

Year 22 • No. 20

Saturday, September 3, 2022

The **Saratoga**

Special

Saratoga's Racing Newspaper since 2001

Headed for Home

The Final Edition of 2022 Season

**Eight clash in Grade 1
Jockey Club Gold Cup**

**Temple City Terror
eyes Flower Bowl**

Bill Mott Stable Tour

Entries & Handicapping



SILVER S STATE

Won **Metropolitan Handicap (G1)**
defeating Horse of the Year Knicks Go

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Tod Marks

Pond Life. The Travers canoe, decked out in Epicenter's Winchell Thoroughbreds colors, looks its best Wednesday afternoon. As far as we can tell, trainer Steve Asmussen did not do any of the painting – but he would have.

Here&There...in Saratoga

License Plate of the Day

KN ICE, New York (Thanks to former Special staffer Mary Eddy).

By The Numbers

37. Minutes before sunset Saturday post time for the 13th race occurs. That's 6:49 p.m. for the race, 7:26 for the sun.

46. Degrees for Friday's low temperature. Get the quarter sheets, and turn off the fans.

36. Shirts worn by The Special's photographer Dave Harmon to the races this summer. Monday will be 39 (he missed one day; regardless, it's impressive and so are the shirts).

4,850. Words in the Bill Mott Stable Tour.

Worth Repeating

"Around here, that's an hour."

Saratoga Live host Laffit Pincay, when someone said Thursday's show started in five minutes

"I think I set the fastest known time for running from the 7-furlong chute to Congress Park."

The Special's Ryan Clancy, blazing a training run Thursday evening

"Wife's happy. I get dinner tonight."

Trainer Mark Casse after Tina Casse's Whichwaze finished second in Thursday's P.G. Johnson

"Tina had a nice steak waiting for me. I ate great last night."

Casse Friday morning

Names of the Day

Surprise Payoff, second race.

Bona Vanture Stable's 2-year-old colt is by Ransom The Moon out of Bold Lady.

Tax, 11th race. The 6-year-old gelding, bred by Claiborne Farm and Adele Dilschneider, is out of Toll.

Lollygag, 13th race. Penny and Mike Lauer's 4-year-old filly is out of Wrigley Ivy and if you're a fan of baseball and movies, or baseball movies, you know the Wrigley Field wall is covered in ivy and you also know the scene from Bull Durham. Skip the angry manager throws an armload of baseball bats into the shower and launches into a lecture: "You lollygag the ball around the infield. You lollygag your way down to first. You lollygag in and out of the dugout. You know what that makes you?" And the answer from Larry the coach: "Lollygagers."



The Saratoga
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Here&There...in Saratoga

Worth Repeating

“If they keep running like that I might make a comeback.”
Former jockey Taylor Rice, after her brother Adam won Wednesday’s third race with Closethegame Sugar

“The public didn’t believe in him. But I bet more on my other horse too.”
Owner John Oxley, after Boppy O won Wednesday’s With Anticipation at 23-1 (and Determinedly finished fourth)

“She’s the first horse I look at in the morning and the last one I look at when I leave, so that tells you everything.”
Casse, about Spinaway contender Wonder Wheel

“You could run her and then an hour later put the tack back on her and she’d march over there. She loves to train, loves to run.”
Exercise rider Roger Horgan, on Flower Bowl runner Temple City Terror

“I was just thinking about that as I was changing my shirt in the car park at the Louisville airport.”
Brendan Walsh, on the glamorous life of a horse trainer, while traveling to Saratoga from Kentucky

“Who’s Clancy?”
Erma Scott when asked if Clancy had put her up to handing out The Special Travers morning

“How many times have you heard that?”
Bruce Brown when showing The Special’s Sean Clancy a horse who ‘doesn’t have gears’

“Oh, I won’t give it back.”
Joe Clancy Sr., headed back to the track Friday after a good day at the windows Thursday

“I don’t know how the hell you get there from here.”
Trainer David Donk on possibly getting from Saratoga to Kentucky Downs after Thin White Duke won Friday’s Lucky Coin

“The van drivers know.”
Phil Gleaves, about the trip to Kentucky Downs

“He had to get that last bit of Saratoga.”
Trainer Mike Trombetta about his son Michael, weeks into his freshman year at the University of Louisville but back in Saratoga for Labor Day weekend

“Nothing.”
Nick Brown, 12-year-old son of Bruce Brown, on what he liked about school



On The Lookout. Hall of Fame jockey Angel Cordero Jr. keeps an eye on some horses on the track at Saratoga last week.

The Chief

Trainer H. Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015

“A lot of people can’t catch a runoff because they don’t have their pony rolling, you’ve got to have that pony rolling. You have to let the horse get up to you far enough before you go for them. I caught a girl, screaming, the only reason I caught her was my pony could accelerate, when you go to grab them, your pony has to accelerate because the horse accelerates. Old Whitey, when that horse accelerated, he did too.”



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Tod Marks

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Quote of the Day

“We’re all nutcases but we get the job done.”
Tuba on life at the Bruce Brown barn



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THE WISH THAT CAME TRUE

Cody's Wish downs Jackie's Warrior in a fast G1 Forego. That's the **future Darley stallion's** sixth win in his last seven starts – and his 112 Beyer is the best of 2022 after only fellow **future Darley stallion** Speaker's Corner, matching the very best efforts of Flightline, Life Is Good and Epicenter this year, too. *Just imagine.*

Darley

STABLE TOUR The November

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With Bill Mott

The annual tradition of culminating with the Bill Mott Stable Tour on the final Wednesday and the Little Guy Stable Tour on the final Saturday took a turn this week when schedules conflicted, and we weren't able to join Mott until Wednesday morning. Red-hot Phil Bauer jumped in Wednesday and Mott finishes off the season today.

Sorry, little guys, we're still with you and we'll focus on you next year.

Mott ranks fifth in wins with 14 and third in earnings with \$2.4 million at Saratoga this summer. The Hall of Famer nailed down the Grade 1 Forego with Cody's Wish, the Grade 1 Fourstardave with Casa Creed, the Grade 2 Glens Falls with War Like Goddess, the Galway with Poppy Flower and the Alydar with Art Collector.

Far from finished, Mott runs 11 horses, including War Like Goddess in the Grade 2 Flower Bowl and Olympiad in the Grade 1 Jockey Club Gold Cup, Saturday. He entered five for Sunday, including American Rockette in the Grade 1 Spinaway and two Monday.

The Special's Sean Clancy walked the shedrow with Mott Wednesday morning.

Channel Maker: A five-year mainstay in the Stable Tour, the Ontario-bred greeted Mott with his head high from the first stall. A few years back, Mott described the gelded son of English Channel with fondness, "Overachiever and now they expect you to overachieve every time." The overachiever has won nine races, including four Grade 1 stakes, for more than \$3.6 million. Owned by Wachtel Stable, Gary Barber, R. A. Hill Stable and Reeves Thoroughbred Racing, the 7-year-old won the Grade 2 Elkhorn and the Grand Couturier this year before fading to 10th in the Grade 1 Sword Dancer last weekend. "What about this one? Could he jump? You know the story here. Too much pace for him in the Sword Dancer, he can tolerate some pace if they come back early, but they kept going. He doesn't have to be in front, but he's better if he can inhale them before the three-eighths pole. He's a warrior. He's won a couple this year already, two out of four starts, he's still 50 percent for the year. He's a warrior."

Speaker's Corner: Godolphin's homebred son of Street Sense emerged at Saratoga last summer and won three stakes, including the Grade 1 Carter, to start the year. The 4-year-old colt finished third in the Grade 1 Met Mile, second in the Grade 2 John Nerud and fourth in the Grade 2 Pat O'Brien at Del Mar Aug. 27. "Speaker's Corner. Made it back from California last night. Andie Biancone said on TV that it looks like he's light-



Tod Marks

Fourstardave winner Casa Creed is one of the stars of the Bill Mott Stable Tour.

ened up a little bit. He just made it back, he doesn't look too light to me. I don't know what happened. The only thing I can say is that they went too fast early, he was on the lead, I don't know. Weird. We had a good first half of the year. I don't know what we'll do, we'll have a look, the Ack Ack at Churchill at the end of September. We don't have to do anything before the Breeders' Cup."

Art Collector: Bruce Lunsford's homebred 5-year-old pulled another double, taking the Alydar here and the Charles Town Classic just like last year. The son of Bernardini wired seven rivals in the Grade 2 \$1 million Charles Town Classic Aug. 26. Mott opened the stall screen and took a long look at the \$2.3 million earner. "Oh, you don't want me coming up to you, taking up your space, that's your space. 'Don't get in my space and don't put your hand up there.' You probably heard plenty from Erma (Scott) about him yesterday. He's a little warrior himself. He's a little tough guy. Looks like he's handled his races OK. Could go for the Lukas Classic or the Fayette."

Arthur's Ride: Glassman Racing's 2-year-old son of Tapit made his debut here Aug. 6 and is 7-2 in the eighth race today. "Second here. One start, one second. Ran well. Potentially, with time, he'll be a nice horse."

Space: Owned and bred by Claiborne Farm and Adele Dilschneider, the son of Ghostzapper finished third behind Capture The Flag in his debut July 30. The chestnut colt has posted two 5-furlong breezes since. "Finished third here in his only start. He's been a little on and off. I was really pretty excited about him early on, but his race was just OK. He'll put in one good work and one not-so-good work."

Game Warden: Owned by Mike Rutherford, the 2-year-old colt finished fifth in his debut here Travers Day. "Tapit. He ran the other day. I ran him three-quarters, he ran pretty good actually. He needs to go on, he needs to grow a little bit, fill out. He definitely wants to run on a bit. Galloped out good after the race. He had been training well, with most of the 2-year-olds, I'm just trying to get a race into them. You have to get a line on them."

Prairie Dunes: Owned by Cheyenne Stable, the 2-year-old son of Curlin makes his debut at 7 furlongs in the sixth race today. "Just get a race in him. I suspect he'll need a race, seven-eighths, I don't think he's ready to win a race. They've been training here all spring, we just need to get them over there, go around there and see what you've got. You're going to have

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Stable Tour —

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ones that are more precocious that are going to run well.”

Frank's Rockette: The third millionaire on the tour, the 5-year-old mare has missed one check in 23 starts for Frank Fletcher Racing. The homebred daughter of Into Mischief finished second in the Honorable Miss here before dominating the Misty Bennett Pink Ribbon Stakes at Charles Town last weekend. “Frankie. Became a millionaire last Friday. She's an interesting horse, she'll tail off for a while and then she'll come back. She really started looking good this summer, she's run two huge races, she's run good races this year but her last two races have been huge. She just brightens up and carries more weight, she gets good for a little while and then she'll sink a little bit. I don't know why. You'll have horses like Channel Maker who stay good year-round, their coat stays good and then you'll get horses who will look good for a couple of months and then they tail off a little bit on you.”

Jane Grey: Godolphin's homebred daughter of Into Mischief finished second here. Mott swung open the screen and took a long stare at the bay filly, who runs in the 10th race Monday. “Look out Jane. She won here as a 2-year-old, first out, then she got a couple of screws in her cannon bone. She was off for almost two years before she made her next start. She's been second twice this year. I wanted to run her back a mile. She won her maiden going seven-eighths. Her last two races have been 6 furlongs. I want to stretch her out, just based on being able to win going seven-eighths as a 2-year-old.”

Caramel Swirl: Another Godolphin homebred, the daughter of Union Rags owns four wins, including the Grade 2 Raven Run Stakes, from 11 starts. Mott aimed at the Shine Again Aug. 3. When that didn't fill, he rerouted her to the Sunday's Ballerina. She returned from a three-month break to finish second behind the Chad Brown-trained Goodnight Olive. “Second in a Grade 1. Hey baby. She ran well, had a pretty good trip, showed up. If she ran in the Shine Again, maybe it would have been too quick to run her back. As it turned out, she was second and maybe that's as valuable to her as winning the listed stake. We would have still had the Ballerina under consideration, but you have to see how they come out of it. We're just trying to win races in Saratoga, too. She would have looked good in the Shine Again. However, Chad had his filly in the Shine Again too.”

Poppy Flower: Owned by Arnmere Thoroughbreds, the daughter of Lea has earned a check in each of her 10 starts, including a second in the Coronation Cup and a win in the Galway at the meet. “How'd you get all that



Tod Marks

Bill Mott.

water all over you, girl? Second and a win in a stake here. She's supposed to go to Kentucky Downs, which will be a lot of races in a short amount of time.”

Al Qahira: Owned by Helen Alexander, the 3-year-old filly broke her maiden at Churchill Downs in May and finished fourth in the Lake George and fifth in an allowance race here Aug. 12. “Little Cairo Prince filly. Should have been third in the Lake George. She was fourth. Kind of got squished the last few jumps and cost her third money. No inquiry. No jockey's objection. But cost her graded-stakes placed. We're on the lead and we're backing up and two horses are coming by, (Flavien) Prat is coming in and Irad (Ortiz) is on the rail, he comes out. My jock Jose Ortiz takes up, so he doesn't clip heels. No inquiry. No objection.” Asked if he had ever lodged a trainer's claim of foul, Mott continued. “Yeah, but number one, I like to see it first before you claim foul. We don't have the best angles, we can see something happened but it's hard, sometimes I've got to watch the video three or four times before I know what happened. Sometimes you can guess at it and be right, but they've got cameras and people on the poles that are meant to be watching.”

Founder: The 4-year-old son of Upstart has made two starts for Mott, finishing seventh and fourth against allowance foes here. “Stretched him out the other day, he was fourth going a mile-and-a-half. He was with Chad. He actually ran pretty good the other day, I was very pleased with him.” Asked about why he was wearing three bandages, Mott explained. “He might have a little bandage sore in that leg, sometimes they get more irritated by the bandage. Especially the babies, you start putting elastics on them and their skin isn't used to it.”

Misintention: Another Godolphin homebred, the daughter of Into Mischief makes her second start Sunday. She's 6-1 in the sixth race for Junior Alvarado. “You're the full-sister to Jane Grey, aren't you? She started once, she was fourth. She was fourth going 5 1/2 (furlongs), she'll be entered going seven-eighths.

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Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 7

I think that's better, more steady. She's been one of those..."

Mott walked into the stall. "Look at her. She's not real big, she's not imposing as far as her size goes, but pretty well balanced. There are similarities I suppose, she's a little prettier than her sister."

Travel Column: A \$850,000 graduate from the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Select Sale in 2019, the daughter of Frosted notched stakes wins in the Grade 2 Golden Rod and the Grade 2 Fair Grounds Oaks. She finished fourth in the Grade 1 Ballerina for OXO Equine. "Too fast, too early the other day. 44 and 2. I want to stretch her out. I might try her in the Beldame. She's won good races at a mile-and-a-sixteenth, now she's never won going a mile-and-an-eighth, but she was probably already tailing off. Looking at her form, she looks like she could probably get a mile-and-an-eighth. She beat that Clairiere twice going a mile-and-a-sixteenth at the Fair Grounds, that's an honest enough race."

Recognize: The daughter of Bolt d'Oro has been productive since making her debut in June for Sequel Racing and Cypress Creek Equine. She broke her maiden here Aug. 18 and came back to finish third in the P.G. Johnson Thursday. "Little New York-bred filly, broke her maiden third time out on the grass, we wheeled her back in a stake."

Pippi Longstocking: Summer Wind Farm's homebred by Frankel has posted three works this summer. "She's out of Secret Sigh. One of the more expensive horses in the sale was out of Secret Sigh (Uncle Mo colt fetched \$1.5 million at the

Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Select sale this summer). I trained the dam and the great granddam, Misty Hour. She was the dam of India and India is the dam of Secret Sigh. She's coming along. Hopefully we'll get to run her this fall. The Frankels I've had have come already made. Frankly, I've never done much good with them. There's still an old horse running around here but I'd say the majority of them probably aren't meant for U.S. racing. This filly seems a little lighter than some of them."

Fightertown: The Godolphin homebred son of Into Mischief was on his way to school in the paddock Wednesday morning. "He's been entered for Saturday, first-time starter, you'll see him back here in a minute." The bay colt is in the second race today.

Olympiad: The fourth millionaire on the tour. Owned by Grandview Equine, Cheyenne Stable and LNJ Foxwoods, the 4-year-old son of Speightstown glided into Saratoga on a five-race win streak which was snapped in the Grade 1 Whitney. The bay colt tries again in the Grade 1 Jockey Club Gold Cup today. Mott picked up a pitchfork and started sorting his stall Wednesday morning. "You need another bale of straw here buddy. He's going over to school. He went over with the rider on him. I put Patrice (Bellet) on him, just to ride him over there. The other day when he schooled, he was like this coming home (flexes his arms). That's how I schooled Cody's Wish the other day. I've done it with a few who are a little hard to handle or you think they are going to get tough coming home. Usually, you get them over there, but if you take them over there and don't run them, they get pissed off sometimes. I don't school Channel Maker anymore. Two years ago here, we had him over there, on the way back, they were going through that path, golf carts, up in the air, it was a mess. He's fine over there, he could probably put the saddle on himself. Cigar. I schooled him one time and I said I'll never do it again. He came home, he got so

mad, you almost couldn't get him home, he got back, kicked the walls. It was like, 'Don't take me over there if you're not going to run me. Don't tease me.' It was at Belmont, so I'm guessing before he won the Breeders' Cup. So often, we were shipping and we wouldn't school, we would ship and run. I thought, 'Well, we're training at Belmont, let's take him over there and school him.' Olympiad. A little bit of a puzzler (in the Whitney). If you look at the speed figures, he still didn't run that badly, if you're a speed-figure guy, he still ran a six and change on the Rag numbers, that's faster than most horses can run but it wasn't his best race. We'll have to see. Whether he realized that the horses were getting away from him, I don't know. I have no explanation, really. Visually, it didn't appear to be one of his better races. He breezed well. We'll see."

Silver Strand: Purchased for \$575,000 from the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Select Sale, the daughter of Frosted has posted nine breezes at Saratoga as she returns from a long layoff for breeder Summer Wind Farm and Jeff Drown. "Filly who won her first out here last year and then ran badly. She's coming off a long layoff. Just waiting for her to wake up, she's out of India, the same filly as that Frankel filly. She's valuable as a broodmare."

Elite Power: Juddmonte 4-year-old rides a two-race win streak into today's seventh. "He won his last two at Churchill. He was pretty impressive, he ran like a monster at Churchill. It's not the distance I wanted, I wanted seven-eighths or a mile. It's six. He won going seven from here to the icehouse over there, came back at a mile and won again. I don't know, maybe he'll be all right at six. He's run sixes on the sheets both times. He gallops around the track and sounds terrible, when you breeze him, he doesn't make any noise at all. I've got two of them like that. They're fine breezing. He scopes fine."

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A large graphic for Saratoga Fan Appreciation Weekend. The background is a photograph of the Saratoga racetrack with a large crowd of spectators in the stands. The text is overlaid on a red semi-transparent background. At the top right is the Saratoga logo. Below it, in large white capital letters, is "FAN APPRECIATION WEEKEND". Underneath that, in white, is "September 3" followed by "First Post: 12:05 p.m.". Below that is "September 4 & 5" followed by "First Post: 12:35 p.m.". At the bottom, in white, is "Enjoy Special Savings on Tickets and Hospitality" and "Visit NYRA.com/Fans".

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Stable Tour —

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War Like Goddess: The fifth millionaire on the tour, she breaks all the rules. Purchased for \$1,200 as a foal, an RNA at \$1,000 as a yearling and a \$30,000 purchase as a 2-year-old, the daughter of English Channel has won eight of 10 races, including the Grade 1 Flower Bowl and back-to-back runnings of the Grade 2 Glens Falls at Saratoga. Favored to repeat in today's Flower Bowl, the 5-year-old mare was schooling Wednesday morning. Mott draped a saddle towel over her awaiting lunch hanging on the door. "She's worked well, she's fine, she's been good."

Asked about her type after she returned, Mott stared at the leggy mare. "She was good enough to bring a thousand dollars as a yearling, you can see her walk in the ring. It goes to show you. That's what makes the business keep going."

Millefeuille: Juddmonte's 4-year-old filly stood at the front of her screen next to the tack room. "Girl, this will be the last day you'll be here. You're going home. You're going home. Stakes placed as a 2-year-old, but we haven't repeated the form. She's just not hitting the ground right, not extending herself well. I think it's time to go, I think she'll be retired. She was second in the Demoiselle to Malathaath, but her last race was very dull. I was going to put her on the grass, try it one time, she worked OK on the grass, but then we breezed her the other day...I don't know. I don't want to take any chances. She's got a good enough family, she'll be a good broodmare. If they're not wowing you, if you don't have a good feeling about it, chances are, you're probably right. The last thing you want to do is have them hurt themselves."

And that was the end of the tour of the main barn. The schoolers returned as Mott walked to his annex stalls next to the main barn. He stopped, walked back to the wash rack and talked to his crew.

"They're coming back now. That's Fightertown there, the chestnut is Elite Power, that's South Bend there, there's War Like Goddess right here. Patricio, how was your ride? Good. How was he, Jose? How was she, Sergio? How was she Guillermo?"

"Relaaached the filly," Guillermo said.

"What did he say, Sergio?"

"The filly is relaxed," Sergio said in perfect English.

"OK. You can be my interpreter, Sergio. What are you going to do, Sergio, give her a little grama? Is my Spanish getting any better, Sergio? How was Fightertown, Neil?"

"He was all right," assistant Neil Poznansky said. "War Like was good..."

"You'll give her a little grass over here," Mott said. "Watch out for the wire."

Mott pointed to Fightertown.

"See the marks on his knees?" Mott said. "He shook on the wash rack and fell down, you know how horses will shake, two days ago, he shook and fell down. Unbelievable."

After feeling satisfied about the schoolers, Mott continued the tour, starting at the first stall of his second barn.

May Fane: Bred and owned by Godolphin, the unraced daughter of Uncle Mo breezed five times at Saratoga before taking a break. Mott grabbed a pitchfork and opened her screen. "Watch so she doesn't get out there. Might be one of our fastest babies, but got an infection in her hind leg. I can't tell you why



Tod Marks
Grade 1 winner Obligatory.

or where it comes from. Just one of those weird things. She's been six weeks or more out of training. I worked her a half by herself so she wouldn't go too fast, the next day she had a hind leg like this, out of nowhere. She spent a week at the clinic. I don't know. We'll see. Just strange. I've had a couple of them. Out of nowhere, you can't explain it. No marks, no nothing."

Cody's Wish: Nearly the sixth millionaire, the Godolphin homebred son of Curlin has never finished worse than third in 10 tries and secured his first Grade 1, upsetting Jackie's Warrior in the Forego on Travers Day. The stout bay colt looked over his stall screen at the yellow flower blanket of the Forego. "Here's a little horse called Cody's Wish. Nice little pet, huh? How do you think that? That was like...I wanted to give him a chance. If you look at his form, he's just coming into his own. When I brought him up here last year, I thought first time I run him, you'll just win, that's all. Well, you can look at his form, it took him until his fourth race to break his maiden. But I knew what I was seeing in the morning, he worked like a good horse. He just does it effortlessly."

Mott pointed to a bump in the middle of his face. "That's from the iron halter. He's not easy on himself. He's pretty kind in the stall, you get him out here...I think we'll wait for the Breeders' Cup Mile. It was 60 days between races, he ran a three and a half on the sheets."

Casa Creed: The sixth millionaire. Owned by LRE Racing and JEH Racing, the 5-year-old son of Jimmy Creed notched his third Grade 1 score here when taking the Fourstardave Aug. 13. The yellow carnations in his flower blanket, hanging over the wooden rail in front of his stall, have dulled since his upset score Aug. 13. "Here's a little overachiever called Casa Creed. He's had to do a lot of lifting this year, Saudi Arabia, Dubai and then win two Grade 1s. He's usually more mellow than that (referring to tail-over-his-back trot around the Oklahoma a day earlier). We'll probably run in the (Coolmore Mile) at Keeneland. Seven-eighths is his best."

Obligatory: Gray daughter of Curlin finished third in the Grade 1 Ballerina Sunday. Owned and bred by Juddmonte, the 4-year-old filly owns four stakes wins, including the Grade 1 Derby City Distaff in May. "OK, mama. You got hammered at the head of the lane or you might have been second. She got her Grade 1. How are you going to keep your summer coat until November is what I want to know? You all will come into

Keeneland looking like fuzzy furballs, you stay up here and train. We'll go straight there. It's only two months away."

Nostalgic: Godolphin homebred filly won the Grade 3 Gazelle in April, finished 10th in the Grade 1 Kentucky Oaks, third in the Grade 1 CCA Oaks and sixth in the Grade 1 Alabama. "Big old Medaglia. I worked this filly on the grass in Florida, it was like, 'Wow, that was pretty good.' I ran her on the grass and she got beat from here to the dormitories on the other side. Look at her, there's nothing about her that looks like a dirt horse. (Picks up her foot). Look at her foot, she's got a big old foot, everything about her is made like a turf horse. We ran her and you couldn't throw a rock as far as she got beat. So, I put her back on the dirt and she won an allowance, we brought her back and she won the Gazelle and she's Grade 1 placed. I still think she needs another opportunity on the grass. Rugged Medaglia d'Oro."

Aussie Pride: The one-time winning son of Curlin stood quietly for the final touches of his morning grooming. "Turn him around so we can see him. Face him that way. This way. This way. Whoaaa. He's a Curlin. Out of a mare called Bounding, a good turf mare in Australia. What do you think he cost? With that pedigree. What do you think he might have cost? Four million. All right. That's OK. You can finish him. High-priced. We did break his maiden. You never know."

Classic Legacy: Bruce Lunsford's 2-year-old son of Into Mischief finished fifth in his debut at Saratoga this month. "Hey, Junior. This is Art's brother. He goes out, still nickers, he might be all right."

Spungie: Diane Manning's daughter of Hard Spun cost \$250,000 at the Fasig-Tipton New York-bred sale in 2018. Mott rubbed the groove below her chin. "You can't reach that, huh? I wish they would keep these coats on them for another two months, but you know it isn't going to happen. She's a New York-bred filly, she's won a couple for us."

Southern Flag: Bred by Summer Wind, the 4-year-old has picked up a check in each of his five starts, including a third here Aug. 13. "Four-year-old maiden, by Union Rags. He's been knocking at the door, seconds, thirds, fifths."

Cloud Forest: Owned by Emily Bushnell and breeders Martin and Pam Wygod, the 3-year-old colt finished fourth here Aug. 28. "Another maiden. Quality Road. Finished fourth the other day, well-beaten, might need numbers. Great, big, old thing. He's made about four starts."

Parkway: The Claiborne Farm and Adele Dilschneider homebred son of Quality Road makes his debut today. Wednesday morning, the bay colt was in the middle of a nap. "Hey sleepy. What do you think? You OK? Look at the big, old head on him, looks like Baby Huey. I entered eight 2-year-olds for Saturday. I don't know if they'll all get in, they would have to split the 2-year-old races three ways, I would have two in each race. I want to just get a run into them before we leave. He's not ready to win. If I can get a run into him and we'll see where we're at, then you make plans."

Wonka: LNJ Foxwoods' daughter of Twirling Candy broke her maiden at Gulfstream in March before finishing fourth in the

Continued On Page 11

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 10

Grade 3 Soaring Softly and fifth in the Riskaverse at Saratoga. “Fifth the other day, the Riskaverse. Didn’t get beat that far, couple of lengths. You were close, you tried, maybe you don’t want to go that far.”

Jungfrau: Named after the highest accessible point by railway in Europe, the Juddmonte-bred son of Arrogate begins his journey today in the sixth. “Another one just needs to run, get him around the track. It’s disappointing sometimes if they don’t finish real well but all these horses, he’ll want to go a mile-and-an-eighth. This colt, he’ll want to go two turns, he’ll be better this time next year. You can just look at him and see.”

Candy Man Rocket: Winner of the Grade 3 Sam Davis as a 3-year-old, the Frank Fletcher Racing 4-year-old hasn’t run since winning an allowance at Gulfstream Park in February. “This horse just came back in. He’s been laid up. He’s only had one start this year, he won, real fast. He’s just jogging, just going back under tack. He’s very fast. He won the Sam Davis as a 3-year-old, then of course we tried the Tampa Bay Derby. He’s six furlongs. It’s interesting sometimes, if you’re precocious, you can beat the others (going long). Then they figure out they don’t want to do it, or the others catch up with them. Just talent, they’re faster. But they’re not true stayers. I call them a stayer if they want to go two turns, but I guess that’s really a term when they want to go two miles.”

South Bend: The son of Algorithms is 0-for-5 this year but has banked \$667,170 for Pontofel Stable, Wachtel Stable, Gary Barber and Peter Deutsch. Mott ducked under the runner and pulled a grain-sodden bucket of water from his stall, refilled it and hung it up. “See the iron stains from Florida. He’s just on the verge, he always looks like he should win...sometimes you just make that big run and don’t finish it off.”

Kid America. The unraced 2-year-old son of Uncle Mo and America has breezed nine times, including twice on the turf, at Saratoga. “One that Chad was training and recently came over here.”

One hour and 12 minutes after greeting Channel Maker, Mott stopped at his office, talked to three farriers, checked with a vet about blood tests and completed the tour.

The Special thanked him. “Thank you. As always. That’s the highlight of my meet.”

“Yeah?” Mott said. “I actually like going around and talking about them, but I’ve got to feel like I’ve got time. I’m not very good on a schedule.”

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Four Pack

Pletcher barn sends out quartet in final Saturday Grade 1 stakes

BY TOM LAW

Todd Pletcher knows the drill.

Last year's first-ballot Hall of Fame inductee has run multiple horses in major stakes – including Triple Crown and Breeders' Cup races with success – and finds himself in a similar situation Saturday in the Grade 1 Jockey Club Gold Cup at Saratoga Race Course.

Pletcher will send out four runners in the \$1 million Gold Cup, each for different ownership entities, in Americanrevolution, Dynamic One, Untreated and Keepmeinmind. Pletcher's white-bridled runners make up half the field for the 10-furlong event that also features Grade 2 stakes winner Olympiad and Grade 3 stakes winner First Captain.

JOCKEY CLUB GOLD CUP PREVIEW

"In a perfect world we'd be able to split them all off into a \$1 million Grade 1 race of their own but there are limited opportunities like that, so you have to do what's best for each individual horse and each individual client," Pletcher said Friday morning. "I don't love running four in the same race, but at the same time it's the correct spot for each one of them."

The Gold Cup not only offers the chance for a seven-figure purse in a Grade 1 at 10 furlongs, but it also affords runners the opportunity to avoid the country's two leading older horses in Flightline and Life Is Good.

Continued On Page 14



Chelsea Durand/NYRA

Cigar Mile winner Americanrevolution is one of four horses in the Jockey Club Gold Cup for trainer Todd Pletcher.



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Gold Cup —

■ Continued from page 12

Flightline runs in Saturday's \$1 million Pacific Classic at Del Mar, while Whitney winner Life Is Good, the stablemate to Pletcher's Gold Cup quartet, will instead wait for the Grade 1 Woodward Oct. 1 at Aqueduct.

Pletcher didn't consider the Pacific Classic with any of the Gold Cup runners, Life Is Good, or Whitney runner-up Happy Saver, who will run Oct. 1 in the Grade 2 Lukas Classic at Churchill Downs.

"What's the old adage, 'you don't dodge one horse?,' " Pletcher said. "Flightline is obviously a prohibitive favorite but there are some other solid horses in there, too. We didn't want to go across the country in a situation like that with a prohibitive favorite and a solid supporting cast, it didn't really make sense."

That sense won out and Pletcher's quartet will make the short walk from his barn on the Oklahoma to the holding barn then to the paddock Saturday afternoon to try and win their trainer's second Gold Cup in three years. Pletcher won it in 2020 with the then 3-year-old Happy Saver when the race was run in the fall at Belmont Park.

WinStar Farm's and China Horse Club's Americanrevolution, 3-1 on the morning line with Joel Rosario, comes into the Gold Cup off a second behind Olympiad in the Grade 2 Stephen Foster at Churchill Downs. He had finished fourth in the 9-furlong Blame at Churchill June 4, a race not originally on Pletcher's plan but picked when the restricted Commentator Stakes on Big Apple Showcase Day failed to fill.

The 4-year-old New York-bred son of Constitution was entered in the Aug. 6 Whitney but scratched.

"We're back on course with him," Pletcher said. "We got sidetracked a little in the beginning with our plan. When the Commentator didn't fill, we ended up in the Blame at a mile and an eighth off the layoff, he just got a little tired. He ran well the next time, the other horse was just a tick better. Hopefully we're making strides forward."

"Look, we thought hard about the Whitney. We felt like it didn't make sense to run both of them in there and potentially neither one in the Jockey Club. Same ownership as Life Is Good so it made sense to split them apart."

Dynamic One, the 7-2 second choice, defeated First Captain and Untreated in the Grade 2 Suburban

Continued On Page 16



Dynamic One comes in off two stakes triumphs.

Tod Marks

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Tod Marks

Pimlico Special winner First Captain eyes his sixth win.

Gold Cup —

■ Continued from page 14

July 9 at Belmont going the Gold Cup's 10-furlong distance. He won the Blame, and also last year's Curlin Stakes at Saratoga for owners Repole Stable, Phipps Stable and St. Elias Stable. Irad Ortiz Jr., the meet's leading rider by a sizable margin heading into the final three days, takes the return call from post eight.

"He's improved a little bit in each start this year," Pletcher said of the 4-year-old son of Union Rags. "Big win last time. We've been pointing for this since then. And it's probably a decent draw for him, being on the outside."

Keepmeinmind, just to Dynamic One's inside in post seven; and Untreated, third in the Suburban, are both listed at 12-1 on the morning line.

Jose Ortiz, who rode Untreated to a pair of victories late last year at Aqueduct, returns for Team Valor International. Untreated comes in with three straight stakes placings — the

Excelsior at Aqueduct, Grade 3 Pimlico Special and Grade 2 Suburban.

"We kept him at Belmont. He was in a good routine there; happy," Pletcher said. "He's trained well, made a good showing in the Suburban and Pimlico Special, he just needs to improve a tick. He's inherited the lead in those two races. I'm not sure that's his preferred running style. Maybe he'll have somebody he can follow this time."

Keepmeinmind, transferred to Pletcher this season after running in five Grade 1 stakes at 2 and 3 for Robertino Diodoro, figures to come from the back of the field under Javier Castellano. Owned by Cypress Creek Equine, Arnold Bennewith and Spendthrift Farm, the 4-year-old son of Laoban won a 9-furlong allowance race in his first start for Pletcher and after almost a year layoff July 22 at Saratoga.

"We were pleased with his comeback," Pletcher said. "Granted he was dropping down in class from what he had been doing. But still, 11-month layoff at a mile and an eighth, so we

Continued On Page 18

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Gold Cup —

■ Continued from page 16

thought he did well. He's a solid campaigner."

A year ago, trainer Shug McGaughey was debating on trying the Grade 1 Travers with First Captain. The son of Curlin won his first three starts, including the Grade 3 Dwyer before finishing third, 8 ¾ lengths behind Dynamic One in the Curlin. McGaughey watched, waited and opted for a prudent approach, sending First Captain to the farm and waiting for his 4-year-old season.

"I knew they were all talking about the Travers, the more I looked at him, I said he's not ready for that. I thought back to horses who hadn't run as 2-year-olds and got stopped early, which he went home before we came up here. I was just looking at his maturity level, thinking all these horses have run and he hasn't, he's going to have to run a mile and a quarter which is a grueling race on a lightly raced horse," McGaughey said. "That was my thinking. It didn't happen just one morning, I was watching him, I was going way down to the head of the stretch where I couldn't be bothered. I told them let's just pull the plug on him for a while and let him grow up. Time is a horse's best friend."

Owned by West Point Thoroughbreds, Siena Farm, Bobby Flay and Woodford Racing, First Captain returned with a win against allowance foes at Gulfstream in February before folding to last in the Grade 1 Carter. Both were at 7 furlongs.

"I knew he wanted to run a distance of ground and I knew he needed blinkers but I didn't want to put them on after a layoff at Gulfstream and then he wins. Really didn't have anyplace else to run him where there wouldn't be a conflict with some of theirs. I was walking out of the paddock the day of the Carter and Chris DeCarlo said, 'You



Olympiad is favored in the Jockey Club Gold Cup.

know, Shug, I rode her mother, she wanted to run two miles.' I said, 'Thanks for telling me now.' That was a disaster, it was something I shouldn't have done, but I did."

First Captain didn't hold any grudges, coming right back to win the Grade 3 Pimlico Special and missing by a nose to Dynamic One in the Grade 2 Suburban.

"He's matured a lot, he's enjoying what he's doing, he's really sound and we'll see what happens," McGaughey said. "It's a good race. First Captain's last two races have been really, really good races. He's done really well up here, all his works have been really good. He's sharp, he's enjoying what he's doing, he's a happy horse. Hopefully we can go over there and be competitive."

Grandview Equine's, Cheyenne Stable's and LNJ Foxwoods' Olympiad is the lone runner from the Whitney to run back in the Gold Cup. Trained by

Bill Mott, he finished fourth, beaten 9 ¼ lengths by Life Is Good as the 9-5 second choice. The 4-year-old son of Speightstown had won five straight prior to the Whitney, including the Stephen Foster and Grade 2 Alysheba at Churchill and the Grade 2 New Orleans Classic and Grade 3 Mineshaft at Fair Grounds. Junior Alvarado rides Olympiad from post two.

Mott can't explain the dull effort in the Whitney.

"A little bit of a puzzler. If you look at the speed figures, he still didn't run that badly, if you're a speed figure guy, he still ran a six and change on the Rag numbers, that's faster than most horses can run but it wasn't his best race," Mott said. "We'll have to see. Whether he realized that the horses were getting away from him, I don't know. I have no explanation, really. Visually, it didn't appear to be one of his better races. He breezed well. We'll see."

Tod Marks

Tax, winner of the Grade 2 Jim Dandy and seventh in the Grade 1 Travers during his 3-year-old season in 2019, makes his second start off a long layoff for trainer Danny Gargan. The 6-year-old son of Arch missed more than 17 months after being injured during a training accident in early 2021. He returned to win the \$100,000 Battery Park Stakes on a sloppy track at Delaware Park July 9. Owned by R.A. Hill Stable and Gargan, Tax is 10-1 on the morning line for jockey Kendrick Carmouche

Chess Chief comes into the Gold Cup again as an outsider at 30-1. The 6-year-old son of Into Mischief finished third behind Art Collector and Masqueparade at 29-1 last time out in the restricted Alydar Stakes Aug. 4 at Saratoga. Dallas Stewart trains Chess Chief for the Estate of James Coleman Jr. and Manny Franco takes the mount.

— Additional reporting by Sean Clancy.

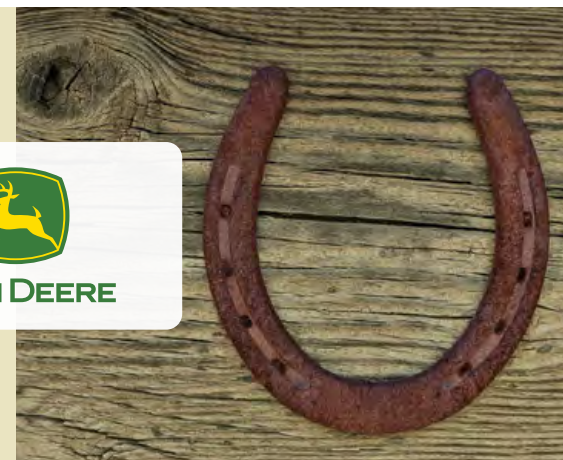
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Coming Around

Temple City Terror continues to develop

BY JOE CLANCY

Nobody would have blamed trainer Brendan Walsh and owner Pocket Aces Racing for finding a cozy maiden-claiming spot after Temple City Terror lost her first nine starts – at five tracks over nine months – late in the 2019 season.

The 10th try at maiden-special-weight company proved to be the right mix as she prevailed going a mile at Churchill Downs Nov. 16, and she's been on an upward trajectory ever since.

Continued On Page 22



Tod Marks

Temple City Terror bides her time early in the Glens Falls last month. She returns in the Flower Bowl.

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2022 September Meet Stakes Schedule

SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 2

IROQUOIS (GIII)

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

LOCUST GROVE (GIII)

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

POCAHONTAS (GIII)

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

LOUISVILLE THOROUGHBRED SOCIETY

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

OPEN MIND (Listed)

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

SENECA OVERNIGHT STAKES

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

BOURBON TRAIL

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

HARRODS CREEK

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

DOGWOOD (GIII)

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

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

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

LUKAS CLASSIC (GII)

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Flower Bowl —

■ Continued from page 20

"It took her so long to break her maiden, it was funny, she just completely turned it around," said Walsh. "Typical Dynaformer (or granddaughter of Dynaformer anyway). She's a sweetheart of a filly. She does her thing and makes us look good."

A \$22,000 yearling purchase, the daughter of Temple City seeks to pad a \$485,843 bankroll in today's Grade 2 Flower Bowl Stakes going 1 3/8 miles. She's the 8-1 third choice on the morning line behind 2-5 War Like Goddess and 7-2 Virginia Joy. The \$600,000 turf stakes is race 10 of 13 with a post time of 5:09 p.m.

Walsh likes his 6-year-old mare's chances, mostly because of her ability to crank out quality races. Since the maiden breaker, she won an allowance in May 2020 and her first stakes when stretched to 1 1/2 miles in May 2021. She placed in two graded stakes last summer — Delaware Park's Robert G. Dick Memorial in July and Saratoga's Glens Falls (to War Like Goddess) in August. This year, she repeated in the Keertana Stakes at Churchill Downs in May, labored home seventh in soft

turf at Delaware and was a solid second to the Bill Mott-trained War Like Goddess in the Glens Falls Aug. 6.

"She probably ran her best race ever the last time," Walsh said. "Billy's filly is obviously very, very good and she's going to be very tough to beat but you can never be afraid of one horse. The ground should be perfect, she's been doing great, she loves Saratoga. We're limited with options this time of year anyway, so we have to go and take our shot."

Luis Saez takes the riding assignment for the first time in a race, but has been aboard for Temple City Terror's last two workouts on the Oklahoma turf course — 5 furlongs in 1:01.56 Aug. 21 and a half-mile in :49.26 seven days later.

Walsh won't order up anything too elaborate by way of instructions. In the Glens Falls, she and Tyler Gaffalione rated in fifth early, saved ground, came around horses while behind War Like Goddess off the third turn and challenged to her inside in mid-stretch. War Like Goddess, 8-for-10 lifetime and third in last year's Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf, repelled the bid and eased away in the final sixteenth to score by 1 1/4 lengths

Continued On Page 24



Dave Harmon

War Like Goddess looks to duplicate her win in the Glens Falls last month.

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Flower Bowl —

■ Continued from page 22

as Temple City Terror finished a half-length ahead of Virginia Joy for second.

"I think we just run our race," Walsh said. "I'd hate to take our filly out of her game to try to beat Bill's filly. She can win from anywhere, so I don't think there's much you can do to change her. We'll concentrate on ourselves and hope for the best. Luis has had a great meet and we've had great luck with him through three years. He's gotten a feel for her, and he was very happy with her work last Sunday."

Bred by Upson Downs Farm, Temple City Terror breaks from post six, while seeking her first graded win — a mission Walsh would like to complete.

"It's a shame she hasn't won a graded stakes yet, she's worthy of one," the trainer said. "The Delaware race is the one that's hurt me with her. She was unlucky not to win it last year, just had a terrible trip, and this year it came up so soft that it wasn't fair to her."

Thursday morning, Temple City Terror was relaxing at Walsh's barn in the northeast corner of the Oklahoma stable area — finishing breakfast, enjoying some stylish ice boots and listening to assistant



Coastana won at Saratoga last summer and makes her second start off a layoff.

trainer Charlie Lynch (son of Mid-Atlantic trainer Cal Lynch) talk about her.

"She's a sweetheart to do anything with, as cool as they come," said Lynch, 23. "It doesn't matter to her, she gives her everything. She's just all class. I'd love to have a whole lot of horses like her."

Peter Brant's German-bred Virginia Joy thrived on yielding ground when she won the Grade 2

Sheepshead Bay by 14 1/4 lengths in May and was beaten a length in the Grade 1 New York at Belmont in June before the Glens Falls. Irad Ortiz Jr. takes the return call on the 5-year-old mare for trainer Chad Brown. The Brown barn goes three deep with Klaravich Stable's English-bred Capital Structure (15-1, Jose Ortiz) and New York-bred Marvelous Maude (20-1, Manny Franco) each seeking a first stakes win.

Emory Hamilton's Flanigan's Cove was fourth in the Glens Falls, rallying from the back while wide on the turn for Saez before flattening out late while losing by 3 lengths. Javier Castellano gets the ride from post two for Shug McGaughey at 12-1. Her dam Hungry Island won the Lake Placid and finished second in the Ballston Spa at Saratoga.

Asked how she can make up 3 lengths on War Like Goddess, McGaughey said it straight.

"I don't think you can with her, she's pretty darn good," McGaughey said Friday morning. "But, when it looked like it was coming up a short field, knowing she was in there but she might cough tonight, the other option was a two other than back at Aqueduct."

Continued On Page 26



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Flower Bowl —

■ Continued from page 24

With a pedigree page to think about, the Flower Bowl made more sense.

“I was really impressed with her race in the Glens Falls. She came out of it good,” McGaughey said. “Emory bred her and has the family. She is very conservative in what she does, when I brought that up, she said just a little black type would help everything.”

Belladonna Racing's Coastana, fourth behind Capital Structure while coming off a year layoff for trainer Cherie DeVaux July 31, seeks to add some graded-stakes form to a pedigree that includes full-brother Real Solution.

Annapolis headlines Saranac

The plethora of opportunities for 3-year-old turf horses hits Saratoga's final weekend as today's Grade 3 Saranac drew just five entries (and four likely runners as Piqua is expected to be scratched) as the fourth race.

The \$200,000 race gets impacted by — among others — the Hall of Fame, Saratoga Derby and Better Talk Now at the meet plus the Dueling Grounds Derby at Kentucky Downs Sept. 4 and the Virginia Derby at Colonial Downs Sept. 6.

Bass Racing's Annapolis rates the 2-5 favorite on the morning line for trainer Todd Pletcher. Second to English raider Nations Pride in the Grade 1 Saratoga Derby Aug. 6, the son of Quality Road looks for his fourth lifetime win after winning his debut and the Grade 2 Pilgrim last year and capturing the Manila Stakes at Belmont Park July 4. Irad Ortiz Jr. takes the return call on the homebred.

Stuart Janney homebred Celestial City, third in the Grade 2 Hall of Fame Aug. 5, adds blinkers for trainer Shug McGaughey and is the 3-1 second choice from the inside post. The Uncle Mo colt won a turf maiden at Gulfstream Park in March and finished second by a head to today's rival Fuerteventura in the Jersey Derby in May.

“His last race was OK. Putting the blinkers on him should sharpen him up a little bit, hopefully he'll focus. He's better than his last race, he was

doing so good, that's one of the reasons I ran him. He wants to run a little farther than that, the Saranac is a mile and a sixteenth, too, nothing I can do about that. I hope the blinkers will help,” McGaughey said. “He drew in pretty tough with the thing of Todd's in there, I don't really know what the thinking is there, I've been trying to figure it out and I haven't been able to figure it out yet. You would have thought he would have gone in the million dollar race two weeks ago.”

Fuerteventura, 6-1 for Jonathan Thomas and jockey Manny Franco, has won three of five and exits a sixth on the synthetic at Woodbine July 2. Ethereal Road, ninth in the Saratoga Derby, makes his second turf start for trainer Wayne Lukas and jockey Luis Saez at 10-1.

• The Sunday and Monday cards are loaded as well with 2-year-old fillies going in Sunday's Spinaway and 2-year-old males tangling in the Hopeful on Monday, which also includes the Bernard Baruch on the turf.

See thisishorseacing.com for selections and other information for the final two days of the 2022 Saratoga season.

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SARATOGA ENTRIES

Saturday, September 3.

1ST (12:05PM). \$105,000, MSW, 2 YO, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double			
1	.....1.....	Read On.....	K. Carmouche.....D. Romans.....12-1
2	.....2.....	Fly Right.....	J. Castellano.....L. Gyarmati.....12-1
3	.....3.....	Ari Gold.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....T. Pletcher.....2-1
4	.....4.....	Please Baby.....	J. Gomez.....R. Rodriguez.....6-1
5	.....5.....	Good News Rocket.....	J. Alvarado.....W. Mott.....10-1
6	.....6.....	Uncle Dan.....	E. Cancel.....C. Martin.....20-1
7	.....7.....	Running Late.....	T. McCarthy.....T. Amoss.....12-1
8	.....8.....	General Jim.....	L. Saez.....C. McGaughey III.....3-1
9	.....9.....	Impeccability.....	J. Rosario.....K. McPeck.....10-1
10	.....10.....	Scramble.....	D. Davis.....B. Tagg.....10-1
11	.....AE.....	Sustenance.....	M. Franco.....H. Motion.....10-1
12	.....AE.....	Classic Creation.....	E. Cancel.....J. Terranova, II.....8-1
13	.....AE.....	Certified Loverboy.....	J. Rosario.....R. Handal.....5-1
14	.....AE.....	Torigo.....	K. Carmouche.....D. Gargan.....6-1
15	.....AE.....	Philharmonic.....	J. Gomez.....N. Zito.....30-1
16	.....AE-MTO.....	Big Wicks.....	Rider TBA.....C. Clement.....7-2

2ND (12:37PM). \$105,000, MSW, 2 YO, 7F

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double			
1	.....1.....	Full Moon Madness.....	T. McCarthy.....M. Nevin.....7-2
2	.....2.....	Tapit's Conquest.....	M. Franco.....B. Cox.....8-1
3	.....3.....	Fightertown.....	J. Alvarado.....W. Mott.....10-1
4	.....4.....	Marty's Magic.....	J. Gomez.....H. De Paz.....20-1
5	.....5.....	Code of Kings.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....M. Trombetta.....10-1
6	.....6.....	Parkway.....	J. Castellano.....W. Mott.....8-1
7	.....7.....	Powerful.....	J. Ortiz.....S. Asmussen.....2-1
8	.....8.....	Upgrade.....	L. Saez.....T. Pletcher.....4-1
9	.....9.....	Surprise Payoff.....	E. Cancel.....G. Weaver.....15-1

3RD (1:12PM). \$115,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double			
1	.....1.....	Aussie Pride.....	J. Rosario.....W. Mott.....6-1
2	.....2.....	Capone.....	M. Franco.....J. Jerkens.....15-1
3	.....3.....	Seal Beach.....	J. Castellano.....M. Maker.....12-1
4	.....4.....	Tiwanaku.....	K. Carmouche.....T. Amoss.....4-1
5	.....5.....	Strong Quality.....	L. Saez.....M. Casse.....6-1
6	.....6.....	Up to the Mark.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....T. Pletcher.....2-1
7	.....7.....	Perceived.....	J. Gomez.....R. Rodriguez.....8-1
8	.....8.....	No Burn.....	D. Davis.....O. Barrera, III.....4-1

4TH (1:43PM). \$200,000, STK - THE SARANAC, 3 YO, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double			
1	.....1.....	Celestial City.....	J. Castellano.....C. McGaughey III.....3-1
2	.....2.....	Piqua.....	J. Alvarado.....H. Motion.....12-1
3	.....3.....	Annapolis.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....T. Pletcher.....2-5
4	.....4.....	Ethereal Road.....	L. Saez.....D. Lukas.....10-1
5	.....5.....	Fuerteventura.....	M. Franco.....J. Thomas.....6-1

5TH (2:16PM). \$70,000, STR \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4			
1	.....1.....	Drink the Wind.....	T. McCarthy.....T. Morley.....6-1
2	.....2.....	Starrystarryknight.....	J. Ortiz.....J. Kimmel.....10-1
3	.....3.....	N Y Anthem.....	A. Worrie.....C. Englehart.....30-1
4	.....4.....	Blinding Light.....	L. Saez.....J. Englehart.....4-1
5	.....5.....	King Moonracer.....	J. Castellano.....G. Weaver.....8-1
6	.....6.....	Leddy.....	J. Lezcano.....L. Rice.....15-1
7	.....7.....	Custom Bobby's.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....J. Camejo.....6-1
8	.....8.....	Montatham.....	D. Davis.....J. Lee.....8-1
9	.....9.....	Moon Hunter.....	K. Carmouche.....G. Sciacca.....20-1
10	.....10.....	Sugar Gray Leonard.....	M. Franco.....L. Gyarmati.....20-1
11	.....11.....	Mister Chairman.....	J. Rosario.....C. Clement.....7-2
12	.....12.....	Hatch.....	E. Cancel.....C. Martin.....15-1
13	.....AE-MTO.....	Fast N Fearious.....	J. Gomez.....B. Brown.....5-2
14	.....AE-MTO.....	Cousin Andrew.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....L. Rice.....5-1

6TH (2:51PM). \$105,000, MSW, 2 YO, 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 6, Daily Double			
1	.....1.....	Heart N Soul.....	J. Castellano.....G. Weaver.....8-1
2	.....2.....	Mindtap.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....T. Pletcher.....7-2
3	.....3.....	Jungfrau.....	J. Ortiz.....W. Mott.....10-1
4	.....4.....	Mo's Treasure.....	J. Gomez.....D. Lukas.....15-1
5	.....5.....	Kaon.....	M. Franco.....C. Brown.....5-1
6	.....6.....	Prairie Dunes.....	J. Alvarado.....W. Mott.....15-1
7	.....7.....	Desert Wolf.....	J. Rosario.....T. Pletcher.....10-1
8	.....8.....	American Halite.....	J. Lezcano.....J. Englehart.....15-1
9	.....9.....	Champions Dream.....	L. Saez.....D. Gargan.....5-2
10	.....10.....	Cagliostro.....	K. Carmouche.....C. DeVaux.....8-1

7TH (3:22PM). \$120,000, AOC \$62,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double			
1	.....1.....	Greeley and Ben.....	J. Alvarado.....D. Jacobson.....3-1
1a	.....3.....	Amundson.....	J. Ortiz.....R. Diodoro.....3-1
2	.....2.....	Higher Standard.....	D. Davis.....T. Amoss.....5-1
3	.....4.....	Foolish Ghost.....	K. Carmouche.....R. Rodriguez.....8-1
4	.....5.....	Cost Basis.....	E. Cancel.....G. Weaver.....10-1
5	.....6.....	Elite Power.....	J. Rosario.....W. Mott.....5-2
6	.....7.....	Payne.....	T. McCarthy.....C. Caramori.....15-1
7	.....8.....	Hoist the Gold.....	J. Gomez.....D. Stewart.....15-1
8	.....9.....	Shadow Matter.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....R. Diodoro.....8-1
9	.....10.....	Meraas (GB).....	A. Fresu.....C. Summers.....6-1

8TH (3:58PM). \$105,000, MSW, 2 YO, 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 6, Daily Double			
1	.....1.....	Instant Coffee.....	D. Davis.....B. Cox.....10-1
2	.....2.....	Briterdayzahead.....	K. Carmouche.....J. Sharp.....15-1
3	.....3.....	Arthur's Ride.....	J. Rosario.....W. Mott.....7-2
4	.....4.....	Dubyyuhnell.....	J. Ortiz.....D. Gargan.....8-1
5	.....5.....	Enzo's World.....	E. Cancel.....C. Martin.....50-1
6	.....6.....	Rocket Can.....	J. Alvarado.....W. Mott.....9-2
7	.....7.....	Tsuris.....	J. Gomez.....D. Stewart.....30-1
8	.....8.....	Juan Valdez.....	L. Saez.....C. McGaughey III.....5-1
9	.....9.....	Fantastist.....	M. Franco.....T. Pletcher.....8-1
10	.....10.....	Crupi.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....T. Pletcher.....5-2

9TH (4:35PM). \$120,000, AOC \$62,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double			
1	.....1.....	Clear Vision.....	J. Gomez.....M. O'Connor.....30-1
2	.....2.....	Analyze It.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....C. Brown.....5-2
3	.....3.....	Lorenz (BRZ).....	J. Alvarado.....S. Joseph, Jr.....12-1
4	.....4.....	Sanctuary City.....	T. McCarthy.....J. Ferraro.....6-1
5	.....5.....	Graded On a Curve.....	M. Franco.....C. Brown.....8-1
6	.....6.....	Monition.....	J. Lezcano.....C. DeVaux.....8-1
7	.....7.....	Soulmate.....	M. Luzzi.....J. Pregman, Jr.....20-1
8	.....8.....	Mad Munnys.....	K. Carmouche.....G. Rodriguez.....30-1
9	.....9.....	Ocean Atlantique.....	L. Saez.....M. Maker.....6-1
10	.....10.....	Eyes On Target.....	J. Ortiz.....M. Maker.....7-2
11	.....11.....	Never Explain.....	J. Castellano.....C. McGaughey III.....12-1

10TH (5:09PM). \$600,000, THE FLOWER BOWL, 4 & UP, F & M , 1 3/8M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4			
1	.....1.....	Capital Structure (GB)....	J. Ortiz.....C. Brown.....15-1
2	.....2.....	Flanigan's Cove.....	J. Castellano.....C. McGaughey III.....12-1
3	.....3.....	Virginia Joy (GER).....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....C. Brown.....7-2
4	.....4.....	War Like Goddess.....	J. Rosario.....W. Mott.....2-5
5	.....5.....	Coastana.....	J. Lezcano.....C. DeVaux.....30-1
6	.....6.....	Temple City Terror.....	L. Saez.....B. Walsh.....8-1
7	.....7.....	Marvelous Maude.....	M. Franco.....C. Brown.....20-1

SARATOGA ENTRIES

11TH (5:45PM). \$1,000,000, STK - THE JOCKEY CLUB GOLD CUP, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/4M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	Tax	K. Carmouche	D. Gargan	10-1
2	2	Olympiad	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	2-1
3	3	Untreated	J. Ortiz	T. Pletcher	12-1
4	4	Chess Chief	M. Franco	D. Stewart	30-1
5	5	Americanrevolution	J. Rosario	T. Pletcher	3-1
6	6	First Captain	L. Saez	C. McGaughey III	4-1
7	7	Keepmeinmind	J. Castellano	T. Pletcher	12-1
8	8	Dynamic One	I. Ortiz, Jr.	T. Pletcher	7-2

12TH (6:17PM). \$45,000, CLM \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	1	Seanan	D. Davis	C. Clement	15-1
2	2	Iron Lion in Zion	T. McCarthy	T. Morley	20-1
3	3	Mr Breadwinner	I. Ortiz, Jr.	H. De Paz	9-2
4	4	Notable Exception	J. Alvarado	M. Shirer	9-2
5	5	Ria's Angel	J. Rosario	R. Rodriguez	6-1
6	6	Patient Capital	M. Franco	C. Brown	5-1
7	7	Milano	J. Ortiz	D. Jacobson	10-1
8	8	One More Baby	L. Saez	J. D'Angelo	6-1
9	9	Kong Loves a Fight	J. Gomez	O. Noda	20-1
10	10	Midnight Worker	J. Castellano	T. Pletcher	7-2
11	AE	Jay'stalker	J. Castellano	B. Levine	10-1
12	AE	Commander Compton	L. Saez	P. Bauer	10-1
13	AE	Nineties Country	J. Lezcano	F. Gutierrez	12-1

13TH (6:49PM). \$50,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	3	Chiara	L. Saez	H. Bond	12-1
1a	7	Fuligni	H. Harkie	H. Bond	12-1
2	1	Bunty Windermere	D. Davis	J. Ryerson	12-1
3	2	Lollygag	J. Gomez	M. Lauer	20-1
4	4	Mo Damorninggrouch	J. Lezcano	L. Rice	12-1
5	5	My Cara Mia Mine	J. Castellano	M. Friedman	8-1
6	6	Lemme Get It	K. Carmouche	B. Levine	20-1
7	8	Rent Control	E. Cancel	A. Chichakly	8-1
8	9	Izeamalibumoon	I. Ortiz, Jr.	G. Sciacca	7-2
9	10	Eli Dancer	J. Ortiz	J. Camejo	5-1
10	11	Galley Head	J. Alvarado	R. Lerman	15-1
11	12	Quick Power Nap	J. Rosario	C. Clement	5-2

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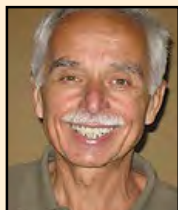


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the Power grid



**John
Shapazian**



**Tom
Law**



**Charles
Bedard**



**Rob
Whitlock**



**Jessica
Paquette**

Race #

1

General Jim
Read On
Ari Gold

Ari Gold
General Jim
Good News Rocket

Good News Rocket
Ari Gold
Running Late

Ari Gold
General Jim
Please Baby

Ari Gold
General Jim
Scramble

2

Powerful
Full Moon Madness
Upgrade

Powerful
Upgrade
Tapit's Conquest

Powerful
Full Moon Madness
Upgrade

Powerful
Full Moon Madness
Upgrade

Powerful
Parkway
Fightertown

3

Strong Quality
Up To The Mark
Tiwanaku

Up To The Mark
Strong Quality
Aussie Pride

No Burn
Perceived
Up To The Mark

Up to the Mark
Tiwanaku
Capone

Strong Quality
Up To The Mark
Aussie Pride

4

Annapolis
Celestial City
Ethereal Road

Annapolis
Celestial City
Fuerteventura

Annapolis
Ethereal Road
Celestial City

Annapolis
Celestial City
Piqua

Piqua
Celestial City
Annapolis

5

Blinding Light
King Moonracer
Starrystarryknight

King Moonracer
Blinding Light
Mister Chairman

Fast N Fearious
Blinding Light
Mister Chairman

King Moonracer
Mister Chairman
Blinding Light

Mister Chairman
Drink The Wind
Blinding Light

6

Champions Dream
Kaon
Mindtap

Champions Dream
Mindtap
Jungfrau

Mindtap
Cagliostro
Desert Wolf

Champions Dream
Mindtap
Kaon

Mindtap
Prairie Dunes
Kaon

7

Elite Power
Roman entry
Cost Basis

Elite Power
Amundson
Higher Standard

Elite Power
Roman entry
Cost Basis

Elite Power
Higher Standard
Roman Entry

Elite Power
Higher Standard
Cost Basis

8

Crupi
Arthur's Ride
Rocket Can

Arthur's Ride
Crupi
Juan Valdez

Juan Valdez
Instant Coffee
Fantasist

Arthur's Ride
Crupi
Dubyuhnell

Juan Valdez
Crupi
Arthur's Ride

9

Analyze It
Sanctuary City
Lorenz

Eyes On Target
Sanctuary City
Monition

Analyze It
Eyes On Target
Graded On A Curve

Monition
Eyes On Target
Analyze It

Monition
Lorenz
Eyes On Target

10

War Like Goddess
Virginia Joy
Capital Structure

War Like Goddess
Temple City Terror
Virginia Joy

War Like Goddess
Marvelous Maude
Virginia Joy

War Like Goddess
Flanagan's Cove
Virginia Joy

War Like Goddess
Flanigan's Cove
Virginia Joy

11

Olympiad
Americanrevolution
Tax

Olympiad
Americanrevolution
Dynamic One

Dynamic One
Olympiad
Americanrevolution

Americanrevolution
Olympiad
First Captain

Olympiad
First Captain
Chess Chief

12

Patient Capital
Mr Breadwinner
Midnight Worker

Notable Exception
One More Baby
Midnight Worker

Notable Exception
Milano
Patient Capital

Midnight Worker
Mr Breadwinner
Patient Capital

Seanan
Midnight Worker
Ria's Angel

13

Quick Power Nap
Izeamalibumoon
Bond entry

Quick Power Nap
Izeamalibumoon
Eli Dancer

Quick Power Nap
Rent Control
Izeamalibumoon

Quick Powernap
Bunt Windermere
Mo Damorninggrouch

Quick Power Nap
Chiara
Eli Dancer

2022 Records

123/380

118/380

99/380

107/380

80/380



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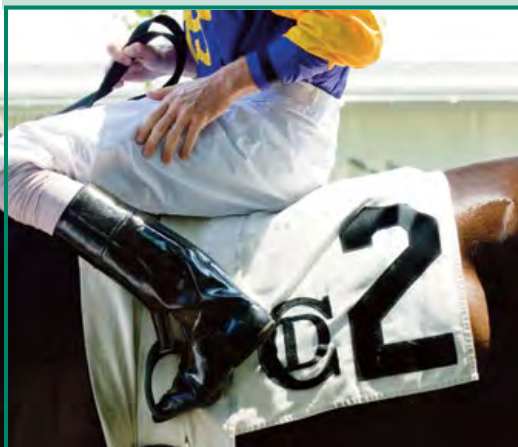
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Closing Saturday, September 17, 2022

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Also closing Saturday, September 17, 2022 is **The DTHA Governor's Day Stake** and **The George Rosenberger Memorial** with the run date for both on October 1, 2022. Both stakes are restricted to horses which have started at Delaware Park in 2022 (stake races excluded). A \$50,000 purse bonus will be added to these two stakes for Delaware Certified eligible horses that run and finish 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Purse total will be \$150,000 for DCTP horses.

New Schedule for 2022!

The Small Wonder

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Fillies Two Year Olds • Six Furlongs

The First State Dash

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Two Year Olds • Six Furlongs

The Tax Free Shopping Distaff

Friday, September 30, 2022

Fillies & Mares Three Year Olds & Upward • Six Furlongs

The New Castle

Friday, September 30, 2022

Three Year Olds & Upward • Six Furlongs



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Summer of Steve

Wicked Halo gives Asmussen another graded stakes victory

BY TOM LAW

Winchell Thoroughbreds' homebred Wicked Halo announced her presence on the big stage winning last year's Grade 2 Adirondack the day after the Grade 1 Whitney and day before the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga yearling sale.

No sooner had the daughter of Gun Runner arrived she was gone, all by design.

Continued On Page 34



Dave Harmon

Wicked Halo wins Friday's Prioress Stakes for trainer Steve Asmussen.

WON/PLACED IN

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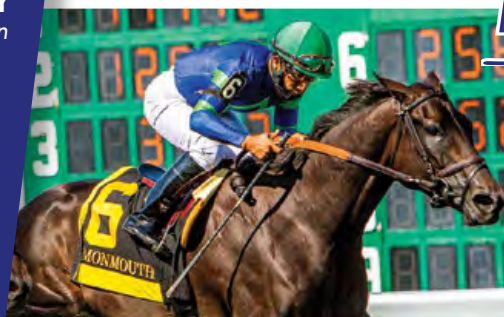
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Sep 14	Wed	7:15am	Happy Valley
Sep 18	Sun	1:00am	Sha Tin

Sep 21	Wed	7:15am	Happy Valley
Sep 25	Sun	1:00am	Sha Tin
Sep 28	Wed	7:15am	Happy Valley

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Priores —

■ Continued from page 32

“We were extremely aggressive last year trying to prove the Gun Runners and were rewarded for it,” trainer Steve Asmussen said. “And I just felt both horses, she and Gunite, were a very good example of using their one-turn ability, not expecting them to be Oaks or Derby horses. Gave them the spring and the preps off; wait for the money this summer. I am also loving the trend of how much the Gun Runners like Saratoga. They definitely run their races here.”

Wicked Halo ran her race in the Adirondack, winning by 3 1/2 lengths, and did again Friday with a more workmanlike but just as effective neck victory in the Grade 2 Prioress Stakes. Wicked Halo added her name to the list of graded stakes winners at the meet for the Winchell-Asmussen combination, a hefty group that also includes Grade 1 Travers and Grade 2 Jim Dandy winner Epicenter and Grade 2 Amsterdam winner Gunite, in addition to champion New York-bred Bankit in the Evan Shipman.

Wicked Halo won her third straight in the 6-furlong Prioress, adding to her wins in the Leslie's Lady in June and Tepin in July at Churchill Downs. She's won three of six this

year with two seconds, in a campaign that started in mid-February at Oaklawn Park and rolls on during the Summer of Steve at Saratoga.

“We were a little off track with her early this year,” said Asmussen, 12-for-45 at the meet with a few more to run including Gulfport in the Grade 1 Hopeful. “She's very laid back, and it took her a few races to get sharp, but I think when we got back to Churchill, she dialed it up. Her last three runs were really solid.”

Off since July 2, Wicked Halo went to post for the \$250,000 Prioress as the 4-1 fourth choice behind Grade 3 Victory Ride and Grade 1 Test runner-up Hot Peppers, Wilton runner-up Angitude and Union Lake.

Tyler Gaffalione, aboard for the gray filly's last two starts and back in town from a three-win day at Ken-

Continued On Page 35

Saratoga Leaders

JOCKEYS	1ST
Irad Ortiz Jr.	47
Joel Rosario	37
Luis Saez	36
Flavien Prat	34
Jose Ortiz	31
Manny Franco	27
Javier Castellano	26
John Velazquez	21
Jose Lezcano	18
Tyler Gaffalione	17
Dylan Davis	13
Junior Alvarado	12

Through Friday

TRAINERS	1ST
Chad Brown	38
Todd Pletcher	33
Christophe Clement	17
Mike Maker	15
Bill Mott	14
Steve Asmussen	12
Linda Rice	12
Brad Cox	10
Wesley Ward	9
David Donk	7
Tom Morley	7
Phil Bauer	6
Mark Casse	6
Jeremiah Englehart	6
Saffie Joseph	6
Joe Sharp	6
George Weaver	6



Team Asmussen meets Wicked Halo in the winner's circle.

Dave Harmon

Prioress —

■ Continued from page 34

tucky Downs Thursday, hustled Wicked Halo away from the gate from post one and let her settle in behind a pace battle between Hot Peppers, Mischievous Diane, Union Lake and Half Is Enough. Hot Peppers led that group through the opening quarter in :21.97.

Wicked Halo stayed inside and tracked in fourth to that point as Union Lake and Mischievous Diane applied pressure to Hot Peppers from the outside from the midpoint of the far turn to the top of the lane. Gaffalione swung Wicked Halo off the rail turning for home and into the four path for a run at the leaders. Wicked Halo rolled up to and past the tiring leaders at the eighth pole.

“I thought the race suited her well,” Gaffalione said. “There was plenty of speed for her to get a good trip and when I asked on her, she gave me everything she had.”

Sterling Silver made a belated run through the lane to finish second, a neck back, with Union Lake another 2 3/4 lengths behind in third. Wicked Halo won in 1:10.16.

Asmussen and Winchell hoped to run Wicked Halo in the Grade 1 Test Aug. 6 but were forced to skip the race when the filly came up with a “little bit of a hind food thing.”

They regrouped, knowing the Prioress was on the stakes schedule and Wicked Halo rewarded the decision with her fifth win in nine starts. She earned \$137,500 for the win, boosting her earnings to \$574,050. Wicked Halo is Gun Runner’s fifth leading earner this season, behind Cyberknife, Early Voting, Taiba and stablemate Society and just ahead of two other Asmussen trainees in Gunite and champion Echo Zulu.

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BOOK ONE • Barn 5

Tuesday 9/13

250 c. SPEIGHTSTOWN – Foolish Living

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

333 f. CURLIN – Malibu Bonnie

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

371 f. JUSTIFY – Overheard

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

BOOK TWO • Barn 34

Wednesday 9/14

397 c. VINO ROSSO – Quippery

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

453 f. MEDAGLIA D’ORO – Spring Party

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

494 f. UNCLE MO – Tonasah

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

539 f. MORE THAN READY – Athena

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

568 c. INTO MISCHIEF – Carolina Bertie

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

668 f. FLATTER – Harlee Honey

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

751 f. MUNNINGS – New Angel (GB)

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

BOOK THREE • Barn 6

Saturday 9/17

1162 f. HARD SPUN – Revel in the Win

1210 f. PRACTICAL JOKE – Stormandaprayer

1232 c. CURLIN – Tangere

1324 c. STREET SENSE – Bernadetta

1329 f. FLATTER – Beyond Blame

1414 f. CAIRO PRINCE – Exclude (GB)

1416 c. CATHOLIC BOY – Fancy and Flashy

1468 c. GHOSTZAPPER – Katie’s Kiss

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Heroes

Thin White Duke jams
to Lucky Coin triumph

BY TOM LAW

Phil Gleaves watched Thin White Duke walk from the saddling stalls to the outer walking ring of the paddock before Friday's \$150,000 Lucky Coin Stakes and marveled at the gelding he bred, owns and used to train.

"Just like strutting into Madison Square Garden. Like him," Gleaves said, pointing to a small white button on his lapel of the human Thin White Duke, the late rockstar David Bowie.

Thin White Duke continued his strut about 15 minutes later, into the winner's circle after his late-running victory under John Velazquez in the 5 ½-furlong co-featured turf stakes on the final Friday of the 2022 Saratoga meet.

Gleaves, an unabashed Bowie fan who owns

Continued On Page 37



Chelsea Durand/NYRA

Thin White Duke (center) digs in to win Friday's Lucky Coin Stakes.

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Tattersalls

Friday —

■ Continued from page 36

Thin White Duke with Steve Crist, Ken deRegt and Bryan Hilliard, wore the pin when the New York-bred Dominus gelding finished a fast-closing third in the Grade 3 Troy Aug. 5. He figured why not sport it again.

“Second time wearing it,” Gleaves said, on his way to the Carmen M. Barrera Horsemen’s Lounge for champagne with his wife Amy. “Steve, the last time he came up with Ken he brought a bag of them. About 12 or so. I threw it on for the Troy and today I said, ‘I’m going to grab that pin again.’ She put it on me in the parking lot right over there and I had a good feeling.”

Gleaves trained Thin White Duke for his 2- and 3-year-old campaigns. The gelding won the Funny Cide Stakes at Saratoga and Aspirant Stakes at Finger Lakes at 2 before some physical issues limited his sophomore campaign. He made only three starts last year, finishing well back in each, before some time off.

Gleaves retired after last year’s Saratoga meet and turned to David Donk, another former assistant to the late Hall of Fame trainer Woody Stephens, to condition Thin White Duke and a few other horses he trained and/or owned in partnership. After finishing 10th in a dirt sprint in mid-March at Aqueduct, Thin White Duke has made seven straight starts on the grass with two wins, a second, a third and two fourths.

Thin White Duke’s last three races – all at 5 ½ furlongs on the turf at Saratoga – are arguably his three best.



Tod Marks

Continued On Page 38

Thin White Duke stands tall in the winner’s circle after the Lucky Coin.



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Dave Harmon

Hail To (11) gets up to win the fifth for owner/breeder Woodslane Farm.

Friday —

■ Continued from page 37

“Obviously, he ran huge last time with a big Beyer number,” Donk said. “If he came close to that, he was going to be real tough today. I guess he did. I didn’t really look at the time.

“He just really improved and certainly appreciates sprinting. Johnny gave me a great ride. A lot of fun to win it for Phil, Steve, Ken and Bryan. I’m honored to have him.”

Velazquez, aboard two starts back in the runner-up effort in an open-company allowance eight days before the Troy, put Thin White Duke fourth early as 2-1 favorite. The Critical Way set the pace just ahead of Proven Strategies and Dancing Buck.

Thin White Duke raced 3 1/2 lengths off The Critical Way’s opening quarter in :22.71 over the firm going and was still almost 2 lengths as Proven Strategies and Dancing Buck made a run at the leader turning for home. Dancing Buck came away with the lead just past the eight pole as The Critical Way and Proven Strategies retreated and Voodoo Zip and Joel Rosario made a run to daylight on the hedge.

Velazquez, who blamed himself for moving “a little too late,” stayed busy on Thin White Duke in the center of the course and edged past Dancing

Buck just at the wire to win by a nose in 1:03.43. Fauci also made a late run from sixth early to finish three-quarters of a length back in third.

“I was waiting for Joel in the back. I’m thinking, ‘If he comes, I’ll go with him,’ ” said Velazquez, winning his 200th Saratoga stakes. “The other horse (The Critical Way) almost got loose. I was waiting for a horse behind me. I just told Dave, ‘Man, I was a little too patient waiting for Joel and he never showed up.’ We know he has a good kick, I was just hoping it was enough to catch up.”

Thin White Duke improved to 4-for-18 with three seconds and five thirds and boosted his bankroll to \$426,501.

“One of the greatest riders of all time,” Donk said. “I’ve only been around two riders that ever criticize themselves when they win, and that’s Johnny and Ramon (Dominguez), so we’ll take those all the time. It wasn’t a big pace today. If you get there you get there. I’m just happy if they run well. I’ve been on the other side a lot, but that’s, that’s all we can ask.”

- Trainer Phil Serpe’s strong meet continued when he sent out Well-Spring Stable’s Security Code to victory in her second start in the sixth, the second division of a maiden special weight for 2-year-old New York-bred fillies. The daughter of Frosted,

Continued On Page 40



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Photo by Dan McCanna





Dave Harmon

Security Code wins Friday's fifth for trainer Phil Serpe.

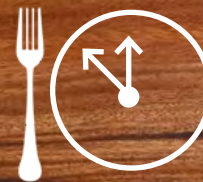
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Friday —

■ Continued from page 38

second in her debut behind eventual Seeking the Ante winner Maple Leaf Mel, won by 1 3/4 lengths for Serpe's fifth win of the meet. Serpe has two more chances at the meet — Leave No Trace in the Grade 1 Spinaway Sunday and Tizmet in the fourth Monday. You're My Girl impressed winning the first division, romping by 14 1/2 lengths as the 2-1 favorite for owners Gatsas Stable, R. A. Hill Stable and Hidden Brook Farm and trainer John Terranova.

- Woodslane Farm's homebred Hail To, a 3-year-old full-sister to Grade 1 winner and \$2,679,910-earner Sadler's Joy, won the fifth at 19-1.

The daughter of Kitten's Joy came from off the pace under Jose Lezcano to win the 1 3/16-mile turf allowance by a half-length from Transient. Trained by Tom Albertrani, Hail To improved to 2-for-4 on the grass at Saratoga.

- Joel Rosario won two races on Friday's card to move into second in the rider standings with 37 wins. He's 10 back of Irad Ortiz Jr. heading into the final three days of the meet. Chad Brown leads the trainer's race with 38 wins, five more than Todd Pletcher. Brown entered 19 horses for the final three days, with three in Saturday's Grade 2 Flower Bowl and two in Monday's Grade 3 Bernard Baruch. Pletcher entered 25 horses, including four runners in the Grade 1 Jockey Club Gold Cup Saturday and three other races with multiple entries.



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Team Up

Turf filly Be Your Best improves to 2-for-2 in P.G. Johnson win

BY TOM LAW

Horacio De Paz needed to get back to his barn.

Not to check on his filly who just won Thursday's \$150,000 P.G. Johnson Stakes to improve to 2-for-2 in her young career. Be Your Best would still be awhile after going to the test barn and making the walk back around the outer road of the main track, through the barns and eventually to Clare Court.

De Paz figured he needed to get back to check on Oreo, Be Your Best's faithful and occasionally ornery partner.



Dave Harmon

Continued On Page 43

Be Your Best and Jose Ortiz streak for the finish line in Thursday's P.G. Johnson Stakes.

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Thursday —

■ Continued from page 42

“I think the goat is tearing the barn down right now,” the trainer joked in the winner’s circle after Be Your Best scampered to a 3 ¾-length win in the \$150,000 stakes for 2-year-old fillies on the grass. “I’ve got to get back to check on him. I need a goat for the goat.”

Oreo took up residence outside Be Your Best’s stall when De Paz shipped his string from Belmont Park to Saratoga just before the meet. He’s on loan from Rudy Rodriguez and helps Be Your Best stay calm and avoid her tendency to stall walk. He’s loyal, too, almost to a fault.

“He lives outside the filly’s stall,” De Paz said. “When they come and look at her and check her, he gets all worked up. He starts hitting the wall, and he dropped the gate the other day.”

Be Your Best handled her time outside the barn Thursday just as she did winning her debut here July 31. A month removed from that win, Mike Ryan’s Irish-bred homebred daughter of Muhaarar nearly duplicated the effort under Jose Ortiz.

Third behind Recognize and Damaso early, Be Your Best and Ortiz saved ground most of the way, tipped off the inside turning for home and took



Horacio De Paz.

Tod Marks

control inside the eighth pole. She drew off from there, outspurring Idea Generation and drawing away from a tiring Recognize. Whichwaze, the third longest price of the eight at 19-1, rallied to finish second after 1 1/16 miles in 1:46.67.

“I knew we were going slow going into the first turn, but I feel like the grass – the inner especially – is no good for speed,” said Ortiz, who also rode the filly in her July 31 debut.

“So, I decided to make a move and take that position inside. The filly was so easy to ride. She did whatever I asked her to do. She relaxed well and had a beautiful turn of foot turning for home. The rail opened up and she gave it to me.

“And I feel like she didn’t give me 100 percent; she was playing, flicking her ears passing the wire. She’s happy and Horacio is doing an amazing job with her.”

Ortiz’s time with Be Your Best goes back to the spring at Belmont – and well before Oreo came into the picture.

De Paz went out of his normal routine and asked the jockey to come out and ride the filly in May. He was aboard for her early breezes on the Belmont

training track, and schooled her in the gate. Be Your Best did so well on the dirt that Ortiz figured she’d be among his plum mounts in a dirt maiden sprint once racing moved upstate.

“She worked very good on the dirt, so I thought she was an American horse,” Ortiz said. “Horacio told me the second time I worked her, ‘You know she’s a European and is supposed to be a lot better on the grass?’ ”

Ortiz said if she improved once she ran on the turf “she’ll be special” and he’s continued to sing her praises to the delight of her trainer.

“I don’t normally get jocks out that early, but if I can get him on her to know her, then he started working her and worked her from the gate,” De Paz said. “I usually don’t call on them to work horses. When I did that, I’m sure he felt like, ‘Something is going on here.’ I’ve been lucky with Jose. He’s a great person and I’m very happy to win with him. And then again, off that maiden win he was like, ‘She’s serious.’ ”

De Paz hopes the P.G. Johnson could be a steppingstone to the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf Nov. 4 at Keeneland. Whether she runs again between now and then – possibly to the chagrin of Oreo – remains to be seen.

“She’s a pretty fit filly but we’ll get with Mike Ryan on that and make the best decision,” De Paz said. “We’ll see how she comes out. She’s deserving of that spot. We’ll look at it if everything is right.”

Continued On Page 44

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Thursday —

■ Continued from page 43

• Be Your Best gave Ortiz his third of four winners on the card, along with Numero Seis in the third, Invaluable in the eighth and Be The Boss in the finale. Numero Seis, a daughter of Tapit who cost \$27,000 at the OBS March sale, won in her third start in a 5 1/2-furlong turf maiden for 2-year-old fillies who cost \$50,000 or less in their most recent auction. Trained by Joe Sharp for Highlander Training Center, Numero Seis won by 2 lengths in 1:05.96 over good turf.

• No stranger to top company, Bye Bye Melvin could be headed back to graded stakes after a victory in the fourth. Alex Campbell Jr.'s homebred 5-year-old Uncle Mo gelding won the 9-furlong allowance-optional on the lead under John Velazquez for trainer Graham Motion.

"I would have been disappointed if he hadn't won after that first half," Motion said of the :50.13 split. "He's a free-running kind of horse, like



Dave Harmon

Bye Bye Melvin and John Velazquez roll to victory in Thursday's fourth race.

(half-sister and graded stakes winner) Mean Mary. I certainly felt good about it halfway through the race. And he doesn't mind it when it's a

little soft like that. When he won the Saranac up here it was bottomless."

Motion took blinkers off Bye Bye Melvin, who won by 3 1/2 lengths over Street Ready, after he finished fourth in a similar race going 1 mile Aug. 4.

"I meant to take them off last time," Motion said Friday morning. "I kicked myself. He was a little more manageable yesterday. He's a big strong horse. He's the biggest horse in the barn. Like the heaviest horse in the barn. He's a dude. I'd love to try him in one of these preps for the big races. I don't know if he can go a mile and a half, but that's what I'd like to do with him. Mr. Campbell would get a kick out of it, knowing we could take a shot in a nice race."

Bye Bye Melvin won the Grade 3 Saranac and placed in three other stakes during his 3-year-old season in 2020. He raced three times last year, finishing second in a Keeneland allowance, fourth in the Grade 2 Dinner Party at Pimlico on Preakness Day and 10th in the Grade 1 Manhattan at Belmont. He underwent surgery to remove an ankle chip last summer and didn't make his return until his Aug. 4 run at Saratoga.

"It just seemed like it took a long time to get him back," Motion said. "But he's back now and we're happy to have him."

• Bernie Dalton, 53-year-old jump jockey, watched Thursday's opener unfold in front of him and his mount Theocrat and tried to figure out how well race favorite Freddy Flintshire was traveling.

"We went down the back and I moved out, going to the last I had Freddy Flintshire and Decisive Triumph in front of me, I wasn't too sure how well Freddy was going because he looked like he was still traveling," Dalton said. "I landed and kicked, I was like, 'I'm going way too soon but we went too slow and I don't want to get done for toe.'"

Irish jockey translation, "Done for toe" means caught because of a lack of finishing speed.

Theocrat had enough, outlasting his Keri Brion-trained stablemate by a half-length in the \$75,000 Mickey Walsh novice hurdle stakes for Atlantic Friends Racing. A 5-year-old son of Teofilo bred in Ireland by Jim Bolger, Theocrat lost four flat starts in England before switching to jumps there and winning twice in 14 starts. Imported by Atlantic Friends, an En-

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Tod Marks

Theocrat (right) hangs on to win Thursday's steeplechase for jockey Bernie Dalton.

Thursday —

■ Continued from page 44

glish/American partnership headed by Connecticut resident Paul Willis, after a fourth at Worcester in May, Theocrat won a handicap hurdle at Colonial Downs July 18 and stepped up in class to take the Walsh.

Dalton picked up the mount when stable jockey Parker Hendriks stuck with Freddy Flintshire, a winner here July 27. Bet down to 6-5, the 4-year-old cruised in behind early leader Decisive Triumph early and moved to second leaving the backside the final time as Decisive Triumph tried to kick away. Carrying top weight of 159 pounds, Theocrat rolled from fourth to the front on the turn without coming under pressure, and saved enough to see out the win — Dalton's second of the meet after Down Royal (trained by his wife Kate) won the Grade 1 A.P. Smithwick in July. Scorpion's Revenge rallied from last to be third.

"Keri doesn't put any pressure on you, she tells you what she thinks, she



Tod Marks

Theocrat's owner Paul Willis.

knows you have a fair idea of what you're doing and she leaves it to you," Dalton said about the pick-up mount. "But saying that, you always want to do well for other people, it always looks bad when you're winning on your wife's horses and nobody else's. The added bonus is I don't have to worry about how the horse is going to be in the morning. When he's ours, I do. There's always a certain bit of you taking a little bit of care when your chance is gone as opposed to when it's not. The shoulders are a little lighter."

— Joe Clancy



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Tall Grass

Boppy O wins Gr. 3
in turf debut for Casse

BY JOE CLANCY

Mark Casse didn't necessarily think Boppy O was a turf horse, not at Keeneland September last year, not after a debut win at Gulfstream Park in May and not even after a 10th in the Grade 3 Sanford here July 16.

Distance. Casse thought the 2-year-old Bolt d'Oro colt wanted to run two turns, however, and aimed for Wednesday's With Anticipation Stakes. And watched the Florida-bred become a graded stakes winner on the turf. Owned by John Oxley and Breeze Easy, Boppy O got a stalking trip under Dylan Davis, took the lead on the final turn held off the closers to win by a neck over favorites Battle Of Normandy and Andthewinneris.

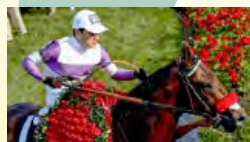
"It was about the grass, but I just wanted to run

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Tod Marks

Boppy O and Dylan Davis win Wednesday's With Anticipation Stakes.



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Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 46

him farther,” said Casse, ticking off some pedigree influences. “I thought about running him in the Sapling, just because it was two turns, at Monmouth. I said I would breeze him over the grass and I thought he breezed good enough that he deserved a shot.”

Boppy O made the most of it, breezing 5 furlongs in 1:01.70 on the Oklahoma turf Aug. 14 and heading to the With Anticipation at 1 1/16 miles on the inner turf course. The Grade 3 stakes drew an over-subscribed field of 11, but lost four to scratches – allowing Casse’s Determinedly to draw in from the also-eligible list. Listed at 8-1 on the morning line, Boppy O drifted to 23-1. Andthefinest, a turf winner at Keeneland in April, wound up a slight favorite over Saratoga winner Battle Of Normandy. Monmouth shipper El Conejito broke to his right, bumped Our Dream Rye’d leaving the gate and took a quick lead as Boppy O cleared from the outside and drafted into second through early fractions of :24.93 and :50.09 on a course labeled good. Davis asked for run two-thirds of the way around the final turn, steered toward the rail at the top of the stretch and set sail. Andthefinest couldn’t match the move, and Battle Of Normandy did his best running when clear in the final stages to gain the place spot. The winner, bred by Rustlewood Farm

and purchased for \$190,000, covered the distance in 1:46.93.

Casse wasn’t surprised at the result, and would have been content to run on dirt if the race came off the grass due to overnight rain.

“Hats off to the Saratoga crew to have racing after the rain we had last night, I think the course is very safe,” Casse said. “I think his future is just long. He’s a beautiful horse. He wants you to let him get himself together and keep going.”

Oxley and Breeze Easy’s Mike Hall each contacted Casse about Boppy O at the sale – which came shortly after half-brother Pappacap won the Grade 2 Best Pal Stakes and finished fourth in the Del Mar Futurity for Rustlewood and Casse.

“I have those two clients and they were both after the same horse,” the trainer said. “I don’t want them going after each other. I try extremely hard to protect my people as much as I can. This is a tough game and it’s my job to protect them. I was happy when they agreed to team up.”

As a yearling, Boppy O looked the part

“I like horses with leg, and he looked like Pappaap, but he has more leg than Pappacap,” Casse said. “He had to fill out and he’s just now filling out. When he fills out, he’ll really be beautiful.”

Casse didn’t hold the Sanford finish – 16 1/4 lengths behind winner Mo Strike – against Boppy O and echoed

Continued On Page 48



Tod Marks

Owners John and Debby Oxley (left) join the winner’s circle after Boppy O’s win.



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Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 47

several trainers about Saratoga's dirt affecting young horses coming from off the pace.

"Like Steve (Asmussen) says, you can't win with a dirty face here, you can't take all the kickback, so you don't really get a true read on your 2-year-olds," Casse said. "I run a lot of my first-time starters and 2-year-olds long on the grass, just to get the two-turn race into them. Then I'll take them back to the dirt."

Boppy O gets some turf pedigree from his dam Pappascats, a daughter of Scat Daddy with wins on turf and dirt and a Grade 3 turf placing. Sire Bolt d'Oro's first crop includes winners on both surfaces, but Casse might lean toward turf — although there's more to the winning formula than surface.

"My feeling has been that Bolt d'Oro, a lot of them are going to be grass, and they're going to end up coming along," he said. "They look good at the sales, they work good, but they struggle a little bit on the dirt early. They're also going to come along with distance. This horse doesn't look like some little 2-year-old, he looks like the man. He's going to get better and better."

For Oxley and his wife Debby, the win brought back plenty of Saratoga memories as Boppy O joined champion Beautiful Pleasure (who won back-to-back Personal Ensigns in 1999 and 2000), 2002 Hopeful winner Sky Mesa, 2016 Spinaway winner Pretty City Dancer and plenty of others.

"Do people still remember them?" John Oxley asked with a laugh af-



Tod Marks

Closethegame Sugar prevails in Wednesday's third race for trainer Adam Rice.

terward. "It's been a little while and we're glad to be back.

- By now you've probably heard the business model used by trainer Adam Rice. Buy yearlings you like at the sale, get them ready on the farm in Florida, head to a racetrack for the spring/summer (maybe a little autumn) and then pick your spots.

Consider Wednesday's third race picked. Rice shipped Closethegame Sugar to Saratoga off three months of training at Pennsylvania's Presque Isle Downs and made off with an \$83,000 maiden race. Restricted to horses who sold for \$50,000 or less at their most recent sale, the race lured a field of eight. Each cost more than the \$10,000 Rice paid for the winner at Keeneland September, who rallied from sixth early to win by a length

after 5 1/2 furlongs in 1:06.44. Webslinger finished second, with Own The Field third.

Rice did something similar with \$30,000 purchase Oxymore, a maiden winner at Belmont in July before selling the gelding to Michael Dubb and partners who got rewarded with a victory in Saratoga's Skidmore Stakes for trainer Chad Brown Aug. 19. Closethegame Sugar, a son of Girvin, didn't exactly wear a for-sale sign but Rice is a seller.

"I can be convinced but I like the horse a lot," he said. "I think he's bred for the dirt, he'll like the dirt a lot, I just train on the synthetic (at Presque Isle) and I'm not trying to put myself out of sorts too much. Clearly, he was prepared so I guess I did everything right again."

Rice tapped brother-in-law Jose

Ortiz to ride the winner, but doesn't automatically get a call from the Eclipse Award winner. When Rice's sister Taylor — now Ortiz's wife — rode races, that was different. Brother and sister teamed up to win with Monster Bea and Don't Be So Salty at Saratoga in 2015.

"Not always," Rice said on whether he can get Ortiz. "I make sure. I respectfully do it. The brother-in-law's got a business, I understand. I call the agent. You can't always pull family rank. The sister would ride them. I'd get that call."

Bred in Kentucky by Brereton Jones, who campaigned dam Casual Cocktail with trainer Tom Proctor, Closethegame Sugar learned his early lessons at the Rice family's Indian Prairie Ranch (founded by Adam's grandparents Clyde, who died in 2017, and Jean) in Florida before moving to Presque Isle with the rest of the string.

"We had a few things where we had to stop on him this winter so he got a little bit behind, but I brought nine 2-year-olds up this year and I've had a few of them debut nicely and he's shown me a lot of things that I really liked," Adam Rice said. "Oxymore showed me everything I liked. This horse I wouldn't say was quite so adept because I just think the synthetic doesn't do him justice. I'm hoping I'm right there. Horse training's not a guarantee."

- Pay attention to a horse related to a paddock sculpture. Proven Innocent, whose fourth dam Glowing Tribute produced 1993 Travers winner Sea Hero — whose bronze graces Saratoga's paddock — won a \$70,000 allowance hurdle to open the Wednes-

Continued On Page 49

BIG DAYS BIG WINS

NEST wins TWO Grade 1 stakes at Saratoga!

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Tod Marks

Proven Innocent (second from right) jumps a fence early in Wednesday's allowance win for trainer Jack Fisher.

Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 48

day card.

Racing for Bruton Street-US and trainer Jack Fisher, the same connections of Grade 1 winner Snap Decision, the 4-year-old Blame gelding moved forward off a second in similar company here July 27 to improve to 2-for-4 in his second career after winning once in five flat starts for breeder Stuart Janney III and trainer Shug McGaughey.

In a race delayed by two false starts, Proven Innocent broke with the leaders from the outside, but dropped in behind Who's Counting, Project Two and Bright Eyed Eagle early. Jockey Jamie Bargary parked the gray along the inside after two fences and let him find a rhythm. Still unhurried and fourth with a lap to go, Proven Innocent jumped the final fence in third and moved inside Bright Eyed Eagle on the final turn as Bandua went three wide to take the lead at the top of the stretch. Three lengths clear in mid-stretch, Bandua looked like a winner until Proven Innocent summoned more inside the sixteenth pole to win by a half-length. Bandua, third in the 2019 Arlington Million, settled for second with Who's Counting third after 2 3/8 miles in 4:47.17.

A half-brother to graded flat winners Ironicus, Norumbega, On Leave and Hunting, Proven Innocent won a 1 1/4-mile maiden turf race at Belmont Park last September before selling as a steeplechase prospect. Fourth in his first start over jumps in April, he won in May and was second to Freddy Flintshire with some traffic trouble going 2 1/16 miles here.

"He stayed on," said Bargary. "I'd ridden the winner before and I knew when he hit the front he'd only do enough and I knew I had something to aim at and I hoped that my lad was brave enough that he could get there. Thankfully he's got a big heart. I definitely got stopped (the last time). He got 3 or 4 lengths on me and I could never get it back. I was pretty confident coming here that if I could just follow, and have something to aim at when I turned in that my lad would find something."

- Trainer Todd Pletcher sent out Scottish Star to win the fourth, a \$120,000 turf allowance for fillies and mares going a mile. Co-owned by her breeder La Providencia and LNJ Foxwoods, the 5-year-old Key Deputy mare reeled in long early leader Nevisian Sunrise in the stretch to win by 2 3/4 lengths for jockey Flavien Prat. The winner won both starts in Argentina, including a Group 1, in 2020 before joining California trainer Richard Mandella for three starts last year. Scottish Star was making her first start since a third behind champion Ce Ce in the Grade 3 Chillingworth sprinting on the dirt in October . . . Prat won the sixth, a New York-bred \$40,000 claimer on the turf, with Sals Dream Girl. Danny Gargan trains the winner for Spedale Family Racing . . . While riding all nine flat races, Dylan Davis won three – the third with The Big Grey for trainer Randi Persuad, the seventh with Seven Scents for Brad Cox and the featured With Anticipation.

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Stable Tour

A virtual walk around the barn at Ky. Downs

The Special can't literally take a walk around the barns at Kentucky Downs, but we can check in with trainers – in Saratoga and beyond – sending horses to the most unique flat racetrack in the United States this weekend.

Saturday

Mark Casse.

Janis Joplin: Gary Barber's 2-year-old daughter of California Chrome comes into the \$500,000 Aristocrat Gaming Juvenile Fillies at 1 mile off three good runs without a win. She finished third in the Grade 3 Schuylerville on Opening Day at Saratoga then came back 3 ½ weeks later to finish second in the Grade 3 Adirondack. "I'm not sure how she'll handle the turf, but it's worth a try. It's a great purse. I know she'll like the mile."

Rusty Arnold.

Laver: A homebred for G. Watts Humphrey Jr., the son of Bernardini finished second in his debut at Ellis Park July 24. The bay colt drew post seven in a field of nine in the eighth, the Kentucky Downs

Juvenile Mile. "Bred really well, out of Centre Court, brother to Navratilova. Put him in a maiden at Ellis, ran pretty good, a little green. Put him in a maiden race opening day, he didn't get in and it looked like the stake was coming up a solid race, they had one in New York, one at Kentucky Downs and one in Canada all the same weekend. I thought they were scattered and it's a good time to take a chance at a half a million dollars. He's nothing like Navratilova, he's a big strong, racy horse, a little tough. She's a sweetheart."

Magic Quest: Bred by G. Watts Humphrey Jr., the daughter of Nyquist is on the also-eligible list in the ninth, an allowance race going 6 ½ furlongs. "Obviously not going to get in, really turned the corner last year and got really good. She had a chip, we had to operate on her, brought her back, put her in at Ellis closing day, it had two in it. Put her back in there and she's on the also eligibles."

Shady Road: Glen Hill Farm's homebred daughter of Curlin rates a long look in Saturday's finale. "Shady Road, we are really hopeful she's going to

Kentucky Downs

The FanDuel Meet at Kentucky Downs runs Sept. 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11 and 14, the most dates since the track also ran seven in 2003. Post time for the first race is 1:25 p.m. ET except at 12:30 p.m. ET Saturday, Sept. 10.

Saturday, Sept. 3: Grade 3 WinStar Mint Million, \$1 million, 3-year-olds & up, mile; Aristocrat Gaming Juvenile Fillies, \$500,000, 2-year-old fillies, mile; Kentucky Downs Juvenile Mile, \$500,000, 2-year-olds, mile.

Sunday, Sept. 4: Grade 3 Big Ass Fans Dueling Grounds Derby, \$750,000, 3-year-olds, 1 5/16 miles; Exakta Systems Dueling Grounds Oaks, \$500,000, 3-year-old fillies, 1 5/16 miles.

Thursday, Sept. 8: Global Tote Juvenile Sprint, \$500,000, 2-year-olds, 6 1/2 furlongs.

take another step forward. We like her a lot. First time out, she was green, second time out, a little bit better, trained forwardly since."

Ian Wilkes.

Nota Bene: A maiden winner at Turfway Park in mid-March, 4-year-old Declaration Of War filly won going 5 ½ furlongs on the turf July 24 at Saratoga Race Course. Owned by Russell Meerdink, Robert Ballard, Thomas Winek, Ronald Winek and Rachel Koeper, Nota Bene runs in the ninth, a \$170,000 optional going 6 1/2 furlongs. "She went through the sales. I trained her for a different client and they were selling her. I had a different

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Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 50

client that called me about her. So I had to put my sellers hat on. She's fine, no problem. They bought her and sent her back to me. So, I didn't lose her. But I warned Deb (Wilson), who used to own her that I had someone interested. I didn't go out and promote her or anything like that, but that's part of the game."

Sunday

Todd Pletcher.

Grand Sonata: Whisper Hill Farm's homebred 3-year-old son of Medaglia d'Oro is the 5-1 third choice in the \$750,000 Big Ass Fans Dueling Grounds Derby. Winner of the Grade 3 Kitten's Joy in early February at Gulfstream Park, he's finished fourth in the Audobon Stakes at Churchill, fourth in the Grade 1 Belmont Derby and eighth in the Grade 1 Saratoga Derby in three starts since. "He didn't fire quite to his capabilities last time. Tyler Gaffalione was confident he didn't handle the softer going. Hopefully we get good weather there and a firm course."

Six Minus: Pletcher owns a stake in the 4-year-old English Channel gelding, who hasn't been out since a runner-up finish for a \$35,000 tag May 29 at Belmont Park. He's 2-2-0 in eight starts, both wins coming for a tag. He's 12-1 in the sixth race, a 1 5/16-mile allowance worth \$160,000. "That's my 2024 A.P. Smithwick candidate. That's my plan. Seriously though, he's a typical English Channel, getting better as he gets older and wanted the opportunity to get him stretched out further."

Shug McGaughey.

Life At Sea: Will Farish's homebred drew the outside post in the second race, a juvenile maiden going a mile. "Just a 2-year-old who wants the grass. I put him in and he didn't get in which I knew and then they split the race so I laid him in there. I think he's OK. He might need some more training but a race is as good as three works."

Clubbing: Owned and bred by Stuart Janney III and Phipps Stable, the 4-year-old son of Orb makes his fourth start after finishing fourth, sixth and fifth, the latter two at Saratoga. Adding blinkers, he's 3-1 in the fifth, a maiden going 1 1/2 miles. "He had a couple of really good works on the Tapeta down there with blinkers, a mile and a half is what he wants to do. For \$150,000, why not take a chance? Better than standing in the stall."

Point Well Taken: Stuart Janney's homebred daughter of Creative Cause hit the also-eligible list



Tod Marks

A Saratoga winner in 2021, Dripping Gold heads to Kentucky Downs in search of a distance test and a stakes win.

Saturday and drew post 11 in the seventh Sunday, a 7-furlong maiden.. The gray filly owns two thirds in six starts so far. "Her races are good. It's a really good distance for her. She's a kind of filly I'm not really looking ahead to the De La Rose or something next year. Take her down there and take a chance. They'll either like it or they won't. She's pretty honest. I made a mistake running her long at Keeneland which I thought she wanted to do but after the race, I thought about it and her mother was a come-from-behind sprinter."

Creed: Owned by Edward and Lynne Hudson, the 5-year-old son of Honor Code rides a five-race losing streak into his turf debut. He takes on a full field in the eighth race, a mile allowance. "Creed has been a little bit of a disappointment. He ran bad at Ellis the other day, I thought I would change his character, back him up a little bit, put blinkers on him and see how he does on the turf. The Honor Codes have been running pretty good on the turf. He's out of a Seeking The Gold mare, Aspiring."

Skims: Andrew Rosen's homebred tries to rebound from a seventh in the Riskaverse here Aug. 25. She drew the outside post under Julian Leparoux in the ninth, the Exacta Systems Dueling Grounds Oaks. "Well, I've been disappointed in Skims' last two races. Her last race was atrocious. I'm not exactly sure that the rides weren't helping

her or she wasn't good enough. I threw her in there thinking Leparoux will probably really fit her. She wants to be a little bit aggressive, just let her go out there going that far and run her race, see what happens. If she doesn't run any good, we'll stop her and give her some time."

Dripping Gold: A debut winner at Saratoga last summer, the son of Lemon Drop Kid has lost four straight since but comes out of a big effort against allowance foes at Saratoga Aug. 25. Owned by West Point Thoroughbreds, John Ballantyne and Titledown Racing Stable, the bay colt drew post nine in the 10th, the \$750,000 Big Ass Fans Dueling Grounds Derby. "He's another one who wants to run that far. I was really disappointed in the first two races when we came back but I thought he ran really good here the other day and he might be one that really likes that course down there. I like his last race and when I put the blinkers on him, he trained really good at Saratoga."

Queen's Garden: Owned and bred Will Farish, the 2-year-old daughter of Quality Road finished third at Laurel for Forest Boyce in her debut. She is 9-2 in the finale, a 7-furlong maiden. "I like that filly. I had her mother, she wanted to run long on the grass but this filly doesn't really act that way. Her

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Stable Tour —

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race at Laurel was good, she was stuck down on the inside the whole way. She was third the last part, she had a chance to win and didn't. I'm looking forward to running her, it's what I always had in my mind. Forest didn't want to hear that."

Rusty Arnold.

Double Clutch: Calumet Farm homebred broke his maiden at Keeneland in April and finished second in the Manila at Belmont Park in July. Fifth in the Grade 2 Hall of Fame at Saratoga, the son of Optimizer earns a 4-1 slot on the morning line in the Big Ass Fans Dueling Grounds Derby, the 10th race Sunday. "Love him. I can't explain his last race, it's the only hiccup he's had. First race was good, second race was great, third race was really, really good. Disappointed at Saratoga, don't have an excuse. Came back and trained great. The only question with him is how far he wants to go, if he gets the mile and five sixteenths, he'll have plenty to say in there. I've loved him from day one. He showed a lot, very athletic, really, really smart, good mind on him, I've had luck in that family, a brother to Gear Jockey. He's been really good from day one. He was ready to run at Saratoga as a 2-year-old but wrenched an ankle, had to stop with him. It's been unfortunate that he's only had a few starts, he was in twice at Churchill and it rained off, then they canceled turf racing. It's been a disaster, disaster but he's got to this one the right way."

Thursday

A little look ahead, since the entries are out.

Rusty Arnold.

Mended We Stand. Owned by Sally Pack Farm Racing, the 2-year-old daughter of Mendolssohn finished second in her debut, an off-the-turf maiden at Ellis Park. She drew post four in the seventh, a mile maiden. "Had her in first time out on the turf at Ellis, they took it off, she still ran credible. We like her quite a bit. A filly with some promise."

Wake Surf. Bred by Royal Oak Farm and owned by Damian Lynch, the son of Classic Empire broke his maiden at Gulfstream Park in December and has put in four decent efforts since. He takes on a full field in Thursday's eighth, an allowance going a mile. "Started off really good, took him to Tampa and he ran a pretty good race, came back home and had a temperature, missed some time. I think I ran him back too quick, I gave him plenty of time and he ran a bang-up race at Ellis and I'm hoping he'll repeat that on Thursday."



Tod Marks

Janis Joplin ships from Saratoga to Kentucky Downs for a 1-mile turf stakes Saturday.

Worth Repeating

"It's that time of year."

Jocks' agent Ron Anderson about traveling jockeys Joel Rosario and John Velazquez. Rosario rides at Saratoga Saturday, Kentucky Downs Sunday, Saratoga Monday, Colonial Downs Tuesday and Kentucky Downs Thursday. Velazquez rides at Del Mar Saturday, Saratoga Sunday and Monday and Kentucky Downs Thursday

"I've been an advocate from day one. I've been going there a long time. Money wise, it's been great. To me, it's my kind of place. I know Wesley Ward has Royal Ascot. This is my Royal Ascot. A tailgate party."

Trainer Rusty Arnold on Kentucky Downs

"I'll be at Kentucky Downs. Where else would I be?"

Trainer Steve Asmussen when asked where he would be after Saratoga

"I've never been but I'd like to go someday. I'm going to leave here after we work Sunday morning so I can watch it all on TV."

Trainer Shug McGaughey on his weekend plans for Kentucky Downs

Names of the Day

It Wasn't Me, first race. The 2-year-old filly is by Blame.

Cleat, second race. The 4-year-old colt is out of Amazing Shoes.

Miranda Rights, fourth race. The 2-year-old colt is by Constitution and out of In Jail.

Up To Something, seventh race. The 2-year-old filly is by Into Mischief.

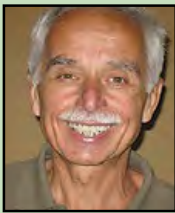
Anglophile, eighth race. The 2-year-old colt is by English Channel

Stop War, ninth race. The 5-year-old mare is by War Front and out of Shared Hope.

Intrigue, 11th race. The 3-year-old filly is by Into Mischief and out of Elope. Another good one from Peter Blum.

Kentucky Downs Saturday Selections

the
Power
grid



**John
Shapazian**



**Tom
Law**



**Charles
Bedard**



**Rob
Whitlock**



**Jessica
Paquette**

Race #	John Shapazian	Tom Law	Charles Bedard	Rob Whitlock	Jessica Paquette
1	What An Honor Valiant Praise Yanira	What An Honor Botanical Yanira	What An Honor Cotton Candy Annie Bel Rosso	What An Honor Cotton Candy Annie Botanical	Botanical What an Honor Bel Rosso
2	Rum 'n Tonic Nashoba's Joy Truly Mischief	Cleat Derivative Truly Mischief	Truly Mischief Stand For Freedom Derivative	Rum 'n Tonic Shipman Stand For Freedom	Derivative Monjid Mount Kisco
3	Apache Tears Romancer Policy Option	Martini'nmoonshine Romancer Apache Tears	Right Tone Zippin Gigi Dominican Pioneer	Romancer Minnesota Ready Apache Tears	Right Tone Button Boy Fenwick
4	Miranda Rights B Minor Six Missions	Six Missions Gaslight Dancer Uncle Headley	Miranda Rights Inspeightoftrainer Uncle Headley	Miranda Rights Uncle Headley Berretini	Six Missions Worthington As One Does
5	Gimme Mo Baby Lovely Princess Elle Est Forte	Lovely Princess Shad Nation Elle Est Forte	Elle Est Forte Lovely Princess Hatari	Under One Sky Pearl Earring Bravo Kitten	Pearl Earring Shad Nation Lovely Habits
6	Parents Pride Macadamia Ghost Bayou	Parents Pride Aboukir Bay Macadamia	Parents Pride Cindylouwho Ankyrah	Parents Pride Macadamia Cindylouwho	Parents Pride Strikingly Cindylouwho
7	Janis Joplin Knockyoursocksoff Chop Chop	Janis Joplin Towhead Chop Chop	Knockyoursocksoff Callie's Grit Chop Chop	Janis Joplin Chop Chop Callie's Grit	Knockyoursocksoff Up to Something Callie's Grit
8	Bramble Blaze Really Good Laver	Really Good Laver Bramble Blaze	Really Good Bramble Blaze Deer District	Really Good Laver Deer District	Bourbon Therapy Really Good Mayfield Strong
9	Stop War Signify Nota Bene	Nota Bene Signify Touch Of Class	Nota Bene Ride The Plan Pipeline Girl	Madrilena Stop War Fouzia	Ride the Plan Shes Bout a Mover Trobairitz
10	Pixelate Cavalry Charge Mr Dumas	Mr Dumas Atone Pixelate	Pixelate Mr Dumas Injunction	Atone Pixelate Kentucky Ghost	Pixelate Tut's Revenge Mr. Dumas
11	Fascination Intrigue Gunesh	Shady Road Partyline Fascination	Herington Rocket Shady Road What's To Do	Poronui Fascination Shady Road	Joyful Applause Ughrouda Partyline

The last page of the last newspaper. I've been here 21 times before, trying to muster up one long, last, sweet goodbye. Early on, trying to find my voice as The Special tried to find its way. And then gradually finding my rhythm and our place back when we did 32, 34, 35 papers in a season. Now, it's 20. Fewer editions and way more pages. Not as hurried, but just as harried. A deadline is a deadline, no matter the number.

This is the last page of the last newspaper of a very different Saratoga for me. Real life has hit all of us over the years at Saratoga. This year, it crashed into me with the worst four words my wife has ever said to me. It was Whitney morning. She never calls on Whitney morning.

"Our barn's on fire."

Two papers down in our six-paper run during sales week, I bled out a column and free fell home, a home that looked nothing like the one I left just a few weeks before. The next day, I called Joe, looking for any opening, any hint, to not write this column, to break the streak at 700 or so. All he had to do was give me an out. He didn't. I wrote. And wrote again. And again. And again. Just a column, that was it, a column about loss, a column about pain and probably a column too many about loss, about pain.

I stayed in Virginia for 2 1/2 weeks, building an emergency goat pen, looking for our barn cat, trying to console Annie and Miles while I needed consoling, slashing at our overgrown garden, feeding horses who didn't understand and staring at a smoldering heap of boards and beams, hopes and dreams. It was numbing. I kept repeating, "Nobody died. Nobody got hurt. Nobody died. Nobody got hurt. Nobody died. Nobody got hurt." A strange solace, a bitter boost.

My friends and family knew I needed to be there and then they knew I needed to be here. I wasn't sure where I needed to be, still don't, but came



back to Saratoga, a place that has soothed me and scorched me during a lifelong odyssey.

I hopped in a horse van and got here Wednesday evening, walked into the office and had a few beers with Tom, Joe and Pat McKenna. I mostly listened. For a moment or two, I laughed. Thursday, I had a runner. I always call it a free day when I have a runner, my mind wanders, my imagination runs wild. Saranac finished ninth after a wide trip, the day quickly had a cost. Friday was a deadline, same thing, preoccupied with the Travers edition, like the energy of a runner. It took me all day to write a Forego preview about Kneedeepinsnow and a column about John Velazquez while others wrote thousands of words, way faster, way better.

Friday night, Tom Law assigned the stories as he always does. He took the Jerkens. Halloran doubled up with the Sword Dancer and Forego. Joe got the Personal Ensign. Christian Avaré picked up the Ballston Spa. There was my name on the Travers, like all the other times from Point Given to Essential Quality. I wasn't sure I was up for it. I almost asked Tom to give me something else, or nothing at all.

Travers Day was tough.

Tom and I walked into the paddock for the Forego. I found comfort with my friend, my comrade. He drifted away once we got to the paddock, and I began to waver. I felt uncomfortable, out of place.

Embers

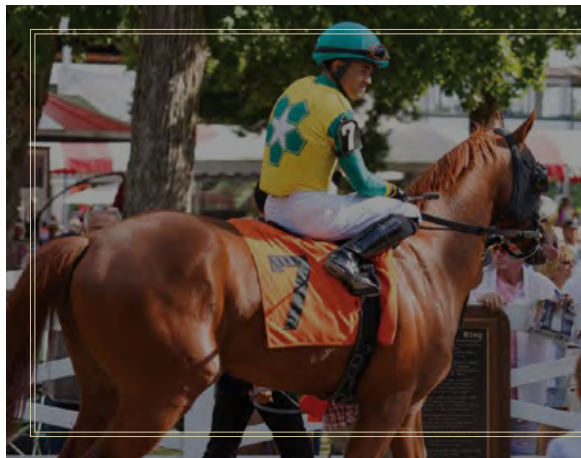
I stayed away from people, near Jackie's Warrior, near the Big Red Spring. I pulled down my sunglasses just to get out of the paddock. Tears welled up, I'm not sure why it hit me then, but it hit me. Sadness. Weakness. Emptiness. I was about to go home.

I watched Cody's Wish with the Godolphin team. Forced. I felt nothing. I heard them cheering, watched the big, stout sprinter roll down the middle of the track to upset Jackie's Warrior. I didn't feel good for Cody's Wish. I didn't feel bad for Jackie's Warrior. I felt absolutely nothing. Dan Pride dragged me to the winner's circle. I scurried out of there as fast as I could. If I saw Tom at that moment, I would have told him I was going home.

I didn't go home.

Before the Allen Jerkens, I saw Jimmy Jerkens, alone, leaning on the outside rail of the winner's circle before he was to present the trophy in honor of his dad. I walked down to the winner's circle and put my arm around him, "Thought you might need a friend." I wasn't sure who I was talking to, him or me. We chatted a bit. Steve Byk organized a photo. I felt a little better. A race later, I pumped my fist for Malathaat in the final strides of the Personal Ensign, just because I like her. A race later, I implored Mira Mission to get home for the start of a double with Epicenter. He didn't, but I felt a little better.

I walked in the paddock for the Travers, confirmed with Joe and Tom that I should stick with Steve Asmussen. I followed him to his front-row box. There were five seats and six of us. They welcomed me to a seat. His son, Keith, sat on a dirty step. Epicenter did what I had hoped he would do. I rode back to the barn with the Asmussens, listened as Steve called his mom, then his dad. Two days later, I banged out the Travers feature as Joe and Tom ran the Wilton 5K Trail Race. Alone in an office, in a funny old town, for a moment, I felt I belonged.



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