

The *Times*

**Steeplechase
& Eventing**

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Landing in Saratoga

*Steeplechasing heads north
for seven-race schedule*

Inside

STEEPLECHASING:

- *Moneytrain wins Ferguson*
- *Colonial Downs reports*
- *Jump trainers take to flat*



EVENTING:

*Stopping in at a
Pan Am Games
training session*

Entries

What's Happening and Where To Find It

Here's your newspaper – the final edition before Saratoga, where ST will be writing more about flat racing than steeplechasing or eventing. Look for *The Special* if you're in town. These pages feature a quick look at Spa steeplechasing, plus recaps from Colonial Downs and an insightful look at an eventing training session in advance of the Pan Am Games.



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Saratoga Steeplechase Preview

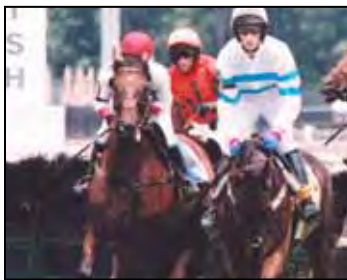
Now a proven stakes competitor, Mixed Up leads the way for rich, seven-race program at Saratoga Race Course in New York.



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Colonial Downs Steeplechase

Doug Fout barn gets off to a quick start, with wins also coming from trainers Eddie Graham and Brianne Slater among others.



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Moneytrain in the bank

Lightly raced stakes star rolls home in Zeke Ferguson Stakes for trainer Jonathan Sheppard.

Pick Six

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Pick Six

How's your stable doing?



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Eventing

Stars of the sport come together for Pan Am training session.



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On the Cover

The steeplechase set touches down in upstate New York for a seven-race slate, plus a pair of hurdle affairs at the Saratoga Open House.

Photos: Tod Marks and Emily Daily.



Also by ST Publishing:

The Saratoga Special, The Special At Keeneland, The Breeders' Cup Special, Thoroughbred Racing Calendar, ST International racing trips, Writing for Daily Racing Form, Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred, The Blood-Horse, etc., West Point Thoroughbreds newsletter, American Steeplechasing yearbook, National Steeplechase Association public relations consulting, Specialty products from lawn jockeys to Tervis Tumblers, Custom brochures and graphic design for your farm or business.

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News and Notes from around the circuit

FOR STARTERS

ST wins prizes in horse publications contest

It wasn't a race and there was no betting, but ST Publishing took home several awards in the annual American Horse Publications editorial contest for 2006. Announced at AHP's annual conference, held last month in Albuquerque, N.M., the awards honor excellence in a variety of categories.

Among the ST Publishing honors were:

- First place in equine book category for *The Best of The Saratoga Special*. ST's full-color, hard-cover book was honored among 21 entries in the category. The book highlights the first five years of ST's daily newspaper about the Thoroughbred racing season in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and features the work of ST owners Joe and Sean Clancy, staff designer Kevin Titter, photographers Tod Marks, Dave Harmon and Barbara Livingston and others. Judges singled out the book for its overall appeal: "Beautifully designed and laid out, this book would

be welcomed by any horse lover, but especially Thoroughbred/track people. It employs a good strong reporting style . . . with a great feel for the horses and the sport. Some of the passages are almost lyrical."

Among its 296 pages, the book features articles from the *The Special's* first five years with selections on the Seabiscuit book/movie, Hall of Fame trainer Shug McGaughey, legendary horsemen Allen Jerkens and John Nerud, jockeys Jerry Bailey, Pat Day, Mike Smith and John Velazquez, and great horses Ashado, Azeri, Point Given, Lost In The Fog, Smarty Jones and With Anticipation.

The Best of The Saratoga Special retails for \$25 and is still available in a variety of locations including through ST's online store at www.st-publishing.com.

- First place in the feature article category for Joe Clancy's story on the retirement of

steeplechase champion Hirapour in the Dec. 15 edition of *The Steeplechase/Eventing Times*. Judges called the piece a "well-crafted article that imparts a lot of information and emotion in not a lot of space. Excellent use of imagery by the writer."

- Honorable mention in the tabloid/newspaper division for *The Times*, ST's flagship publication. Begun in 1994, the newspaper has been recognized in this category multiple times – including first-place awards on two occasions. This year, the judges issued high praise: "Outstanding job of not only keeping readers informed, but also providing some context and overview. . ."

- First place in the news reporting category for ST's Sean Clancy for his coverage of the 2006 Preakness in the news reporting category while writing for *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*.

Playing Hardball

Wearing a green and white soccer jersey, Willie Dowling caught a high pop in right field – and did a cartwheel while the runner tagged up from second to third.

So went the tempo of a softball game that began with one team building a 24-4 lead and hanging on to win 33-32 with the final out recorded at home plate. The game pitted a team of active steeplechase jockeys (including several, like Dowling, with precious little experience) and a squad of retired steeplechase jockeys (with the definition of jockey stretched a bit in various directions). Held at the Cheshire Kennels July 13, the game would have ended quickly as the current jockeys sprinted to a huge lead amid much smiling (on their part) and debate (on their opponents').

Just when things looked bleakest, however, the retired guys rallied and the debate and the smiling switched sides faster than an air-hockey puck. Alas, the rally fell painfully short with a bang-bang play at the plate where catcher James Slater tagged out the runner – a writer who rode a few flat races many moons ago – for the final out of the 12th inning and the game.

Among the highlights of a great summer evening:

- Dowling's cross-handed grip on the bat and adventurous fielding. The Irishman would be more at home in a hurling match, but reached base several times and made a few super catches in right. The cartwheel cost his team a run, but in his words "I thought I won the game – I was so happy."

- Slater's play behind the plate. The Englishman could have been Pudge Rodriguez if he had turned to baseball sooner. Slater even survived a collision at home with a sprinting Barry Watson.

- The fleet pinch-running of Harry Walker and Danielle Hodsdon. Dangerous speed on the basepaths.

- The soccer moves of Xavier Aizpuru, who plays a mean third base.

- The pitching of Paddy Young, the Randy Johnson of his time.

- Retired jockeys' manager Jay Meister's decision to insert himself, Gus Brown and Eddie Graham into the game late. They keyed the rally – and saved face.

See you in the field.

– Joe Clancy, who still wants instant replay

Mongolia Racing



Photographer Deirdre Davie sent some action shots from a recent trip to Mongolia.

In her words, the five-step process of breaking a wild horse takes five steps: 1. Pick horse; 2. Tie on saddle; 3. Get on; 4. Stay on; 5. It's broke. Total time: 10 minutes. The racing can get pretty exciting, with a short walk/trot to the start and then a sprint to the finish line. The jockeys appear to be between 5 and 10 years old, no helmets, most ride bareback.

Worth Repeating

"Look for an old man on a tractor."

Owner Bill Pape, giving directions to his Pennsylvania farm

"I'll get to sleep in my own bed tonight."

Jockey James Slater, who may have been headed for the couch, after winning on his wife's Second Approval at Colonial Downs

"It's my parents. They don't know anything about horses but said they were going to the OTB to watch – and bet – on him."

Owner/trainer Brianne Slater as her phone rang after Second Approval won at Colonial

"I think Ninepins winning the Turf Writers at age 13 (in 2000) has cost owners a lot of money over the years."

Trainer Jonathan Sheppard, on the penchant to keep horses in training



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To the Northway

Mixed Up leads Saratoga steeplechase caravan

BY JOE CLANCY

Last year, Mixed Up went to Saratoga with something to prove. Did he belong in steeplechasing's top tier? Could he run with the likes of Hirapour? Was he the next in a long line of Bill Pape/Jonathan Sheppard stars?

Yes, yes and yes.

Twelve months later, the 8-year-old goes north as the horse on everyone's mind, thanks to Grade I wins in the 2006 New York Turf Writers Cup and the 2007 Royal Chase. The Saratoga steeplechase season will include seven races worth an estimated \$576,000, with a race every Thursday (plus one Wednesday, Aug. 29) at the six-week meet which begins July 25.

Mixed Up will first detour to Philadelphia Park to take on Pennsylvania-breds in the \$75,000 Flatterer July 28 (where Mixed Up should be about 1-5 to repeat his win in the 2006 race) and then take his act to the Adirondacks for a potential Turf Writers encore Aug. 30.

Sheppard called his horse a tougher version of the 2006 model.

"He's gotten stronger at the longer distances through seasoning and experience," said the trainer. "He's probably lost a little bit of his acceleration, but by the same token if he's substituted that with stamina that's not such a bad thing. He's sharp and good and we're happy with him."

Mixed Up ran just once this spring, handling Good Night Shirt and Paradise's Boss, among others, in the April's Royal Chase at Keeneland – thereby skipping a testing match with McDynamo and Sur La Tete in the

Iroquois the following month. Good Night Shirt upset the Iroquois, leaving the path to the Eclipse Award open for Mixed Up. A Turf Writers win would make him the clear leader heading into September.

As in 2006, Mixed Up will first run at Philadelphia, where he won by 2 lengths under 158 pounds last year. This time the weight assignment will reach 164, but Mixed Up faces a similar field and Sheppard used a July 7 flat start at Colonial Downs in the Da Hoss Stakes as a final tightener.

"I'm glad he had that race because it will serve him well," said Sheppard. "He just didn't really quicken when he got room, but that's OK. He got what we wanted out of it."

• While Mixed Up waits for the Turf Writers, the rest of the stakes horses will turn up in the \$80,000 A.P. Smithwick Memorial Aug. 9. And it's a familiar bunch as spring novices Orison, Best Attack and Orsay move into open company. All three prep at the Saratoga Open House July 22 and all have solid Saratoga form on which to rely.

Best Attack got the last move this spring with a win over Orison at Radnor, and also defeated Orison at Saratoga in 2006. Owned by Sally Radcliffe, the 6-year-old took a three-week vacation in trainer Bruce Miller's field and should return fresh.

"That's a pretty good group of novices he's been running against so I think he'll be competitive," said Miller. "If he runs well in the Smithwick, he would do better in the longer races so I'd be pretty excited about the Turf Writers."

Orison won the Carolina Cup early in the season,



Matt Goins

Mixed Up heads for the winner's circle at Keeneland in April.

then lost his next two including a game second to Best Attack at Radnor. Owned by EMO Stable and trained by Doug Fout, the 5-year-old ran twice at Saratoga last summer (finishing second and third in quality allowance starts).

Fout will also aim Gliding, who won the Temple Gwathmey in April, for a Saratoga stakes – just not the Smithwick. The New Zealand import will wait for the Turf Writers later in the meet.

See **SARATOGA** next page ►

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Saratoga Steeplechasing 2007

Thursday, July 26 \$68,000 optional claiming hurdle. NW1X or horses entered to be claimed for \$30,000. 2 1/16 miles.

Thursday, Aug. 2 Steeplechase Jockeys Challenge Cup (in memory of Jonathan Kiser). \$70,000 novice hurdle. For horses which have not won over hurdles before Jan. 1, 2007. 2 1/16 miles.

Thursday, Aug. 9 A.P. Smithwick Memorial. \$80,000 Grade II hurdle stakes. 2 1/16 miles.

Thursday, Aug. 16 \$68,000 optional claiming hurdle. NW1X or horses entered to be claimed for \$30,000. 2 3/8 miles.

Thursday, Aug. 23 Michael G. Walsh Memorial. \$70,000 novice hurdle. For horses which have not won over hurdles before Jan. 1, 2007. 2 3/8 miles.

Wednesday, Aug. 29 \$70,000 optional claiming hurdle. NW2X or horses entered to be claimed for \$40,000. 2 3/8 miles.

Thursday, Aug. 30 The New York Turf Writers Cup. \$150,000 Grade I hurdle stakes. 2 3/8 miles.

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Saratoga —

■ Continued from previous page

“He just had his first work back and will probably run on the flat somewhere first,” said Fout, who would prefer not to run Orison and Gliding in the same race. “Gliding will like the distance of the Turf Writers a little better.”

Armata Stable’s Orsay won a Saratoga allowance last summer and came back to defeat Best Attack at Great Meadow this year before finishing third in the Radnor stakes. Trained by Tom Voss, the 6-year-old must be considered a threat off his recent steeplechase form and back class on the flat.

The open-stakes newcomers will have to tangle with a veteran in multiple stakes winner Preemptive Strike, who also has Saratoga on his agenda. Owned by Polaris Stable, the 9-year-old finished second to Paradise’s Boss at Nashville in May and would be a major threat with a repeat of that effort. He towers over most of the potential Smithwick starters in experience, and brings an X-factor with his dashing early running style. Trainer Sanna Hendriks opted not to run her horse in the Zeke Ferguson at Colonial Downs.

“It’s a little hard to do both Colonial and Saratoga because of the schedule and the shipping,” said Hendriks. “He ran great at Nashville, got a little time off, and has now had two works with three more to go. Hopefully he’ll be about right. He ran so well at Nashville, was nice and settled and jumped beautifully that I’d like to get him to repeat that.”

• Beyond the stakes division, the usual suspects are loaded with contenders.

Fout brings top allowance horses Diego Cao and Dark Equation — both recent winners at Colonial — plus Pukka, a potential starter in the optional claimers. English import Chess Board could also make an appearance.

The Voss barn could have The Looper (who bagged two allowances at Saratoga in 2005) for the stakes division plus the standard string of allowance types and recent maiden winners.

Sheppard’s 2007 Spa lineup might not be as deep as last year’s, but he’ll likely have two runners for each race, taken from his contingent of Dr. Bloomer, Divine Fortune, Sermon Of Love, Prep School, John Law, Lead Us Not and Sparkled. Distaffer Sweet Shani could even take a stab at the Smithwick.

“Dr. Bloomer has the ability to go on to the next level,” Sheppard said of the

recent Colonial Downs maiden winner. “Divine Fortune I like quite a bit too.”

Dr. Bloomer and Prep School each won on the flat at Saratoga in 2006, but will try for a different sort of win this year.

Sheppard’s stable lost several potential starters to recent injuries including Zeke Ferguson winner Moneytrain, allowance horse Fra Diavolo and stakes winner Meadow.

Leading trainer Jack Fisher won’t bring either of his major stakes horses, Good Night Shirt and Paradise’s Boss, but will be in Saratoga action with the likes of dual 2006 winner Rum Squall. Fisher also has qualified maidens Honolua Storm, Fantorini and Orpington in the barn. The first two are on the card at the Open House July 22 in separate maiden hurdles.

Trainer Kathy McKenna will be

back-and-forth between her Pennsylvania base and Saratoga with several potential runners. Veterans River Bed (already a four-time winner this year) and Toughkenamon could make some noise in the optional claimers while Meneef will also look for a race. Weather might play a big role in her decision making.

“I ran (Meneef) on Iroquois day but he didn’t appreciate the give in the ground. I think he will like it more on the firm side,” she said. “I’ll probably look for a spot for Toughkenamon toward the end of the meet. I’m hoping those annual rains hit toward the end of the summer, as they always seem to do. He needs about 6 inches of muck in the ground.”

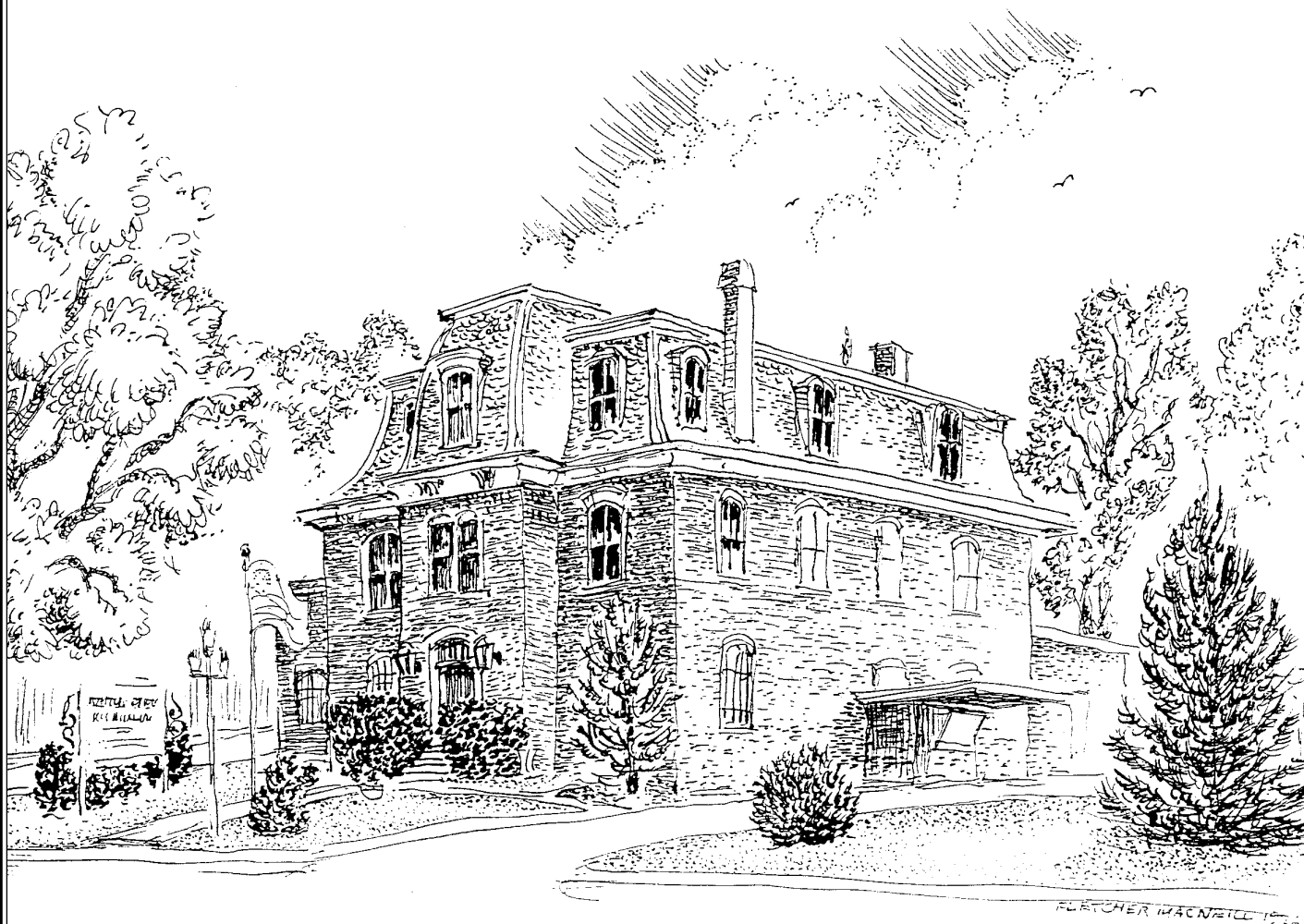
Like McKenna, Arch Kingsley did not get Saratoga stalls but will look to participate, possibly with the likes of Kill Devil Rum, a recent New York-

bred flat winner.

“I hope to get there,” he said. “Saratoga is the pinnacle of the year, so I would love to be there, but ultimately you have to let the horses dictate if you run. I have always said if I am shorter than 10-1 I’d love to run.”

NOTES: NYRA added another race to give steeplechasing seven for the meet, and boosted the purses throughout Saratoga, hurdles included. First-level optional claiming/allowance races are now worth \$68,000 with the second-level novice races reaching \$70,000. The Aug. 29 optional claiming/allowance, for horses which have not won two races “other than” will also carry a \$70,000 purse . . . The “other than” conditions were extended to include filly/mare steeplechases so Saratoga could see a few distaffers in action as well.

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Colonial Period

Virginia is for jumpers

BY JOE CLANCY

Eddie Graham used to be the guy on the end of the shank, leading in winners for trainer Bruce Miller. Along the way Graham met Charley and Susan Strittmatter, Miller clients who run horses as Clorevia Farm and tasted major success with stakes-winner Popular Gigalo among others.



The Strittmatters are still in the game and so is Graham – only this time he's the trainer.

"Bruce and I had been trying to buy 2-year-olds and bring them along," said Charley Strittmatter. "A few years ago, we didn't get one and then the following year we didn't get one. He said he was getting older and wanted better horses and horses that weren't quite as much work as 2-year-olds you had to bring along. My budget didn't allow that so I decided to try some of these young trainers."

Graham got the first call, and has built that into three Clorevia horses. The latest, Great Gusto, won the steeplechase opener at Colonial Downs June 17. The 4-year-old battled with Slip Away through much of the race and took over when that one fell before drawing off to win by 3 3/4 lengths. Jody Petty rode the winner, who prepped for the win with a second on the flat at Penn National two weeks earlier, and had finished third twice in maiden hurdles this spring.

"He's pretty consistent, and has run pretty well," said Graham. "He's been a little immature mentally so we'll go with the flow with him."

Great Gusto is the third Clorevia horse to race for Graham, joining Focus On A Star (who won on the flat last year) and Big Boo Boo (third at Middleburg in hurdle debut and the namesake of another Clorevia horse). The rest of Team Clorevia includes new trainer Paul Rowland (Dynasilk, who's coming back from an injury) and a continued relationship with Miller (2007 allowance winner Udemann).

"We've really had fun with our horses this year – everyone's doing a great job," said Strittmatter.



Coady Photo

Great Gusto (Jody Petty) jumps a fence early in his maiden hurdle win at Colonial Downs June 17.

Graham, 36, rents five stalls from Rowland at Burley Cocks' former barn near Unionville, Pa., while also exercising horses for trainer Sanna Hendriks.

Graham's work ethic, evident even as an assistant trainer, sold Strittmatter from the start.

"We have a great relationship; he keeps in touch and the horses are running well," said the owner. "He's got the ambition and energy, and you can tell he enjoys what he's doing. He's working hard and I admire that."

- Brigadoon Farm's Diego Cao (Matt McCarron) improved to 2-for-4 in his short steeplechase career with a powerful victory in the June 17 steeplechase feature, a \$20,000 optional claiming hurdle. The 5-year-old came from well off the pace to catch pacemaker Illusionary at the top of the stretch, before drawing away from Irish Actor to win by 8 1/2 lengths.

Purchased last summer, the New Zealand import wound up on the B squad last fall with sore feet but has made up for lost time in 2007 with a maiden win at Aiken in March and a runner-up effort (to Hip Hop) at Charlotte sandwiching a loss at Stoneybrook when the saddle slipped.

"He's a pretty serious horse," said trainer Doug Fout. "Glue-on shoes have helped him and he was a little too rank early on. Now he'll settle which is good. He looks like he'll be OK."

- Two weeks after stablemate Diego Cao impressively handled allowance foes at Colonial, Dark Equation turned the trick in a \$20,000 optional claimer July 1. A year ahead of Diego Cao, Dark Equation broke his maiden and chased some good ones (Mixed Up and Orsay) last year for Fout and owner Peggy Steinman.

This year started quickly with a nice training flat win at the Carolina Cup and then a solid third vs. allowance company at Middleburg.

Then came Colonial, where Dark Equation advanced up the rail on the final turn and outkicked

Dynaway late to win by 4 3/4 lengths, with Swoop And Soar third.

"We did a wind operation on him last fall and it made a huge difference," said Fout. "Plus he's a little older, and his jumping's a lot better."

A win always feels good, but McCarron liked his horse's response.

"He always had talent, but it's all a confidence issue with him," said the jockey. "The day he broke his maiden, he was more talented than them. He ran really well in the Pennsylvania-bred stakes last year (second to Mixed Up) but he was not aggressive in his races. He was great to ride, just not very aggressive. I'm sure the wind operation helped, but he's more

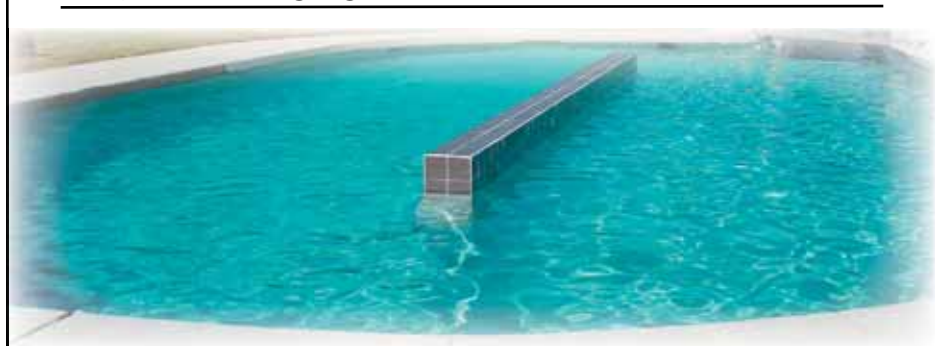
See **COLONIAL DOWNS** page 10 ►



Coady Photo

Diego Cao (Matt McCarron) stalks the pace in his 8 1/2-length allowance win at Colonial June 17.

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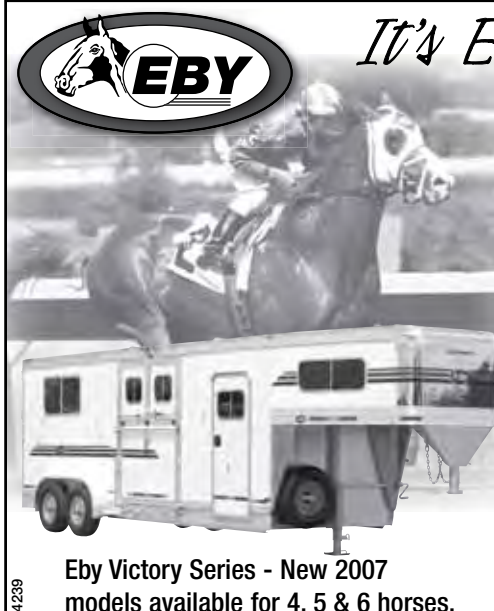
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Middleburg Hunt Territory ♦63 private acres ♦5 Bedroom w/1st flr master ♦Family room with fireplace ♦3 car garage ♦Large screened porch overlooking pool/waterfall ♦7 stall barn ♦Fenced paddocks ♦2 ponds ♦Loc betw. Middleburg & Leesburg **\$2,495,000**

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Colonial Downs —

■ Continued from page 8

confident than he was and you can tell — they've done a great job on the farm with him."

• Step 1: Nice, educating run in first hurdle start. Step 2: Win easily. Step 3: Who knows? Calvin Houghland's Dr. Bloomer completed the second step of his steeplechase career with a lopsided win in a \$15,000 maiden hurdle at Colonial July 1.

The winner raced near the pace of King Hoss early and stormed away on the final turn to win by 11 1/2 lengths for trainer Jonathan Sheppard. Dr. Bloomer (James Slater) and runner-up Fantorini came out of the same maiden hurdle at Nashville in May and finished in the same order. They were second and third (behind Planets Aligned) that day, but easily moved up at Colonial. Jellyberry was third.

A three-time winner on the flat for owner/breeder Marablu Farm, Dr. Bloomer moved from seventh early to challenging for the lead simply by staying on the inside around the first turn. The 6-year-old took over leaving the backstretch, again without much encouragement, and was well clear at the finish.

"Without consciously doing it, he



Sarah Libbey Greenhalgh

Dr. Bloomer (James Slater) glides to the finish with an easy allowance win at Colonial July 15.

took me there on the final bend," said Slater. "I took a look back and everyone else was riding. I wasn't, which is a nice feeling."

Slater was impressed with Dr. Bloomer's improvement from Step 1 to 2.

"His big problem at Nashville was he was green with his jumping," said the jockey. "He ran really well and was switched off when being able to hold him was my biggest concern. They obviously did a good job with him schooling at Camden because he grew up a lot in between races."

• Brianne Slater knows good horses. As Sanna Hendriks' assistant, Slater has been on the left side of champion McDynamo throughout his prolific career. From Far Hills to Camden, Slater and the three-time champion have made an inseparable team as McDynamo reeled off 14 wins on the way to the top of the sport's leading earners. For Slater, there's only one McDynamo. But in the first race at Colonial July 15, Second Approval, a gray maiden earned his way next to — or maybe above — the great McDynamo, at least in Slater's roll call.

Second Approval was Slater's first official runner as a trainer and owner. After 2 1/4 miles of precision, he was her first official winner. Owned and trained by Slater and ridden by her husband, James, Second Approval re-

moved all doubt in the eight-horse race, stalking longshot Seaside Salute before waltzing home to win by a comfortable 5 3/4-lengths over Orpington (Xavier Aizpuru) and King Maximus (Richard Boucher).

After the race, Slater skipped the trophy presentation and kept to her task, leading the son of Lasting Approval to the test barn.

"It feels differently because he's my baby. I love to win but it's definitely much sweeter when it's your own and you've done all the work," Slater said. "We took a shot with him, touch wood, he's turned out OK. It was all of my

savings, it was a bit of a gamble. James wasn't too keen on the idea but he won at Plumstead (Point-to-Point) first time out. He didn't beat much but he showed that at least he had a little bit of ability — then James liked the idea better."

Purchased this winter from J.B. Secor, Second Approval made his jump debut at High Hope, finishing second to Bold Turn before trying to maiden claimers over the Delaware Park turf this summer. He finished third twice before going back to the jumps, where he was sent off the favorite and never had an anxious moment, giving Slater a big smile on the way home.

"James and I do everything, we have a lot of long days, especially when he gets done at Sheppard's at 4 o'clock," Slater said. "It's the first racehorse I've owned. To be honest, Joe Cassidy is a lot of the reason I bought him — he's a friend of ours, he said he really liked the horse. If it wasn't for him, I would have never bought him. I went and looked at him and James jumped him, he had a really nice way of going and I decided to take a shot. Ultimately I'd like to train one day, but it wasn't something I was desperately seeking. It just kind of happened."

NOTES: The first six races saw fairly steady wagering handle with an average of better than \$62,000 per race compared with \$58,000 (an increase of nearly 7 percent) for the first six races in 2006 . . . The fans were figuring out the jumpers as well with all six winners so far being the first or second choice.



Coady Photo

Dark Equation (Matt McCarron) gets a victory at Colonial July 1 for owner Peggy Steinman.

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Colonial Downs Results
New Kent, Va.
Sunday, June 17. Turf: Firm.
1st. \$15,000. Maiden hurdle. 2 1/4 miles.
1. GREAT GUSTO L 145 Petty 7.60 5.80 3.20
2. FERSHAW L 145 McCarron 4.40 3.00
3. MOST BOSSEST L 145 Dowling 3.40
Exacta (4-2) \$21.20. Trifecta (4-2-8) \$222.20.
4. SILENT VOW L 140 Mackenzie
5. TIPASTAIRE 140 Zimmerman
6. WESTCLIFFE L 144 W. Haynes
7. TENACIOUS RHYTHM L 154 Young
F. SLIP AWAY L 145 C. Murphy
PU. HADDIX L 154 Rafter
PU. SEASIDE SALUTE L 149 Cooney
Mgn: 3 3/4. Time: 4:08 1/5.
O: Clorevia Farm. T: Edward Graham.
B. g. 4 Gulch-Kris It Is, Kris S.
Bred by T. F. Van Meter & J. R. McDonald (KY).

3rd. \$20,000. Optional claiming hurdle. 2 1/4 miles.
NW \$12,000 once (otmc) or clm. price \$20,000.
1. DIEGO CAO (NZ) L 156 McCarron 8.20 4.40 3.80
2. IRISH ACTOR L 143 Young 14.60 11.00
3. PLEASANT PICK L 156 Ryan 5.00
Exacta (10-5) \$123.40. Trifecta (10-5-2) \$ 958.20.
4. NAJJM L 143 Petty
5. CRADLE WILL ROCK L 148 Hodsdon
6. UDEMAN L 156 Aizpuru
7. DUKE OF EARL (IRE) L 147 Dowling
8. ILLUSIONARY L 147 Rafter
9. LOCAL TREASURE L 138 W. Haynes
F. STALL SWAPPER 147 McVicar



Coady Photo
Second Approval (James Slater) flies a fence in his maiden win at Colonial July 15.



Sarah Libbey Greenhalgh

PU. WATER HUNTER (GB) L 151 Traurig
PU. DYN IN TEXAS 146 Zimmerman
Mgn: 8 1/2. Time: 4:07 4/5.
O: Brigadoon Stable. T: Doug Fout.
Dk. B./Br. g. 5 Cape Cross (IRE)-Daulomani (NZ), Dance Floor.
Bred by W. M.Oliver, K.L. Parsons & Mrs. Y. D. Pennell (NZ)

Sunday, July 1. Turf: Firm.
1st. \$15,000. Maiden hurdle. 2 1/4 miles.
1. DR. BLOOMER L 154 Slater 4.00 4.00 2.40
2. FANTORINI L 154 Aizpuru 5.20 3.20
3. JELLYBERRY L 146 C. Miller 3.60
Exacta (12-11) \$24.00. Trifecta (12-11-6) \$73.80.
4. DUBAI SUNDAY (JPN) L 144 W. Haynes
5. KING HOSS L 154 C. Murphy
6. CHANGE COURSE L 154 Young
F. READY TO ROCK (NZ) 154 McCarron
PU. CRYPTIC QUEST L 154 Doran
PU. CUSE 154 J. Murphy
Mgn: 11 1/2. Time: 4:07 2/5.
O: Calvin Houghland. T: Jonathan Sheppard.
Dk. B./Br. g. 6 Fantastic Fellow-Fantastic Bloom (VEN), Imperial Ballet (IRE).
Bred by Marablue Farm (FL).

3rd. \$20,000. Optional claiming hurdle. 2 1/4 miles.
NW \$12,000 once (otmc) or clm. price \$20,000.
1. DARK EQUATION L 152 McCarron 7.20 4.40 4.20
2. DYNAWAY L 152 C. Murphy 6.40 5.80
3. SWOOP AND SOAR L 147 Young 7.80
Exacta (7-12) \$43.80. Trifecta (7-12-9) 880.20.
4. DUKE OF EARL (IRE) L 147 Dowling
5. CHURCH GHOST L 146 J. Murphy
6. DESERT VIGIL L 147 Petty
7. SUMMERSVILLE L 151 R. Haynes
8. BUCKEYE WONDER L 156 Slater
PU. CORRUPTION L 151 Massey

PU. LOOKING BEST L 151 Aizpuru
PU. NAJJM L 143 Boucher
Mgn: 4 3/4. Time: 4:08 1/5.
O: Beverly Steinman. T: Doug Fout.
B. g. 6 Polish Numbers-Night Risk, Wild Again.
Bred by Derry Meeting Farm & London Thoroughbred Services (PA).

Sunday, July 15. Turf: Firm.
1st. \$15,000. Maiden hurdle. 2 1/4 miles.
1. SECOND APPROVAL L 154 Slater 5.80 2.40 2.10
2. ORPINGTON L 154 Aizpuru 3.80 2.60
3. KING MAXIMUS L 154 Boucher 2.80
Exacta (4-1) \$16.60. Trifecta (4-1-5) \$50.60.
4. CHATANZY (NZ) 154 McCarron
5. TENACIOUS RHYTHM L 154 Young
6. WESTCLIFFE L 144 W. Haynes
7. YELLOW TAVERN L 145 Rafter
8. SEASIDE SALUTE L 154 Cooney
Mgn: 5 3/4. Time: 4:09 1/5.
O/T: Brianne Slater.
Gr./Ro. g. 5 Lasting Approval-Pink Classic, Sky Classic.
Bred by Diane Perkins (KY).

3rd. \$50,000. Hurdle stakes. 2 1/4 miles.
The David “Zeke” Ferguson Memorial (Gr. III)
1. MONEYTRAIN (GER) L 146 Hodsdon 3.20 3.60 2.20
2. CLASS VANTAGE L 142 Boucher 7.00 5.00
3. CHARLIE WHISKEY L 146 C. Murphy 3.40
Exacta (3-5) \$22.60. Trifecta (3-5-2) \$66.40.
4. SWEET SHANI (NZ) L 146 McCarron
5. SUPER FAME L 146 Aizpuru
6. SWIMMING RIVER L 146 Young
PU. UNDERBIDDER L 150 Slater
Mgn: 3 1/2. Time: 4:01 3/5.
O: Hudson River Farm. T: Jonathan Sheppard.
B. g. 8 Platini (GER)-Miss Esther (GER), Alkalde (GER).
Bred by R. Kuhne (GER).

Rafter

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NSA Standings

TOP 10 THROUGH JULY 21

Hendriks

Pape

Jockeys (Races Won)

| | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Money | Win% |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|------|
| Carl Rafter..... | 43 | 10 | 2 | 10 | \$130,600 | .23 |
| Matthew McCarron | 55 | 9 | 11 | 5 | 220,160 | .16 |
| Paddy Young..... | 53 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 196,974 | .17 |
| Xavier Aizpuru..... | 40 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 214,412 | .23 |
| Chip Miller..... | 38 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 248,725 | .18 |
| Jody Petty..... | 30 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 170,350 | .23 |
| Danielle Hodsdon | 39 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 273,450 | .15 |
| James Slater | 41 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 91,150 | .15 |
| Jeff Murphy..... | 22 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 85,350 | .14 |
| Blake Curry | 11 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 49,625 | .27 |

Trainers (Races Won)

| | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Money | Win% |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|------|
| Jack Fisher..... | 65 | 13 | 15 | 9 | \$512,555 | .20 |
| Sanna Hendriks..... | 39 | 12 | 3 | 5 | 245,000 | .31 |
| Jonathan Sheppard..... | 64 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 346,500 | .17 |
| Kathy McKenna..... | 43 | 10 | 3 | 9 | 128,150 | .23 |
| Doug Fout | 58 | 9 | 10 | 7 | 256,635 | .16 |
| Tom Voss..... | 41 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 124,450 | .12 |
| Arch Kingsley | 22 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 85,006 | .18 |
| Paul Rowland | 30 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 61,250 | .13 |
| Neil Morris..... | 25 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 93,650 | .12 |
| Bruce Miller..... | 20 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 124,474 | .10 |

Owners (Money Won)

| | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Money | Win% |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|------|
| Augustin Stable..... | 27 | 10 | 1 | 3 | \$160,300 | .37 |
| Sonny Via..... | 8 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 152,493 | .13 |
| Bill Pape..... | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 121,975 | .25 |
| Hudson River Farm | 11 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 100,875 | .27 |
| Irv Naylor..... | 27 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 100,050 | .11 |
| Brigadoon Stable..... | 16 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 97,125 | .19 |
| Kinross Farm..... | 25 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 93,650 | .12 |
| Ann Stern..... | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 88,212 | .50 |
| Calvin Houghland..... | 21 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 74,974 | .05 |
| EMO Stable | 11 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 71,400 | .18 |

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 |

On, Off Track

Moneytrain steams to stakes win, heads back to bench with injury

BY SEAN CLANCY

NEW KENT, Va. (July 15) – Danielle Hodsdon galloped back on Moneytrain and had one comment for trainer Jonathan Sheppard.

"I hope he doesn't run against Mixed Up," Hodsdon said.

That's how good the German-bred 8-year-old ran July 15 in the Gr. III Zeke Ferguson at Colonial Downs, a race he dominated on paper and on the race-track. Mixed Up, winner of the Royal Chase at Keeneland this spring, reigns as the big horse around Sheppard's barn. Hudson River Farm's Moneytrain



is the enigma – tons of talent on top of apple-sauce legs. When he's right, he wins and warrants comparisons to the best in the sport. Moneytrain

jumped impeccably as he tracked long-shot Swimming River throughout the 2 1/4-mile stakes, before cruising to the lead on the turn, rolling to a 3 1/2-length win over Class Vantage (Richard Boucher) and Charlie Whiskey (Cyril Murphy). Even Sheppard couldn't help

COLONIAL DOWNS

Zeke Ferguson Stakes

putting a measuring stick on the Ferguson performance.

"If you could get a proper campaign into him, without any setbacks, he could be as good as anything out there. I'm not saying Sur La Tete and McDynamo, but right behind them – a Mixed Up type," Sheppard said. "He's very impressive training, he's got speed, brilliant jumper, a quality horse. And he's been training well."

It's that last line that has always been the problem. Tendon trouble has curtailed his career to just four hurdle starts since arriving from Germany in 2003. In 2004, he won a Colonial allowance by 12 lengths, setting a course record for the now-shelved distance of 1 7/8 miles. Instantly anointed as a wise-guy's horse for that year's Ferguson, Moneytrain didn't make it as leg trouble scrapped that plan and he missed the race and all of 2005 as well. Moneytrain made his first start since that allowance score in last fall's Noel Laing, finishing second. Sheppard was all set to run him in the



Sarah Libbey Greenhalgh

Moneytrain (left, Danielle Hodsdon) rates behind Swimming River early in the Zeke Ferguson.

Colonial Cup, but he was lame on the morning of the race, forcing Sheppard to scratch the son of Platini.

"He's had tendon problems and last year he had this mystery thing before the Colonial Cup," Sheppard said. "Dr. (Kevin) Keane put it down as a strain to the tendon above the back of the knee. I didn't even know the tendon went up that far. Now he seems fine. He still could have a couple of good years, it's not like he's over-raced."

Put back in training this winter, Moneytrain made his 8-year-old debut in the Gr. III Marcellus Frost at Nashville, fail-

ing by less than two lengths to Paradise's Boss and Preemptive Strike. Both horses had preps while Moneytrain was making his first start of the year. That race served as the perfect springboard to the Ferguson, the first time he's been able to put together back-to-back to races since running at Cheltenham and Aintree in England during the spring of 2003.

"Right now he's ahead of where he's ever been before, it was a very good race at Iroquois," Sheppard said. "Realistically this was level weights and not

See **FERGUSON** next page ►

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Brianne Slater



Tod Marks

A longtime assistant to trainer Sanna Hendriks, Slater won a race of her own at Colonial Downs July 15. Going into the program as a trainer (and owner) for the first time, Slater saddled the 5-year-old, gave instructions to her husband, jockey James and watched as they drew off to a comfortable win in the \$15,000 maiden hurdle at the Virginia racetrack.



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Ferguson —

■ Continued from previous page

quite top horses, he probably should have won if everything went right but you never dare let yourself think that or you'll jinx yourself."

Hodsdon was thinking the same thing.

"It's a little more nerve-wracking when you're the best bet," Hodsdon said. "I thought Charlie Whiskey and a couple of others could be tough if my horse didn't show up or something went wrong, but he obviously likes this course. He's been in Camden so he's used to the heat. I thought he ought to be primed for it."

Like a hot-rod Lincoln.

Moneytrain performed flawlessly throughout the Ferguson, accelerating into his fences like he was pulled by a magnet. When it was time to put away Swimming River, Moneytrain dispatched him with ease and always had a measured margin on the game Class Vantage.

"Had we been able to continue with him as a 5-year-old and he stayed sound, he could have been any kind of

horse," Hodsdon said. "This is the first time we've been able to put two races together, now we have to keep our fingers crossed that he can get to Saratoga, even though I hate to run him against Mixed Up.

Moments after the Ferguson, Sheppard leaned on a counter inside the Colonial Downs grandstand and dared to look ahead.

"Off the top of my head, obviously Mixed Up for the Pennsylvania-bred race and this horse for the A.P. Smithwick, then see about the Turf Writers," Sheppard said. "But chances are, as fragile as these animals are, they might not get there."

Two days after the Ferguson, Sheppard called *Steeplechase Times* to report that Moneytrain was likely finished for the year.



Sarah Libbey Greenhalgh

Moneytrain pulls away with a convincing stakes victory for Hudson River Farm.

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Dear SOTA Members:

As president of Steeplechase Owners and Trainers Association, it is my job to represent the horsemen's interests. It is my goal to increase steeplechase racing opportunity. Below is a brief update.

1. Fellow trainer Ricky Hendriks and I met with Delaware Park Horsemen's Association President Bessie Gruwell. She was receptive and seemed willing to a jump race there, however Delaware Park management would have to agree as well. I reported this to NSA President Franny Abbott who was going to follow up with Delaware Park.

2. I spoke with Susan Beachell who runs the Fair Hill Races. Together with Joe Davies and Frank Hopkins she seemed determined to prevent use of the course from January to race day which would significantly improve the course for the races in May. They seem driven to make it a successful venue, and expressed interest in creating an additional day of racing, which would be great.



3. SOTA board member Laura Thiel Shull is conducting interviews with some of the southern meets we have lost to find out what happened in hopes we can prevent it from happening again. Block House Races director Warren Rauhofer was very grateful to Jeff Teter for his help and wished he had a manual to tell him how to set up jumps. Barry Watson has a big job in keeping all the race meets informed and seems to take a lot of pride in his work. He seems on it!

4. In conversations with NSA Director of Racing Bill Gallo, I suggested an additional maiden claiming race at Colonial Downs on an off weekend. Bill carded the race and took entries, but the race did not adequately fill – in part due to the short notice. Thanks to Bill, Saratoga added another race which is a big plus. Thank You!

5. Ricky Hendriks spoke to Penn National about steeplechase races and Bill Gallo made a follow-up call which sounded like a positive initial step.

On a final note, I saw jockey Robbie Walsh galloping a horse at Fair Hill recently, and looking good. Kudos to Gus Brown for putting on a successful fund raiser to help Robbie and other injured jockeys. Hopefully it can come to further good use. Keep fingers crossed for a million-dollar steeplechase in 2010.

Have a great summer! Pay your membership dues!

Kathy McKenna

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NSA crafts new rules for portable timber fences

National Steeplechase Association safety advisor Barry Watson recently created a list of characteristics for portable fences to be used on the circuit.

Three main recommendations were made as general rules:

- Portable fences should have the substance and appearance of a permanent fence.
- Portable fences should have the stability of a permanent fence.
- Portable fences should break like permanent fences.

Three types of portable fences – board, post-and-rail and log – were discussed and the specifics (material, length, width, height, anchors, etc.) of their construction were noted. The NSA intends to have a structural engineer review the design of these three fences and their recommendations will be incorporated into the design criteria. The structural review may not be completed until after the 2007 fall race season.

The recommendations were drawn from a May 30 meeting in Butler, Md., that included Watson, NSA senior steward Ross Pearce, SOTA representative Anne Hambleton, NSA stewards advisory chairman Dwight Hall and horsemen Charlie Fenwick Jr. and Jack Fisher.

National Sporting Library offers research fellowship

For those interested in the three Rs – reading, writing and riding – the National Sporting Library has an opportunity not to be missed.

The library has established a fellowship in the name of John H. Daniels, a long-time friend and supporter, that will provide financial assistance and housing to recipients as they make use of the library's collection of materials. Located in Middleburg, Va., the library is a center for research in horse and field sports, including the history of Thoroughbred racing in America and abroad.

Throughout his association with the library, Daniels endorsed an annual fellowship program that would attract top scholars. He and his wife, Martha, donated a spectacular collection of 5,000 sporting books in 1995 (including a book on dueling, dated 1523).

The library's holdings are particularly strong in the history of Thoroughbred racing, flat and steeplechase alike. These include racing periodicals such as the *American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine* (from 1829 onward), *The Blood-Horse*, the *American Racing Manual* (from 1915 onward) and *Daily Racing Form* chart books (from 1909 onward). Important original manuscripts include works by John Hervey on Man o' War and Neil Newman on Belair Stud, as well as the research papers of Peter Winants, former director of the National Sporting Library and author of numerous books on the history of steeplechase racing. Among recent acquisitions are the Woolums Collection of more than 3,000 books and periodicals, including stud books from every country in the world that features Thoroughbred racing, and the papers, research materials and sketches of the noted equestrian painter Richard Stone Reeves. Among the library's 16,000 volumes are scores of rare editions, housed in the F. Ambrose Clark Rare Book Room.

Researchers are asked to submit an application proposing a research project to be conducted at the library, and must demonstrate in their proposals what collections and books they will consult. Application materials and instructions can be obtained from the library's web site (www.nsl.org) or by contacting Fellowship Coordinator Elizabeth Tobey at fellowship@nsl.org or (540) 687-6542 ext. 25. University faculty, museum curators, journalists and independent scholars and writers are all encouraged to apply. The application deadline for 2008 fellowships is Sept. 30, 2007. Successful applicants will be notified by the end of December.

NSA SUMMER RACE SCHEDULE

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday, July 22..... | Saratoga Open House (two races). |
| Thursday, July 26..... | Saratoga Race Course (one race). |
| Saturday, July 28..... | Philadelphia Park (one race). |
| | \$75,000 Flatterer Stakes for Pennsylvania-breds |
| Sunday, July 29..... | Colonial Downs (two races). |
| Thursday, August 2..... | Saratoga Race Course (one race). |
| Thursday, August 9..... | Saratoga Race Course (one race). |
| | \$80,000 A.P. Smithwick Memorial (Gr. II) |
| Thursday, August 16..... | Saratoga Race Course (one race). |
| Thursday, August 23..... | Saratoga Race Course (one race). |
| Wednesday, August 29..... | Saratoga Race Course (one race). |
| Thursday, August 30..... | Saratoga Race Course (one race). |
| | \$150,000 New York Turf Writers Cup (Gr. I) |

NSA FALL RACE SCHEDULE

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Saturday, September 29..... | Shawan Downs, Hunt Valley, Md. |
| Sunday, September 30..... | Foxfield Fall, Charlottesville, Va. |
| Saturday-Sunday, October 6-7..... | Virginia Fall, Middleburg, Va. |
| Saturday, October 13..... | Genesee Valley, Genesee, N.Y. |
| Saturday, October 13..... | Morven Park, Leesburg, Va. |
| Saturday, October 20..... | Far Hills, Far Hills, N.J. |
| Saturday, October 20..... | International Gold Cup, The Plains, Va. |
| Saturday, October 27..... | Aiken Fall, Aiken, S.C. |
| Saturday, November 3..... | Callway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Ga. |
| Saturday, November 3..... | Montpelier, Montpelier Station, Va. |
| Sunday, November 4..... | Pennsylvania Hunt Cup, Unionville, Pa. |
| Sunday, November 18..... | Colonial Cup, Camden, S.C. |




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Coady Photo/Jeff Coady
Steeplechase winner Cat's Revenge (5, Danielle Hodsdon) prevails in an allowance turf race at Colonial Downs.

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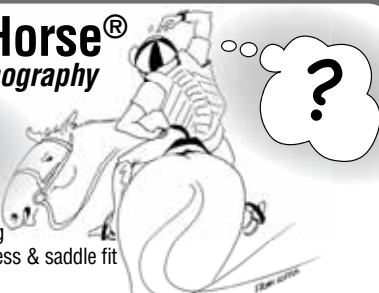
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Jumpers star in new roles

Hodsdon, others pick up flat wins

BY JOE CLANCY

Must have been some discussion in the jocks' room at Colonial Downs July 7-8 as the valets read off the jockey list: "Delgado, Pimentel, Karamanos, Santagata, Garcia, Hodsdon, Quinones . . . wait a minute, Hodsdon? This isn't a jump race, is it?"

It wasn't, but the 2006 National Steeplechase Association champion changed tack and rode in races of a different color on the weekend. Saturday, she steered Mixed Up home sixth in the Da Hoss Stakes – simply a tuneup for future steeplechase stakes, but a flat race nonetheless. Hodsdon went one better the next day when she steered Cat's Revenge to a win in a \$28,000 allowance for trainer Janet Elliot. A hurdle winner in 2006, the 6-year-old rolled to the front around the final turn and held off favorite Desert Thunder by a half-length while getting the 1 1/2 miles in 2:32.21.

Hodsdon loved the opportunity, but was a decent choice given her experience in races of 2 miles or more. Elliot had seen Hodsdon's name alongside Mixed Up in the Saturday entries, and made a mental note.

"I wasn't actually sure I was riding until after scratch time," said Hodsdon. "She just wanted somebody with experience in a longer race, which I have. I still ended up moving too soon because I was worried about getting stopped behind horses, but he ran really well and dug in when he needed to."

Hodsdon has ridden in a number flat races, picking up a win at Penn National several years ago and capturing a few amateur-rider events, but steeplechasing is her game. Still, a decent allowance flat on a Sunday at Colonial Downs was something new.

"That was a nice allowance race – good racing," she said. "But it's not that

much faster (than a steeplechase). It felt like a good jump race where six horses are running at the end and coming together."

Hodsdon tacked 119 pounds, which required a little bit of dieting compared to weights in the 140s and 150s for steeplechases.

"I had to work at that a little, not that I couldn't eat, but from Tuesday on I had fish and vegetables only," she said. "That might not be a hardship for some guys, but it was different for me. I craved a baked potato all week."

The biggest difference?

"That horrible, little, tiny saddle," Hodsdon said. "I know that some of the jump guys are used to riding over jumps in those things but I couldn't do it. Riding a race without jumps felt strange enough."

- Hodsdon's victory wasn't the only news for steeplechase participants (see companion article), but the biggest win by a jump person this summer went to Maryland-based trainer Tom Voss.

He sent out Always First to a Grade III stakes score in the \$200,000 Stars And Stripes at Arlington Park July 4. The English-bred, owned by Charlie Noell's Merrifield Farm, ran down gutsy pacesetter Cloudy's Knight in the stretch to score by a nose and further position himself among the elite turf horses in the country.

Always First came into the race off a second in the Louisville Handicap at Churchill Downs in May and the Elkhorn Stakes at Keeneland in April and could start next in Saratoga's Grade I Sword Dancer.

Your children may have the summer off, but your friendly neighborhood steeplechase trainers – and their horses – have been far from idle this season, scoring wins up and down the East Coast on the flat.



Tod Marks

Kill Devil Rum (right, winning a training flat at the Queen's Cup in April) moved up to win a New York-bred maiden at Belmont Park July 11.

Colonial kind to 'chase connections

Virginia's Colonial Downs is a natural day trip for the Mid-Atlantic trainer (when the traffic cooperates), and Virginia-based Jimmy Day has certainly enjoyed his trips thus far.

Triple Dip topped an unusual double there last month by breaking his second maiden in six weeks. Joe Henderson's 4-year-old, who picked up his first jump win in the 2 1/2-mile opener at the Virginia Gold Cup, ventured to Colonial June 15 and notched his first flat win. Bettors didn't do their homework – any horse cutting back in distance for a 12-furlong race should be considered – and Triple Dip returned \$41.20. Indeed, the first four finishers were steeplechasers, as Tax Ruling, Mark The Shark and Red Letter Day filled out the \$1,473 all-jumper superfecta.

Meshwaar knows all about troubled trips. Entered in a maiden-claiming hurdle at Fair Hill, his van got into an accident en route and he missed the post. Having enjoyed a smoother ride to his next event, Meshwaar responded with a 1 1/8-mile flat score for Day and owner Randleston Farm July 6.

Divine Fortune broke his maiden for Jonathan Sheppard and Bill Pape at Radnor in a Sport of Kings maiden hurdle, then ventured to Colonial July 1 to break his other maiden at 9 furlongs on the outer turf.

Kill Devil Rum, third to Divine Fortune in that one, motored up to his home state 10 days later and took a \$47,000 New York-bred maiden for trainer Arch Kingsley and High Hope Stable.

- The Colonial program often looks like the invitation list at a jump jockeys' ball and the trainer standings are no different. Through July 17, Sheppard had seven wins (including two over jumps) at Colonial to place fifth on the leaderboard, while the steeplechase-connected Graham Motion (11 wins) Speedy Smithwick (six) and Patrick Nuesch (five, from just 11 runners) were also on the board.

Doug Fout took a turf allowance with Peggy Steinman's Fund Broker, in addition to two of the first four Colonial steeplechases. Don Yovanovich has a pair of scores at the Colonial meet.

Tom Voss surprised the board with Back To Even, who took a \$30,000 allowance at 14-1 under Javier Castellano June 16.

Bruce Haynes won a turf maiden with English-bred Kapak for Gail Force Racing July 17.

- The action wasn't all at Colonial Downs. The First State has seen its share of steeplechasers in the winner's circle, with Voss taking a Delaware Park maiden with War N' Honor and Sheppard and Augustin Stable teaming up for a pair of allowance wins there as well.

Over at Philadelphia Park, Sanna Hendriks brought out Augustin's Auction Watch, who broke his maiden June 19 then wheeled back 11 days later to win a \$40,000 allowance. Ricky Hendriks won a \$25,000 claiming flat there July 15 with Debra Kachel's Clickitorticket. The 5-year-old son of Pulpit should be comfortable in Philly; he was bred by Fitz Dixon.

– Jamie Santo

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Saratoga in sights for players

Ask any Revolutionary War buff – Saratoga is where you blaze away with your big guns; to win outside Yorktown requires siege tactics.

Thus, the summer meet at Colonial Downs isn't the spot to give your fantasy stable its head. For while sitting chilly can be hard on a sweltering Virginia Sunday, it's the perfect place in the calendar to bide your time. Relax your mount, patiently ponder how much ground you still must cover, then try to save a little of it and tuck in to a comfy spot on the rail.

There wasn't a lot of pyrotechnics among the Pick 6 set. In fact, the fantasy crowd missed its best shot at summer glory as nobody "owns" Moneytrain, who rolled into the winner's circle after the Zeke Ferguson to collect a \$30,000 prize.

Instead, the biggest cyber-earner of the early summer was Diego Cao, whose \$12,000 take from a June jump score was the biggest deposit in the databank. Twelve grand doesn't make you number one with a bullet, but it does some damage. Sarah Greenhalgh, proud pseudo owner of the New Zealand-bred horse named for a Portuguese ship captain, sits sixth on the big board thanks to him. Without his Colonial contribution, she'd be 11th.

Overall, the summer scores didn't really affect our leaders. Only two of the Top Ten had any Colonial breadwinners in their stable – Linda Cowasjee and Tod Marks saw their bankrolls swell, albeit gently, thanks to Swimming River's \$1,500 share of the Ferguson purse. Still, it moved Tod from 10th to ninth. And battles have turned on smaller things.

Ernie Moulos claims another \$50 prize for leading after June. The top 20 stables (through July 21) are listed 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 |
| ..... | \$276,387 |
| Holly | Winfield Sapp |
| Mixed Up..... | \$95,475 |
| Orison | \$61,500 |
| Irish Prince | \$57,000 |
| Imagina | \$31,500 |
| Northern Gale..... | \$7,600 |
| McDynamo..... | \$7,500 |
| ..... | \$260,575 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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 |
| ..... | \$238,362 |
| 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 |
| ..... | \$233,805 |

PICK 6 FANTASY STABLE GAME



Coady Photo

Matt McCarron salutes all the Diego Cao owners out there. The New Zealand-bred's \$12,000 win check was the biggest purse deposited in the databank all summer.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ms Demeanor | Linda Cowasjee |
| Paradise's Boss..... | \$69,912 |
| Irish Prince | \$57,000 |
| Riddle..... | \$31,956 |
| Imagina | \$31,500 |
| Swimming River | \$29,750 |
| McDynamo..... | \$7,500 |
| ..... | \$227,618 |
| Jabberwocky Stables | Sarah Greenhalgh |
| Paradise's Boss..... | \$69,912 |
| Orison | \$61,500 |
| Imagina | \$31,500 |
| Mr Bombastic | \$28,200 |
| Diego Cao | \$25,500 |
| McDynamo..... | \$7,500 |
| ..... | \$224,112 |

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 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 |
| ..... | \$219,787 |

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 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 |
| ..... | \$219,387 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Flight of Fancy Stable | Tod Marks |
| Paradise's Boss..... | \$69,912 |
| Orison | \$61,500 |
| Swimming River | \$29,750 |
| Mr Bombastic | \$28,200 |
| Sur La Tete..... | \$27,000 |
| Lair | \$0 |
| ..... | \$216,362 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 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 |
| ..... | \$214,975 |

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Little Farm | Robert Wasserman |
| Mixed Up..... | \$95,475 |
| Paradise's Boss..... | \$69,912 |
| Diego Cao | \$25,500 |
| Ghost Valley..... | \$22,000 |
| Guelph | \$0 |
| Three Carat | \$0 |
| ..... | \$212,887 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 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 |
| ..... | \$211,443 |

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Try Again | Jim McVey |
| Mixed Up..... | \$95,475 |
| Imagina..... | \$31,500 |
| Sur La Tete..... | \$27,000 |
| Diego Cao | \$25,500 |
| Sharp Face..... | \$23,100 |
| McDynamo..... | \$7,500 |
| ..... | \$210,075 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Can't Claim Prize Stable | Sean Clancy |
| Good Night Shirt..... | \$118,643 |
| Best Attack..... | \$57,900 |
| Rare Bush | \$27,000 |
| Jellyberry | \$5,100 |
| Straight Gin..... | \$0 |
| When The Saints..... | \$0 |
| ..... | \$208,643 |

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 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 |
| ..... | \$206,387 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 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 |
| ..... | \$201,900 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Who D'ya Like Ranch | William Skidmore |
| Paradise's Boss..... | \$69,912 |
| Riddle..... | \$31,956 |
| Mr Bombastic | \$28,200 |
| Chivite..... | \$26,974 |
| Diego Cao | \$25,500 |
| Slew's Peak | \$14,500 |
| ..... | \$197,042 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| All4Fun&Fun4All | Lulu Verney |
| Mixed Up..... | \$95,475 |
| Orchid Princess..... | \$35,000 |
| Swimming River | \$29,750 |
| Class Vantage..... | \$15,000 |
| Big Is Best..... | \$14,200 |
| McDynamo..... | \$7,500 |
| | \$196,925 |

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|--------------------------------|-------------------|
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| Orison..... | \$61,500 |
| The Bruce..... | \$46,750 |
| Imagina..... | \$31,500 |
| Sur La Tete..... | \$27,000 |
| Pukka..... | \$15,000 |
| The Looper..... | \$13,500 |
| ..... | \$195,250 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Genesee Valley Racers | Gail McGuire |
| Paradise's Boss..... | \$69,912 |
| Riddle..... | \$31,956 |
| Imagina..... | \$31,500 |
| Swimming River | \$29,750 |
| Sur La Tete..... | \$27,000 |
| Wee Highland Star | \$0 |
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Emily Daily

From (Stephen Bradley) scales an oxer during the training session in Virginia.

Prep School

Pan Am riders tune up for trip with training session in Virginia

BY SEAN CLANCY

It's 6 o'clock on a hot June Virginia morning at Stonehall Farm. Seven riders and 11 horses for the 2007 United States Pan Am eventing team have converged for a week of training with U.S. coach Captain Mark Phillips at Karen and David O'Connor's training center outside Middleburg. It's the first official training session in preparation for the Pan Am Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil at the end of July. The team started early to try to beat the heat – and failed. The heat is oppressive. The horses impressive – from retirees to present-day stars.

David O'Connor's pair of retired international horses, Giltedge and Custom Made hang their heads over the fence near the ring – like two fathers watching the next generation of From, Nicki Henley, Connaught, McKinlaigh, Merloch, Theodore O'Connor, Gryffindor, Better I Do It, Truluck, Close The Deal and Allstar.

Karen O'Connor is already well into her lesson aboard Allstar. The 11-year-old Thoroughbred finished sixth at Jersey Fresh and shows off the potential to do more. Big, bay horse with a sharp eye, he's accurate but not polished. With

O'Connor for just three months, Allstar was chosen as an alternate for the team. Give him a year.

Phillip Dutton, representing the United States for the first time after three Olympics (and two gold medals) while riding for Australia, glides into the ring aboard Connaught. Dutton, with a look of consternation, warms up Connaught while Phillips observes his new student – like signing a high-priced free agent.

Phillips takes a long look at Connaught as Dutton circles over a yellow and blue oxer, getting bigger and wider after every landing.

"If they all jumped like that, this would be easy," Phillips says.

"Don't worry, all mine don't jump like this," Dutton says.

Connaught looks more like an erector set than an international level horse; he's all angles and moves dramatically. Nothing subtle about him, he gallops to the fence and then springs at the base, up and over like a ping pong ball.

Dutton jumps what he wants, going from oxer to triple to single while coach and rider try to conjure up something to work on; finally Phillips waves his hand and tells him to go home.

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“It’s good to get the opportunity to concentrate on your riding and watch how the others ride, and work with the captain,” Dutton says. “It’s always been a little bit of a disadvantage being the only Australian, kind of coaching myself. This is forced, I have to do it, but it’s good. If I was left to my own devices, I might come up with an excuse and say I can’t do that. I’m excited about it.”

While Dutton finishes, Stephen Bradley begins to warm up From. The duo starts slow and steady and then in an instant, From stretches into his flat work, extending his trot with ease. Before jumping, Phillips and Bradley talk about different elements of what the horse might need. Bradley takes off his spurs, empties his pockets and begins to jump.

“He hasn’t jumped a stick since Jersey Fresh,” Bradley says to Phillips.

Not that anyone can tell.

Phillips tells Bradley to be careful on the downhill and repeats, uphill, uphill, uphill as the duo goes over a vertical plank fence which From hits every time. Phillips takes away the ground rail and drops the bottom plank – that fixes it.

Bradley, who won a team gold at the 2003 Pan Ams, is impressed.

“There are some things that Mark sees and wants to make some more changes but he doesn’t want to make any big changes, like he says, he doesn’t want to reinvent the wheel,” Bradley says. “Mark is really, really intuitive to that through all the years. He’s been really, really good about dealing with our personalities and our strong points and low points.”

Kristin Bachman and Gryffindor come next as the crowd around the ring has grown to 25, all visoring the sun from their eyes and straining to hear what Phillips says to his riders.

Final United States Eventing Team
for Pan Am Games

After the training sessions and the eventual withdrawal of Merloch (Bonnie Mosser) and Connaught (Phillip Dutton) due to veterinary reasons, the final United States team for the Pan Am Games was selected.

| Rider | Horse | Owner |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Stephen Bradley | From | Bradley and Charlotte Harris |
| Phillip Dutton | Truluck | Ann Jones and Shannon Stimson |
| Gina Miles | McKinlaigh | Miles, Thomas Schulz, Laura Coats |
| Karen O’Connor | Theodore O’Connor | The Theodore O’Connor Syndicate |

All team members compete individually, and earn points for the team. Other individual competitors from the United States are:

| Rider | Horse | Owner |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Darren Chiacchia | Better I Do It | Adrienne Iorio |
| Mara Dean | Nicki Henley | Willow Bend Farm |

Competition began Thursday, July 19, with the horse inspection. Dressage begins Friday, July 20 with cross country Saturday and show jumping Sunday.

For more information, see <http://www.usef.org/panams>.

Gryffindor and Bachman start to jump and Phillips gets right into a lesson, trying to adjust Bachman’s position so Gryffindor gets softer in the air, allowing longer flight time and a quieter landing.

“Think body and voice, no rein,” he says to Bachman as Gryffindor jumps again and again.

Phillips puts a rail on the landing side of the oxer, making Gryffindor peek while landing. The coach and the student go back and forth over position, adjusting the pelvis region no more than a few inches. The horse gets better and better.

After the final jump, Phillips gives Bachman six long, deliberate claps of his hands.

She lets out a sigh, “Thank you,” and heads for the barn.

“It’s all the fine tuning, hopefully it’s the difference between jumping clean rounds and not. It’s why you have eyes on the ground,” Bachman said. “It’s a vicious

circle, what I do with my position affects the way he goes, then I feel like I’m fighting against him. You hope you can go home and work on it and hope you can get it seven times out of 10 times. The education allows you do the other things. It’s nice to get those eureka lessons, that was one of those, I love those. Those are what you look for, to get those little nuggets.”

While Bachman received her lesson, Gina Miles and McKinlaigh did flat work on the other side of the ring. Originally, Miles would go straight to Florida from her California base but then decided to bring her big, 13-year-old horse to Virginia.

“It’s nice to be here with the group. I don’t know everybody real well, so I’m getting to know everybody better and get into the thick of things,” Miles says. “This horse is quirky but very sweet. He’s like a big baby, thinks everybody’s after him. He’s fun to ride, I’m a lucky girl, I’ve had him since he was 5. I did my first advanced, first three-star, first four-star, first everything – we grew up together. He’s harder to ride on the flat than anything else, he can be spectacular but he can also be a big lug, and tote me around the ring like a pony clubber.”

Mara Dean, who last rode for the team in the 1996 Olympics, is known to have the best flat work on the team, the Virginia-based rider guides Nicki Henley through his flat paces before starting to jump. Phillips immediately sees one thing to work on and focuses the entire lesson on trying to get the horse to land softer and slow down. He stands in between two jumps, about four strides after an oxer, right in the path.

“You’re going to stop before you get to me,” Phillips says.

Dean and Nicki Henley jump the oxer and abruptly stop before Phillips. The horse, the rider and the coach do this over and over, with Phillips coming closer after every jump, eventually he gets out of the way and Nicki Henley melts over the first element and goes to

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the second jump, six strides away.

"Land and wait. Land and wait," Phillips says. "We might have to do this Sunday morning (show jumping) so he's not thinking about Saturday (cross country)."

Dean has seen this trick before.

"David O'Connor has done that with him, but not for a while," Dean says. "He's very strong and very powerful and has a little bit of a mind of his own. Trying to get him to think about landing and waiting rather than landing and going, without having me hold him. Some lessons are like 'what's going on?' That one was pretty obvious."

Dutton returns for his second lesson, this time aboard Truluck, an alternate. As Dutton warms up over a fence, consistently getting to the same open distance, Phillips shouts some advice.

"While he's warming up, get the other distance," he says.

Dutton buries Truluck at the bottom of the fence and the horse rattles the rail.

"Like that," Dutton says, shaking his head.

"He'll be perfect the next time," Phillips says.

Like Connaught (or is it Dutton?), Truluck doesn't need much as far as specific lessons go and does his thing with ease, picking his way through the triple and being dismissed.

As natural and ambivalent as Dutton appears, he's taking it quite seriously.



Emily Daily

Theodore O'Connor checks out the spectators at the training session.

"Everybody is different but I'm more self-taught so I'm not a person who needs somebody telling them what to do all the time, I think Mark appreciates that," Dutton says. "It all comes back to the basics, if something is going wrong whether it's in a high-level movement like a flying change or a half pass, it's generally a hole in your basics. When you say it's little stuff, little stuff means points and gold medals are won by less than a point, attention to detail is one of the keys to our sport. If each

rider can improve a few points, it's the difference in a team competition."

Karen O'Connor rides the pint-sized Theodore O'Connor into the ring and does her token flat work before pleading with Phillips to let her jump.

Finally relenting, Phillips smiles and stands back to watch the show.

Theodore O'Connor saunters to his first fence, a vertical on the fifth hole of the standards, he jumps it like it was on the 12th hole, springing over it like a jack in the box.

Everybody laughs.

"I was wrong," Phillips laughs. "You do need the practice."

It's hard to tell who likes to jump more, the pony or the rider.

"OK, circles tomorrow," Phillips says.

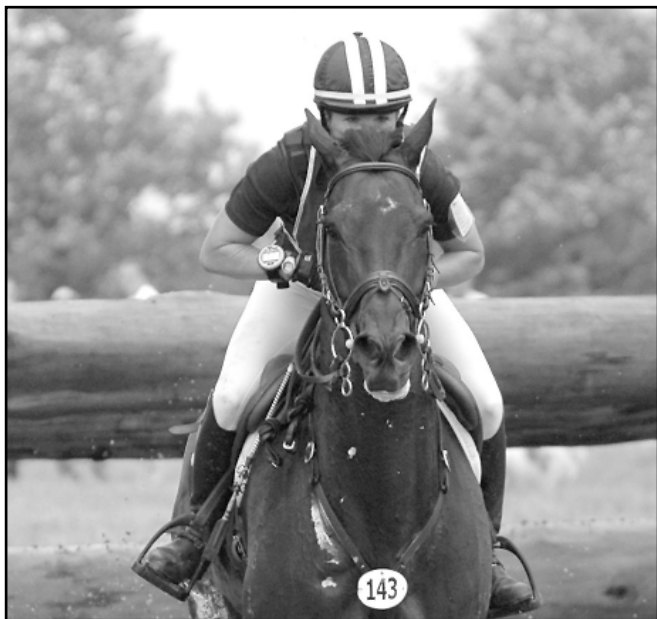
While the other riders talk about lessons and details, O'Connor's thinking team.

"I'm excited about being on a team with Phillip, that will be intriguing for me," O'Connor says. "It's a real diverse mix of people, I wouldn't say any of the six are mates, we're hugely respectful of each other and friends, but we don't hang out together, that's an interesting dynamic, most of the time you have a pairing off here and a pairing off there, this could be a really strong team because there is so much cohesion, because our starting point is the same place. And it's a highly competitive group of people which is really cool. Real Jack Russells. We're a pack."

By the end of the morning, Bonnie Mosser completes her flat work with Merloch while the crowd heads for their real jobs and the riders head back to their barns. Mosser's double victories at Jersey Fresh, with Merloch and Close The Deal, put her on her first team. Merloch made the first six while Close The Deal makes up part of the alternate squad.

"A long time ago, Phillip said 'don't forget how you got here,' I learned that last summer watching people try to change things at the last minute, I tried to stay true to my plan," Mosser says,

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as she loads Merloch on to her trailer. “Sure, you have to see how they handle a situation but it comes down to how I handle it. You don’t realize how big it is until you’re in it, you’re representing the United States, that’s the country, it’s not just about me. But I ride horses for a living and I should be able to do it. How other people handle things with their horses is different than how I would handle it.”

• • •

If you could learn one thing from a team member . . .

Kristin Bachman: “I’m going to say, collectively, I’d take the knowledge of how to compete at a really big event, to keep your cool, to put it all together, because that’s what I’ve been playing with this year. Really being able to have your own space, you go to these things and you’re competing against the best of everybody, being new, it’s still hard to go in there and go ‘Oh my gosh, this one

is doing that, this one is doing this. It makes me question what I’m doing, to have your tunnel and know what you’re doing. Stick with what you’re doing. That’s the experience of being there and doing it. Get the job done, really get it done. That’s what I would take. They’re decades of team experience.”

Stephen Bradley: “I immediately think of two things, I’d love to be able to ride on the flat like Mara does and I’d love to have a little bit more of the innate ability of Phillip, he’s such a natural at it, I know he’s taken a lot of lessons and worked with a lot of people but he has such common sense of working out the details and getting horses to go better, it’s almost like Bruce where they don’t have to think about it, they just do it.”

Gina Miles: “Just one thing? Probably, when you’re going into a big thing like this, it’s something Karen said a number of years ago, ‘Do not let the highs get too high and the lows get too low.’ Especially when you’re going into something like this, obviously, there is a chance of great fun, great things, we all

hope for a gold medal but you have to roll with the punches and if things don’t work out, don’t get too wrapped up in the whole deal. Prepare to do our best and do our best.”

Mara Dean: “Phillip Dutton is probably the most competitive person I know and so relaxed about it and doesn’t let the stress get to him, I’d love to be able to deal with it like him, obviously he works hard and is focused but he’s on a pretty level keel. I love the talent too, if that could come along with it, I’d take that too.”

Bonnie Mosser: “They all have great qualities. Can I say Mark, the coach? He’s the go-to guy, he makes himself available all the time, that’s a good quality.”

Phillip Dutton: “What Karen and Theodore O’Connor have done and achieved together is pretty remarkable, it brings it back to the partnership with the horse, I don’t think many people would believe that she could do that with a pony. I probably wouldn’t have ridden the horse if they asked.”

Karen O’Connor: “I would want to take the calmness in front of a jump that Phillip has, he does all the work outside the zone. When he gets in the zone, he’s completely calm. That quality allows his horses the time to jump, even horses that otherwise would be knocking down a rail, it gives the horses time to jump around that rail and not touch them. He’s like that on every level of horse. He’s like a hovercraft.”

Talking Up the Team

United States eventing coach Capt. Mark Phillips took a moment to discuss the team:

“Having Phillip (Dutton) on our side is certainly good news. Having his experience and his professionalism on the team adds a calming influence. A realistic influence, ‘don’t worry about that, doesn’t matter, look this is the only thing that matters.’ He can give good advice to the group, not only in the sand box, but also in the stables and everywhere.”

“You can do different things at different times of year. With the developing riders, we obviously go in more detail and look at the basic structure of what they’re doing. The ones who are going to the Pan Ams, you can’t change too much at this stage, confidence is the main thing now, so they feel good about themselves, feel good about their pony, they’re confident that they can do their job when they get to Rio.”


“I’m lucky. I get to be with some great horses and great riders, finding the last 10 percent is always the most exciting part. Perfection. So they can do their best in Rio.”

“It’s the first time we tried (the developing riders) this year, working with the Pan Am riders, trying to give them insight into their problems, that they’re not the only ones with problems, everybody works extremely hard with their horses, insight into the veterinary care. In a way, riding the horses is the easy part, looking after them is the difficult part.”

“The dressage test is a little easier, I’ll defy anybody who says there is no pressure when you put that flag below your saddle. Once you put that flag below your saddle, there is pressure, not only do you want to do well yourself but also because you don’t want to let the others down. That’s what a team competition is all about.”

“I’m a realist and I’ve traveled around the world, I know what the Brits are doing, I know what the Germans are doing, I know what the French are doing, certainly the Australians who are in Europe. When you go to the Olympics, there’s always a chance for everybody because someone always makes a mistake. There’s less pressure at the Pan Am Games, it’s a three-star and there are no Brits, Germans, French, Irish . . . It’s just Australians, New Zealanders and us, you go in feeling more confident. But if you get over confident, you won’t win. The last time we went to South America, we did not win the team competition. Because we didn’t do our job properly. It was in the early days, 1985 and people made mistakes they shouldn’t have made, whether it was over confidence I don’t know. In the cold light of day now, they would tell you.”

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