

Year 22 • No. 17

Wednesday, August 24, 2022

The *saratoga*

Special

Saratoga's Racing Newspaper since 2001



Takeoff

Nest adds Alabama to growing resume

**Travers field set at eight
Barclay Tagg Stable Tour
Caravel rebounds in win**

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Four Across. The final stages of Saturday's fifth race turned into a four-way battle won by Rarified Flair (right) and jockey Julien Leparoux.

Tod Marks

Here&There...in Saratoga

By The Numbers

5,154: Words in Saturday's edition of The Saratoga Special by Timothy Littau. Thanks for the work and good luck at Marquette this fall.

6: Brand on the left cheek of a backstretch lead pony. Don't get too close.

5: Times Hieroglyphics has been claimed since winning the 2017 Better Talk Now Stakes over, among others, steeplechase Grade 1 winner Snap Decision.

Worth Repeating

"You guys want some good quotes or boring quotes?"

Mike Repole, co-owner of Nest with Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, after the press wrapped up an interview with trainer Todd Pletcher

"Well, we've got a week."

Todd Pletcher, joking about running Nest back in the Travers after her dominant Alabama victory

"Thanks for being involved in the biggest day of racing in my life so far."

Chad Anshelewitz, co-owner of NYSS Statue of Liberty winner Golden Rocket

"Just over here, hiding in plain sight over at the Bermuda Triangle."

Tristan Barry, assistant to Todd Pletcher, after coming over from the harness track to train a set on the main track Monday morning

"You know, you might want to get a smaller dog. That one is going to knock you over."

Trainer Barclay Tagg, to retired trainer (and German Shepherd walker) Carl Domino

Names of the Day

Bluegrass Parkway, ninth race

Wednesday. The John's Call runner is by Quality Road. Bluegrass Parkway starts in Elizabethtown, rolls through central Kentucky where Abraham Lincoln was born and goes through Bourbon County.



Maybe later, 10th race Wednesday. The 4-year-old filly is on the also-eligible list, but she's by Not This Time.

Playlist, second race Thursday. The 2-year-old filly is out of Bon Jovi Girl.

Icarus, third race Thursday. Bob LaPenta's 3-year-old gelding is out of Light The Sky.

Beside Herself, sixth race Thursday. Michael Tabor's 3-year-old filly is out of Excited.

The Saratoga
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Here&There...in Saratoga

Worth Repeating

“A mosquito is like caviar in the hood, man.”
Backstretch banter, and a Saturday Night Live audition?, Saturday morning

“If you’d have told us as kids that there would be million-dollar condos in Saratoga, we would have said, ‘Yeah, maybe for somebody who got taken.’”
Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners’ Brian Spearman, about how Saratoga Springs has changed since his time growing up on the West Side

“I bring up Oma Pizza, and nobody knows what I’m talking about.”
Spearman, reminiscing some more

“I’ll have to order a bushel.”
Owner Alan Brodsky, about needing extra editions of The Special after a win last week

“Today was like a win, honey. I didn’t buy a dress.”
Woman consoling her deflated husband as they left the track last weekend

“The horse has one way of going and that kid, he’s a nice kid and rode her perfect.”
Caue Caramori, assistant to his father Eduardo Caramori, after Omar Hernandez Moreno rode Bayou Wind to victory in Sunday’s finale

“Everybody wants to do well, we have an ego, but it’s the greater good that matters. One of the things I think about a lot, no individual or no group comes close to being bigger than the game.”
West Point Thoroughbreds’ Terry Finley



Coupled Entry. Sydney and Rizzo love the backstretch, or maybe it’s just the bacon at the backstretch kitchen.

Connie Bush

NYTB, NYRA honor New York-bred legends

The New York Thoroughbred Breeders and New York Racing Association will honor five of the top New York-breds to compete and represent the program Friday at Saratoga Race Course. Connections from all-time New York greats Fio Rito, Commentator, Fourstardave, Funny Cide, and Tiz the Law will be honored following Friday’s fifth race at 3:21 p.m. on the day with a certificate of achievement for their racing careers while representing the New York-bred program.

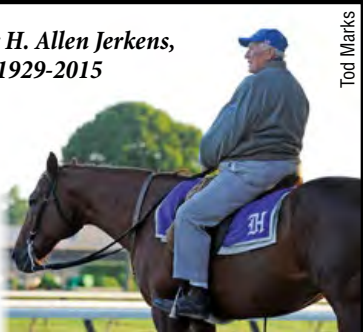
The five horses were chosen by a panel of New York turf writers and represent the first class of honorees recognizing their importance in setting the New York-bred program forward. The legends will be honored during Saratoga New York Showcase Day, a racing card complete with races restricted to New York-bred runners.

Showcase Day includes six stakes – the \$250,000 Albany for 3-year-olds, \$200,000 Fleet Indian for 3-year-old fillies, \$200,000 Funny Cide presented by Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital for 2-year-olds, \$200,000 Seeking The Ante for 2-year-old fillies, \$200,000 West Point Handicap presented by Trustco Bank for 3-year-olds and up on the turf, and the \$200,000 Yaddo Handicap for fillies and mares 3-year-olds and up on the turf.

The Chief

Trainer H. Allen Jerkens,
1929-2015

“We had some guys, Cold Cut, Paycheck, Hard Times, Shorty Diggs, Boon. One thing about them guys, when they’d see somebody not doing something, they would jump in and do it. Every one of those horses won. We had some characters, it was so much fun, everything was a laugh. Then everything changed. The world changes. People say this game ain’t what it used to be. What is? You think the rest of the world is the same as it were. In fact, this game probably hasn’t changed as much as a lot of things.”



Tod Marks



New York Thoroughbred
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“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become a spring of water” (John 4: 13-14)



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Quote of the Day

“There’s only one person in the whole frickin’ world who should have gotten Doswell – Robin. I’ve seen a lot of riders and a lot of horses and a lot of people and he’d have never made it with anyone else.”
Trainer Barclay Tagg, about difficult graded stakes winner Doswell teaming up with Robin Smullen



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Astern: *what a weekend! Four impressive winners to report – read all about them, including **unbeaten juvenile Stakes winner Oxymore**, on our website.*

*Yearlings to inspect in September. **Just imagine.***

Darley

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With Barclay Tagg and Robin Smullen

The Special didn't have a Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour when Funny Cide was around. Man that would have been fun. You can almost hear Barclay Tagg and Robin Smullen talking about the robust chestnut 2-year-old as part of the 2002 string.

"New York-bred, we kind of like him but he won't run at Saratoga. Maybe Belmont. We'll let him tell us and, who knows, maybe we'll really be talking about him this time next year."

Something like that anyway. Funny Cide won his first three starts as a 2-year-old – at Belmont Sept. 8, Sept. 29 and Oct. 19 – then won the Kentucky Derby and Preakness the next season, the Jockey Club Gold Cup at 4 and retired with 11 wins and \$3,529,412 in the bank for Sackatoga Stable.

Tagg and Smullen are Saratoga fixtures from their barns on the main-track side, beyond the Morning Line Kitchen along the side road to Greentree. Funny Cide was there, 2020 Travers Stakes winner Tiz The Law too, plus Grade 1 winners Showing Up, Tale Of Ekati, Nobiz Like Shobiz, Bit Of Whimsy, Jersey Town and turf fillies for days. Never in a hurry with horses or much else, Tagg and Smullen don't just train horses. They study them, figure out what they like, learn what they don't and try to bring out their best.

"We like the animals," said Tagg, who saddled his first runners in 1972 and has won 1,607 races. "You're always hoping for something special and we've been lucky enough to have a few. That's the way the game is. Nobody puts pressure on us. We hear, 'Take your time, do whatever you think.' That makes it easier. You can just train the horses."

Smullen doesn't breeze horses like she used to, but still gallops and loves to see horses develop.

"I like to see the babies come to fruition, it's rewarding," she said. "You want them to find whatever their best is. You like to see it and say, 'Oh wow now this horse is really starting to come around, is he going to be nice or not nice?' You don't know, you hope but you don't know until you go out there. You breeze one in behind horses like we did with Tiz, out of the gate, make him eat dirt and he splits horses and goes in :59 you kind of go, 'Ooh, this might work.' " But it takes time, and then you just hope the next ones coming along are good."



Connie Bush

Tapple Cider is one of three winners at the meet for trainer Barclay Tagg.

Smullen and Tagg took The Special's Joe Clancy on a tour of the barns Monday morning. She had the paperwork so handled most of the details, with Tagg jumping in for a few.

Highland Grace. Royalty. Bonner Young's fourth-generation homebred 2-year-old filly occupies the stall next to the tack room after meeting the stable in Saratoga via prep work at Webster Training Center in Florida. Daughter of American Pharoah looks a year older and sports a big hip, big body and classic look. Her dam Caroline Thomas won a Grade 2. Her second dam Bit Of Whimsy won a Grade 1. The third and fourth dams, Krisi B and Highland Mills, didn't win anything but started a dynasty. "She's a beautiful mover. She's got two more open gallops and then she can breeze. She's got a great brain. She goes out there and stands. Caroline Thomas would shake a little bit. None of that with her. She makes you look. She's probably better looking than the mares, both of them, and they were nice. They were not that broad. They were tall, but not that broad. She might make Aqueduct right before we go south, if everything goes forward from here. We're not going to rush her. We'll just let her take us where she can, when she can."

Social Sidekick. A \$70,000 purchase at Fasig-Tipton's New York-bred sale here last year, 2-year-old Tapizar gelding finished ninth in his debut here July 29 going 6 furlongs on the

dirt for owners Bill and Carrington Price. "He's not a good gate horse, we've got to work on that, but he's breezed on the grass twice now (5-furlong moves Aug. 14 and 21) and liked it. He's kind of a neat horse and he'll run when we get back down to Belmont. He's a nice size, has to grow into himself some. Bill used to work for Barclay years and years and years ago. He came to us and said he wanted us to buy him a horse and it never came to fruition until he came to the barn last year and said, 'I want you to buy me a horse.' So we bought him a horse."

Winter Mischief. Owner/breeder Ann Backer's gray 3-year-old filly looks a picture standing across the back of her stall. Daughter of Into Mischief and stakes winner Winter was training toward a debut last year, but had to hit the pause button and is just about ready again off a string of breezes at Belmont Park and Saratoga. "She had a minor issue in the fall, and we sent her back home and we've got her pretty much turned around now. She looks just like her mother, who we saw at the farm."

Tagg: "She's got the largest girth of any horse we have, a beautiful filly."

Blitz To Win: A \$60,000 purchase at Fasig-Tipton's New York-bred yearling sale in 2019, Sackatoga Stable's Speightster gelding finished fifth here Aug. 20, his first start since a maiden

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Stable Tour —

Continued from page 6

win at Belmont in October. Nicknamed “Diablo” for the two small bumps on his forehead, he’ll move forward for that race. “It was such a long layoff that it kind of wasn’t fair, but he ran OK. We had him ready to run at Belmont in May and three days after he got there he popped a splint so then we had to wait another couple months.”

Tagg: “The horses have to be ready. You can’t just run them.”

Highland Lord. Another homebred for Young, 2-year-old Lord Nelson gelding is out of Kristi With A K, a three-time winner who placed in a Grade 3 stakes. Her foals include Highland Sky, who earned \$784,794 and placed in multiple graded stakes, and stakes winner Highland Glory. Has breezed seven times at Saratoga, including a half-mile from the gate in :48.76 Monday. Pointing for a maiden race on the turf here Sept. 3. “He’s not very big but he’s a real nice package. He was gelded at the farm. He was a bad stall-walker and he still does it now. We just tie him up, hang his hay rack and he eats hay all day. When it’s quiet you can turn him loose and he’s fine, after he chills out.”

Scramble. Also aiming for that maiden race on the turf Sept. 3, the 2-year-old Gleneagles colt was bred in Pennsylvania by new owner Peter McCausland, who owns historic Erdenheim Farm near Philadelphia. McCausland purchased Irish-bred Tilly’s Chilli at Tattersalls in 2018 for \$534,366 to help start a broodmare band. Colt came to Tagg and Smullen after early work at Payson Park in Florida. Breezed with Highland Lord Monday. “He’s not a fancy-looking horse but he sure does his job right. They stayed together in the work, they both have decent strides and it’s nice to see them progressing like that. We have two horses pointing for that race so I hope they split it because you hate to run two against each other. They’re both ready to run and you have to get horses like that started.”

Tagg: “When I was a little, tiny kid you heard about Erdenheim Farm (owned by Widener family) all the time. I told him I grew up in Abington and he said that’s about 10 minutes away. I grew up there and I’ve never seen it. Jaipur was probably there, some others I’m sure. They had great horses.”

Parquetry. Another Backer homebred, 3-year-old Temple City gelding won at Gulfstream

Park in February and has run twice at the meet — 12th in an optional claimer July 16 and second for a \$35,000 tag Aug. 10. “He’s really tall, he’s still growing into himself. He’s 3 and probably almost 17 hands. There’s a starter race on the last day.”

Tagg (who trained for Backer’s husband Bill): “She’s just a great owner and a really nice person to train for. Before Bill died, he told her to sell all the horses. She’s kept some mares, they raise nice horses and she’s doing it herself now. She enjoys the horses and it’s great to have her still in it.”

Truancy. A \$50,000 yearling purchase by Tagg for Eric Dattner at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic’s sale in 2020, New York-bred 3-year-old filly finished second in her debut at Belmont in June (behind \$500,000 juvenile purchase Let Her Inspire U, who runs in Friday’s Fleet Indian Stakes) and then won here for jockey John Velazquez July 31. “She won a nice race here. She was hounded the whole way and then just walked away from them. Johnny came back and said, ‘Well that was easy.’ She’s a nice filly and we think she’s probably a stake horse. If we do the right thing for her, she’ll do the right thing for us. We were pointing for (the Fleet Indian) but she just needs a little more time between races. Her heinie is still 2 inches taller than her withers. She’s 3 but she still has some growing to do.”

Tagg, who trained half-brother Confrontation to five wins and three graded-stakes placings: “She hasn’t done anything wrong, she’s just taken some baby steps and had things. She’s still growing and it’s hard to remember that sometimes.”

Continued On Page 8



Tod Marks

Robin Smullen and Barclay Tagg make a good team.

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Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 7

Shinsun. Owned by breeder Edition Farm and Linda Conroy, 3-year-old A Shin Forward gelding surprised pretty much everyone when he won his debut at Belmont for jockey Luis Saez in June, then finished third in a starter allowance here July 23. Sixth in a New York Stallion Stakes here Aug. 17, he'll aim for a starter allowance at Aqueduct. "He was the least likely to succeed, he showed nothing in any of his works, the fastest he could go was :50 (for a half-mile). We ran him for maiden \$40,000 and we said to Luis, 'You've got to take him away from the pony in the post parade and wake him up because he's slow. He breaks slow, he runs slow and he only gives you what you ask for.' He breaks, last, and he's trailing the field and all of the sudden on the backside he starts passing horses. He turns for home and Luis got into him a little bit and he wins easy. He came back up here in the open starter, which is a tough race, and he wound up third. He could have been second, but got stopped a little bit. Then we ran him in the stake and he was a little naughty in the post parade and the inner turf favors horses that have speed so he couldn't make up a whole lot of ground. He's still growing, so we look forward to seeing him as a 4-year-old. It was fun, a pleasant surprise because you get enough unpleasant surprises."

Leftembehind. A \$130,000 purchase at Fasig-Tipton's New York-bred sale here last year, Sackatoga Stable's Accelerate colt has breezed six times here and is nearing a race. "He's kind of a heavy horse but he's starting to trim up now. There was a time, not so long ago, that you could not get him out of the hay rack up here to say hello. Now he leaves a little hay on

his own and comes to see you. He's just about there, going to breeze 5 furlongs Wednesday out of the gate and if all goes well he's going to run the last day of the meet."

Tagg: "Obviously, we don't rush them. We never rush them. We let them tell us when they can run."

Tapple Cider. Sackatoga Stable's 4-year-old Tonalist filly was purchased at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's 2-year-old sale in 2020 and finished fourth in her first four starts (all last year). She graduated the maiden ranks here Aug. 12, her second start of 2022, and was eyeing another start at the meet. Tagg: "We paid a ton of money for her, she hasn't lived up to it yet. But she doesn't know that. She tries and we like her."

Union Trail. Another Sackatoga yearling purchase, this one for \$190,000 at Fasig-Tipton's New York-bred sale last year, Constitution colt out of Forest Trail (a half-sister to Grade 1 winner Carriage Trail) was moving forward in Florida this winter until sidelined by surgery to remove a small flake in an ankle. He's galloping and will start breezing in a month or so. "He's a pretty cool dude. He'll be 3 when he gets to the races. He acted the way you wanted a baby to act when we were at Palm Meadows. He galloped with everybody, did his job, wasn't coltish, just went out there and did his job. You just have to start over after things like that. He's not going to make it as a 2-year-old. Maybe this time next year he'll have won a couple races and we'll be talking about big things. He's a nice horse. We vetted him at the sale, but had written him off and pointed to horses because we didn't think we'd be able to afford him."

Dromoland. Dave Stack's 2-year-old Accelerate colt cost \$300,000 at Fasig-Tipton's New York-bred sale here last year and is gearing up for a debut even if he's still figuring out life as a racehorse. "He's a little slow coming around, not in a bad

way. He breezed out of the gate today, a half in :50, which is fine. He's not studdish, he's just not paying his full attention. He's continuing to train and progress, and hopefully this work out of the gate is going to wake him up a little bit."

Tagg: "At the sale, Dave told me, 'Don't bid anymore' and I went another \$25,000 and we got him. Dave was the happiest guy in the world."

Get Respect. Hayward Pressman's 3-year-old Get Stormy filly is winless in three starts, but progressing. "This is a long, tall drink of water. She goes to the front and kind of falters a little bit, but Get Stormys don't come around until later. We'll let her grow into herself. Maybe when we get to Aqueduct, we'll go 6 furlongs because they have it. Five-and-half here is just too fast. At 6, some horses come from off the pace and the speed horses start to come back a little bit."

Tagg: "She's kind of a gangly thing. You don't hold that against them, but you have to let them come along some."

Dream Of A Day. Sure Thing Stable's 3-year-old son of Carpe Diem is out of Unbelievable Dream, who won Keeneland's Grade 3 Appalachian for the same connections in 2013. "He runs the same way she did, drops way out of it and makes a late run. He won at Belmont (maiden claiming \$40,000 July 10) like that."

Bourbon Diversion. The Prices' homebred daughter of Bel-lamy Road and Bourbon Twist hasn't run since January when seventh at Gulfstream Park. Three-year-old filly eyes a race here Aug. 31. "She'll be all right, she's a nice-looking filly. Her half-brother (Hurtgen Forest) has a win over jumps so if she doesn't make it at this, they can turn her into a jumper."

Continued On Page 9

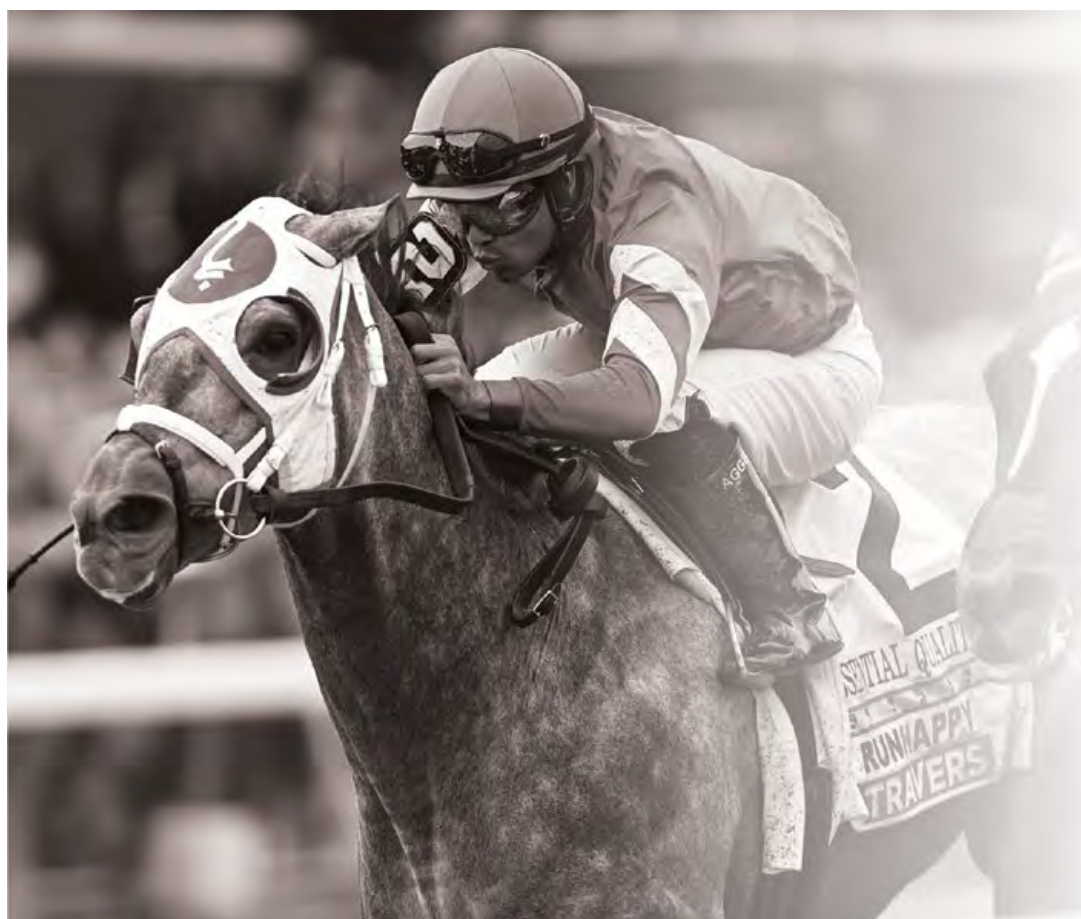
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Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

Glocca Morra. Purchased for \$45,000 at Fasig-Tipton's select yearlings showcase in 2020, New York-bred 3-year-old Bernardini filly owned by The Three Colleens Stable has run twice including a sixth here July 31. "She's not very big, but a beautiful filly. She's going to run again for \$25,000 but we've entered three times and the race doesn't go. How can maiden New York-bred fillies for 25 not go? The 6-furlong race will go, but she's probably not a 6-furlong horse."

Greek Strider. A \$150,000 Sackatoga purchase at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's 2-year-old sale in 2021, Kantharos filly has yet to race but she's working on other things – like a gleaming coat. "She's healthy. We're having a little trouble getting the weight off her. She gallops a mile-and-a-half every day, she had a few issues out of the sale and she's just a little slow coming around but she's beautiful and we'll get there."

What A Mesa. Two-year-old Sky Mesa colt has breezed six times at Saratoga and needs another gate work to finish off his debut preparations. "His owner Charles Barringer said the mare (Roaring Ghost) has never produced a turf horse and we said, 'But it's by Sky Mesa...' We'll see. Maybe we'll run him on the dirt and maybe we'll run him on the turf. He's almost ready. He's kind of a neat horse."

Mr. Marlin. Bred and owned by Barringer's Pinnacle Farm, 2-year-old Paynter colt finished third in his debut Aug. 11 after rallying from far back for Dylan Davis at 41-1. "We told Dylan he definitely wants to come from off the pace. Then he breaks quick out of there, goes from up close to last by many . . . then he gets to the middle of the turn and Dylan asks him and he comes flying and finishes third. What do we know? He probably will run the last day too. It's 6 furlongs. We wanted to stretch him out, but I don't think we're going to get that race. That was a good effort. His partners were all like, 'Well, he won't be 41-1 next time.' "

Doswell. Joe Allen's Grade 2 winner is on the mend at Webster Training Center in Florida with a suspensory injury. "Dos is getting repaired, and you'll see him again next year. He'll be 8, but Joe doesn't want to give up so he'll come back. Hopefully, he's as good as he ever was."

Storm On The Moon. The stable pony won two races for Tagg and Lael Stable, including a 6-furlong maiden at Gulfstream Park in 1:09 and change. "He looks pretty good for 15."

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Eight Pack

Epicenter, Cyberknife headline field for Saturday's Travers Stakes

BY TOM LAW

Travers Week is here and so is the field for the 153rd running of Saratoga Race Course's signature event.

Eight 3-year-olds were entered Tuesday at the Adelphi Hotel in downtown Saratoga Springs for the \$1.25 million Runhappy Travers, a group led by Jim Dandy winner Epicenter, Haskell winner Cyberknife and the winners of two of this year's Triple Crown races.

Winchell Thoroughbreds' Epicenter was pegged as the 7-5 favorite for the 1 1/4-mile Travers. Second in the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes – to a pair of colts he'll face Saturday – the son of Not This Time looks to give trainer Steve Asmussen his first win in the Travers. Joel Ro-

TRAVERS WEEK STAKES PREVIEWS

sario, aboard for the Jim Dandy and Epicenter's previous five other starts, takes the return call.

Gold Square's Cyberknife could give trainer Brad Cox back-to-back Travers winners. The son of Gun Runner comes off a victory in the July 23 Grade 1 Haskell at Monmouth Park and the Grade 3 Matt Winn June 12 at Churchill Downs. Cox, who won last year's Travers with champion Essential Quality, gives regular rider Florent Geroux the mount on the 7-2 second choice.

Trainer Chad Brown sends out the third, fourth and fifth choices in Arto-

Continued On Page 12



Tod Marks

Jim Dandy winner Epicenter is favored for Saturday's Travers Stakes.



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 SPENDTHRIFT

Previews —

■ Continued from page 10

rius (9-2), Zandon (5-1) and Early Voting (8-1). Artorius, a son of record-setting 2016 Travers winner Arrogate, improved to 2-for-3 with his victory in Saratoga's Curlin Stakes July 29. Saratoga's leading rider Irad Ortiz Jr. rides for Juddmonte.

Zandon finished second to Epicenter in the Jim Dandy and third behind Rich Strike and Epicenter in the Kentucky Derby. Flavien Prat rides the son of Upstart for Jeff Drown. Early Voting, a 1 1/4-length winner over Epicenter in the Preakness Stakes, looks to bounce back from his fourth in the Jim Dandy. Jose Ortiz rides the son of Gun Runner for Klaravich Stable.

Rich Strike, the 80-1 winner of the Kentucky Derby, makes his first start since a non-threatening sixth in the June 11 Belmont Stakes. He's listed at 10-1 for owner RED TR Racing, trainer Eric Reed and jockey Sonny Leon.

The other members of the field are double-digit longshots – RPM Thoroughbreds' Iowa Derby winner Ain't Life Grand at 20-1 for trainer Kelly Von Hemel and jockey Tyler Gaffalione and Grandview Equine's and Don Alberto Stable's Curlin runner-up Gilded Age at 30-1 for Bill Mott and Junior Alvarado.

The Travers goes at 5:44 p.m. ET on a stakes-heavy card Saturday. The remaining races for Travers

Day will be drawn Wednesday.

The field for the Travers, with jockeys and morning-line odds:

- 1-Cyberknife, Florent Geroux, 7-2
- 2-Rich Strike, Sonny Leon, 10-1
- 3-Ain't Life Grand, Tyler Gaffalione, 20-1
- 4-Gilded Age, Junior Alvarado, 30-1
- 5-Artorius, Irad Ortiz Jr., 9-2
- 6-Epicenter, Joel Rosario, 7-5
- 7-Early Voting, Jose Ortiz, 8-1
- 8-Zandon, Flavien Prat, 5-1

• The Travers Week stakes action kicks off Wednesday with a pair of events – the \$75,000 Michael G. Walsh Novice Hurdle and \$135,000 John's Call.

The 2 3/8-mile Walsh attracted a field of seven, including Saratoga allowance hurdle winner Freddy Flintshire and Jonathan Kiser Novice runner-up Decisive Triumph.

Freddy Flintshire, the winner of two straight for trainer Keri Brion, is the 5-2 favorite on the morning line with Parker Hendriks taking the return call.

Scorpion's Revenge is 3-1 on the line for trainer Cyril Murphy and jockey Barry Foley, off a victory in the May 14 Green Pastures Stakes at the Iroquois Steeplechase in Nashville.

Decisive Triumph, the 4-1 third choice for Mark Beecher, comes off three straight second-place finishes under Jamie Bargary.

Fast Vision, Perfect Tapatino, Lydford and Theo-



Dave Harmon

Travers hopeful Artorius tries to duplicate his Curlin win.

crat complete the field. The Walsh opens the card at 1:05 p.m.

The 1 5/8-mile John's Call, for 4-year-olds and up which have not won a graded sweepstakes on the turf in 2022, drew a field of six led by Tide Of The Sea and Oceans Map.

Tide Of The Sea makes his second start off the claim for trainer Tom Morley and owner Flying P

Continued On Page 14

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Previews —

■ Continued from page 12

Stable. He finished third in an off-the-turf optional July 28 at Saratoga. The 6-year-old English Channel gelding won the 2021 Grade 3 W. L. McKnight Stakes and last year's Japan Turf Cup at Laurel Park, both at 1 1/2 miles on the turf. Tide Of The Sea is 2-1 on the morning line for jockey Javier Castellano.

Oceans Map, the 5-2 second choice on the line for Jose Lezcano, ships in from Monmouth Park for owner and trainer Gregory Sacco. Second in a 1 1/16-mile optional July 29 at Monmouth, the 5-year-old Liam's Map gelding won the 1 1/2-mile Cape Henlopen last summer at Delaware Park.

Girl Dad, Bluegrass Parkway, Sa'ad and Hieroglyphics complete the field. The John's Call goes as the ninth race at 5:39 p.m.

- The \$135,000 Riskaverse for 3-year-old fillies on the grass headlines Thursday's 10-race card. Canisy, winner of a 9-furlong Opening Day optional on the grass for trainer

Christophe Clement; and Skims, fifth in the Grade 3 Lake George for trainer Shug McGaughey, headline the field.

Canisy, a daughter of Point Of Entry and the 7-2 morning-line favorite, comes in with two wins in three starts. Javier Castellano takes the return call.

Skims comes out of three straight graded stakes — the Lake George July 22 at Saratoga, a third in the Grade 2 Wonder Again June 9 at Belmont Park and a third in the Grade 2 Apalachian April 9 at Keeneland. Joel Rosario rides the daughter of Frankel, the 9-2 second choice on the line.

Missy Greer, Republique, Linda's Gift, Customer List, Gina Romantica, Spirit And Glory, Faith In Humanity, A Mo Reay and Wonka complete the field. The Riskaverse, for 3-year-old fillies which have not won a sweep-stake other than state-bred at 1 mile or over, goes as the ninth race at 5:39 p.m.

- Racing's eyes will be on Saturday's stakes-filled card headlined by the Travers Stakes, but a day earlier New York-breds take center stage with Saratoga Showcase Day featur-



Tod Marks

Continued On Page 16

Canisy tries stakes company in Thursday's Riskaverse.



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Previews —

■ Continued from page 14

ing 11 races – all for horses bred in the Empire State – and six stakes.

The stakes lineup starts early at 1:05 p.m. with the \$200,000 Seeking The Ante for 2-year-old fillies. The group features two \$360,000 purchases – Song Parody and Miracle. The first sold at Fasig-Tipton July, joining the ownership group of Runnymede Farm, Peter Callahan and Paul Goodrich. The daughter of Practical Joke makes her first start for trainer Christophe Clement after winning her debut by 5 1/2 lengths at Belmont Park June 25 for Kelly Breen. Miracle, trained by Rodolphe Brisset for WinStar Farm and Siena Farm, won her debut by 6 lengths here July 27. Other Saratoga winners Lady Mine and Maple Leaf Mel join the field.

The \$250,00 Albany for 3-year-olds goes as the third race. New York Derby winner Barese seeks his fifth win for trainer Mike Maker. The Laoban colt was fourth in the Grade 3 Ohio Derby before that and will have to deal with Price Discipline, who is a head from being undefeated in three starts.

Three-year-old fillies tangle in the \$200,000 Fleet Indian, led by the 3-for-3 Fingal's Cave from the David Donk barn. The daughter of Carpe Diem won her debut by 8 1/2 lengths and her second start by 9, both at Belmont, before winning an open-company allowance here July 29. That was her first start around two

turns and she returns at the 1 1/8-mile distance Friday. Todd Pletcher counters with Let Her Inspire U, a \$500,000 purchase last year who has won her last two including a state-bred allowance here July 22.

New York Oaks winner Galaxiana goes out for trainer Jim Bond while Venti Valentine gets some class relief after making three consecutive starts in graded company.

The \$200,000 Funny Cide lured six 2-year-olds headed by Andiamo A Firenze, who was third in the Grade 3 Sanford here July 16. The lineup also includes Saratoga maiden winners Donegal Surges and Acoustic Ave.

The \$200,000 Yaddo attracted a crowd of 11, plus one on the also-eligible list. Marvelous Maude rides a two-race winning streak into her stakes debut while Classic Lady looks to improve two spots on her third in the Yaddo's last two runnings. She won the Dayathespa here last summer for Clement. Make Mischief has never raced on the turf, but owns six wins including a score two back in the Critical Eye at Belmont.

Turf males meet in the \$200,000 West Point, which drew Therapist, who has placed in the last three runnings of the race. Graded winner Somelikeithotbrown brings a \$1,206,248 bankroll into his first West Point as Maker removes blinkers.

Maker also entered fellow millionaire Cross Border, whose Saratoga record includes wins in the Lubash Stakes and Grade 2 Bowling Green in addition to three victories at the 2019 meet. Last year's West Point winner City Man drops out of a win in the Grade 3 Forbidden Apple here July 15 for Clement.

Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS	1ST
Chad Brown	31
Todd Pletcher	22
Mike Maker	13
Bill Mott	12
Christophe Clement.....	11
Steve Asmussen	10
Brad Cox	8
Linda Rice	8
Wesley Ward	8
Jorge Abreu	5
David Donk	5
Jeremiah Englehart	5
Tom Morley	5
George Weaver.....	5

JOCKEYS	1ST
Irad Ortiz Jr.	41
Luis Saez.....	33
Joel Rosario	29
Flavien Prat	23
Manny Franco	22
Javier Castellano	21
Jose Ortiz.....	19
John Velazquez	15
Tyler Gaffalione	13
Jose Lezcano	12

Through Tuesday



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Cuba	No Never No More
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Gators N Bears	Rock Slide
Giacomo	Same Day Delivery
Go for Gin	Scipion
Golden Lad	Seville (GER)
Great Notion	Showing Up
Greek Sun	Standing Room Only
Hangover Kid	Street Magician
Heaven's Glory (JPN)	Super Ninety Nine
Holy Boss	Trial Prep
Hunters Bay	Tritap
Imagining	Two Punch
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SARATOGA ENTRIES

Wednesday, August 24.

1ST (1:05PM). \$75,000, THE MICHAEL G. WALSH NOVICE STAKES, 4 YO’S & UP, 2 3/8M (HURDLE)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double				
1	.....	1	.....	Freddy Flintshire.....P. Hendriks.....K. Brion.....5-2
2	.....	2	.....	Fast Vision (Fr).....H. Beswick.....L. Young.....8-1
3	.....	3	.....	Decisive Triumph.....J. Bargary.....M. Beecher.....4-1
4	.....	4	.....	Perfect Tapatino (Fr).....F. Procter.....L. Young.....6-1
5	.....	5	.....	Lydford (GB).....T. Garner.....L. Young.....8-1
6	.....	6	.....	Theocrat (Ire).....B. Dalton.....K. Brion.....5-1
7	.....	7	.....	Scorpion's Revenge (Ire).....B. Foley.....C. Murphy.....3-1

2ND (1:39PM). \$88,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double				
1	.....	1	.....	Sweet Blush.....J. Ortiz.....W. Morey.....9-2
2	.....	2	.....	In Good Trouble.....J. Lezcano.....G. DiPrima.....10-1
3	.....	3	.....	Gambling Girl.....I. Ortiz, Jr.....T. Pletcher.....1-1
4	.....	4	.....	Our Rosie Diamonds.....J. Gomez.....A. Chichakly.....30-1
5	.....	5	.....	Maddie's Grace.....M. Franco.....R. Rodriguez.....7-2
6	.....	6	.....	The Splendid One.....J. Castellano.....M. Hennig.....15-1
7	.....	7	.....	August Bloom.....L. Saez.....J. Sharp.....5-1

3RD (2:13PM). \$50,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO’S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double, Quinella				
1	.....	1	.....	Southern Civility.....T. McCarthy.....P. Reynolds.....15-1
2	.....	2	.....	My Slick Nick.....K. Carmouche.....S. Klesaris.....8-1
3	.....	3	.....	Druid.....M. Luzzi.....G. Goodwin.....30-1
4	.....	4	.....	Built to Last.....J. Castellano.....T. Morley.....1-1
5	.....	5	.....	Sharp Sensation.....L. Saez.....J. Kirby.....5-2
6	.....	6	.....	Fair to Middlin'.....J. Gomez.....M. Miceli.....15-1
7	.....	7	.....	Disengage.....A. Castillo.....J. Parker.....20-1
8	.....	8	.....	Brennan's War.....J. Alvarado.....L. Gyarmati.....5-1
9	.....	.....	.....	AE-MTO.Gimmebackmybullets.....Rider TBA.....R. Atras.....9-2
10	.....	.....	.....	AE-MTO.Magic Truck.....Rider TBA.....J. Ferraro.....15-1
11	.....	.....	.....	AE-MTO.Kingstown.....Rider TBA.....M. Hennig.....8-1
12	.....	.....	.....	AE-MTO.Tommy Gun.....I. Ortiz, Jr.....G. Weaver.....9-5
13	.....	.....	.....	AE-MTO.Full Complement.....J. Gomez.....J. Jerkens.....5-1

4TH (2:49PM). \$64,000, CLM \$32,000, 3 YO, 6 1/2F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double				
1	.....	2	.....	Never Early.....J. Gomez.....J. Englehart.....6-1
1a	.....	6	.....	The Met.....J. Leparoux.....J. Englehart.....6-1
2	.....	1	.....	Brawndo.....J. Rosado.....L. Gaudet.....4-1
3	.....	3	.....	Cathedral Beach.....M. Franco.....E. Barker.....2-1
4	.....	4	.....	Cole Spur.....T. Gaffalione.....R. Moquett.....3-1
5	.....	5	.....	Zen Master.....T. McCarthy.....B. Russell.....3-1
6	.....	7	.....	Silipo.....E. Cancel.....L. Rice.....8-1

5TH (3:21PM). \$57,000, CLM \$50,000, 3 YO’S & UP, 1M

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 6, Daily Double				
1	.....	1	.....	Corkman.....T. Gaffalione.....O. Noda.....6-1
1a	.....	2	.....	Al's Prince.....T. McCarthy.....J. Englehart.....6-1
2	.....	3	.....	Air Show.....L. Saez.....R. Rodriguez.....8-1
3	.....	4	.....	Good Culture.....J. Lezcano.....G. Rodriguez.....5-1
4	.....	5	.....	Forty Two Ace.....J. Rosario.....C. Baker.....8-1
5	.....	6	.....	Roderick.....J. Alvarado.....P. Bauer.....9-5
6	.....	7	.....	Kinetic Sky.....M. Franco.....B. Cox.....8-5

6TH (3:55PM). \$115,000, ALW, 3 YO’S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double				
1	.....	1	.....	Basso.....J. Alvarado.....G. Sacco.....20-1
2	.....	2	.....	Glorious Moment (PER).....H. Diaz, Jr.....M. Hemingway.....20-1
3	.....	3	.....	Under Oath.....F. Prat.....T. Pletcher.....6-1
4	.....	4	.....	Vocalize.....J. Lezcano.....L. Rice.....15-1
5	.....	5	.....	King Angelo.....J. Ortiz.....P. Serpe.....3-1
6	.....	6	.....	Thin White Duke.....J. Velazquez.....D. Donk.....7-2
7	.....	7	.....	Gianni Lambo.....I. Ortiz, Jr.....T. Pletcher.....8-1
8	.....	8	.....	Call Me Harry.....T. Gaffalione.....J. Sharp.....10-1
9	.....	9	.....	His Time.....R. Santana, Jr.....J. Begg.....8-1
10	.....	10	.....	Carpe's Dream.....T. McCarthy.....G. DiPrima.....15-1
11	.....	11	.....	Overbore.....J. Rosario.....W. Ward.....10-1
12	.....	12	.....	Winter Son.....J. Castellano.....M. Arenas.....20-1
13	.....	.....	.....	AE-MTO.Risk Profile.....Rider TBA.....L. Rice.....6-1

7TH (4:29PM). \$60,000, MCL \$75,000, 3 YO’S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double				
1	.....	1	.....	Freeze Pop.....T. Gaffalione.....N. Casse.....12-1
2	.....	2	.....	Mad Magic.....J. Rosario.....C. Baker.....8-1
3	.....	3	.....	Islandman.....E. Cancel.....A. Williams.....30-1
4	.....	4	.....	Run Smitty Run.....J. Gomez.....E. Barker.....20-1
5	.....	5	.....	Proven Hope.....J. Castellano.....M. Hennig.....5-1
6	.....	6	.....	Gut Feeling.....L. Saez.....J. Sharp.....6-1
7	.....	7	.....	Secret Cargo.....M. Franco.....C. Brown.....9-2
8	.....	8	.....	The Prince's Spur.....J. Velazquez.....T. Pletcher.....8-5
9	.....	9	.....	Drakon.....K. Carmouche.....B. Russell.....6-1

8TH (5:05PM). \$60,000, CLM \$25,000, 3 YO’S & UP, 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double				
1	.....	1	.....	Musical America.....J. Samuel.....E. Jones.....20-1
2	.....	2	.....	Crypto Cash.....K. Carmouche.....M. Giangiulio.....5-2
3	.....	3	.....	Boldish.....J. Lezcano.....L. Rice.....3-1
4	.....	4	.....	Mount Travers.....E. Cancel.....M. Kantarmaci.....6-1
5	.....	5	.....	Lil Commissioner.....J. Gomez.....P. Antonacci.....4-1
6	.....	6	.....	Lastchanceatglory.....J. Castellano.....T. Morley.....9-5

9TH (5:39PM). \$135,000, STK - THE JOHN'S CALL, 4 YO’S & UP, 1 5/8M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double				
1	.....	1	.....	Girl Dad.....L. Saez.....M. Maker.....8-1
2	.....	2	.....	Bluegrass Parkway.....T. Gaffalione.....M. Maker.....3-1
3	.....	3	.....	Tide of the Sea.....J. Castellano.....T. Morley.....2-1
4	.....	4	.....	Oceans Map.....J. Lezcano.....G. Sacco.....5-2
5	.....	5	.....	Sa'ad (Fr).....I. Ortiz, Jr.....K. Brion.....7-2
6	.....	6	.....	Hieroglyphics.....J. Gomez.....N. Chatterpaul.....12-1

10TH (6:13PM). \$70,000, STR \$50,000, 3 YO’S & UP, F & M , 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta				
1	.....	4	.....	Tempermental.....M. Franco.....R. Rodriguez.....20-1
1a	.....	.....	.....	AE-MTO.Mariah's Fortune.....Rider TBA.....R. Rodriguez.....20-1
2	.....	1	.....	Mia At Midnight.....T. McCarthy.....P. Walder.....8-1
3	.....	2	.....	Miss Delicious.....J. Velazquez.....S. Klesaris.....12-1
4	.....	3	.....	Lady of Thoroton.....J. Lezcano.....C. Englehart.....15-1
5	.....	5	.....	Stella Mars.....J. Rosario.....R. Handal.....5-1
6	.....	6	.....	Mandy Green.....F. Prat.....M. Hennig.....15-1
7	.....	7	.....	Pegs A. K. Girl.....J. Ortiz.....M. Dini.....12-1
8	.....	8	.....	Control Function.....I. Ortiz, Jr.....C. Brown.....3-1
9	.....	9	.....	Solib.....L. Saez.....J. Sharp.....10-1
10	.....	10	.....	Quaria Thunder.....J. Castellano.....J. Camejo.....8-1
11	.....	11	.....	Dreamful.....T. Gaffalione.....B. Cox.....7-2
12	.....	.....	.....	AE-MTO.Kerik.....M. Franco.....O. Noda.....9-2
13	AE-MTO.Chaysenbryn.....T. McCarthy.....M. Kantarmaci.....3-1
14	AE-MTO.Maybe Later.....I. Ortiz, Jr.....L. Rice.....5-2

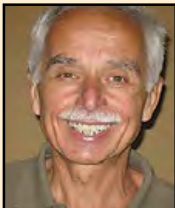




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Race #	 John Shapazian	 Tom Law	 Charles Bedard	 Rob Whitlock	 Jessica Paquette
1	Scorpion's Revenge Freddy Flintshire Theocrat	Scorpion's Revenge Freddy Flintshire Decisive Triumph	Lydford Freddy Flintshire Scorpion's Revenge	Scorpion's Revenge Freddy Flintshire Perfect Tapatino	Freddy Flintshire Theocrat Decisive Triumph
2	Gambling Girl August Bloom Sweet Blush	Gambling Girl Maddie's Grace August Bloom	Gambling Girl Maddie's Grace Sweet Blush	Gambling Girl August Bloom Maddie's Grace	In Good Trouble August Bloom Gambling Girl
3	Tommy Gun Built To Last Sharp Sensation	Tommy Gun Built To Last Sharp Sensation	Tommy Gun Sharp Sensation Built To Last	Tommy Gun Built To Last Sharp Sensation	Sharp Sensation My Slick Nick Built To Last
4	Cathedral Beach Silipo Zen Master	Cathedral Beach Cole Spur Zen Master	Brawndo Cathedral Beach Zen Master	Zen Master Cole Spur Cathedral Beach	Zen Master Brawndo Cole Spur
5	Kinetic Sky Roderick Forty Two Ace	Kinetic Sky Roderick Corkman	Roderick Final Turn entry Good Culture	Kinetic Sky Roderick Good Culture	Kinetic Sky Air Show Good Culture
6	Under Oath Gianni Lambo Thin White Duke	King Angelo Thin White Duke Under Oath	King Angelo Thin White Duke Under Oath	Under Oath Gianni Lambo Thin White Duke	Thin White Duke Under Oath Gianni Lambo
7	The Prince's Spur Secret Cargo Gut Feeling	The Prince's Spur Gut Feeling Secret Cargo	The Prince's Spur Drakon Freeze Pop	The Prince's Spur Drakon Mad Magic	The Prince's Spur Drakon Secret Cargo
8	Lastchanceatglory Lil Commissioner Crypto Cash	Lastchanceatglory Crypto Cash Boldish	Crypto Cash Lil Commissioner Lastchanceatglory	Lastchanceatglory Boldish Crypto Cash	Lastchanceatglory Mount Travers Boldish
9	Sa'ad Bluegrass Parkway Tide Of The Sea	Bluegrass Parkway Tide Of The Sea Oceans Map	Tide Of The Sea Oceans Map Girl Dad	Sa'ad Oceans Map Tide Of The Sea	Sa'ad Tide Of The Sea Ocean's Map
10	Maybe Later Miss Delicious Control Function	Maybe Later Control Function Stella Mars	Dreamful Quaria Thunder Miss Delicious	Control Function Stella Mars Dreamful	Stella Mars Control Function Miss Delicious
2022 Records	97/296	92/296	77/296	82/296	69/296



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Home Girl

Star filly Nest handles start, foes in second Grade 1 romp of meet

BY JOE CLANCY

Horses like Nest, performances like her win in Saturday's Alabama Stakes and the reaction by fans from the grandstand apron to the Turf Terrace start to make you think, to dream, to go back (and forward) in time. They're that good.

"I've clapped for a lot of horses in these grandstands, but never for a horse of my own – not like that anyway."

"As a kid you come here and you think. 'Oh, wouldn't it be nice to be an owner, to be in it, da-da-da,' and fast forward 40 years or whatever later . . . to have a horse like Nest and to win the Alabama is surreal."

"You dream of this . . . Saratoga is

ALABAMA STAKES RECAP

known for losing favorites sometimes and she's 1-5, but when she does something like that and she does it so easy . . . really special."

"I was coming down the stairs and you hear that applause. That's people who respect everything she's doing, not just bettors. She's unbelievable, truly incredible."

In order those statements came from Aron Wellman and Brian Spearman of Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, their co-owner Mike Repole and bloodstock agent Jacob West, who picked her out at Keeneland September two years ago.

Continued On Page 22



Tod Marks

Nest and Irad Ortiz Jr. eyeball the finish line of Saturday's Alabama.

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Alabama —

■ Continued from page 20

Like everyone else at Saratoga Race Course Saturday, they left in awe as Nest ruled the 1 1/4-mile Grade 1 stakes. The Alabama dates to 1872 when August Belmont's Woodbine earned \$2,650 for the win. It's been won by legends. Nest is not Shuvee, but made a statement.

It started with a crabwalk out of the gate, just to give those four men and plenty of others a fright, as Nest broke in a tangle from post four, bounced lightly off Nostalgic to the outside and found a stalking spot in third. Outside, comfortable, Nest followed She's Keen and Gerrymander through the early stages.

Irad Ortiz Jr. let Nest stride into second after a quarter-mile in :24.39. The leader covered a half-mile in :49.44, with Nest awaiting a cue. Gerrymander tugged at Flavien Prat on the rail. Goddess Of Fire did the same to John Velazquez in the three path. Between them, Kentucky Oaks winner Secret Oath got involved after three-quarters in 1:14.37. Still Ortiz waited, even taking a look through his knees midway on the turn. Nest drew alongside She's Keen, spun wide off the turn — making life even harder for Secret Oath and Goddess Of Fire — and found another gear. Six lengths clear at the eighth pole, she poured it on and might have drawn off by the dozen she did in the Coaching Club American Oaks four weeks earlier until easing up in the final stages to win by 4 1/4 lengths in 2:03.14. Her :24.39 final quarter matched the opener put up by She's Keen, who faded to last of seven. Secret Oath held second with Goddess Of Fire, like Nest trained by Todd Pletcher, third.

"It was a little hairy for the first couple of strides, but after that it was all her," Pletcher said. "She overcame that, put herself in a good spot and then once she got in a comfortable rhythm, they were going an honest pace, but not real fast, and it looked like she was in hand throughout."

The win was Nest's fourth (to go with two seconds) in six starts this year. She won the Suncoast Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs in February, added the Grade 1 Ashland at Keeneland in April, finished second to Secret Oath in the Grade 1 Kentucky Oaks



Tod Marks

Trainer Todd Pletcher.

in May, settled for another second against males going 1 1/2 miles in the Grade 1 Belmont Stakes in June, then went 2-for-2 at Saratoga. She blitzed the CCA Oaks field by 12 1/4 lengths going 1 1/8 miles to spur some chatter about trying the boys again in the Travers Stakes this weekend. Pletcher, Repole, Eclipse and Michael House stuck with the Alabama — and got rewarded.

"This was the right race for her, we felt strongly about it," said Pletcher. "Four weeks didn't seem to be an issue. She bounced back out of the Coaching Club, trained great, put on weight. She's a pleasure to be around."

Still, Pletcher felt a little pressure. His weekend began with the news of an injury and surgery to 2-year-old filly Prank and a missed breeze by Travers hopeful Charge It due to a foot abscess. She's likely out for the rest of the year. He'll miss the Travers.

Saddling a 1-5 shot in a Grade 1 at Saratoga is a luxury, but it will weigh on you too.

"These are the ones that when you expect and are expected to win, those are always the highest-pressure situations and you just want everything to go smoothly," he said. "We knew the filly was doing great, she was going to run her race, she's run well in every start of her life. So you just want to make sure you don't have anything go wrong."

Nest made sure of it, delivering on the early promise shown with a debut win at Belmont Park last September and a Grade 2 score in the 1 1/8-mile Demoiselle. That race made Pletcher

Continued On Page 24

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Alabama —

■ Continued from page 22

think of the Alabama, just because of the way she answered the distance question.

“She loves this. The mile-and-a-quarter, it’s perfect for her,” he said. “She showed in the Belmont. She stayed that day, she just didn’t get an awesome trip. I’m not saying she would have beat Mo Donegal, but it was going to be close.”

West wasn’t predicting any of this when he saw Nest at Keeneland. The daughter of Curlin and the A.P. Indy mare Marion Ravenwood, a four-time winner for breeder My Meadowview in 2011, simply looked the part. The Lyster family’s Ashview Farm bought the dam, in foal to Pioneerof The Nile, for \$400,000 at Keeneland November in 2017 and teamed up with Richard Santulli’s Colts Neck Stable as the breeder of her foals. That Pioneerof The Nile, a colt named Dr. Jack, sold for \$250,000 and has won three times. Nest came next. Pletcher trains a 2-year-old Violence colt, debut winner Lost Ark, for Harrell



Dom Napolitano/NYRA

Nest (4) takes command of the Alabama while exiting the final turn en route to her second Grade 1 win of the meet.

Ventures after a \$275,000 purchase at Keeneland September last year.

“I always just say, ‘Buy the athlete, worry about the pedigree later’ and that’s exactly what she was, just a very athletic filly,” West said. “You see her, she’s not huge, she’s not some

big, physically imposing filly. She’s just an incredibly good-moving filly that had a great mind at the sale. She was raised by great people in the Lysters and you have a lot of confidence in buying off of those guys. We were just lucky to get her and she’s reas-

sured us in our beliefs in her. They don’t have to keep getting better. She just has. When they keep surprising you, that’s when you feel good about it.”

Additional reporting by Tom Law.

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Caravel strides clear in Saturday's Smart And Fancy Stakes for trainer Brad Cox.

Tod Marks

SMART AND FANCY STAKES RECAP

Rebound

Caravel crafts right trip, wins 8th stakes

BY TOM LAW

Brad Cox went back to his barn inside Horse Haven on the Oklahoma Training Track after the Grade 3 Caress Stakes July 23 fully expecting to regroup with Caravel.

The 2-1 favorite for the turf sprint stakes finished a troubled ninth that day, breaking a half-beat slow from post one and running into trouble on the inside less than a quarter-mile into the race. The Mizzen Mast mare struggled from there, never closing from sixth and eventually coming home 8 1/2 lengths behind Robin Sparkles.

Cox figured Caravel might benefit with a return to a synthetic track, where she'd won a small stakes to start her 2022 season in March at Turfway Park. He picked out the Grade 2 Presque Isle

Continued On Page 28

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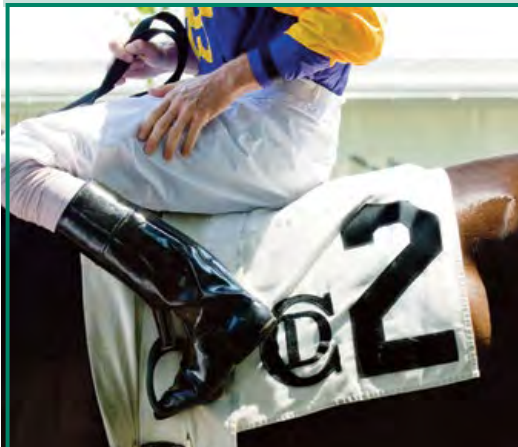
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\$300,000
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Two Year Olds
1 1/16 Miles

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
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1 1/16 Miles

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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

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Three Year Olds & Up
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Smart And Fancy —

■ Continued from page 26

Masters in mid-September at Presque Isle Downs, before changing course as August rolled along.

"I decided to talk to the ownership group and thought Presque Isle would make sense," Cox said. "Then I was like, 'Man, I've got over two months.' Or right at two months. She was doing fine and there was no reason to not run her. We're here and we don't have to ship. I thought it made sense giving her a run here today and it kind of worked out as a filler between the last one and the Presque Isle race."

Saturday's \$150,000 Smart And Fancy proved the perfect bridge between the nightmare of the Caress and potential payday of the \$400,000 Masters, and the right spot to get back in the win column. Caravel did that, avoiding trouble this time from the outside post and winning by a half-length over Change Of Control. Caravel won the 5 1/2-furlong stakes in 1:01.92 over the firm turf under Luis Saez.

"It was a little bit of a late decision to run her here," said Cox, who trains Caravel for Qatar Racing, Marc Detampel and Madaket Stables. "We didn't really have it on our radar after the last race. After the Caress, it was

one of those that you mark it off. The trip was brutal, she broke a step slow, she was squeezed into the turn, so we marked it off."

Saez took over the riding assignment with Tyler Gaffalione at Del Mar to ride Spendarella to victory in the Grade 1 Del Mar Oaks. Caravel broke much better in the Smart And Fancy, coming away fourth and just behind Robin Sparkles and longshots Fouette and Sarah Harper in the first 50 yards.

Robin Sparkles led through the opening quarter-mile in :21.69, a length clear of Sarah Harper with Caravel just a half-length back. Caravel stayed a few paths off the inside while tracking the leader, and came alongside Robin Sparkles turning for home. The two raced as a tandem for about a sixteenth of a mile from the top of the lane, with Caravel eventually putting away Robin Sparkles and bracing for a challenge of a resurgent Fouette down on the inside and Illegal Smile to her outside past the half-mile mark in :44.37.

Caravel continued on well inside the eighth pole and extended her lead to a length approaching the sixteenth as Illegal Smile continued her run and Change Of Control reached contention from the back of the field. Caravel held off Change Of Control and

Continued On Page 29



Caravel (9) leans into the turn ahead of the crowd in Saturday's Smart And Fancy Stakes.

Dom Napolitano/NYRA

Smart And Fancy —

■ Continued from page 28

jockey Colby Hernandez by a half-length at the finish, with Illegal Smile another neck back in third. Miss J McKay, the 2-1 favorite in the field of nine, finished fourth. Caravel, off at almost 4-1 and the longest price she'd been going back more than a year aside from last year's Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint, won in 1:01.92.

"The difference was the break, she broke good," Saez said. "She had a clean break and she was right there. When she came to the top of the stretch, she ... took off. It was a great race."

Caravel, a Pennsylvania-bred out of the Congrats mare Zeezee Zoomzoom, won last year's Caress for her owner-breeder-trainer Lizzie Merryman. Celebrity chef Bobby Flay bought an interest in the then 4-year-old filly before that race and she was turned over to Graham Motion as planned after the Caress. Caravel made three starts for Motion, Merryman and Flay to finish the year, never hitting the board and finishing last of 12 at 17-1 in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint at Del Mar.

Caravel sold for \$500,000 three days after the Breeders' Cup at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky November mixed sale. Transferred to Cox, she won the Queen Stakes at Turfway Park in mid-March for Qatar Racing and Detampel before a sixth in the Grade 2 Twin Spires Turf Sprint on Kentucky



Tod Marks

Trainer Brad Cox.

Oaks Day at Churchill Downs. She encountered trouble there, too, through no fault of her own, according to Cox.

"That was when you couldn't do anything down on the inside," Cox said, referring to the beleaguered new turf course at Churchill. "She was right there, the waters parted and I was like, 'Oh, here we go, we're going to win.' But she just started spinning her wheels. Nobody won down inside. We kind of marked that one off and wheeled her back in the Intercontinental."

Caravel won the Grade 3 Intercontinental going 6 furlongs on the turf as the favorite the day before the Belmont Stakes.

The Smart And Fancy gave her three wins in five starts this season, victories coming in every other start, but don't label her an on-again, off-again horse.

"Absolutely not," Cox said. "She's pretty honest. And that last race was a complete, 100-percent toss."

Caravel improved to 10-for-17 with the victory and boosted her bankroll to \$647,777. She's likely for another appearance in the sales ring in November, and her connections are hopeful for a second run in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint at Keeneland Nov. 5.

"It would be on the radar," Cox said. "The owners, they made the comment that it would be nice to finish there. She's going to go through the sale again. They'll have to figure out what to do with her and that being her last dance. Hopefully we get a few more out of her and go from there."

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Lone Speed

Haughty takes field all the way

BY TIMOTHY LITTAU

Much of Saturday's card at Saratoga Race Course was obscured by clouds, but the sun shined through before the Grade 2 Lake Placid and so did Haughty as she led five sophomore fillies all the way to win the \$200,000 stakes.

"It's always incredible, especially on a Saturday at Saratoga, to win a Grade 2 race," said Jay Hanley, co-owner of the Empire Maker filly with Bradley Thoroughbreds, Belmar Racing and Breeding and Cambron Equine. "It feels really good to be in the winner's circle in a graded stake back here."

Trainer Chad Brown conditioned the 5-1 fourth choice Haughty and three others in the Lake Placid – 5-2 second choice Consumer Spending,

LAKE PLACID STAKES RECAP

4-1 third choice Eminent Victor and 7-1 Dolce Zel. Jose Ortiz put Haughty on the lead shortly after the start, opening 2 lengths through splits of :24.52, :48.80 and 1:12.65. Ortiz picked up the mount on Haughty after Joel Rosario took off Friday, Saturday and Sunday due to illness.

"I thought With The Moonlight would go and our plan was to get right next to her," Brown said of the 6-5 favorite and Grade 3 Saratoga Oaks winner. "When she didn't break early, Jose just took the initiative and went. I'm very grateful. Joel Rosario was sick today and couldn't ride. Jose filled in for us and did a fabulous job."



Tod Marks

Continued On Page 31

Haughty (right) prevails in Saturday's Lake Placid Stakes.



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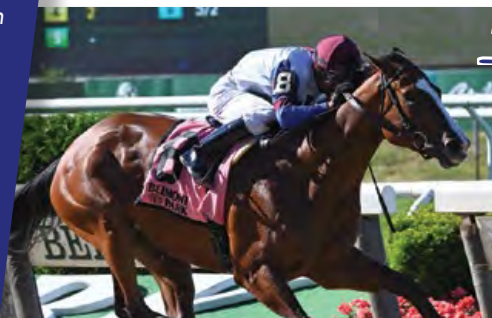
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Lake Placid —

■ Continued from page 30

Haughty led into the stretch and held a 1 1/2-length advantage over Consumer Spending in midstretch. With The Moonlight gained ground after a four-wide run into the lane but came up three-quarters of a length short at the finish. Dolce Zel, winner of the Grade 3 Lake George July 22, finished another 1 1/4 lengths back in third. Haughty won in 1:41.16 over the firm inner turf course.

Haughty, a \$310,000 purchase at last year's OBS April 2-year-olds in training sale, improved to 3-for-6 with two thirds and boosted her earnings to \$351,200.

"They gave a pretty good number for her," Hanley said. "She has a nice pedigree and when you have a physical the way she does, compared to a lot of horses that are selling for these days, they kind of stole the horse. They saw something there that others didn't. I just feel very proud of the horse, and on a day like today, and I'm very happy to be a part of it."

Haughty improved to 2-for-3 in 2022 after a 2-year-old campaign that featured a disqualification from first in her debut, a 4-length maiden victory at Keeneland and a close third in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf at Del Mar. She started the year with a victory in the Penn Oaks in June at Penn National and a ninth in the Grade 1 Belmont Oaks Invitational July 9.

"It was just a little too far, she was on the lead the whole way, she's much more comfortable in between a mile and a mile and an eighth," Hanley said of the 10-furlong Belmont Oaks. "I'm really looking forward to what she does next, hopefully she stays well."

Another try at the Grade 1 level could be next, in the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup Oct. 15 at Keeneland.

"Any time you have a really good 3-year-old filly on the turf who just won this Grade 2 going a mile and a sixteenth, a next logical progression would be the Queen Elizabeth at Keeneland going a mile and an eighth," Hanley said. "That would



Tod Marks

Haughty heads back to the barn with a Grade 2 win.

be my guess, as a likely possible next place to go. It's about seven weeks out so we'll circle up with Pete (Bradley) and Chad and see where we go."

Godolphin's With The Moonlight could also land in Lexington. Chris Connett, assistant to Charlie Appleby, said before the race that the Queen Elizabeth II could be in play.

"That wasn't the game plan. Ideally, we wanted to be on the pace if not leading," Connett said of With The Moonlight's trip coming from fifth of six. "Unfortunately, she was a step slow away from the gate and when you draw the one hole and get away slightly slow, it makes it very difficult to be on the pace."

"She still ran a very big race. She closed from way off the pace on a slow, easy fractions for the horse in front. The team will see how she comes out of this race and go from there."

The Lake Placid proved a disappointment for the world-traveling Connett after being part of the winning teams for the Saratoga Derby Aug. 6 and Saratoga Oaks Aug. 7, but a hometown joy for Hanley. Art Devlin, the mayor of Lake Placid, presented Hanley with a framed picture of the town in the heart of the Adirondack Mountains after the race.

"It's awesome, it really is," Hanley said of the win. "My father lives here in town, my mother grew up close to here. I have a home here now. Winning at Saratoga is very difficult, winning a graded stake here is next level. It just feels awesome."

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Hype Horse

Gun Runner colt Echo Again runs to odds for Asmussen

Jockey Ricardo Santana Jr. jumped off Echo Again, winner of Saturday's seventh race at Saratoga Race Course, and delivered a message to winning trainer Steve Asmussen.

"Faster than his daddy," Santana said of the 2-year-old son of Gun Runner who won his debut by 6 3/4 lengths at 3-5. Owned and bred by Winchell Thoroughbreds, Echo Again went to the front from the start and cruised to victory in 1:15.89 for the 6 1/2 furlongs on the fast main track to the delight of Asmussen.

"We're very fortunate to have some unbelievable horses but [Echo Again] has been separate, or different, or better the whole time," said Asmussen, who trained Gun Runner to his 12-win, \$15,988,500-earning career. "He's from a great pedigree of the Winchells and just another outstanding Gun Runner."

Santana and Asmussen weren't alone in believing the colt's pre-race hype.

Asmussen said his son Keith rides the colt regularly and told his father that it was the best horse he's been on.

"I believe him," Steve Asmussen said. "I love how he acted (in the paddock). I was a little concerned. I was very confident in his ability to come over here on Alabama Day with a lot of people. He kept his head about him."

The Grade 1 Champagne Stakes Oct. 1 at Aqueduct could be a logical target for Echo Again's next start but Asmussen wouldn't commit just yet.

"We have options. We'll have to sort them out," he said.

— **Christian Avard**

• Ray Handal went with his gut instinct, entering Sebaray on a three-week turnaround. The 3-year-old gelded son of Malibu Moon and jockey Flavien Prat rewarded him with a victory in the opener.

"Coming back on shorter rest is not really my move," Handal said. "He was doing so well I just said we've got to put him in the box. He tortured Prat the entire time before the race, he was really on his toes, had a lot of energy and he showed that in the race."

Despite the pre-race antics, Sebaray raced in fifth early before launching a bid midway around the far turn. He won a three-way photo by a neck over



Tod Marks

Echo Again draws clear in Saturday's maiden victory for trainer Steve Asmussen and Winchell Thoroughbreds.

Floki's Flight with Street Vendor third. Sebaray won the 1 1/16-mile turf race in 1:43.63.

Prat picked up the mount with Joel Rosario off his mounts Saturday because of illness.

"Flavien did everything right, saved ground, made a nifty little move around the three-eighths," Handal said. "That was the winning move because we didn't win by a lot but he was able to get that momentum and keep that run going from the three-eighths all the way home. And we needed every bit of it."



Tod Marks

Peaceful Waters rolls to victory in Saturday's third.

The win was a product of a longtime connection between Handal and co-owner Jay Alonzo, who owns Sebaray with Thomas Nielson and Michael Raucci.

"That was an acquisition, I got him and Three Two Zone from Jay Alonzo, who I've known forever," Handal said. "We go back to my days as an assistant for trainer Tony Dutrow, I had a horse with him, we've stayed buds over the years. He decided to make a switch and he sent me his two horses he had in training."

While Sebaray will have more time until his next start, Handal hopes to be with Alonzo in the winner's circle again this Saturday after the Grade 1 Forego Stakes with Three Two Zone.

— **Timothy Littau**

• "I love it when this game surprises you."

That's how trainer Al Stall Jr. summed things up when Allied Racing Stable's Peaceful Waters won the third by 12 lengths under Luis Saez.

Stall notched his third win of the meet with Peaceful Waters in the \$115,000 allowance race at 6 furlongs. Favorite Outlaw, the 3-2 favorite in the field of seven, finished second with Risk Profile third.

Stall brought Peaceful Waters back 28 days since his runner-up finish in a similar 6-furlong allowance July 22. Peaceful Waters finished second to Stage Left by 5 3/4 lengths in that contest.

"(Saez) said he broke way better today than the

Continued On Page 33

Saturday —

■ Continued from page 32

other day and he got the long, lonely lead and he got pumped up and kept running,” Stall said. “He’s close to being a good horse. We got some things to fine tune, like his leads and things like that.”

Peaceful Waters hustled from the gate and clicked off fractions of :22.25, :45.05, and :56.95, before winning in 1:09:64. Stall said another allowance at Churchill Downs or Keeneland could be next.

— **Christian Averd**



Tod Marks

• Edward Schaentzler’s homebred Road To Remember gave trainer Natalia Lynch a day she’ll never forget, winning the fourth for her first win at Saratoga in her third year of training.

“It’s surreal, I haven’t taken it in yet,” Lynch said after the 4-year-old Bellamy Road filly won the New York-bred maiden on the turf. “I’m just really happy for the owners because they’ve waited a long time for this moment with her.”

Schaentzler and Lynch had hoped for a win with Road To Remember since her April 1, 2021 debut, but she went winless in 10 starts entering Saturday.

“She had a really bad trip last time and she was swung wide around the turn and she fishtailed,” Lynch said. “Today she just got it done.”

Lynch called on Kendrick Carmouche to ride Road To Remember after receiving word Saturday that apprentice rider Jose Gomez was out with Covid.

“We’d gone back and forth this morning a lot on riders because Jose had breezed her,” Lynch said. “He did a really good job, but it was unfortunate that he couldn’t ride her. I just thought that Kendrick would fit her really well.”

— **Timothy Littau**

• The silver and maroon colors of Sackatoga Stable were back in the winner’s circle with Barclay Tagg following Saratoga Flash’s victory in the finale, a \$35,000 claimer at 1 1/16 miles on the inner turf. Saratoga Flash came from 10th to draw away by 2

1/2 lengths under Javier Castellano.

“They all have a lot of fun, so it’s nice to win for them when you can,” Tagg said of the Sackatoga partners.

The New York-bred 4-year-old gelding by Laoban lagged 7 lengths behind early, but Tagg didn’t doubt Castellano’s judgment on the 7-2 third choice.

“You’re always a little worried at first when they’re in the back half, but it all worked out well,” Tagg said. “You’ve got to leave the worrying up to the jockey. When they get to the head of the stretch if it looks like they’re running and happy then it’s a good sign. I thought it was perfect, and it ended up perfect anyway.”

Tagg knew that Saratoga Flash had a good performance coming.

“I thought he’d be right there, second or third, and if we were real lucky we’d be first,” he said.

Saratoga Flash was claimed by trainer Natalia Lynch for Dailey Double Racing.

— **Timothy Littau**

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Plan B

Love Reigns sits off early pace, storms to first stakes victory

BY TOM LAW

Irad Ortiz Jr. went into Sunday's \$150,000 Bolton Landing Stakes with a plan for Love Reigns.

When Sweet Harmony "beat the gate" – in the words of fellow jockey Javier Castellano – Ortiz went to a second option that felt just as comfortable.

"I thought I was going to be on the lead; that was my plan," Ortiz said. "But, when we broke out of there Javier was faster than me. He outbroke me, so I went to Plan B."

Plan B was to do what Love Reigns had been taught in the mornings by trainer Wesley Ward and his trusted exercise rider and assistant Julio Garcia – relax off the leader and pounce when the time was right. Love Reigns showed she learned her lessons and did just that, rating off the speedy Sweet Harmony early, engaging at the top of the lane and running away in the lane to win by 2 1/2 lengths.

"It was nice today that she rated kindly," said Ward, who watched the race from his home base at Keeneland. "She had been doing that in the morning, but morning and afternoon are two different animals. We had that other filly [Sweet Harmony] go up there with her and Irad eased her back in second. When he went ahead and tapped her on the shoulder, she kicked away from them. That's what you want to see, especially from a 3-5 shot."



Dave Harmon

Love Reigns heads for the finish of Sunday's Bolton Landing Stakes.

Love Reigns earned those odds off her two prior starts – a 9 3/4-length victory on closing day of the Keeneland spring meet in a 5 1/2-furlong turf maiden and a fourth in the Group 2 Queen Mary Stakes in mid-June at Royal Ascot.

Owned by Stonestreet Stable and a \$187,123 purchase by bloodstock agent Ben McElroy at last year's Goff's Orby yearling sale in Ireland, Love Reigns came into the Bolton Landing off four works over the Oklahoma Training Track turf course. The most recent work – a half in :48.66 Aug. 12 – was the best. That work, Ward's techniques and the knowledge of the filly from riding her prior to starts gave Ortiz all the confidence he needed.

"These kind of horses, they always are in behind some horses to teach them," Ortiz said. "Julio Garcia always teaches them before they run to settle and finish, so I wasn't afraid. She was going really, really relaxed. I said 'all right, fine' and then when I come to the quarter-pole she responded and she gave me a good run."

Ward won his fifth Bolton Landing and second straight, after sending Chi Town Lady to victory last year. He said Love Reigns stamped herself as a contender for the Nov. 4 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint at Keeneland, a race he's won three straight

Continued On Page 35



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– Sean Clancy, Riverdee Stable

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Bolton Landing —

■ Continued from page 34

times with Twilight Gleaming, Golden Pal and Four Wheel Drive.

Like Love Reigns, Golden Pal and Twilight Gleaming ventured to Royal Ascot after winning in the U.S. Twilight Gleaming finished second in the Queen Mary, beaten just 1 1/4 lengths. Love Reigns finished 3 lengths back in her Queen Mary, after leading with a furlong to run.

"She ran really well over there," Ortiz said. "It's up the hill going to the wire. Such nice horses over there too and she gave me everything she got and that was a great race. I'm happy to see her back on her form and back winning."

Love Reigns earned her second win after breaking in a touch at the start, racing next to Sweet Harmony for a few strides before that rival cleared the field from post nine. Sweet Harmony led Love Reigns by 1 1/2 lengths through the opening quarter in :22.34, with the Ward-trained No Kay Never a half-length back in

third and ahead of Motown Mischief, Danse Macabre and Aztec Nights.

Love Reigns raced up within a half-length of the leader midway around the far turn and stuck a head in front turning for home, past the half in :44.87. The two raced side-by-side past the eighth pole as No Kay Never retreated and Redefined and Danse Macabre revved up from midpack.

Those two came with their runs but too late to cause Ortiz any serious concern in deep stretch. Love Reigns won in 1:02.03, picking up \$82,500 for her connections to boost her bankroll to \$117,365.

"She did everything perfect," Ortiz said. "She broke good and the other horse came out faster than mine. I came over, sit sat second in the clear and waited for the time to go and she did the rest."

Ward said he's inclined to train the daughter of U S Navy Flag up to the Juvenile Turf Sprint, the same move he did with Stonestreet's Twilight Gleaming after she won the Prix de la Vallee d'Auge at Deauville in early August before winning the Juvenile Turf Sprint in early November at Del Mar.

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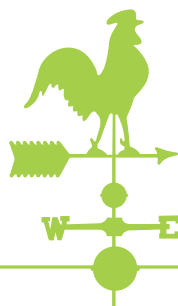
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Milestone Win

Phantom Smoke gives West Point its 1,000th

BY TOM LAW

Terry Finley ballparked that West Point Thoroughbreds has introduced about 2,500 people to racing, either as partners in the syndicate, owners themselves, small breeders and other participants.

A few hours after West Point celebrated its 1,000th victory when Phantom Smoke won Sunday's second race at Saratoga Race Course, Finley helped set the hook deeper for an already hard-core fan out with his father for the second half of the card.

"Come on Declan, give me a number, let's bet something," Finley said to 10-year-old Declan Molloy. The two set off for the betting windows outside the clubhouse, came back a minute later with a \$20 win ticket on Repealing in the eighth and a few more minutes later that \$20 became \$45 when the 3-year-old Constitution filly won the 6-furlong allowance.

Finley laughed about the scenario the next morning at the Morning Line Kitchen on the backstretch of the main track, as he reflected back on West Point's first win and other milestones along the way.

"It was a beautiful day," Finley said of Phantom Smoke's win for West Point, New Phoenix Stable, Steven Rocco and Daniel Burke. "About 18 months ago I figured unless we had a dramatic drop off, or



Dave Harmon

Phantom Smoke charges home in Sunday's second race, the 1,000th win for West Point Thoroughbreds.

an incredible run, and stayed in our lane we'd be right around here for the 1,000.

"Looking back it was cooler than I thought. It's incredible when you really think about these trainers and their teams, and how hard they work to try and win one race. It really stops you in your tracks. They're all separate and distinct. Every race, there's no connection. Every one is individual, every group of horses, they have one that gets to the wire first and then everything resets."

Finley and his wife Debbie celebrated with a huge group in the winner's circle after Phantom Smoke's half-length victory over Deep Cover in the 5 1/2-furlong turf optional for New York-breds.

"To see the team be as happy and as moved as they were, and to see as many partners, the fact they were so moved, moved me quite a bit more

than I thought it would," Finley said.

West Point's first win came in August 1991 when Sun Belt and jockey Matthew Vigliotti won a \$6,500 claiming race at Philadelphia Park. Finley wasn't on hand for the win; he was still enlisted as a captain in the U.S. Army and serving temporary duty at Fort Lewis in Washington. Sun Belt was the fledgling partnership's first starter and Debbie made it to the winner's circle.

Four years later West Point celebrated its first stakes win when Julie Krone rode Big City Bound to win the \$45,000 Miss Liberty at the Meadowlands. West Point won its first graded stakes when Pat Day rode Ethan Man to victory in the Grade 3 Swale in March 2002 at Gulfstream Park.

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Sunday —

■ Continued from page 36

Finley pointed out other seminal victories – Seattle Fitz becoming the operation's first New York graded stakes winner in the Grade 3 Aqueduct Handicap in 2004 and Flashy Bull becoming the first Grade 1 winner in the 2007 Stephen Foster Handicap at Churchill Downs. West Point finished second to California Chrome in the 2014 Kentucky Derby with Commanding Curve and owned an interest in 2017 Derby winner Always Dreaming.

"Then Flightline," Finley said, pointing to the stable's current star purchased for \$1 million at the 2019 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale and campaigned with Hronis Racing, Siena Farm and others. "I'm jumping around to the big ones. There have been some great moments.

"One was Charlise Cantey," Finley said. "She interviewed me. When I was a kid – who wasn't enthralled by all things Charlise Cantey? – and when we won one of those first stakes I got interviewed by her."

• Life was good for the Caramori family Sunday as Caio Caramori sent out his first Saratoga winner when Arthurian took the fourth and his fa-

ther Eduardo Caramori won the finale with Bayou Wind.

"It was pretty cool; really something," said Caio Caramori, walking Arthurian Monday morning outside his barn in the stable area at Saratoga Raceway. "My dad has had several winners here through the years but that was my first. I was here last year for the first time (as a trainer)."

Arthurian won his 6-furlong claiming event for a \$16,000 tag, overcoming a bump at the break to lead the whole trip. Four Pillars Holdings' 4-year-old Oxbow gelding won by 3 3/4 lengths under Kendrick Carmouche as the 9-2 third choice in the field of eight.

"I was actually excited they didn't claim the horse," Caio Caramori said. "I thought he'd get claimed. Super happy. And then to win the last race for my dad was just icing on the cake."

Bayou Wind won the \$40,000 maiden claimer at 23-1.

Owned by Post Rock Farms, the 4-year-old Dominus filly also went all the way on the lead for jockey Omar Hernandez Moreno, who picked up the mount after apprentice Jose Gomez tested positive for Covid-19.

Caue Caramori, Caio's brother and assistant to his father, saddled the filly in her 12th start.

Continued On Page 38



Dave Harmon

Arthurian starts a two-win day for the father/son team of Eduardo and Caio Caramori.

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- 3. Snap Decision.** Yes, really. He carried 164 pounds for 2 3/8 miles and made it look easy.
- 4. Jackie's Warrior.** Three Gr. 1 Saratoga wins in three years? He's like a mini-Fourstardave.
- 5. Casa Creed.** Went a mile in Fourstardave the way he did 6 furlongs in Jaipur.
- 6. In Italian.** Her Diana score was something. Grade 1 win, course record. Bellissimo.
- 7. Epicenter.** Second in Derby, second in Preakness, first in Jim Dandy. Travers next.
- 8. Clairiere.** Gutsy 4-year-old filly knocked off rival (and fellow Curlin daughter) Malathaat.
- 9. Kimari.** Ripper of a Grade 2 sprint win in the Honorable Miss.
- 10. Just Cindy.** Kentucky arrival delivered a masterpiece in Schuylerville.

The breeder of the horse with the **Top Performance of 2022** receives a FREE 2023 breeding season to Oscar Performance. Good luck to all.



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Sunday —

■ Continued from page 37

"This filly, she's beautiful and is cut out to be a nice horse," Caue Caramori said. "She just has a few issues that limit her to be what she is. If this filly was 100 percent, she'd be a stakes horse. That's how good she is. That's why I was confident going over there with her."

"We entered at Colonial for a week and couldn't get in. I looked at this race and I had to come up here because I have other horses, and said, 'I'll take this filly up there.' She's a big horse, would ship with no problem. Everybody was surprised. I wasn't that surprised. If she gets that kind of trip she's dangerous."

The Caramori family took over Bayou Wind's training this spring and she was well-beaten in two starts on the dirt at Keeneland and Churchill Downs before placings on the turf at Horseshoe Indianapolis leading up to her half-length win over Belleshazza Sunday.

"The only times she ran bad was the first two times we ran her," Caue Caramori said. "We didn't know her, so I took the blinkers off. It was one of those, 'get a horse from somebody, I'm going to be smart and take the blinkers off.' The horse ran terrible."

"At Keeneland and Churchill she freaked out. The first race was a Saturday at Keeneland there were like



Dave Harmon

Repealing scores in Sunday's eighth, one of two wins on the day for jockey Tyler Gaffalione, who won a Grade 1 at Del Mar in California Saturday.

30,000 people there. She didn't run very well. Then I ran her back in a week later and it was Opening Night at Churchill, with the bands and everything. ... She was better at Indiana and (Sunday) she was calm. She liked being around there under the trees. It was cool."

- Tyler Gaffalione, fresh from winning the Grade 1 Del Mar Oaks aboard Spendarella at 8:41 p.m. ET

and after a red-eye flight back to the East Coast, won Sunday's opener aboard Emory Hamilton's homebred Pleasant Passage. Trained by Shug McGaughey and sent off the second longest price in the eight-horse field at 15-1, the 2-year-old daughter of More Than Ready won her debut by a neck over Letter Of Gold. Gaffalione doubled up later in the card when he rode Repealing to victory for trainer Al Stall Jr. in the eighth.

- Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen struck again with an offspring of Gun Runner when Grand Love and jockey Ricardo Santana Jr. rolled to a 4 3/4-length debut victory in the sixth. Three Chimneys Farm's homebred out of the Grand Slam mare joined fellow Gun Runner-winning juveniles Echo Again and Disarm, along with Grade 2 Amsterdam winner Gunite on Asmussen's list of winners so far at the meet.

- Joel Rosario missed his third straight day riding Sunday due to illness, missing out on Grand Love's victory, along with Saturday winners Sebaray (first), Echo Again (seventh) and Haughty (Grade 2 Lake Placid). Irad Ortiz Jr. rode two winners on Sunday's card to boost his season total to 41, eight more than Luis Saez and 12 more than Rosario.



Dave Harmon

Pleasant Passage (inside) denies Letter Of Gold in Sunday's first for trainer Shug McGaughey.

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Ya gotta have heart

BY RICHARD ZWIRN

"It's not the size of the dog in the fight. It's the size of the fight in the dog."

– Mark Twain

Morning on the backside of Saratoga Race Course. A world within a world. Colorful characters from all walks of life caring dutifully to the horse. More stories here than can ever be told. I bumped into three trainers.

David Donk is at Barn 30. He trained one of our broodmares for her lone start. He grew up on a farm and started his career 40 years ago under his dad, Jerry, at Finger Lakes. Then he became an assistant under Woody Stephens. Imagine, a kid from Finger Lakes.

David is deeply calming. He is warm bread.

"I had a horse for Bill Punk and Phillip DiLeo named Spectrolite," he said. "He was training well as a 2-year-old, but we stopped on him just to give him more time. He returned from his freshening better than ever and in his final work before his first race, he came back lame. It turned out to be a condylar fracture in his left front. Patty Hogan put a couple of screws in and we let him heal."

With eyes gazing longingly in the distance, David continues, "At 3, the horse returned to me and demonstrated real ability in his initial two races, but sustained another injury - a condylar fracture in his right front. Now he had screws in both fronts. I couldn't ask the owners to keep paying the bills, so I took him on. We (Arturo Ramirez has been his assistant for 25 years) did right by him. He broke his maiden, did well and was claimed at some point for \$25,000. And you know what? He's still winning today as a 10-year-old. (In fact, he's won 15 times through Wednesday.)

"Spectrolite was a true 'working man's horse.' Modestly bred. He was rugged. Classy and determined. He tried his best every day. My daugh-

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

ter, Holly, (who was 10 at the time) named him and my dad . . . he just loved these old warrior types. So, yeah, he worked his way into my heart."

A big-hearted horse for a kind-hearted trainer.

Want a story? Go visit Gary Sciacca's barn. He barely takes a breath while holding court from the perch in his golf cart. He's a little Ralph Kramdenesque. A big mouth – and a bigger heart.

Our conversation regarding a 2-year-old filly that we bred and raised that he is now training was hijacked within a five-minute period by owners Eddie Fedwell and Bobby Flay – and then our very own Sean Clancy. (Gary quipped, "Many years ago, I helped Sean sell 100 of his newly released books from my golf cart.")

He didn't have much to say about our filly.



Tod Marks

Spectrolite (right) won at Saratoga in 2017.



Every Horse

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"Came to us in rough shape from the sale," he said. "The dentist worked on her for almost an hour the other day . . . her mouth was a nightmare."

His eyes took on that faraway look, however, when he brought up one of his favorite horses from a career of more than 40 years. "I won over \$1.2 million with Subordination. He took us everywhere. He won on dirt, grass, slop, and I swear they ran his Hollywood Derby on a turf course that was partially submerged under water. A bog.

"I always liked him. Not too big, but well built. I bet \$100 on him in his first two races – finished dead last in both. He needed grass early in his career. It helped him gain confidence. Ultimately, when another horse came to him, he just took off. He had that will to win.

"What a horse. He won 11 races . . . a couple Grade 1s. He went to stud at Gainesway. So tough to make a stallion. He was then sent to Uruguay. I visited that country once, but getting to see him didn't work out. To this day, I still feel bad about that."

A special place in his heart, indeed.

Linda Rice was on the other side of the verdant yet vibrant stable area. She has been fluent in the language of horses since she was a young child. It's no surprise that she's been a successful New York trainer for 35 years. She's inching close to 2,200 wins and \$100 million in purses and currently trains Durkin's Call, a horse who came off our farm.

In the midst of a Fitbit busting morning when she was in constant motion, I asked her about a horse from her career that stands out. She took a brief respite from chores, giving directions, and sneaking peeks at every set of equine legs that

Continued On Page 42

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Every Horse —

■ Continued from page 40

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But, fabric, nonetheless, that makes for endless stories.

"I'll go with Soldier Field," she said. "My brother Curt owned him. The colt had ability. But, he also had sesamoiditis as a 2-year-old, so we couldn't sell him at the sales. I ultimately sold him to a client and he showed his true colors by winning six stakes races at five tracks. Dirt and turf, short and long. I remember he ran at Hollywood Park in the Turf Express. Got off the plane, didn't turn a hair, and won off like a champ against older horses. The only problem was that I couldn't find the winner's circle. I had never raced in California before."

Rice becomes a bit introspective.

"You know, he wasn't City Zip (her multiple graded stakes-winning colt). But he was special. Tremendous disposition. A good horse will work with you. Great mind. I wish there were more like him."

Just a few short stories about "regular Joe," overachieving-type horses, which in expert hands exceeded expectations. On the backside, that is why they should all be treated like champs. One can never tell where the next good horse will come from.

Beauty and breeding help — but it's what's "under the hood" that seems to really matter.

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

384 ~~357~~

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The Big Picture

with Tod Marks

Mighty John. Eight years into retirement, Grade 1 winner John's Call (and Barry Watson) galloped past the stands while leading the post parade for "his" race, in 2009. Run for the 18th time today, the 1 5/8-mile John's Call Stakes attracted a field of six.



BY JOE CLANCY

Cornering

Richardson Corner. They're ought to be a plaque. It's on the Oklahoma side, just beyond the outside rail on the first turn, other side of the horse path where Bill Mott's yard ends, the road bends and time stands still.

I spent four weeks avoiding it (one week while isolated with Covid) this summer, but have been through it a few times since. Each trip felt a little better. A little. It's the same, only way different.

Dr. J. David Richardson – David to some, “Doc” to scores of others – died last year after contracting Covid. He came to Saratoga from Kentucky, did his usual thing of mornings on the corner, afternoons in Box D19 beyond the finish line toward the quieter side of the clubhouse, breakfasts at Five Points, the Triangle, Shirley's, The Reading Room or some secret place he hadn't told anyone about, meetings designed to better the game and better the rest. If he'd have stayed home, he'd probably be alive now. But if he'd stayed home, he wouldn't have been Doc.

I met him in Saratoga, but had heard of him.

That formal sounding name – Dr. J. David Richardson – belied a friendly, smart, talented, forward-thinking person with layers of knowledge and experiences.

Professionally, racing knows few people with his standing. Doc was a general, thoracic and trauma surgeon and surgical educator. He was president of the American College of Surgeons, a professor at the University of Louisville School of Medicine – starting as an assistant professor and becoming an associate, then vice chair of surgery and chief of surgery service and director of emergency services at the University of Louisville Hospital. He performed the first liver transplant in Kentucky, oversaw a full-blown trauma unit, did cutting-edge stuff that saved lives.

Put that in your hedge fund and smoke it.

On top of the medical background, Doc was a horseman. As a kid, he used to sneak into Riv-



Connie Bush

The crew (Doc on the left) at Richardson Corner last summer.

er Downs. He bought his first horse at age 30 and owned hundreds, maybe thousands, of Thoroughbreds solo or in partnerships. Hall of Fame trainer Woody Stephens was Doc's father's cousin, and Doc took full advantage – soaking up knowledge, helping Stephens' client Henryk de Kwiatkowski purchase horses. Doc helped buy Danzig and Conquistador Cielo. He told me the story of buying Danzig at the Saratoga sale several times. I remember asking if I could write about it. He told me no. He told it again last summer, fittingly on the lawn at Richardson Corner. Man, I wish I had the recording. He told me another fanciful tale of driving Stephens to various banks in Kentucky, making withdrawals from accounts at each one until the car's trunk was full of cash. I wasn't allowed to write that one either.

With his friend and fellow surgeon Dr. Hiram Polk, Doc owned Mrs. Revere – a multiple graded stakes winner honored with a stakes in her name at Churchill Downs. He and Polk bought Northern Emerald as a yearling, and won the Grade 1 Flow-

er Bowl and seven other races with her. They bred Harrods Creek, winner of the 2012 John's Call and over \$300,000 on the flat and over jumps.

Beyond owning and breeding, Doc got involved. He was a member of The Jockey Club, president of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association, chairman of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders of America, chair of American Graded Stakes Committee and a Breeders' Cup director.

Despite all that achievement, Doc would talk to anyone, help anyone, get involved in any cause with a good intention. He connected, looked out for, cared about people and horses and places of importance. He was a one-man networking seminar without the seminar. On any given morning at Saratoga, he'd be spinning tales with a revolving crew that might include Mott, Dick Knapp, Lewis Schaffel, Brant Laue, Bob Agnello, Everett Dobson, Drew Mollica and any number of others. To say they were/are a diverse group would be akin to saying Jackie's Warrior is an OK sprinter.

“He could talk about anything,” said Knapp. “He had a very healthy sense of curiosity about a lot of things and I like that. I know people who just focus in on certain things too, but I liked that about him. You never had a short conversation with him. On the other hand, he listened well and his memory was unbelievable. We were all from somewhere else – Kansas, Brooklyn, West Virginia, Kentucky – but we all connected because of David.”

I only fleetingly bounced into the crew. They'd flag me down with a question or I'd slide in while trolling for Worth Repeatings. Invariably, Doc would seek an opinion about whatever racing topic was front and center at the time.

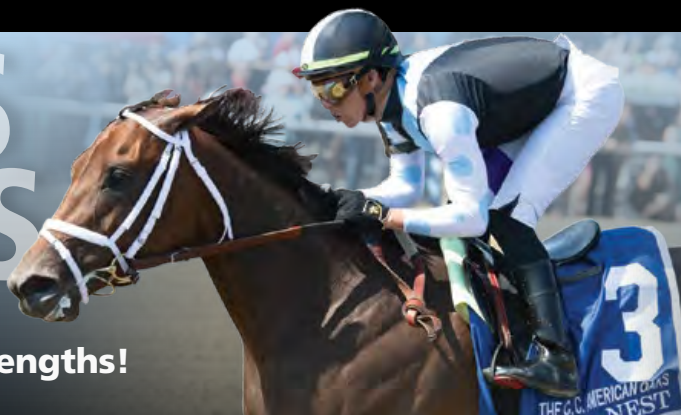
“Joseph,” he'd say. “What do you think about . . . ?” Insert the person, horse, race, racetrack, governing body, or hot-button issue of your choice af-

Continued On Page 45

BIG DAYS BIG WINS

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Outside Rail —

■ Continued from page 44

ter that. Trust me, he asked. And he wanted your thoughts.

Mollica called him “The Oracle.” Knapp said he “never needed Google” with Doc around.

On the way to breakfast at Five Points one day, he tried to talk me into moving to Kentucky and taking a job with an industry trade publication. I gave him all the reasons why it wouldn’t work. He listened, told me I might be surprised, that he was confident it would turn out OK, then let it drop.

That was Doc. He gave a damn. He worked to make a difference. But he also cared what you had to say, worked to know more about whatever situation you were in. He was a storyteller, but as Knapp put it, also a listener. Sometimes those don’t necessarily go together.

“I miss him,” said Knapp while sitting in Doc’s box two Saturdays ago. “This was the first stop for anybody who showed up here from Kentucky. It means a lot to be here this year, to all of us. What a life, but it sure didn’t last long enough.”

I stopped by the corner Sunday morning, Aug. 14, about 10.

Javier Castellano rode by on a turf worker. Two Wesley Ward steamers went the other way. Neal Poznansky steered a Mott horse around a crowd – Doc would have said something about the trainer always going against the grain. Somebody compared a long-backed horse to a short-backed horse. Agents talked to Mott in the yard. The Cart Talk people set up audio and video.

Doc would have had questions about all of it – the carts, the tack on this horse or that one, the short powerful breaths of a horses going by post-work, the relaxed gait of others headed to the track. For all his knowledge, he was a student of racing and life. I loved talking to him. So did plenty of others.

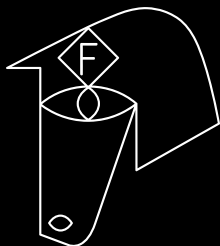
Doc got sick at Saratoga last summer, went to Saratoga Hospital and never left. Covid, pneumonia, whatever, he was gone. To me, that’s when all this pandemic stuff seemed real – and very close to home. I remember talking to him. I remember him not being at the track one morning. The crew on the corner said Doc was sick. And I never saw him again.

It still feels wrong. Especially at Richardson Corner.

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I miss the mornings, the backstretch mornings. I miss the sunrise over the Oklahoma. I miss seeing a horse who can't be missed. I miss banging out a stakes recap as time ticks into the night. And I miss the moonlight as we walk onto East Ave after another deadline, the silent street, the mission accomplished.

I miss Joe's deadline grumblings. I miss his readers perched on the end of his nose, the bifocals of a 50-something editor. I miss when he rips off his pull-over like it's going to help a deadline. I miss the view out his office window, the one that looks across the Oklahoma. I miss picking up his binoculars to see a runner on the grass. I miss his high-school thick blinds that remind me of Richard Dreyfuss in Stake Out. I miss reading his column for the first time. I miss my brother at the helm.

I miss the office visitors, well, most of the office visitors. I miss the drop offs – I miss the bag of corn, the four-pack of New England IPA, subs from a Jersey deli, the Tupperware dish of crumb cake. I miss the clicking and clacking of keyboards. I miss telling Tom Law my column's finished and walking around in circles of fruition. I miss seeing the interns, the cubs, gradually finding their footing, their confidence, their voice. I miss seeing the graduates, Mary Eddy and Ryan Martin for two, still hard at it, still going strong.

I miss my nephews, once Saratoga regulars and now weekend warriors. I miss their energy. I miss their smiles. I miss the old days when they hung on the golf cart like a jungle gym and handed out papers like Quick Draw McGraw. I miss the late-night jaunts to Ben & Jerry's, vanilla be damned.

I miss the 5-Mile Trail at the Park. I miss the Saratoga Stryders Monday evening runs in Wilton. I miss the final steps onto Circular Street when a hot Sunday run winds to a close. I miss the post-run meals at 9 Miles East.

I miss turf works.



Dave Harmon

Sean misses 2-year-old winners like Echo Again.

I miss golf-cart tours. I miss the banter at the gaps. I miss the view and vibe from the Paddock Bar. I miss the impromptu visit to King's Tavern after a good day at the track.

I miss the first slice of pizza, on a paper plate, slapped down on the desk as we try to mine words from a dark quarry. I miss the first IPA, after the last page is sent. I miss rocking back in the white, wooden chair of so many Fasig-Tipton sales ago. I miss switching from preview to recap. I miss turning the page.

I miss doing Stable Tours with Shug McGaughey, Robin Smullen and Barclay Tagg and my favorite of all, Bill Mott.

I miss watching Snap Decision from the grandstand, I clapped at a computer on a desk. I miss the performances like Nest and Casa Creed. I miss the moments like Robbie and Jackie Davis. I miss the joy of apprentice Jose Gomez winning a stakes on longshot Golden Rocket. I miss rooting for chaos.

I miss the steady gaggle of racing fans into and out of the track. I miss the winners. I miss the losers.

I Miss

I miss the drunks. I miss the parents pulling wagons. I miss the fans who walk out before the stakes and offer their program, a longstanding tradition of beating the man, going way back to when Joey, Sheila and I walked into Delaware Park for the last.

I miss tracking Steve Asmussen deep into the depths before a Grade 1. I really miss catapulting out of those depths after he wins a Grade 1.

I miss the mud on my shoes. I miss the sweat down my back after zigging and zagging with a jockey from the scales to the room. I miss the jockeys who stop and continue the conversation at the apron of the room. I miss the valets coming out to the apron to get their jockeys' helmets and silks as an interview runs overtime. I miss seeing their respect for a comrade who, too, works for a living.

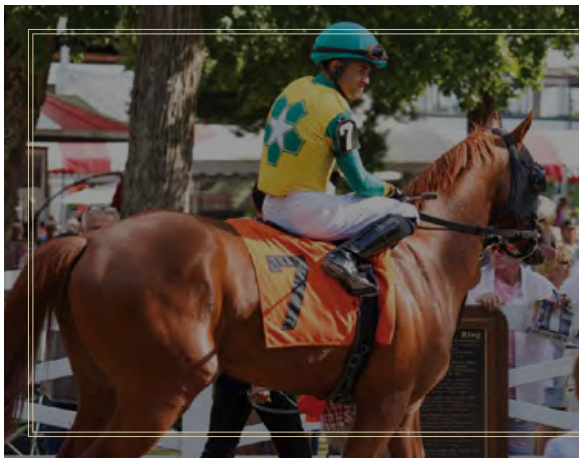
I miss the clockers. I miss the slackers. I miss the tips. I miss the touts. I miss the boy playing the violin at the East Avenue gate.

I miss Tom Law's porch. I miss Tom Law's egg sandwiches. I miss Tom Law's garden. I miss Tom Law's cat. I miss Tom Law walking to the door of my office and holding up a sign, "Land the Plane." I miss Tom Law.

Traditionally, this column is called I miss/I won't miss and it's written at the end of the meet. It's the good and the bad of Saratoga, the glorious and the galling of Saratoga, the beauty and the beast of Saratoga. This season, I've missed more days than I've made and as always in the absence/heart/fonder category, I miss everything about Saratoga. I simply miss Saratoga.

I'm hopping on a van today. A free ride with a horse. I might ride in the back like the old days and lean out the door to see Union Avenue in all its might, all its magic.

For a few days, I won't miss Saratoga, I'll be in Saratoga. Treat me the same, don't dwell on our misfortune and remind me, regale me of what I've missed.



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