

The Times

Steeplechase
& Eventing

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Double Duty

Best Attack and Merloch star as spring seasons close in steeplechasing and eventing.



Steeplechase Coverage:

Radnor, High Hope, and Fair Hill news. Big names make summer plans.

Eventing Coverage:

Pan Am Games team announced. Mosser stars at Jersey Fresh.

Entries

What's Happening and Where To Find It

Here's your newspaper. Spring is headed to summer, the kids are almost home from school, but the horses are still working – even if they are taking a bit of a break. Steeplechasing finished its spring season with Radnor, High Hope and Fair Hill while the eventers went to Jersey Fresh – where Bonnie Mosser was a star.



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Radnor Steeplechase

Best Attack proves best with late rally in National Hunt Cup, finale to the Steeplechase Triple Crown. Timber stakes winner Seeyouattheevent continues success for Jack Fisher stable.



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High Hope Steeplechase

Arch Kingsley rides to first victory in comeback with Bold Turn. Prep School wins maiden "feature."



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Fair Hill Steeplechase

Imagina wins Valentine Stakes amid scratches, big crowd at NSA's spring finale in Maryland.



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Jersey Fresh Eventing

Bonnie Mosser gets two wins, eyes invitation to Pan Am Games with Merloch and Close The Deal.



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The Last Fence

A Cautionary Tale: How Pressure King escaped New Holland.

The *Steeplechase and Eventing*

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ST Publishing, Inc.

364 Fair Hill Drive, Suite F,
Elkton, MD 21921

Phone: (410) 392-5867
Fax: (410) 392-0170
E-mail: info@st-publishing.com
On the Web: www.st-publishing.com

The Staff

Editors/Publishers: Sean Clancy and Joe Clancy Jr.

Art Director: Kevin Titter

Copy Editor: Jamie Santo

Editorial/Design Intern: Rebecca Walton

Advertising Representatives:

Debbie LaBerge (717) 529-2158
National accounts/equine products

Michelle Rosenkilde (410) 557-7652
Harford/Baltimore Co. Maryland

Reney Stanley (540) 837-1397
Virginia

Contributors:

Tod Marks, Barry Watson, Brian Nadeau,
Kate Sharon, Sheila Clancy, Sam Clancy,
Anne Clancy, Joe Clancy Sr., Ruth Clancy,
Ryan Clancy, Jack Clancy, Nolan Clancy.

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On the Cover

Steeplechaser Best Attack (far left) closes in on Orison to win the National Hunt Cup at Radnor; Eventer Merloch and Bonnie Mosser jump flawlessly at Jersey Fresh.

Photos: Tod Marks and Amy Drago.



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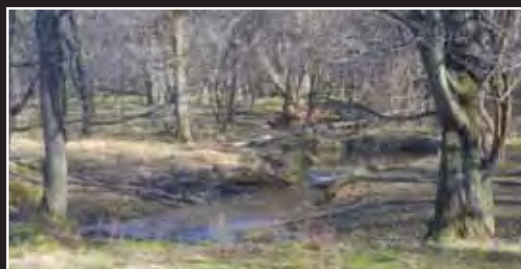
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News and Notes
from around the circuit

FOR STARTERS

Take A Number

1: Victory steeplechase jockey Chip Miller needs to reach 200 American jump wins for his career.

1: Victory steeplechase trainer Jack Fisher needs to reach 300 American jump wins for his career.

5: Victories steeplechase jockey Jody Petty needs to reach 100 American jump wins for his career.

7: Steeplechase horses in the top 20 (through June 16) trained by Jack Fisher. That's a cool 35 percent, people.

Worth Repeating

"He tried to jump and I thought I had it. I been watching y'all, I sat back, had my hands down, waiting for it, I think my heels were wrong. You would have survived that."

Flat jockey Robby Albarado, to a retired jump jockey, after falling off Einstein two races before winning the Preakness on Curlin

"It was a storybook ending . . . well, I hope it was a storybook beginning."

Trainer Todd Wyatt, after saddling Closertoyourheart, ridden by Wyatt's wife, Blair, to win an amateur race at Pimlico. The win was Todd's first as a trainer since leaving Tom Voss this winter.

"Smart horse."

Overheard in the grandstand at Fair Hill when timber horse Zaratanie refused a jump on the backside; Zaratanie was one of three horses in the day's finale, a 3-mile test over the firm, dry and hot course.

Triple Crown Connections

Jim Tafel, owner of Kentucky Derby winner Street Sense, campaigned steeplechaser Cinch with trainer Ricky Hendriks. Not to be outdone, Midnight Cry Stable (owner of Preakness winner Curlin) has a steeplechaser, maiden filly Mary Cat, with Jack Fisher.

Further, flat trainer Helen Pitts (who grew up in Maryland steeplechase country) trained Curlin early in his career – including the jaw-dropping maiden win.

Weighty Issue

Xavier Aizpuru summarized the steeplechase jockey's life with one paragraph at Radnor. Describing his effort to do 130 pounds aboard Rum Squall in the allowance hurdle, Aizpuru showed that it's not an easy life climbing aboard horses that jump over fences.

The jockey shaved nine pounds off his already slight frame in about a week – try that at the YMCA.

"On Monday I was 139 so I got myself down to 130 and I did 132 (on race day). The first four or five (pounds) actually came off pretty easily but the last two or three came off one a day. I had a few hot dates with a bath, let me tell you."

Four-year-old Rum Squall received the feathery impost due to his age and his lone jump victory coming in maiden claiming company earlier this spring. The Jack Fisher-trainee rewarded Aizpuru's dieting efforts with a comfortable victory in the \$25,000 race.



Doug Lees

Sculptor Eve Fout and the new Zeke Ferguson bronze.

Ferguson Race Gets Trophy

Winners of the Zeke Ferguson Memorial steeplechase stakes at Colonial Downs will receive permanent recognition via a new bronze trophy created by Virginia horsewoman Eve Fout.

Commissioned by the Ferguson family, the trophy will be presented for the first time after the race's 2007 running July 15 and will be on permanent display at the New Kent, Va., track. Begun in 1998, the Ferguson is an open hurdle stakes that routinely features top stakes horses. Past winners include champion Flat Top and Grade I winners Good Night Shirt, Pinkie Swear and Invest West. Paradise's Boss and Good Night Shirt, two of the brightest lights in the 2007 season, have won the last two runnings. The trophy will be inscribed with the names of all winners of the race since its inception.

"The family is pleased to be able to continue Zeke's support of Virginia racing by presenting this trophy," said Ferguson's nephew, John T. Ferguson, Jr.

The race was instituted by the NSA and Colonial Downs to commemorate Ferguson's numerous contributions to steeplechasing. Ferguson campaigned many hurdle and timber horses over the course of his career in Virginia and up and down the East Coast. His most famous horse was Leeds Don, who won the Virginia Gold Cup three times consecutively in 1965, 1966 and 1967. Fout's bronze depicts Leeds Don landing over a fence (in this case a hurdle) with the jockey wearing Ferguson's garnet and gray racing silks.

The mother of steeplechase trainer Doug Fout and event rider Nina Fout, Eve Fout is a founding member of the American Academy of Equine Artists. She studied under the legendary Paul Brown and Richard Stone Reeves early in her career. Her work has been commissioned across the United States, and many samples of it can be seen on display at the National Sporting Library in Middleburg, Va.

In addition, Fout's late husband Paul was a longtime trainer of steeplechase and flat horses.

Brother Act

Success runs in the family, right? Best Attack earned \$45,000 with a stakes score at Radnor, won for the sixth time in his 22-start racing career and increased his career earnings to \$177,594. His older brother King Lear, who also ran at Radnor, lost his jockey in the timber race and saw his career mark slip to 1-for-18 with \$20,680 in lifetime earnings. Sorry, mom.



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Sneak Attack

Mount leads Miller into breach, winner's circle

BY JOE CLANCY

"He who is prudent and lies in wait for an enemy who is not will be victorious."

— Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*

MALVERN, Pa. — Best Attack probably hasn't read *The Art of War*, but he certainly gets the point.

Drafting down on the inside late in the \$75,000 Mellon Financial National Hunt Cup, the hurdle feature at Radnor, the 6-year-old shot from a gallop to a sprint when he saw a sliver of daylight and held Orison safe to win by a half-length for owner Sally Radcliffe and trainer Bruce Miller.

"I wasn't sure how much horse I had left when we turned for home," said jockey Chip Miller. "Then the gap opened and before I could give him a squeeze he saw it and was like 'let's go' which is so cool. You just can't describe that. For a horse to see something before you react to it and take you there is . . . aw man, I've got goosebumps now."



Tod Marks

Best Attack (far left, Chip Miller) gets set to pass Orison (center) at the last fence in the National Hunt Cup.

Presumably, the jockey got them while in the saddle as well.

After breaking from the inside, Best Attack settled just off the pace in the congested seven-horse field. As usual, the novice hurdlers put on a show — repeating quality races in the first two legs of the Steeplechase Triple Crown. Orison won the Carolina First Carolina Cup in March, Gliding took the Temple Gwathmey in April. And Best Attack won the National Hunt Cup. All three races produced thrilling finishes, prompted plenty of debate and showcased future stars.

"It's a good group," said Miller. "They're very good horses — this isn't just novices beating novices, they could run well against anybody."

At Radnor, Swimming River set the early pace and was followed by Sovereign Duty, Sparkled, Orsay, Best Attack, Orison and Gliding. The field sped across the backstretch and spun into the downhill run to the final turn, where Orsay (Cyril Murphy) took a short lead though just 3 lengths separated the entire field.

See **RADNOR** next page ►

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■ Continued from previous page

At the top of the stretch, Orison (Matt McCarron) had wrestled the advantage from Orsay with Gliding (Jeff Murphy) a close third. Fourth with two fences to go, Best Attack took Miller to daylight with a determined run up the inside and won in 4:36 1/5 for the 2 3/8 miles without ever feeling the whip. Orison stayed for second with Orsay 1 1/4 lengths back in third.

“I had a perfect position the whole way, a little bit closer than I would have liked but when we came down the hill between the third-last and the second-last everybody came outside me and I didn’t have much choice but to stay where I was,” Miller said. “I could have gotten a little twitchy and pushed for room but I didn’t. I gave him a breather, or well he gave himself a breather because we had nowhere to go.”

Best Attack went around just one horse, the tiring Swimming River, the entire race.

“Once I swung around him, there was no one in front of us,” said Miller. “It was just a straight line from the second-last to the wire.”

Best Attack won his first stakes and improved to 3-for-7 (with three seconds and a third) over jumps. The son of Bahri finished second to Orison in a Radnor allowance last year, then beat Orison at Saratoga before going to the sidelines and missing the fall novice season. Best Attack opened 2007 with a third behind Gliding and Rare Bush in the Gwathmey and a second behind Orsay at Great Meadow. Open company at Saratoga likely comes next.

“He’s such a class horse,” said Miller. “He didn’t feel that good today, the ground was a little harder for him than he would have liked, but he did it anyway. I’d be glad to take Best Attack to the A.P. Smithwick and I’m sure Cyril would say the same about Orsay and Matt would say the same about Orison. If Best Attack shows up as good as he can be, I wouldn’t trade him for anybody. He’s as good as any horse running when he’s right.”



Tod Marks

Chip Miller hugs owner Sally Radcliffe.

• Lost in the shuffle of the 1-2 finish by Salmo and Mr Bombastic, another Jack Fisher trainee impressed at the Virginia Gold Cup. Seeyouattheevent, a maiden in six career timber starts, finished fourth after threatening late. He lost by 7 lengths, but moved forward with the race and advanced from maiden to stakes winner with a 2 3/4-length tally in the \$40,000 Volkswagen of America Radnor Hunt Cup.



Tod Marks

Seeyouattheevent (Willie Dowling) heads for the finish line in the Radnor Hunt Cup.

Seeyouattheevent (Willie Dowling) stalked J. Alfred Prufrock and Move West early, let the latter roll away down the hill toward the stretch and joined forces with Mr Bombastic to chase down the leader in the stretch. Seeyouattheevent kicked away from his stablemate before the last and got the win. Mr Bombastic edged Move West for second with the winner getting the 3 1/4 miles in 6:41 1/5.

Dowling blamed himself for the Gold Cup loss.

“Jockey error,” he said plainly when asked about the difference between the two races. “I sat too far out the back and rode him too far off his ground. I rode him a bit closer today and he was better. A big difference was also getting the 10 or 15 pounds off the bigger horses today.”

Despite the winless record, Seeyouattheevent had been close several times (including a second to Ghost Valley in the 2006 International Gold Cup) and was poised for a breakthrough according to his jockey.

“He’s a decent horse, he just hadn’t won yet,” said Dowling. “That’s a nice way to break your maiden – for a \$40,000 purse.”

• After River Bed won his third race of 2007 at Great Meadow, trainer Kathy McKenna told jockey Carl Rafter the veteran hurdler would begin a much-deserved rest and to look for him in September.

“Then she rang me up on Monday and said he nearly bucked the girl off, so she was thinking of running him again,” said jockey Carl Rafter. “I’d ride him anywhere. He’s a great spin.”

Running for a \$25,000 claiming price, River Bed crept into the race late and emerged with a 2 1/2-length victory in the open claiming hurdle. He outkicked Duke Of Earl, Seafaring Man and Corruption late to take the top spot and claim the win lead for the year. No other horse has won three times this year.

“Today was the worst he’s jumped but I think it was because they jumped off slow and picked up the pace,” said Rafter. “He always finishes so he got better. He made a couple of mistakes and still got there. To win four in the spring, it’s great. It makes my spring.”

• When he won a high-priced maiden claiming hurdle at the Queen’s Cup, Rum Squall impressed Xavier Aizpuru enough that the jockey hinted at bigger things. “He’s not really a maiden claimer,” Aizpuru said.

At Radnor, Rum Squall proved it – out running 10 opponents to win a \$25,000 allowance hurdle for Arcadia Stable and trainer Jack Fisher. The 4-year-old sat second behind Jimmie Echo early, lost ground on the uphill backstretch and charged back into contention before the stretch. Rum Squall landed in front over the last, and pulled away to score by 15 lengths as three horses fell at the final fence to make the margin even more lopsided. Fra Diavolo finished second with John Law third as Rum Squall completed the 2 3/8 miles in 4:32 2/5. Red Letter Day and The Next Man fell independently at the last, and Dynaway was brought down by The Next Man. Preliminary reports were that The Next Man suffered a heart attack before the fence and was dead when veterinarians arrived. Also, Pukka was disqualified from fifth and placed last for forcing Humdinger off course early in the race.

Rum Squall was well clear of the trouble.

“As soon as he hit the downward curve, he tried to take off with me and told me he wanted to go,” said Aizpuru. “We were carrying such a light weight that I thought ‘what the hell’ and let him go on.”

Carrying a feathery 132 pounds (as much as 24 less than his rivals) thanks to his win in claiming company, Rum Squall proved up to the task while winning for the second time in five hurdle starts.

“My only real concern was the 2 miles and three-eighths because he’s a young horse taking on experienced horses at a distance he wouldn’t normally be used to running,” said Aizpuru. “He’s a powerful horse so I wasn’t surprised he stepped up. He handled it superbly.”

• Bill Pape’s Divine Fortune moved beyond the maiden ranks with a comfortable score in the opener, a \$25,000 Sport of Kings maiden for trainer Jonathan Sheppard. The 4-year-old son of

Royal Anthem settled in fourth behind pacesetter Honolua Storm before making a controlled move across the back the final time.

The winner took over from Honolua Storm before the final turn and drew off to score by 4 1/2 lengths in 4:37 1/5 for the 2 3/8 miles. Honolua Storm stayed for second with Great Gusto third.

Third behind Jimmie Echo and Triple Dip in the 3-year-old stakes at Far Hills last fall, Divine Fortune opened 2007 with a runner-up effort at Charlotte in late April and improved another step at Radnor.

“I really like him and I think he’s going to be good as a 5 and 6-year-old,” said jockey Danielle Hodsdon. “He’s still mentally immature, even though he’s grown a lot since he was a 3-year-old.”

• Sheppard and Hodsdon also took a \$20,000 maiden claiming hurdle with Desert Vigil. Owned by Warren Dempsey and Sherry Fenwick, the 4-year-old advanced from a second at Great Meadow two weeks earlier to outrun Master Ben and Elusive Glory late – winning by 1 1/4 lengths in 4:31 3/5 for the 2 3/8 miles.

“At Great Meadow the last two fences came up similar to today and he didn’t give me either one,” said Hodsdon of the three-quarter length defeat. “He walked through both of them. Today he gave them to me. The last came up long and I told him he just had to go. He was tired, but he picked up.”

Master Ben made a big mistake at the last, losing several lengths, and Desert Vigil churned away to pick up his first career win (flat or jumps). The son of Mojave Moon was claimed by owner/trainer Rusty Carrier for \$30,000.

“I heard a little rumor that someone was interested in one of our horses and I just assumed it was Seafaring Man but it was this horse,” said Sheppard. “One was a Grade II stakes winner running for \$25,000 and the other was a maiden running for \$30,000. Oh well. He jumps well, stays well and he’s improving, but that was a race he could win. I think Rusty wanted him for a timber horse and he should do that fine.”

Radnor Hunt Races

Saturday, May 19. Malvern, Pa. Turf: Firm.

1st. \$25,000. SOK maiden hurdle. 2 3/8 miles.

1. DIVINE FORTUNE	L	140	Hodsdon
2. HONOLUA STORM	L	154	Aizpuru
3. GREAT GUSTO	L	140	Petty
4. SILENT VOW	L	135	Mackenzie
5. SCAVENGER	L	140	Slater
6. TENACIOUS RHYTHM	L	154	Young
7. POSTNUPTIAL	L	154	Rafter
PU. GHOST BAR	L	140	Dowling
PU. KING HOSS	L	154	C. Murphy

Mgn: 4 1/2. Time: 4:37 1/5.

O: Bill Pape. T: Jonathan Sheppard.

Ch. g. 4 Royal Anthem-My Tombola, Northern Fling.

Bred by Bill Pape & Jonathan Sheppard (PA).

2nd. \$25,000. Allowance hurdle. 2 3/8 miles. NW2.

1. RUM SQUALL	L	132	Aizpuru
2. FRA DIAVOLO (ARG)	L	148	Hodsdon
3. JOHN LAW	L	152	Slater
4. KIRIMBAI	L	144	Petty
5. JIMMIE ECHO	L	140	Young
F. THE NEXT MAN (IRE)	L	144	Massey
F. RED LETTER DAY	L	142	Rafter
F. DYNAWAY	L	148	C. Murphy
LR. HUMDINGER	L	142	Dowling
PU. SOCCA BEAT (CHI)	L	156	McCarron
*DQ. PUKKA (NZ)	L	151	J. Murphy

*DQ from fifth for interference.

Mgn: 15. Time: 4:32 2/5.

O: Arcadia Stable. T: Jack Fisher.

Dk. B./Br. g. 4 Anees-Weekend Squall, Summer Squall. Bred by John & Barbara Smicklas (KY).

3rd. \$75,000. Nov. hurdle stakes. 2 3/8 miles. National Hunt Cup (Grade II)

1. BEST ATTACK	L	151	C. Miller
2. ORISON	L	154	McCarron
3. ORSAY	L	154	C. Murphy
4. GLIDING (NZ)	L	154	J. Murphy
5. SPARKLED	L	148	Slater
6. SOVEREIGN DUTY	L	151	Hodsdon
7. SWIMMING RIVER	L	151	Young

Mgn: 1/2. Time: 4:36 1/5.

O: Sarah Jeffords Radcliffe. T: Bruce Miller.

B. g. 6 Bahri-Best Offense, Defensive Play.

Bred by Estate of Walter Jeffords Jr. (KY).

4th. \$25,000. SOK clm. hurdle. 2 3/8 miles. Min. clm. price \$15,000.

1. RIVER BED	L	155	Rafter
2. DUKE OF EARL (IRE)	L	145	Dowling
3. SEAFARING MAN	L	155	Hodsdon
4. CORRUPTION	L	145	Young
5. NAJJM	L	145	Petty
6. CHURCH GHOST	L	145	McCarron
PU. HIDDEN KEY	L	158	C. Miller

Mgn: 2 1/2. Time: 4:42 1/5.

O: Move Up Stable. T: Kathy McKenna.

Dk. B./Br. g. 10 Gulch-Lake Placid (IRE), Royal Academy. Bred by Guy Snowden (KY).

5th. \$20,000. Mdn. clm. hurdle. 2 3/8 miles.

Clm. price \$30,000-\$25,000.

*1. DESERT VIGIL	L	142	Hodsdon
2. MASTER BEN	L	142	Doran
3. ELUSIVE GLORY	L	156	McCarron
4. MOST BOSSEST	L	142	Petty
5. ORLIK	L	156	Ryan
6. ED'S EMPIRE	L	138	C. Murphy
7. GLIDE KING	L	142	Young
8. NOTABLE CONTENDER	L	156	Rafter
F. CRIPPLE CREEK	L	148	Aizpuru
PU. HEY DOCTOR	L	142	Dowling
PU. SOVEREIGN	L	152	C. Miller

*Claimed for \$30,000 by Rusty Carrier.

Mgn: 1 1/4. Time: 4:41 3/5.

O: Warren Dempsey. T: Jonathan Sheppard.

B. g. 4 Mojave Moon-Maternity Leave, Northern Baby. Bred by Jonathan Sheppard & Warren Dempsey (PA).

6th. \$40,000. Timber stakes. 3 1/4 miles. Radnor Hunt Cup

1. SEEYOUATTHEEVENT	L	150	Dowling
2. MR BOMBASTIC (GER)	L	160	C. Miller
3. MOVE WEST	L	160	Young
4. J. ALFRED PRUFROCK	L	166	Somers
5. MR. FATER	L	155	Rafter
6. NOBLE BOB	L	165	Petty
LR. FAPPA FIRE	L	165	Curry
LR. KING LEAR	L	160	Slater

Mgn: 2 3/4. Time: 6:41 1/5.

O: Arthur Arundel. T: Jack Fisher.

B. g. 6 Event of the Year-Return Flight (GB), Generous (IRE). Bred by David Wade (MD).



Tod Marks

Desert Vigil (left, Danille Hodsdon) passes Master Ben at the last fence in Radnor's maiden claiming hurdle.

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Tod Marks

Rum Squall (Xavier Aizpuru) pulls away from the last fence with an allowance win.



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Suzie Oldham

Bold Turn (right, Arch Kingsley) jumps away from Second Approval in a maiden hurdle at High Hope.

Back in the Saddle

Kingsley rides into winner's circle after long absence

BY BRIAN NADEAU

Do something you love all your life, then stop. It's a mighty tough decision. You may find success in other fields, but the passion never leaves you. Arch Kingsley can attest to that. He walked away from race riding in May, 2003, 122 career wins to his name.

Kingsley – who's been training since he hung up his tack – picked up number 123 aboard one of his charges, Carrington Racing Stable's Bold Turn, in a \$15,000 maiden hurdle at the Kentucky Horse Park's High Hope Races.



"It's good to have that old feeling back," Kingsley said. "I was gone for four years but it feels like I never left. Time sure flies."

While passion played a part in his decision to return to the saddle, Kingsley had pragmatic reasons as well.

"It felt like the right time to get back to work; I have a nice stable of horses and some good owners," he said. "One of the reasons I came back was that I don't have a stable jockey, as my operation just isn't big enough. So this was as much a business decision as anything else. There was a lot of deliberation and I thought that being that I can control that part



Suzie Oldham

Prep School (James Slater) heads for the finish line.

HIGH HOPE STEEPLECHASE

Sunday, May 20

of the product, it was a no-brainer. It's something I have been thinking about for over a year now."

Bold Turn, a 6-year-old West By West gelding reached the winner's circle in his sixth try over jumps.

"I got this horse as a yearling, so being that it took him until 6 to break his maiden, it was a long time coming," Kingsley said. "But that wasn't indicative of his talent; he just had a lot of issues along the way. He has been jumping since he was a yearling. They have a great course at High Hope and I felt going in I was on the best horse. I just tried to keep him in the clear, give him a clean trip, and keep him out of trouble. I was able to do that and he did the rest."

Second Approval (Paddy Young) lived up to his name, elating numerologists by finishing second, 2 lengths back. Belknap County (Gregg Ryan) held on for third.

- Appropriate to the time of year, Prep School graduated, taking the featured \$25,000 Sport of Kings maiden. Trained by Hall of Famer Jonathan Sheppard for Timber Bay Farm, he was ridden to victory by James Slater.

"I was very pleased with him," Sheppard said. "He lacks a lot in self-confidence. It takes him time to get it together when he learns something new. He prefers to be at the back and that's why he was able to close so well. I thought we ran one-two in there, and was surprised when they didn't put our number up for second."

Classy Brute (Will Haynes) edged Sheppard trainee Baby League (Danielle Hodsdon) for the runner-up spot, a length behind the winner.

Though a slow learner, Prep School looks to have turned the corner and has a bright future ahead of him over either the jumps or on the flat.

"I got this horse from Tim Hills, who trains flat horses and is a friend of mine," Sheppard said. "He said he had a nice prospect for me and I decided to buy him. We really didn't get a quick return on our investment but he did win on the flat at Saratoga for me, and that's always nice to win one up there."

See **HIGH HOPE** page 11 ►

High Hope —

■ Continued from page 10

He will head back to Camden and we will look to bring him up to Saratoga this summer.”

• Jubilee Stable’s Dig This Hoss (Rylee Zimmerman) took the opener, a \$15,000 starter allowance hurdle, for trainer Dabney Thompson. The chestnut 8-year-old rallied in the stretch, nosing out Tom Voss trainee Barrington (Cyril Murphy), with Westbound Road (Young) close for third.

Dig This Hoss upset a Sport of Kings maiden at Callaway Gardens in 2005, took off all of 2006 before coming back to the races this spring. The son of Dignitas started the year with a second at Stoneybrook, then finished fourth at Tryon before pulling up at Nashville after his saddle slipped. Thompson’s husband and assistant Ted appreciated the horse’s effort.

“He ran a really gutsy race and we were thrilled with it,” Thompson said. “He broke strong and coming down the hill a few got past him, and we thought he was going to end up third. He jumped great over the last and it was a real thrill to watch, seeing him come back like that on those other horses. He’s been turned out now and we will probably look for a starter handicap with him. I’ve also always wanted to run him over the timber, and that’s something we could do this fall. We’ll just look over the condition book and see what we can find.”

• Straight Path (Carl Rafter) closed out the sanctioned portion of the card, scoring in the fourth for owner Stewart Strawbridge and trainer Kathy McKenna. The son of Marquetry aired by an easy 8 lengths in the \$10,000 maiden timber race, sponsored by Lexington’s famous Hagyard Equine Medical Institute and named for the just-as-famous jumper Jay Trump. Timmy R (Desmond Fogarty) finished second with Won Wild Bird (Haynes) third.



Suzie Oldham

Dig This Hoss (with Rylee Zimmerman providing the encouragement) held off Barrington by a nose in the High Hope opener.

High Hope Steeplechase

Sunday, May 20. Lexington, Ky. Turf: Firm.

1st. \$15,000. Starter allow. hurdle. 2 1/8 miles. Ctm. price \$20,000 or less in 2006-07

1. DIG THIS HOSS	L 137	Zimmerman
2. BARRINGTON	L 142	C. Murphy
3. WESTBOUND ROAD	L 142	Young
4. WATER HUNTER (GB)	L 154	Traurig
5. LETSPULLTHETRIGGER	L 135	McCarron
6. YOKAZONA	L 132	W. Haynes
PU. WILD JOURNEY	L 142	Rafter

Mgn: Nose. Time: 3:58 1/5.

O: Jubilee Stable. T: Dabney Thompson.

Ch. g. 8 Dignitas-Step Fast Linda, Wolf Power (SAF).

Bred by Donald Hughes & Gary Biddle (KY).

2nd. \$15,000. Maiden hurdle. 2 1/8 miles.

1. BOLD TURN	L 154	Kingsley
2. SECOND APPROVAL	L 154	Young
3. BELKNAP COUNTY	L 154	Ryan
4. HARRY’S FIREBOLT	L 154	McCarron
5. BABY BERT	146	Traurig
6. HOT SKY	L 154	C. Miller
7. ATTAWAYO	L 154	Hodsdon
8. KING MAXIMUS	L 154	Slater
9. KATE CAMPBELL	L 137	Helders
PU. BACK TO EVEN	L 144	C. Murphy
PU. WESTCLIFFE	L 144	W. Haynes

Mgn: 2. Time: 3:59 3/5.

O: Carrington Racing Stable. T: Arch Kingsley.

B. g. 6 West by West-Marg’s My Mom, Air Forbes Won. Bred by Mr. & Mrs. M.L. Wood (KY).

3rd. \$25,000. SOK mdn. hurdle. 2 1/8 miles.

1. PREP SCHOOL	L 154	Slater
2. CLASSY BRUTE	L 134	W. Haynes
3. BABY LEAGUE	L 154	Hodsdon
4. TOLHWIN TYPE (ARG)	L 154	Kingsley
5. ICE IS NICE	L 154	Young
6. SUITE G	146	Traurig
PU. SLIP AWAY	L 144	C. Murphy
PU. RESTON	L 144	Rafter

Mgn: 1. Time: 4:00 4/5.

O: Timber Bay Farm. T: Jonathan Sheppard.

B. g. 6 Polish Numbers-Soft Spot, Sunshine Forever. Bred by William Backer (MD).

4th. \$10,000. Maiden timber. 3 1/8 miles.

1. STRAIGHT PATH	L 165	Rafter
2. TIMMY R	L 162	Fogarty
3. WON WILD BIRD	L 142	W. Haynes
4. N J DEVIL	L 165	Young
F. HE’S A CONNIVER	L 160	Slater
PU. FATHER PAUL	L 165	Hodsdon

Mgn: 8. Time: 6:15 3/5.

O: Stewart Strawbridge. T: Kathy McKenna.

B. g. 8 Marquetry-African Music, Stop the Music. Bred by Highclere (KY).

5th. Training flat. 1 1/2 miles. Amateur jockeys.

1. KILL DEVIL RUM	L 165	Price
2. MASTER WILLIAM	L 165	Wyatt
3. ANCIENT AND MODERN	L 160	Slater
4. ART LOVER	155	Bellocq

Mgn: 1/2. Time: 3:11 4/5.

O: Carrington Racing Stable. T: Arch Kingsley.

B. g. 5, Devil’s Bag-Hill Dance, Danehill.

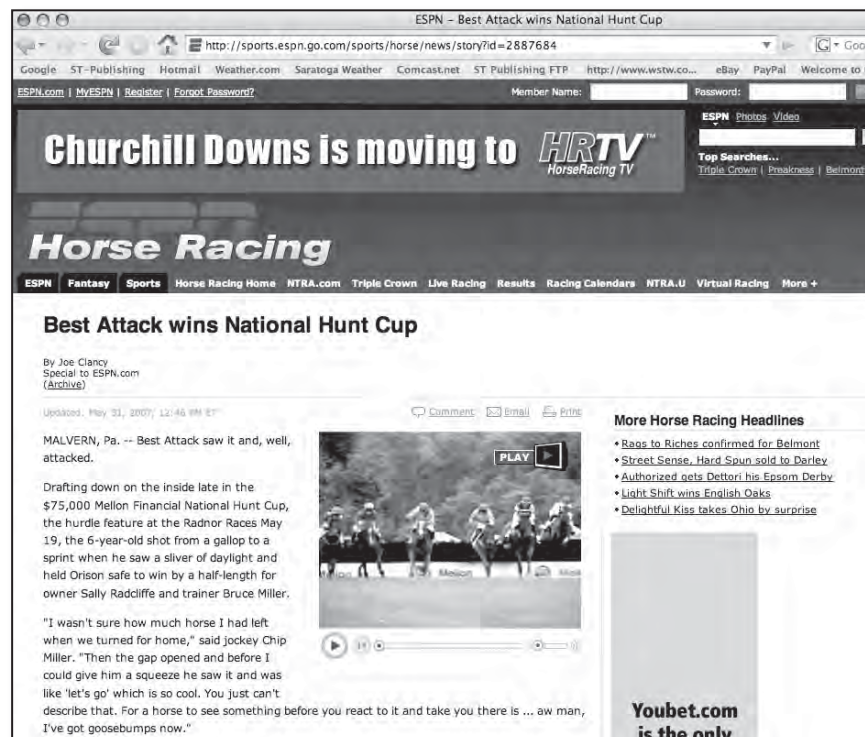
News from the NSF

The National Steeplechase Foundation is dedicated to the preservation and advancement of American steeplechasing through programs that promote safety, education, fairness, and the spirit of amateurism.



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Taking Steeplechase To The Masses



As part of its mission, the National Steeplechase Foundation endeavors to inform the general public about American steeplechase racing. With a limited budget, this goal can be a bit daunting but a 2007 plan involving the National Steeplechase Association and several race meets on the NSA circuit takes steeplechasing to a worldwide television and Internet audience.

Steeplechase racing appears on ESPN and the sports network’s site on the Web (espn.com) 10 times in 2007.

On TV, major races receive one-minute “steeplechase update” segments on existing programs covering major flat races such as the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes. The segments feature race footage, interviews and a brief statement suggesting people learn more about steeplechasing via the NSA Internet site.

On the Internet, the races receive preview and recap articles and online video coverage via espn.com’s popular InMotion feature (a theme carried throughout the site, no matter the sport).

Thus far, an estimated 4.6 million people have seen American steeplechasing on three television placements. The schedule calls for two additional placements – within the Belmont Stakes preview show 3-5 p.m. June 9 and the Travers Stakes show 4-6 p.m. August 25. For links to the Internet features, go to espn.com and look for the Horse Racing link.

Like everything the foundation does, this initiative takes revenue. We are grateful to our many donors for their support and to the various race meets that take part in this effort.

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Holiday Cheer

Plenty of fans, heat for Maryland meet

BY DAVE KOSAK

FAIR HILL, Md. – Most places, Memorial Day Weekend means barbecues, motorcycles and American flags. In Cecil County, it's much the same – but with steeplechasing. Equipped with the suntan lotion and plenty of liquids, 18,000 or so spectators came out on a sultry 90-degree Saturday.

Trainers and horses were less willing to face the heat and hard ground resulting from it, however, with 31 of 65 entered horses (48 percent) scratching off the seven-race card.



- Three distaffers greeted the starter for the featured \$30,000 Valentine Memorial.

And when Mary Cat – the longshot at 8-5 – stood still after the flag dropped, it appeared the stakes might be a match race between Imagina (Jody Petty) and Gold Mitten (Matt McCarron).

But while 2004 filly/mare champ Gold Mitten got the early lead and a game Mary Cat – who started running only after her two competitors jumped

FAIR HILL RACES

Saturday, May 26

the first – got back into contention, it was Imagina who was in control. As the tightly bunched threesome turned for home, Imagina turned it on, surging past Gold Mitten on the way to a comfortable win for Augustin Stable and trainer Sanna Hendriks.

Petty went in with a clear strategy and stuck to it.

“The plan was to not present her until we had to at the end,” the jockey said. “She wants to run past someone and chase them down – the timing is very important to not get in the front too quick.”

He kept Imagina near Gold Mitten throughout, and while his 5-year-old was going well, he refrained from going to the front. Instead, Petty patiently picked his spot, tackling his two rivals at the second-last. Mary Cat retreated while Gold Mitten put up a mild fight before succumbing by 5 lengths to two time winner Imagina.

The wire was a welcome sight, as 2 1/4 miles was just about as far as Imagina wanted to travel over the sun-baked surface.

“I could tell that the ground was firm, and when I stopped riding her the ground was stinging her a bit and she was ready for me to stop riding her,”



Tod Marks

Imagina (left, Jody Petty) pulls away from Gold Mitten and Mary Cat in the Valentine.

Petty said. “Usually I won’t pull up the horse until we have rounded the turn and headed to the backstretch, but this time I could tell she was ready to pull up almost immediately after we crossed the finish line.”

Bred in Chile, Imagina finished second in the Valentine last spring and broke her long-awaited maiden by 10-lengths at Camden this spring. Brought down at the second fence at Atlanta, she returned to finish a dull sixth over Nashville’s soft turf. The Valentine upped her 2007 earnings to \$31,500.

- Ed’s Empire kicked off the jump portion of the day’s card by taking a maiden claimer, for Coppertree Farm. Part of the favored Tom Voss-entry, the 4-year-old son of Deputy Minister made it clear from the start that the public’s faith was well-placed.

Under Xavier Aizpuru, Ed’s Empire took the early lead and never let go, rolling home for a 6 1/2-length score in his sixth career jump start.

“It was never the plan to actually go to the front and stay there, but I was

See FAIR HILL page 14 ►

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Q: What does CCI mean? And what's with the asterisks?

A: (From the Rolex Kentucky Website). English and French are the official languages of the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI), the international governing body of the sport, and the concise and descriptive French term for this competition is Concours Complet d'Equitation or, complete equestrian competition. The use of acronyms is universal, and throughout the world an international Three-Day Event is known as a CCI (concours complet internationale). To indicate the level of difficulty, the FEI uses asterisks or "stars" on a scale of one to four stars. The four star CCI is the highest level of competition in the sport, and there are just a handful.

told whatever happened to get him settled,” said the jockey. “That’s where he was happy and it worked out great for him; he jumped great and finished strong.” Jacksonian (Carl Rafter) took second, a nose in front of General Roanoke (Paddy Young).

The lead proved to be a happy place for Aizpuru throughout the day, as the jockey picked up another front-running win aboard Kingfisher Farm’s Looking Best in the sixth. Looking Best – ahead by 16 lengths at the first call – proved worthy of his name, taking the three-horse claimer clear and easy. “He’s a very strong running horse,” said Aizpuru. “I’ve tried to hold him in behind before, but no matter what I’ve tried to do he usually ends up getting to the front by being so enthusiastic and jumping well.” Things worked out so well because Looking Best was “relaxed and just enjoying himself,” said the jockey. Trained by Jack Fisher, the 5-year-old son of Best Of Luck finished a comfortable 4 1/2 lengths ahead of Heros Among Us (Rafter), with favored Motel Affair (Cyril Murphy) third.

Looking Best broke his maiden last spring at Fair Hill while running for Edie Dixon. The Maryland-bred failed as a timber horse this spring when unseating jockey Robbie Walsh at the Plumstead Point-to-Point. Fisher quickly returned the dark bay gelding to the hurdle division, where he lost his jockey at Foxfield and pulled up at Willowdale, 13 days before Fair Hill.



Tod Marks

Barry Storm (Michelle Penman) glides away from the field in the first race.

The fourth race proved a maiden buster for more than just Sheriff Dillon (Young), as amateur rider Todd McKenna picked up his first win as a trainer. Which still leaves him 103 wins behind his wife and fellow conditioner, Kathy. “After working him a couple of times he looked like he could win,” said Todd McKenna. “The most important thing was to keep him completely settled, and Paddy gave him a perfect ride.”

And stayed out of trouble. Plum Brush (McCarron) went to the early lead, but unseated his rider on the final turn when he ducked at a beacon. Simon (Aizpuru) took a brief lead, which was snatched away by Sheriff Dillon in the final turn. It wasn’t an easy finish, however, as Pizarro (Rafter) fell at the second-last and Simon nearly lost Aizpuru at See FAIR HILL page 16

Fair Hill Spring Races									
Saturday, May 26. Fair Hill, Md. Turf: Hard.									
1st. Training flat. 7 furlongs.									
1. BARRY STORM	140	Penman	10.20	7.20	3.80				
2. NONPAREIL	139	Doran		7.80	4.20				
3. WARRANT	L 155	Hannum			3.00				
Exacta (4-6) \$125.60. Trifecta (4-6-1) \$866.20									
4. MR. JEROME	L 159	Savell							
5. LIVERPOOL GLOVES	140	Aizpuru							
6. MISTY MALIBU	L 150	Mackenzie							
7. SLAMBAMTHANKYAMAM	L 150	Petty							
8. ECHO TAP	136	Dowling							
Mgn: 2. Time: 1:31. O: Donald Barry. T: Michael McCarthy. B. c. 3 Sea of Secrets-Calling Fappiano, Cryptoclearance. Bred by Henry and Donald Barry (MD).									
2nd. Training flat. 1 1/4 miles. Amateur jockeys.									
1. MENEFF (AUS)	L 165	Saville	4.00	2.60	out				
2. BRITNEY B	159	Savell		3.20	out				
3. SHADOW OF A CLOUD	155	Wyatt			out				
Exacta (2-7) \$15.40. Trifecta (2-7-1) \$46.20. Double (4-2) \$18.00									
4. CLEVER GAME	L 156	Penman							
Mgn: 11. Time: 2:29 1/5. O: Calvin Houghland. T: Kathy McKenna. B. g. 6 Zabeel (NZ)-Asawir (AUS), Last Tycoon (IRE). Bred by Shadwell Stud Australasia (AUS).									
3rd. \$10,000. Maiden claiming hurdle. 2 1/4 miles. Clm. price \$10,000-\$5,000									
1. ED'S EMPIRE	L 144	Aizpuru	3.20	2.40	2.20				
2. JACKSONIAN	L 148	Rafter		3.20	3.00				
3. GENERAL ROANOKE	L 148	Young			2.60				
Exacta (2-7) \$16.00. Trifecta (2-7-4) \$50.00									
4. ROSEMONT RUNNER	L 156	Slater							
5. SOVEREIGN	L 156	C. Murphy							
6. LUVYODAD	L 146	Doran							
LR. NINETY DAY NOTE	L 148	Mackenzie							
Mgn: 6 1/2. Time: 4:21 1/5. O: Coppertree Farm. T: Tom Voss. Dk. B./Br. g. 4 Deputy Minister-Ethyl Mae, Woodman. Bred by Bruce Kline, Spendthrift Farm, Pirbright Investments (KY).									
4th. \$15,000. Maiden hurdle. 2 1/4 miles.									
1. SHERIFF DILLON	L 154	Young	6.00	2.80	2.20				
2. SIMON	L 142	Aizpuru		2.80	2.40				
3. HONOUR EMBLEM	L 154	Hodsdon			2.80				
Exacta (3-4) \$28.20. Trifecta (3-4-1) \$53.00									
4. THE COBBLERS SON	L 142	Slater							
F. PIZARRO	L 154	Rafter							
LR. PLUM BRUSH	L 142	McCarron							
Mgn: 6 1/2. Time: 4:24 2/5. O: Keystone Thoroughbreds. T: Todd McKenna. Dk. B./Br. g. 6 Swear by Dixie-Carson Kitty, Carson City. Bred by Donald McClinton (MD).									
5th. \$30,000. Sport of Queens F&M hurdle stakes. 2 1/4 miles. The Valentine Memorial									
1. IMAGINA (CHI)	L 150	Petty	4.40	out	out				
2. GOLD MITTEN	L 160	McCarron		out	out				
3. MARY CAT	L 133	McVicar			out				
Exacta (4-3) \$5.40									
Mgn: 5. Time: 4:45 2/5. O: Augustin Stable. T: Sanna Hendriks. B. m. 5 Great Regent-Lujuriosa (CHI), Lord Florey. Bred by Haras Santa Marta (CHI).									
6th. \$15,000. Open claiming hurdle. 2 1/4 miles. Clm. price \$20,000-\$15,000									
1. LOOKING BEST	L 148	Aizpuru	4.00	out	out				
2. HEROS AMONG US	L 146	Rafter		out	out				
3. MOTEL AFFAIR	L 146	C. Murphy			out				
Exacta (2-1) \$10.40. Mgn: 4 1/2. Time: 4:20 2/5. O: Kingfisher Farm. T: Jack Fisher. Dk. B./Br. g. 5 Best of Luck-Rum Punch, Two Punch. Bred by Mrs. Richard du Pont (MD).									
7th. \$10,000. Novice timber. 3 1/8 miles. NW prior to 2007.									
1. TRUSTED COMRAD (IRE)	L 160	Rafter	5.00	out	out				
2. FLYING CONTRAPTION (IRE)	160	C. Miller		out	out				
PU. ZARATANIE (IRE)	L 150	Bonsal			out				
Exacta (5-3) \$9.40. Double (2-5) \$23.00									
Mgn: 16. Time: 7:20. O: Move Up Stable. T: Kathy McKenna. B. g. 6 Anshan (GB)-Carpetbagger (IRE), Brush Aside. Bred by Redmond Kelly (IRE).									

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INTRODUCING

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D E N S I T Y

BRASS HAT

Back On Track!



Photo by Doug Prather

Brass Hat, the six year-old Grade 1 winner trained by Buff Bradley, returned to serious training at Churchill Downs April 9th. Brass Hat was sidelined by a non-displaced sesamoid fracture in his right front ankle last July as he slowed to a jog following a workout. He has made a remarkable recovery with stall rest and a new supplement called CALDensityTM Pellets.

"It's a very special experience to see Brass Hat take the next step toward a return to racing. It is unusual for a horse at the age of six to have this opportunity, and I am grateful that we found the right tools to aid his recovery. We put the horse on CALDensityTM Pellets and after 10 weeks, the fracture had disappeared from the x-ray. The veterinarian released Brass Hat for rigorous training this week."

— Buff Bradley, Trainer, Brass Hat

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Fair Hill —

■ Continued from page 14

the last, with resultant commotion. But Young was able to shoot Sheriff Dillon through an opening on the inside and clear to victory.

"I got him over the jump safe and sound," Young said, "and then I gave him a chirp and knew he had enough left to get it done."

Owned by McKenna's Keystone Thoroughbreds, the Maryland-bred son of Swear By Dixie also picked up a bonus from the Maryland Million fund. Simon (making his first sanctioned start of any kind) finished second, with Honour Emblem (Danielle Hodsdon) third.

• The James Stump Memorial, a novice timber, concluded the card; again, the race was decimated by scratches with three going to post. Fourteen-year-old Zaratanie (Adair Bonsal) took a long early lead, but refused the third fence once and was pulled up at the fourth. After that, Flying Contraption (Chip Miller) and Trusted Comrad (Rafter) lobbed stride for stride for the entire race, looking more like a hunt team than a match race. After jumping the last, Rafter and Miller finally let loose and Trusted Comrad pulled away for an easy score over Flying Contraption who was eased at the wire. Trained by Kathy McKenna and owned by Move Up Stable, Trusted Comrad was one of the less-experienced horses on the original card. Thus, his jockey welcomed the reduced field.

"It was much more beneficial" Raf-



Sheriff Dillon (Paddy Young) surges over the last fence on the way to his maiden hurdle win at Fair Hill.

Tod Marks

ter said. "The pace was slower and I was able to get the horse settled. You're able to do a lot more for the horse that you're on with a lesser field."

Rafter's win was his 10th on the year, making him the leader after the spring season, one ahead of Young and Aizpuru.



Looking Best (right, Xavier Aizpuru) sprints for the wire in the claimer.

Tod Marks



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STEEPLECHASE 'Pick Six'

THE HOFFBERGER INSURANCE GROUP FANTASY STABLE GAME

Imagina All the People

You may say that they're dreamers, but they're not the only ones. Indeed, Imagina owners are now rather prevalent in the Top 10. With just one meet between polls, there wasn't a lot of shake-up going on. What shuffling did occur came thanks to Imagina, whose \$18,000 take from the Valentine Memorial at Fair Hill propelled two familiar names – Bill Hutchinson and Sarah Greenhalgh – into the Top 10. In fact, Imagina appears in six of the Top 10 stables.

An informal survey of the Top 10 shows:

- Paradise's Boss is Mr. Popularity, showing up in eight barns.
- McDynamo is ubiquitous, as always, appearing in six stables . . . only this time, the superhorse is the one coasting on his cyber stablemates' coattails.
- Timberwise, four have Irish Prince (second on the loggers list) but no one in the entire game has Salmo, winner of the richest-ever timber race.
- Only one stable has Good Night Shirt, whose \$118,648 spring haul leads all.
- Half of the top stables have freeloaders in their shedrow who haven't earned a dime. The top 32 stables are below.

See www.st-publishing.com for complete standings.

MVP Stable Ernie Moulos

Mixed Up.....	\$95,475
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Irish Prince.....	\$57,000
Imagina.....	\$31,500
Pukka.....	\$15,000
McDynamo.....	\$7,500

Holly Winfield Sapp

Mixed Up.....	\$95,475
Orison.....	\$61,500
Irish Prince.....	\$57,000
Imagina.....	\$31,500
Northern Gale.....	\$7,600
McDynamo.....	\$7,500

Pony Up Stable Ashley Monroe

Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Orison.....	\$61,500
Irish Prince.....	\$57,000
Imagina.....	\$31,500
Class Deputy.....	\$10,950
McDynamo.....	\$7,500

Twelfth Night Farm Nicholas Schweizer

Good Night Shirt.....	\$118,643
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Seeyouattheevent.....	\$31,000
Mark The Shark.....	\$9,250
Footlights.....	\$5,000
Fiscal Storm.....	\$0

Ms Demeanor Linda Cowasjee

Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Irish Prince.....	\$57,000
Riddle.....	\$31,956
Imagina.....	\$31,500
Swimming River.....	\$28,250
McDynamo.....	\$7,500

3D Stable Dallas Butts

Mixed Up.....	\$95,475
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Ghost Valley.....	\$22,000
Gold Mitten.....	\$5,400
Ten Cents A Shine.....	\$0

Singapore Lions..... Bill Hutchinson

Mixed Up.....	\$95,475
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Imagina.....	\$31,500
Pukka.....	\$15,000
McDynamo.....	\$7,500
Miles Ahead.....	\$0

Daring Daughter Stable Pam Hodsdon

Mixed Up.....	\$95,475
Orison.....	\$61,500
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Prep School.....	\$16,500
Slew's Peak.....	\$14,500
Miles Ahead.....	\$0

Flight of Fancy Stable Tod Marks

Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Orison.....	\$61,500
Swimming River.....	\$28,250
Mr Bombasatic.....	\$28,200
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Lair.....	\$0

Jabberwocky Stables..... Sarah Greenhalgh

Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Orison.....	\$61,500
Imagina.....	\$31,500
Mr Bombasatic.....	\$28,200
Diego Cao.....	\$13,500
McDynamo.....	\$7,500

Lacrosse Rules Jack Clancy

Good Night Shirt.....	\$118,643
Best Attack.....	\$57,900
Ghost Valley.....	\$22,000
McDynamo.....	\$7,500
Gold Mitten.....	\$5,400
Ten Cents A Shine.....	\$0

Can't Claim Prize Stable..... Sean Clancy

Good Night Shirt.....	\$118,643
Best Attack.....	\$57,900
Rare Bush.....	\$27,000
Jellyberry.....	\$3,600
Straight Gin.....	\$0
When The Saints.....	\$0

Brookwood Anne Clancy

Mixed Up.....	\$95,475
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Ed's Empire.....	\$8,600
Gold Mitten.....	\$5,400
Miles Ahead.....	\$0

Dadoffthree Stable Joe Clancy

Orison.....	\$61,500
Best Attack.....	\$57,900
Imagina.....	\$31,500
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Planets Aligned.....	\$15,000
Coal Dust.....	\$9,000

Little Farm Robert Wasserman

Mixed Up.....	\$95,475
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Ghost Valley.....	\$22,000
Diego Cao.....	\$13,500
Guelph.....	\$0
Three Carat.....	\$0

Try Again Jim McVey

Mixed Up.....	\$95,475
Imagina.....	\$31,500
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Sharp Face.....	\$23,100
Diego Cao.....	\$13,500
McDynamo.....	\$7,500



Tod Marks

Divine Fortune picked up \$15,000 at Radnor and would look good in any Pick Six stable.

Steeplestakes.com Van Cushny

Orison.....	\$61,500
The Bruce.....	\$46,750
Imagina.....	\$31,500
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Pukka.....	\$15,000
The Looper.....	\$13,500

Mr. McGuggles Inc..... Suzanna Lampton

Mixed Up.....	\$95,475
Orison.....	\$61,500
Ghost Valley.....	\$22,000
McDynamo.....	\$7,500
Haggard.....	\$2,500
Guelph.....	\$0

Genesee Valley Racers Gail McGuire

Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Riddle.....	\$31,956
Imagina.....	\$31,500
Swimming River.....	\$28,250
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Wee Highland Star.....	\$0

Second Time Around Jo Ann Sampson

Good Night Shirt.....	\$118,643
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Ghost Valley.....	\$22,000
Feeling So Pretty.....	\$15,365
Mon Villez.....	\$4,500
Dynamont.....	\$0

Wass' House..... Paul Wasserman

Mixed Up.....	\$95,475
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Pukka.....	\$15,000
Gold Mitten.....	\$5,400
Askim.....	\$0
Mattssuterrun.....	\$0

Who D'ya Like Ranch William Skidmore

Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Riddle.....	\$31,956
Mr Bombasatic.....	\$28,200
Chivite.....	\$26,974
Slew's Peak.....	\$14,500
Diego Cao.....	\$13,500

Hunter's Rest Betsy Parker

Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Orison.....	\$61,500
Imagina.....	\$31,500
Praise The Prince.....	\$9,000
McDynamo.....	\$7,500
Fershaw.....	\$4,500

All4Fun&Fun4All Lulu Verney

Mixed Up.....	\$95,475
Orchid Princess.....	\$35,000
Swimming River.....	\$28,250
Big Is Best.....	\$14,200
McDynamo.....	\$7,500
Class Vantage.....	\$1,500

Gush Katif Farm Howard Newstadt

Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
The Bruce.....	\$46,750
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Pukka.....	\$15,000
Slew's Peak.....	\$14,500
McDynamo.....	\$7,500

Bossy Boots Faith Hutchinson

Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Orison.....	\$61,500
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Diego Cao.....	\$13,500
Gold Mitten.....	\$5,400
Askim.....	\$0

The Dukester Charles Reid

Orison.....	\$61,500
Gliding.....	\$54,375
Imagina.....	\$31,500
Prep School.....	\$16,500
McDynamo.....	\$7,500
Miles Ahead.....	\$0

Living On A Prayer Lisa McLane

Orison.....	\$61,500
Imagina.....	\$31,500
Mr Bombasatic.....	\$28,200
Chivite.....	\$26,974
Pukka.....	\$15,000
McDynamo.....	\$7,500

SeaBass Stable Leslie Young

Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Orison.....	\$61,500
Imagina.....	\$31,500
McDynamo.....	\$7,500
Flyrock.....	\$0
Miles Ahead.....	\$0

Flying High Farm Kathryn Rasch

Mixed Up.....	\$95,475
Orchid Princess.....	\$35,000
Chivite.....	\$26,974
McDynamo.....	\$7,500
Erin Go Bragh.....	\$4,700
Alumni Hall.....	\$0

Thunder Road Farm Diana Rowland

Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Orchid Princess.....	\$35,000
Swimming River.....	\$28,250
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
McDynamo.....	\$7,500
Miles Ahead.....	\$0

Lulie Bear Inc..... Mason Lampton

Mixed Up.....	\$95,475
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Noblest.....	\$26,750
Slew's Peak.....	\$14,500
Irish Laddie.....	\$3,150
Gigger.....	\$0

Jumpers have a nice summer

Some keep on working, others enjoy the vacation

By SEAN CLANCY

At the end of every spring campaign, steeplechase trainers are faced with a decision – freshen up and keep going through the summer or pull the hind shoes and wait until fall.

If you're in a hurry and don't want to read on, here's a quick checklist: Good Night Shirt, Paradise's Boss, Sur La Tete and McDynamo head to the beach. Mixed Up, Orison, Gliding, Best Attack, Preemptive Strike have summer school, with proposed racetrack starts at Saratoga, Philadelphia Park and/or Colonial Downs.

Spring leader Jack Fisher decided to skip the summer with Iroquois winner Good Night Shirt and Marcellus Frost winner Paradise's Boss. Six-year-old Good Night Shirt rallied to finish second to Mixed Up in the Royal Chase at Keeneland and then wired the 3-mile Iroquois. Both horses have won at Saratoga in the past but Fisher wasn't tempted to book a trip north.

"I'm going to send you a picture called summer vacation – Good Night Shirt, Call Louis and Saluter standing in the pond up to their bellies," said Fisher. "At Saratoga, those horses get crushed with weight so I'm turning out Good Night Shirt and Paradise's Boss until fall."

Fisher never did send the photo (blame it on the computer), but he looks to Super Fame, Mark The Shark and Sound Blaster to fill in the gaps in the stakes division for the summer. Fisher has Rum Squall, Footlights and Shiny Emblem for allowance races and maidens Honolua Storm, Fiscal Storm, Fantorini and Orpington for the summer.

Numbers Game

NSA participation numbers increased in three key areas (and dropped in one) for the 2007 spring season:

Category	2007	2006	Change
Horses	395	367	+8%
Starts	841	794	+6%
Purses	\$2,465,960	\$2,296,400	+7%
Races	107	114	-6%

Sanna Hendriks, just one win behind Fisher, opted for a break and some trips to the hunt field for McDynamo. This will be the seventh year in a row that the sport's leading earner skips Saratoga. The 10-year-old has started just once this year, in the Iroquois; he ranged up but flattened out to finish fourth, beaten 28 lengths by Good Night Shirt.

Hendriks will point Frost runner-up Preemptive Strike to the summer stakes.

Neil Morris opted to skip Keeneland with 2006 Royal Chase winner Sur La Tete because of the 164-pound impost. The 9-year-old made his 2007 debut at Nashville and finished second to Good Night Shirt. Another who has never visited Saratoga, the son of Sky Classic will skip the summer and aim for the fall.

"Sur La Tete has no hind shoes," Morris said. "He's off until fall, by design."

The Virginia-based trainer usually slows things down in the summer, bypassing Saratoga altogether and focusing on the summer turf season. This year, Morris mentioned Foxfield maiden winner Humdinger and 2004 champion distaffer Gold Mitten as possible Saratoga candidates; the latter would be more likely to go if the allowance conditions were changed

to include filly and mare races, allowing her to run in an a-other-than allowance.

Doug Fout will continue to run his pair of spring novices, Orison and Gliding. Each won a leg of the Triple Crown, as Orison took the Carolina Cup while Gliding upset the Temple Gwathmey. Both will make their debuts against open company at Saratoga.

"Orison will run in the A.P. Smithwick, he'll get a prep on the flat and Gliding will run in the Turf Writers because the distance should suit him better. He'll get a flat run too," Fout said. "Other than that, I've got a bunch of horses to fill in the gaps."


Bruce Miller plans on sending National Hunt Cup winner Best Attack to the A.P. Smithwick for his first attempt against open company.

"As of right now, he's going," Miller said. "After that, I don't have too much else to go up there."

Jonathan Sheppard has Royal Chase winner Mixed Up poised for another raid on Saratoga. The winner of last year's Turf Writers, Mixed Up made one start this spring, a hard-earned victory over Good Night Shirt and Paradise's Boss in the Royal Chase. Mixed Up will again have the luxury of the Flatterer Stakes, restricted to Pennsylvania-breds, as a prep July 28 at Philadelphia Park. He could join other Sheppard entries Cradle Will Rock, Deb's Delight and Sparkled in the \$75,000 affair.

"We're definitely pointing for the Turf Writers and it depends on what weight he has to give away in the Flatterer and what runs in there. In the A.P. Smithwick, he'll carry 158 and could conceivably give away a lot of weight to some very good horses so we'll probably run him in the Flatterer," Sheppard said. "Mon-eytrain is pointing for the Zeke Ferguson. He's training very well and I was very pleased with his first race

See **SUMMER** next page ►




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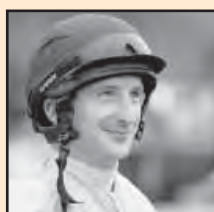
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Rafter



Young



Fisher



Via

NSA Standings

TOP 10 THROUGH JUNE 16

Jockeys (Races Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Carl Rafter.....	40	10	2	10	\$130,600	.25
Paddy Young.....	47	9	8	9	188,824	.19
Xavier Aizpuru.....	35	9	4	3	206,412	.26
Matt McCarron.....	49	7	10	5	190,210	.14
Chip Miller.....	37	7	9	2	247,225	.19
Jody Petty.....	27	6	2	6	159,750	.22
Danielle Hodsdon.....	37	5	7	8	242,650	.14
James Slater.....	37	4	6	2	73,150	.11
Jeff Murphy.....	20	3	4	0	84,550	.15
Blake Curry.....	11	3	1	2	49,625	.27

Trainers (Races Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Jack Fisher.....	59	13	13	9	\$504,155	.22
Sanna Hendriks.....	39	12	3	5	245,000	.31
Kathy McKenna.....	41	10	3	9	128,150	.24
Jonathan Sheppard.....	57	9	10	8	302,700	.16
Doug Fout.....	52	7	9	7	228,385	.13
Tom Voss.....	37	5	4	5	115,250	.14
Arch Kingsley.....	21	4	3	3	83,006	.19
Paul Rowland.....	28	4	2	0	59,000	.14
Neil Morris.....	25	3	5	1	93,650	.12
Bruce Miller.....	16	2	5	2	121,374	.13

Owners (Money Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Augustin Stable.....	27	10	1	3	\$160,300	.37
Sonny Via.....	7	1	3	2	149,793	.14
Bill Pape.....	8	2	2	1	121,975	.25
Irv Naylor.....	26	3	5	2	99,300	.12
Kinross Farm.....	25	3	5	1	93,650	.12
Ann Stern.....	6	3	1	1	88,212	.50
Brigadoon Stable.....	14	2	3	4	84,375	.14
EMO Stable.....	11	2	1	0	71,400	.18
Hudson River Farm.....	8	2	0	3	69,375	.25
Move Up Stable.....	10	5	0	3	69,000	.50

Horses (Money Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Good Night Shirt.....	2	1	1	0	\$118,643	.50
Mixed Up.....	1	1	0	0	95,475	1.00
Paradise's Boss.....	3	2	0	1	69,912	.67
Salmo.....	2	1	1	0	63,600	.50
Orison.....	3	1	1	0	61,500	.33
River Bed.....	5	4	0	1	61,000	.80
Best Attack.....	3	1	1	1	57,900	.33
Irish Prince (NZ).....	2	2	0	0	57,000	1.00
Gliding (NZ).....	3	1	0	1	54,375	.33
Seafaring Man.....	2	1	0	1	47,500	.50

Medical advisory committee created

Five doctors with strong backgrounds in equine sports were named to the recently created Medical Advisory Committee, which will provide medical oversight for the National Steeplechase Association.

In addition, the committee includes NSA senior steward Gregg Morris – a former jockey and race meet director (and a current physician assistant by profession). The committee will review current medically related policies and procedures and make recommendations for changes, if indicated, to the Stewards Advisory Committee, who will, in turn, present them to the NSA Board of Directors for approval.

The scope of the Medical Advisory Committee, however, will not be limited to existing protocols and will include any and every aspect of health care for participants of the sport. The mission is to minimize the potential for accidents and to insure best possible outcomes in the event of any accident.

The Medical Advisory Committee is composed of:

Dr. Rush Fisher: An orthopedic surgeon who specializes in the spine. He is currently head of the spine section of the Department of Surgery at Christiana Care in Newark, Del., and has extensive experience as a Level I trauma surgeon. He also happens to be the son of prominent trainer J.R.S. Fisher and brother of top NSA trainer Jack Fisher. He serves as course physician at the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup and Willowdale Steeplechase.

Dr. Craig Ferrell: An orthopedic surgeon and founder of the Bone and Joint Clinic in Franklin, Tenn. He is an avid polo player and has served as the team physician for the U.S. Olympic Equestrian Team since 1996. He is also international chairman of the FEI medical committee which oversees Olympic equestrian sports. He serves on the medical response team at the Iroquois Steeplechase.

Dr. Jeff Sternlicht: A specialist in emergency medicine. He is Clinical Director in the Department of Emergency Medicine at GBMC in Baltimore. He serves as course physician at My Lady's Manor, the Grand National, and the Maryland Hunt Cup.

Dr. David Snyder: A member of Blue Ridge Orthopedic Associates in Warrenton, Va. and is on the medical staff at Fauquier Hospital. He serves as course physician at the International Gold Cup.

Dr. Edward Dickinson: The Director of Emergency Medical Services and Field Operations for the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He is also a nationally registered paramedic and EMS Medical Director for the Malvern Fire Company. He serves as course physician at the Radnor Races.

Gregg Morris: An NSA Senior Steward who has participated in the sport as a jockey, trainer, and race director. He currently works as a physician assistant at an Urgent Care/Occupational Health Clinic in Dover, Del.

Summer —

■ Continued from previous page

back against the two best 2-mile horses in the country.”

Moneytrain threatened Paradise's Boss and Preemptive Strike in the Frost, before finishing a close third.

Sheppard said he will point Sweet Shani and Meadow to summer stakes while Georgia Cup winner Seafaring Man is on the sidelines after finishing third at Radnor. Useful novice Sovereign Duty will probably sit out the summer and wait for the novice series to resume in the fall.

As for secret weapons, Sheppard demurred.

“I wish I could say we did but I don't see any,” he said. “I don't think we have any standouts, just nice, useful, average horses, high-priced claimers and minor allowance horses.”

MOTION ON THE MOVE?

Rumor has it trainer Graham Motion will make his first steeplechase appearance since leading up four-time Eclipse Award champion Flatterer. No, it's not Manhattan winner Better Talk Now. Motion has been schooling Gil Johnston's Swagger Stick for a possible summer debut over hurdles.

“It would be fun to have a jumper. A good jumper,” Motion said. “And he could be a good jumper.”

A 6-year-old son of Cozzene, Swagger Stick recently finished third in an allowance/optional claimer at Pimlico.

NSA SUMMER RACE SCHEDULE

Colonial Downs

Sunday, June 17, Sunday, July 1, Sunday, July 15, Sunday, July 29

New Kent, VA • (804) 966-7223 www.colonialdowns.com. (2 races each day)

Philadelphia Park

Saturday, July 28

Bensalem, PA • (215) 639-9000 www.philadelphiapark.com

Saratoga Race Course

Sunday, July 22 (Open House) 2 races

Saratoga Springs, NY • (518) 584-6200 www.nyra.com

One race each Thursday:

July 26, August 2, August 9, August 16, August 23, August 30

See www.nationalsteeplechase.com for updates.

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Let's Play 2

Mosser rides to weekend double with Merloch, Close The Deal

BY KAREN BRIGGS

STONE TAVERN, N.J. – Baseball teams play doubleheaders. Platoons march in double time. And event riders win more than one division at a major competition.

At Jersey Fresh, Bonnie Mosser won the CCI three-star and advanced divisions, aboard Merloch and Close The Deal, respectively – completing a rare double and also giving the Unionville, Pa.-based rider three

well-qualified potential mounts for the upcoming Pan American Games. Veteran horse Jenga, who did not run cross country at Jersey Fresh but show jumped clean on Sunday as if to signal his readiness, joins his stablemates in that category.

"This was a heck of a day," said Mosser, 44. "I've won a three-star before, but I never expected to have two big wins like this at a single event."

Mosser rode her own Merloch to win the CCI*** division, besting over 40 entries, and then capped things off by winning the advanced division, an observation trial for the upcoming Pan Am Games, with Rebecca Polan's Close The Deal, a Dutch warmblood/Thoroughbred cross.

Merloch was named Best Conditioned Horse as well, and to cap things off, Mosser received the Best Turned Out award and the Gladstone Trophy, given the highest-placed American rider at the USEF spring three-star championship.

Asked which horse she would select to ride at the Pan Ams, given the choice, she shook her head.

"I honestly don't know at this point. I have all three on the list, and all three are amazing," Mosser said. "Jenga and Merloch are similar to ride – they're both pony-like and sensible – whereas

JERSEY FRESH

May 30-June 3

Close The Deal has a redhead streak in him."

Her newest ride, Merloch, is a 9-year-old New Zealand-bred gelding Mosser originally found for a student, Alexandra Zavovna, four years ago. At the time, the horse had completed a one-star. Mosser persuaded her student to buy him sight unseen, and the pair had considerable success in the Young Riders division before Zavovna went off to college and handed the reins to Mosser.

"He's very rideable, has a good temperament – he's a Steady Eddie," said Mosser. "He's turned out even better than we'd hoped."

This year's edition of Jersey Fresh featured an extra advanced division, which served as a final "mandatory outing" for American and Canadian riders qualified for the Pan Am Games. Almost half of the 19 entries opted to treat it as a combined test, choosing not to run cross country.

All told, there were more than 130 entries distributed among the three divisions, a record for Jersey Fresh and enough to keep organizers, officials and an army of orange-shirted volunteers busy throughout the show.

Conditions at the Horse Park of New Jersey were hot and humid right up until stadium day, when the remnants of Tropical Storm Barry brought rain and relief. In deference to the extreme conditions, the ground jury and course designer John Williams made some last-minute alterations, shortening the two-star and three-star tracks by 450 meters. Ten thousand pounds of ice was provided at the finish and riders were encouraged to cool their horses "aggressively," both before they entered the start box and again at the finish.

See **JERSEY** next page ►



Shannon Brinkman
Merloch (Bonnie Mosser) flies a cross-country fence on his way to a win in the CCI three-star at Jersey Fresh.



Shannon Brinkman
Close The Deal (Bonnie Mosser) helps complete a two-win event for his rider with good form in the advanced division.



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CROSS COUNTRY PROVIDES THRILLS

The two-star competitors were first out of the start box at 8:30 a.m. on cross-country day. There was news fairly early when Tamara Todorovic, riding for Serbia, had a crashing fall from Funshine Bear at No. 11, a pair of corners which proved troublesome throughout the division. Todorovic was taken to the hospital for observation but was later reported to be fine. Will Coleman, at the top of the leaderboard after dressage with Ret Mercury, had a fall here as well, instantly going from first to nowhere.

“I’m not sure what happened there,” said Coleman. “I tried to take the face off that corner and ended up on the ground.”

Will Faudree, second to start, smoked around the course sans time penalties aboard Mr. McWhinney, rocketing from 36th to 11th; six other riders had added nothing to their dressage scores by the time the division was finished. Clark Montgomery put in one of those flawless rides, on his parents’ Up Spirit, to move from third to first. By the end of the division, the closest competitors were nearly 10 points back – Buck Davidson and Ballynoecastle RM, moving up from seventh to second, to tie with relative newcomer Jessica Kiener (a student of Davidson’s) with My Boy Bobby, who advanced from sixth.

By 11:30 a.m., competition had shifted to the three-star division, where the difference in fitness really shone through. Coleman put in a brilliant ride on Mike and Nathalie Pollard’s Icarus, who had only been in his barn approximately three weeks. The fresh pairing added nothing to their dressage score and moved into the lead.

Stephen Bradley piloted From, back from a long hiatus, into the second slot with another time-fault-free performance.

“We’re taking it one step at a time,” he said. “The big goal this year is to get qualified (for the Beijing Olympics) for next year. I don’t have a great track record doing a three-day and then a big team thing later that summer,” he added with a grin – referring to the three (count ’em, three) occasions he has qualified for, but was not able to go to, major team competitions: the Atlanta and Athens Olympics and the last World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany.



Amy Drago

From (Stephen Bradley) gets up and over a cross-country fence, en route to a second in the three-star.

Mara Dean felt vindicated when her Irish-bred Nicki Henley improved considerably on last year’s disappointing cross-country performance at Jersey Fresh, going clear and very nearly within the time, to put them neatly into third place.

“My horse was fantastic,” said Dean, “the most rideable he’s ever been. After last year, I took a step back to figure him out. He’s still not easy, but I’m comfortable with it now.” Comfortable with her horse, if not the conditions. “I don’t know if I’ve ever been that hot,” she said. “When I got off my horse, my knees buckled”

Mosser steered Merloch into fourth after the cross country in the CCI**, while moving from ninth to third in the advanced division with Close The Deal, a Dutch warmblood cross who went unsold as a youngster because of unsightly scarring on his legs. Jonathan Holling and Lion King II also had a stellar round to move into first in the advanced, followed by Darren Chiacchia and Better I Do It.

COOL IN THE STADIUM

On stadium day, with the heat no longer an impediment, all that remained to challenge the riders were Sally Ike’s big, technical courses.

The two-star division went first, with Up Spirit (Montgomery) having two rails in hand. He used both, but managed to hang on to the win by his fingernails. Tied for second heading in, Ballynoecastle RM (Davidson) and My Boy Bobby (Kiener) stayed that way with clear rounds and had to be separated by virtue of Davidson having been closer to the optimum time on cross country.

In the advanced division, Lion King II had three rails and dropped into second.

“I was hoping to have a better result,” Holling admitted. “He can be a tough horse in the show jumping and he didn’t jump all that well today. I have yet to have a horse who was equally good in all three phases, and this is definitely his weakest area. We’ll go back to the drawing board and get it sorted out.”

That left the door open for Mosser and Close The Deal to rise from third to first with a four-fault round, while Chiacchia and Better I Do It slipped to

seventh after a refusal and time faults.

Clear rounds were definitely the exception rather than the rule, and time faults were also plentiful in the CCI*** division, with only six of the remaining 39 competitors managing to make no additions to their two-day scores.

There were a surprising number of 20- and even 28-fault rides as the three-star horses show jumped, and few managed to make the time. Mosser’s clear round with Merloch put her in the catbird seat, and when Will Coleman, who had been sitting in first place with Icarus, pulled two rails and added time faults, he slipped to fourth and Mosser clinched the win. Bradley and the Russian-bred From managed to maintain second place with a four-fault round, and Dean piloted Nicki Henley similarly to hang on to third. Both riders were

thrilled with their mounts.

“It’s fun to get From back (from a tendon injury) and get to do this again,” said Bradley. “I’m really proud of him.”

Noted Dean, “It’s been a bumpy road, and I feel like we’ve really smoothed it out. I couldn’t be more excited about this horse right now.” Especially after having negotiated the demanding course, shared by advanced and three-star riders. “It required that you ride really forward and then negotiate a lot of sharp turns,” said Dean.

JERSEY FRESH NOTES

A number of other awards were presented at Jersey Fresh, including the Traveller Forever Young Memorial award honoring the oldest horse to complete the two- or three-star. The trophy went to Dorothy Crowell’s 17-year-old Radio Flyer (though Will Faudree’s Antigua is reportedly older, he had not been declared for consideration). . . . The top Young Rider in the CCI*** was O’Connor student Lauren Kieffer, 25th aboard Tigger Too . . . In the three-star division, Allison Springer and Kim Severson shared the award for closest to optimum time on cross country; Clark Montgomery won the two-star prize aboard Raconteur . . . Will Coleman’s groom Katie Strickland received the Best Groom prize of a wooden tack trunk full of goodies . . . Olivia Loiacono placed 10th aboard Subway to take the honors as top Young Rider in the two-star division . . . Andrea Leatherman’s Mensa received the Re-Run Award for the top placing by a Thoroughbred ex-racehorse . . . Will Faudree’s Mr. McWhinney won the best conditioned award in the two-star, with best turned out in that division going to Canada’s Sonya Crampton with Kenlis Cavalier . . . One sad note: Laine Ashker’s 16-year-old Eight St. James Place collapsed and died shortly after passing through the finish flags on the three-star cross country.

Jersey a favored destination

Now in its fifth year (its third as a three-star event), the Jersey Fresh CCI*** is visibly maturing and becoming a marquee event favored by riders and spectators. Although the Horse Park of New Jersey is a compact 80 acres (plus the addition of a new parcel of land acquired for use this year near the front of the property), it packs a lot of user-friendliness into the space, with centrally located parking, a huge covered pavilion for spectators, even (gasp) flush toilets. Those on foot don’t have to hike for miles to witness the cross-country action, as the course cleverly loops out and back from the center of the park, and the choice of four large outdoor rings and an indoor arena (rated a godsend for riders cooling horses this year after cross-country) makes the park a rider favorite, facility-wise, too.

This year’s cross-country tracks at Jersey Fresh earned praise from the riders.

“It’s as good a course as any I’ve ridden,” said Florida’s Jonathan Holling. “It always takes a few years for a new event to get established, and this one has really arrived.”

Darren Chiacchia concurred. “(The courses) ask a lot of questions and flow really well.”

Said Buck Davidson: “The two-star flowed way better than it has in the past. I think it was both tough and fair. This place has everything and it has the space to do it right. It’s exactly what the sport really needs.”

– Karen Briggs

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Matus jumps to advanced victory at Va.

Due to its various levels of competition and the step-by-step progress of many horses, eventing often forces riders to ask a simple question with a difficult answer.

"Do I keep going with my advanced horse who's getting old, or do I start over with another young horse?"

After much deliberation, Virginia-based rider Skyeler Icke took option B – selling advanced horse Dillinger to a California rider a few years ago and purchasing two young horses for the ride back up eventing's ladder. Matus and Tika have picked up where Dillinger left off, winning three-day events on their first attempts this year.

Matus made off with the CCI* division at the Virginia Horse Trials (May 24-27) at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, rising from fourth after dressage to edge Double Rivers 2 Cool (Kadi Eykamp) by less than a point, 58.1 to 58.8. A 7-year-old Selle Francais, Matus moved to third after cross country, adding just time penalties, and then closed the event with one rail in show jumping. Early leader Double Rivers 2 Cool took down three rails in show jumping, handing the win to Matus.

"It was a surprise," said Icke. "I expected a solid performance but I wasn't going out there to win it.

Eventing News

He's so young that it was a guessing game. Getting to know him and figuring him out has been the hard part – he's a more difficult ride for me so it's really satisfying to get a win."

Imported by RH Thoroughbreds and Stuart Black, Matus has been with Icke for a little more than a year and was making his first three-day start after moving through the lower levels. Tika, another Selle Francais from RH and Black, won his three-day debut at Morven Park last year and both horses will look for even more competition by this fall.

"It was a really tough decision (to take the young-horse route again)," said Icke. "I'll keep them as long as I can and hope to ride them to the top. They're both nice young horses with futures."

BETTER I DO IT WINS CIC TWO-STAR

Better I Do It went out and did it in the Virginia Horse Trials CIC** division, leading at every step and winning by a more than three points for Darren Chiaccia.

Owned by Amy Iorio, the winner turned in a strong dressage test and added nothing but time penalties in

show jumping and cross country to take the victory with a 74.8 final total. Fashion Plate (Sharon White) finished second at 78 with Canadian entry Longfield Dougal (Coleen Loach) third at 80.5.

Better I Do It bounced out of the win to Jersey Fresh's advanced division, and took the first-day lead in dressage and was second after cross country before dropping to seventh overall. Several other big names used the event for some work, including Theodore O'Connor (Karen O'Connor) who competed in dressage and show jumping.

VIRGINIA NOTES

Kirsten Selvig rode Ruse De Guerre home first in the young riders' division of the CIC**, outrunning Esker Riada (Cayla Kitayama) and Stormin's Barbie (Alyssa Peterson). The winner, an 11-year-old Thoroughbred, left the dressage round in second place and took the lead after show jumping. He then added just 1.2 time penalties in cross country to finish on a 61.3, nearly 10 points better than the runner-up . . . Nyls Du Terroir (Katherine Samuels) won the junior and young rider division of the CCI* over Erin's Nighthawk (Cristina Garafola) and Brave Heart The Great (Audrey Bean).

See **NEWS** next page ►

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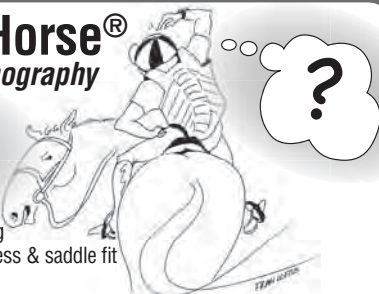
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■ Continued from previous page

PRATHER FINDS 'GLORY' AT WOODSIDE

A mandatory outing for West Coast riders thinking about the Pan Am Games, the Woodside Horse Trials (May 25-27 in Menlo Park, Calif.) wound up a happy victory for Kelly Prather and her relatively new advanced horse, Ballinakill Glory. The 8-year-old mare excited dressage in fourth place, moved to second after cross country and claimed a comfortable win despite a rail and three time penalties in show jumping.

"She's been going great and she's very consistent but I wasn't really expecting to win," said Prather. "It's very exciting for me to win here — it's the closest event to home for us, an hour-and-a-half. We do a lot of traveling so that's nothing for us."

Of course, Prather and her horse have done nothing but travel for several years. They came together in Ireland, where Prather spent two years after high school. While looking for a horse, she saw Ballinakill Glory on the horse's first day ridden.

"She was an unbroken 3-year-old and I was there the first day anyone got on her," Prather recalled. "They turned her loose in the arena and she was just very pretty and a natural mover."

A week later, the Irish Sporthorse was jumping and Prather had found her horse. Longtime friends Andrea and James Pfeiffer bought Ballinakill Glory, who accompanied Prather back to California and has progressed up the levels as she's gotten older — training at 5, preliminary at 6, intermediate at 7 and now advanced. Andrea Pfeiffer trains Prather and her horse, who splits time between Pfeiffers' facility and Prather's home on the weekends.

"It's a great relationship — you don't get to spend this much time with many horses," said Prather, who moved to eventing from show jumping. "She loves her job, really loves cross country and is a great show jumper."

Bigger names Amy Tryon, Tiana Courdray, Gina Miles and Sara Mittleider withdrew at some point after showing their fitness for the Pan Am selectors — opening the gate for Prather.

She jumped through quite well. Ballinakill Glory finished dressage on a 35.4 score, collected only time penalties in cross country and had the best corss-country round of any of the seven horses to complete. Killian O'Connor (Jolie Sexson) finished second with Vapor Trail (Dawn White) third.

Prather has eyes on Fair Hill in October, with plans to train with Bruce Davidson for a month beforehand, and will first go to a CIC three-star at Rebecca Farm in Montana this summer.

EVENT DERBY TO THE OLD LINE STATE

The Event Derby, a shorter version of three-day eventing, comes to Caves Farm in Owings Mills, Md., in October and the farm recently announced schooling days this summer.

The derby features a dressage test and a jumping course that combines stadium and cross country with 12-22 obstacles (depending on the level) on a varied terrain. The derby is scheduled for Oct. 14 with schooling days June 15, July 20 and Aug. 17. The course was designed by Sachey and Dave Wisner, builders of the course at Shawan Downs.

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CORRECTION

The Jersey Fresh preview in the previous edition confused event horses Bad Boy Billy (a mount of Ralph Hill's) and King Billy (from Buck Davidson). Davidson finished 26th aboard the latter in the event's CCI three-star division.

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Bonnie Mosser

You can't argue with success like this. Bonnie Mosser won two-thirds of the Jersey Fresh event May 30 through June 3. The event rider steered Merloch to the a victory in the CCI three-star and backed that up with an advanced victory with Close The Deal. Next stop for her talented duo (and stablemate Jenga) could be the Pan American Games in Brazil this summer.

Congratulations
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Photo by Shannon Brinkman



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U.S. Six Set to Fly Pan Am

Squad named for Rio games

BY JOE CLANCY

Stephen, Mara, Phillip meet Gina, Bonnie, Karen. From, Nicki Henley, Connaught meet McKinlaigh, Merloch, Theodore.

Everybody, this is everybody else. You know each other, but you really get a chance now as members of the United States Equestrian Federation's eventing

squad for the Pan Am Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 13-29. The six horse/rider combinations were announced June 11 by the USEF, and represent the best and the brightest of American eventing.

Officially, the squad includes (in alphabetical order by rider): Stephen Bradley and From, Mara Dean and Nicki Henley, Phillip Dutton and Connaught, Gina Miles and McKinlaigh, Bonnie

Mosser and Merloch, Karen O'Connor and Theodore O'Connor. Alternates are Kristin Bachman and Gryffindor, Darren Chiacchia and Better I Do It, Dutton and Truluck, Will Faudree and Antigua, Mosser and Close The Deal, O'Connor and Allstar.

"Obviously they were looking to send a very strong team down there," said Dean. "There is a ton of experience and that really matters in something like this."

The group breathes international experience. O'Connor owns an indi-

vidual silver medal from the 2003 Pan Ams and a team bronze from the 2000 Olympics. A three-time Olympian, Dutton won team gold with his native Australia in 1996 and 2000. Bradley won a team gold at the 2003 Pan Ams, rode in the 1992 Olympics and was the second American to win Burghley. Miles rode in the 2002 World Equestrian Games. Based in Virginia, Dean returns to the world stage after last riding for the U.S. team at the 1995 Pan Ams in Argentina and the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

"It's nice to be back," she said. "Any time you're riding for your country the pressure of winning a medal is pretty big – Pan Am or Olympics. They are both supported by United States Olympic Committee, so it puts your foot in the door to the big time."

Dean and the other riders look forward to a good performance, and a chance at the Olympics in China next year. Typically in line with a three-star event, the Pan Am competition is a step below the Olympics or other four-star events but a perfect mounting block for even bigger stages.

Recent form figured in the choices. The 1-2-3 finishers in Jersey Fresh's recent three-star – Merloch, From and Nicki Henley – earned spots on the squad. Connaught and Theodore O'Connor finished second and third overall (and were the top two Americans) at Rolex Kentucky in April. McKinlaigh relied on a stellar 2006 season, which included a win at Fair Hill, and a strong performance at Badminton this year. McKinlaigh signaled his readiness with a run (dressage and show jumping) at Woodside in California.

Theodore O'Connor continues to extend his grasp on the eventing world with a Pan Am slot.

Dean figures balance played a role in the decision-making.

"My horse has the ability to be very good in all three phases which can be tough to find," she said. "He can put it all together and he's brilliant on the flat. Dressage isn't everything, but you used to be able to be 25th after that and work your way up, you can't do that anymore. You've got to be close."

The official announcement also included a schedule with all 12 combinations invited to train at Stonehall Farm (home of the O'Connor Event Team) in Virginia starting June 24. On July 1, the horses head to Ocala, Fla., for quarantine and six horses ship to Brazil July 11. The four-member team will be named in the final days before the competition, though all six riders will compete as individuals.



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Mara Dean & Nikki Henley



Phillip Dutton & Connaught



Karen O'Connor & 'Teddy'

Rider	Hometown	Horse	Owner
Stephen Bradley	Leesburg, Va.	From	Charlotte Harris
Mara Dean	Round Hill, Va.	Nicki Henley	Willow Bend Farm
Phillip Dutton	West Grove, Pa.	Connaught	Bruce Duchossois
Gina Miles	Creston, Calif.	McKinlaigh	Thomas Schulz & Laura Coats
Bonnie Mosser	Unionville, Pa.	Merloch	Bonnie Mosser
Karen O'Connor	The Plains, Va.	Theodore O'Connor	Theodore O'Connor Syndicate

Before the First Horse Inspection, four of these combinations will be named to the team and the other two will represent the U.S. as individuals.

Alternates: Kristin Bachman, Gryffindor; Darren Chiacchia, Better I Do It; Phillip Dutton, Truluck; Will Faudree, Antigua; Bonnie Mosser, Close The Deal; Karen O'Connor, Allstar.



Photo by Sarah K. Anderson

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Pressure Escapes

Consider the following a cautionary tale. It could happen to you, someone you know, your horse or someone's horse. There is blame but – more importantly – there's something to learn.

The Outside Rail

Joe Clancy

Pressure King stood tied to the fence with a note. Among other things, it read “sell him.” There wasn't enough space to list his name or his achievements – four career wins,

\$100,000-plus in earnings, grandson of sire Restless Native. Ten years old and nearly white, he was at the New Holland auction in Pennsylvania March 5.

A buyer from the Beltex Corp., a French-owned company based in Texas, paid \$475 for the son of Compliance and prepared to ship him and several others to Fort Worth. There, they would be butchered and the meat exported to Europe.

Only somebody else noticed Pressure King, too.

Suzanne Powell kept calling Bev Strauss at MidAtlantic Horse Rescue about the gray gelding at New Holland that day.

“He's really lovely, you should see his eye. It's incredible,” said Powell, who didn't yet know the horse's name. “He's just an intelligent-looking horse who deserves more than this. I can't believe he's here.”

Strauss listened, but she'd heard it before. Normally a regular at New Holland, she didn't attend that Monday. The Chesapeake City, Md.-based horse rescue was full. She'd even called Powell, who often assists in the evaluation of horses at New Holland, and left a message not to bother going this time.



Barbara D. Livingston

Pressure King flies a fence in an allowance hurdle win at Saratoga in 2003.

“I can't stand going when we don't have room; I could buy 25 horses every Monday, but you can't save them all,” said Strauss. “But Suzanne didn't get my message telling her we weren't going that day. She called me about two horses, we talked and she called back.”

Powell read the tattoo numbers of the two Thoroughbreds to Strauss, who called the Jockey Club and found out their identities. Despite not having room, despite not even attending the New Holland sale that day, Strauss called the Beltex buyer and agreed to write a check (for the purchase price plus \$100). The truck that left for the slaughterhouse had two less horses.

Powell adopted Pressure King, who heads to a career as a pleasure horse. The other rescued horse – Alphabetizing, a son of Breeders' Cup Classic winner Alphabet Soup – was gelded and adopted by another horseman.

“It all worked out,” said Strauss. “If Suzanne had gotten my message, she wouldn't have gone that day and no one would have known what happened to them.”

Powell called it fate. Pressure King will foxhunt, go on trail rides and generally enjoy the good life on his owner's small farms in Mertztown, Pa., (between Allentown and Reading) and Genesee Valley, N.Y.

See **PRESSURE KING** next page ►

Twisted Pamela goes to the barn

There is no such thing as intelligent design. If there were, people who dutifully coil the barn hose after every use would not marry people who don't. They wouldn't even work under the same shedrow.

My friend Danelle is a coiler. She is married to Roger. They share a barn. He is a non-coiler. Danelle is a calm, sensible young woman, not given to fits of temper or bad-mouthing her husband but when she talks about Roger's repeated failures to coil the hose, sparks shoot out of her mouth. I have to move her away from all flammable materials.

I tell her that every marriage has its thorns. I tell her that because that's what a counselor told me long ago, not because I'm an expert on marriage. Danelle and I agree that there are sharper thorns.

I once shared a barn with two non-

coilers. I looked at it as an opportunity to practice tolerance. When a hose is gnarled and twisted like a perverse and diabolical puzzle, it's irritating, but it's not a reason to go to war.

In the same wash stall where the hose lay perpetually kinked, there was a poorly-designed drain. Every day we had to take off the cover and stick our hands in stinky water and remove greasy globs of leftover feed and half-chewed hay and dump the whole disgusting mess in a muck tub. The head trainer named the drain “Crazy Mary.”

Like many crazy people, Crazy Mary demanded constant attention. We took

turns tending her. I dreaded the trainer's morning bellow.

“Annie, it's your turn for Crazy Mary.”

The memory of Crazy Mary makes me appreciate the flawless drain in my own wash stall. And because I always coil the hose, my barn is a place of efficiency and ease.

Or it was until this winter when a demon crawled up to the loft where the hose was stored and took possession of it. Now the thing refuses to coil properly no matter how I coax it. Every time I go to fill a water bucket it kinks tighter than a clenched fist. I want to cut it up

in tiny pieces and bury it in the woods. I search the Yellow Pages for an exorcist.

It's never productive to get in a big hurry in a barn but one recent morning I was hurrying. I wanted to get back to my desk. I needed breakfast. The hose refused to cooperate, as usual.

“Twisted Pamela, you'd better straighten yourself out this instant,” I barked.

I've heard that speaking to inanimate objects is a symptom of insanity. I'm also aware that a compulsion for naming things might be another symptom. A friend pointed this out when I was telling him a story about my two mini-donkeys, known collectively as “the wee brayers.”

He rolled his eyes and then narrowed them into a hard-edged squint.

“Why can't you just call them don-

See **HINTERLANDS** next page ►

From The Hinterlands

By Annie Hawkins

Pressure King —

■ Continued from previous page

"He was tense when he first got here, but now he's great," said Powell. "He's intelligent and sweet and a gentleman to ride."

Bred by Mimi Voss and trained throughout his racing career by her husband, Tom, Pressure King raced for four years — winning twice on the flat and twice over jumps while earning \$110,970. His career peaked in 2003 with two steeplechase wins including a \$48,000 allowance hurdle at Saratoga. He last raced in 2004, injuring a tendon in a race at Atlantic City and went to the sidelines. Prepping for a potential comeback this winter, the horse developed some heat in the tendon and just looked like he wouldn't take more training.

"That's when I put the word out," said Mimi Voss. "He wasn't going to be a racehorse anymore and he wasn't going to make a foxhunter for us."

The Vosses have given horses away before, and followed similar steps — the potential new owner tried Pressure King at the farm, all seemed to go well and the horse found a new home in late February.

Whatever the reasons, the option didn't pan out for the new owner (a young rider) or the horse. On the advice of an industry professional, Pressure King was sent to New Holland.

"He just sounded like he ended up more horse than they bought, and that happens," said Strauss. "I don't really blame them, but it's a horse and you need to know what you're getting into. They didn't intend to send him to the slaughterhouse."

The Vosses thought they were doing the right thing, too.

"Mimi was horrified when we called her and we knew she would be," said Strauss. "She didn't want to have that happen to him, and made a donation."

Angry at first, Mimi Voss called the situation a learning experience.

"I've got another horse right now to give away," she said. "She's a dead-quiet, 4-year-old mare that



Pressure King checks out his new home a few days after the New Holland sale.

could be a hunter or something. She needs a throat operation and I'm going to do that and then I'm going to be very specific about where she goes. You have a responsibility with these horses."

Strauss does not point fingers when it comes to rescuing horses. She'd rather educate and work to minimize the number of productive horses that end up in slaughterhouses. The problem, she says, often comes in the first step — when an ex-racehorse gets given away as a pleasure horse.

"You're giving somebody something of value and they don't have a stake in it if they get it for free," she said. "Sometimes that first good home is a good home, but they give him to somebody else and the horse ends up getting shuffled through and lost. Be careful giving horses away."

Instead, Strauss tells people to get a small fee from the new owner, and donate that to the SPCA or a rescue organization. She also strongly suggests creating a written document of the exchange — list contact information and instructions on what to do if the horse doesn't work out in his new home.

Strauss is also a realist, and realizes some horses just can't move on to second or third careers.

"We go to New Holland and buy Thoroughbreds off the track that are going to slaughter," she said.

"There are a good number every week. Some aren't sound, but some are. We try to focus on the sound ones because they are easier to place and they have a chance at another career. They are there for two reasons — they are either unsound or they're slow. If you pick out the slow ones, they can be productive again."

The process takes several stops. People at MidAtlantic buy the horse and bring it to the rescue farm (on a leased farm in Chesapeake City or other satellite facilities). Once there, they put it in a quarantine paddock to get a health assessment and then, hopefully, ride the and evaluate the horse. If suitable, they show the horse to prospective adopters. The adopters further evaluate and essentially "buy" the horse for \$2,000 or so if it's suitable for a new career.

"We transfer ownership, but some rescues don't," said Strauss. "We ask that if a horse is sold that they let us know, but it becomes their horse. There is an adoption contract, but in a sense they are buying the horse from us. If it's a horse someone likes, the horse can do what the person wants, it's not really a risk. We want people to be responsible for these horses through old age."

Roughly 250 horses have been placed this way since the horse rescue started in 2002 by Strauss and Ginny Suarez. The project got started due in part to the success of Suarez' Paws For Life dog rescue organization. There are other rescue organizations throughout the country, several which have spawned from MidAtlantic's success.

Graduates have gone on to productive careers as eventers, show horses and simply riding horses.

"It's phenomenal to see how many of them are out there now doing good things, horses have so much to offer," said Strauss. "The good news is the ex-racehorses are usually pretty laid back and easy to re-train. If they weren't competitive, chances are they're pretty calm about everything."

Even about getting stuck in a pen with a note.

For more on the MidAtlantic Horse Rescue, see www.midatlantichorserescue.org.

Hinterlands —

■ Continued from previous page

keys? Why must you name everything?"

I thought his tone of voice was rather condescending.

He went on to say that my compulsion for naming things might be a genuine psychiatric disorder and could possibly be tamed by prescription medication.

"I prefer to interpret it as a sign of an active imagination," I said.

Still, it surprised me when I called the hose "Twisted Pamela." The words tumbled out of my mouth without thought. It was my unconscious rising

to the surface as it often does in times of stress.

Of course there are plenty of good women named Pamela. It's simply that I haven't met them. Every Pamela I've known has been as twisted as that hose. Tightly kinked, mean-spirited, downright dangerous and possessed by a whole passel of demons. When I see one coming I bolt for the gap and don't look back.

I read somewhere that "naming things is power." I pondered that concept for a minute and decided that it would be a better use of power to cart Twisted Pamela to recycling and buy a new hose. Let somebody else wrestle with her. My barn will be a place of peace, harmony and free-flowing water. That's intelligent design.

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