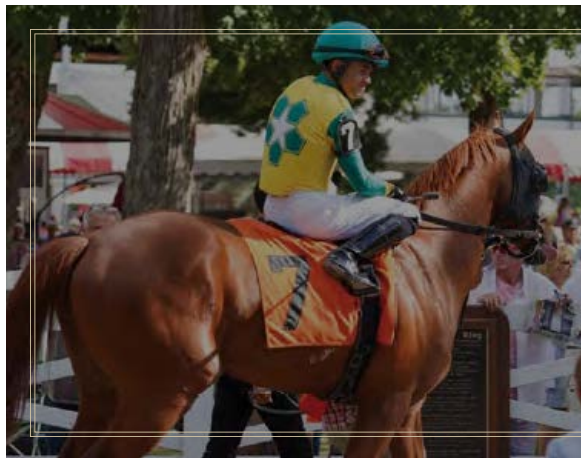
Appleby upset the Epsom Derby with Adayar last summer, tacked on three Breeders' Cup wins with homebreds in the fall, added the 2000 Guineas and Saint James's Palace with Corobus this summer. Back-to-back graded stakes wins at Saratoga... another scoop on the cone.

"The numbers, the brand, it could be daunting to people and it was at one of its lower points, but for me, I was given a free rein and that's the most important part," Appleby said. "His Highness has been so supportive of me, he gave me a free rein, he said, 'Do what's right for the horses and they'll repay you, Charlie.' No truer word."

Appleby is living proof of working diligently, waiting for an opportunity, grasping that opportunity and rolling with the punches of a sport where you lose far more often than you win. Even if you're Charlie Appleby and Godolphin.

"You've got to have the right mindset to be beaten and take a positive out of it," Appleby said. "I walk away with a positive mindset. 'OK. I've been beaten today but I'll change things around, I'll have another crack at you and we'll see where we are.' There's not much point in going home and beating yourself up over it. The moment's gone."

I didn't remember Appleby saying those words. Two weeks later, I can't forget them.



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# CODE OF HONOR

Noble Mission (GB) - Reunited, by Dixie Union

**WINNER OF THE TRAVERS S. (G1)**

**MULTIPLE GRADE 1 WINNER**

A debut winner at Saratoga at two who won the Travers S. (G1) and Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1) at three, Code of Honor was placed in a further five Grade 1s. He is by a champion and out of a graded stakes winner.



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