

Complimentary

The *Times* Steeplechase & Eventing

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In Sync

*Planets Aligned
clinches novice crown
with Callaway win*

INSIDE:

*McDynamo aims for history
in Colonial Cup*

Eventing star Winsome Adante retires



Entries

What's Happening and Where To Find It

Here's your newspaper. On to the Colonial Cup. The curtain comes down on the steeplechase season with the final meet of the year in Camden, South Carolina. Equine stars McDynamo and Good Night Shirt will meet for the third time this year. November action included Mon Villez extending his streak at Montpelier, Planets Aligned getting it done at Callaway Gardens and a wild Pennsylvania Hunt Cup.



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Colonial Cup Preview

Can anyone deny McDynamo victory number four in the finale? Plus a look at 1980s Colonial Cup hero Flatterer.



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Montpelier

Mon Villez wins the featured Noel Laing for the third consecutive year as part of a two-win day for jockey Carl Rafter.



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Callaway Gardens

Planets Aligned and Chip Miller get connected to win \$100,000 novice stakes and clinch divisional crown.

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Pick Six

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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

Staff Writer: Brian Nadeau

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, Katy Carter, 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

Your NSA Novice Champion Planets Aligned. The Fox Ridge Farm/Tom Voss horse won the feature at Callaway Gardens to complete a banner first season.

Photo: Tod Marks.



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The Steeplechase and Eventing

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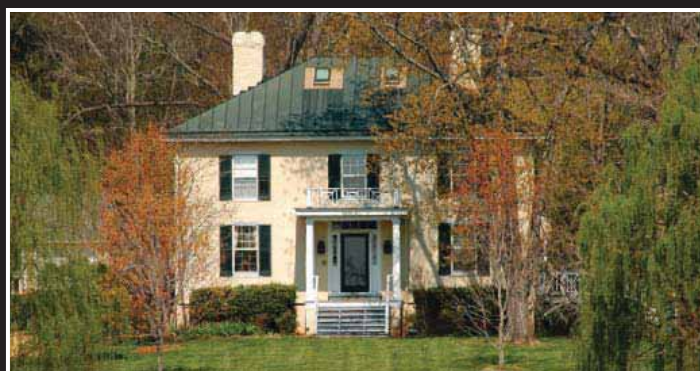
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News and Notes
from around the circuit

FOR STARTERS



Timeless. The field lines up for the start of a race at the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup this year – though it could have been any of the past 40. Tod Marks

Round 1 was a doozy too

After the five-horse Pennsylvania Hunt Cup field was narrowed to Shady Valley and Earmark with 18 fences still remaining, skeptical fans held their breath and wondered 'will anyone finish this race?'

Judging from a previous meeting of the two horses, spectators did indeed have reason to be hesitant.

A review of the April 21 chart of the allowance timber at the Grand National reads like round-by-round description of an Ali-Frazier championship bout. As noted in the chart:

"Shady Valley pressed the pace, bid for command three fences out, left the course by going outside a beacon between the third- and second-last fences, re-entered the race course, crossed in front of Earmark, then bore out sharply before the final fence, hitting the wing and forcing Earmark off course. . . . The stewards conducted an inquiry into the incident between Shady Valley and Earmark. A claim of foul by the rider of Earmark against Shady Valley, alleging interference, was received but was moot due to the fact that both horses were unplaced for purse purposes."

It just goes to show that the rematch never is as good as the first of-fering.

Worth Repeating

"He's the McDynamo of Montpelier."

Photographer Tod Marks, on Mon Villez's unbeaten mark in the Noel Laing Stakes

"Every Wednesday, I go to The Whip and watch these people ride and it looks so easy. You show up and ride, you don't have to take care of the horses. I told myself I had to try this. Well, it's not as easy as it looks – my balance is completely different, I don't have a leg around the horse, it's another game."

Apprentice jockey Jake Chalfin, whose previous riding experience came with eventers and foxhunters. Chalfin is 2-for-4 as a jump jockey this year.

"There aren't enough trainers to keep doing it this way."

Jockey Carl Rafter, who won with his first rides for trainers Jonathan Sheppard and Bruce Miller, at Montpelier

Trainer Julie Gomena the day before the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup: "Who's Brian? I've got a problem with him. He's the only one at *Steeplechase Times* who didn't pick Hotspur."

Owner/jockey Gregg Ryan: "Julie, argue with him tomorrow. Brian could be the only one that's right."

Hotspur, picked by everyone but Brian Nadeau, fell at the second-last.

"I can't believe I'm seeing four Thoroughbreds in the same place."

Olympic show jump rider Joe Fargis (who sees more Warmbloods than Thoroughbreds these days) when teaching a clinic in Pennsylvania.

Former steeplechase horses Campanile, Henares, Thermostat and Kissin Conquest made up the quartet.

"Winter's coming and the help's leaving."

Trainer Jimmy Murphy, on a brisk day at Laurel Park

Take A Number

1: Kawasaki Mule won by steeplechase owner/rider Teddy Mulligan at the grand opening celebration at Tri County Feed in Marshall, Va.

49.33: Average age of the winning jockeys at Pennsylvania Hunt Cup. George Hundt, Gregg Ryan and Billy Santoro made up the senior trifecta.

1953: Model year of the hood ornament (from a Ford) mounted on Sonny Via's new Chevy SUV.

1: Bottle of Deer Park water consumed – well, he spilled most of it – by Orpington in the Montpelier paddock.

5: Trainers with purse earnings of more than \$450,000 thus far in 2007. No other trainer has more than \$173,000.

5: Times since 1964 the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup has had two or fewer finishers. In 1977, Dosdi defeated Bent Page when four started; in 1978, Mod Man edged Dosdi when four started; in 1979, Dosdi defeated Blaze Miller when six started. In 2000, Maipo defeated Emerald Action when three started. In 2003, Young Dubliner was the only finisher among three starters.



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Kryptonite?

Contenders look for way to defeat Superhorse at 2007 Colonial Cup

BY BRIAN NADEAU

When the bronze is cast and his Hall of Fame plaque is hung, McDynamo will be mentioned as one of the greatest to ever soar over a hurdle.

But past accomplishments and future laurels won't hand him a victory in Sunday's Colonial Cup. Jockeys Willie Dowling, Matt McCarron and Xavier Aizpuru have all defeated McDynamo before, and they will be back to try one more time. The trio took a few moments to recall those winning efforts and look ahead to Camden.

Willie Dowling and Good Night Shirt head to the Colonial Cup for a rubber match with McDynamo and a shot at the history books. A win by Good Night Shirt would not only cement an Eclipse Award, it would also establish a single-season earnings record in the process. Sonny Via's 6-year-old son of Concern has already won two Grade I stakes this year; the Iroquois at Nashville in May and the Lonesome Glory at Belmont Park in September. The Iroquois victory came at the expense of McDynamo, who clocked in a distant fourth while making his first start of the year.

"In the Iroquois we were able to make the lead and go slow, but that really wasn't the plan. He jumped the first good and they were all going slow so we were on the lead," Dowling said. "The rest of the field didn't expect Good Night Shirt to be a threat and they gave us an easy lead. We had run at Keeneland and a lot of them were running for the first time on the year so we had a bit of an advantage."

Those edges disappeared in New Jersey, swallowed up by the soft ground and the home-field advantage McDynamo enjoys at Far Hills, where he improved to 7-for-7 after taking his fifth consecutive Breeders' Cup Steeplechase.

Dowling and Good Night Shirt took a big run at McDynamo on the final turn only to be turned away late and finish fourth. While Dowling concedes he was beaten by a better horse that day, he's quick to point out why things could be different Sunday.

"The race at Far Hills was in McDynamo's backyard and the soft ground helped him," Dowling said. "The firm ground on Sunday will be to our advantage over McDynamo. Better ground will definitely help this horse."

Though Dowling is cautiously optimistic Good Night Shirt will handle the larger fences at Camden, he knows they present a challenge and could ultimately be the deciding factor.

"They're going to be the real key — he's going to love them or hate them. I'm going down to school him Friday morning and I hope the bigger fences will make him back off a bit," Dowling said. "I don't want him to be scared; I want him to respect them but not be frightened."

While McDynamo's flawless jumping is one of his biggest attributes, his younger rival has struggled to hit every mark. In each of his last two races Good Night Shirt made crucial mistakes, and Dowling knows there is no margin for error when you take on the champ.

"He made one mistake at Far Hills and you can't do that against McDynamo. We tried to win it and took at run at him on the hill but the soft ground took our speed," Dowling said. "McDynamo will be in front again and I'll be happy to sit in behind him. I'm going to run the same race as Far Hills and try to make a run at him. I don't want to be in front on that course. He hasn't run there before and with those big jumps I don't want to be in front. It's going to be a great final race to the season. It's for the Eclipse Award. There's McDynamo, and people are expecting a good effort from Good Night Shirt but it's not a two-horse race. There are some other good horses. My horse has had a great season and he's won two Grade I races."



Tod Marks

Jockeys (from left) Matt McCarron, Willie Dowling and Xavier Aizpuru have beaten McDynamo before and take him on again in the Colonial Cup.

The Colonial Cup

Grade I. \$150,000. 2 3/4 miles over 17 fences.
Sunday, November 18. Springdale Race Course. Camden, S.C.

PP	Horse	Owner	Trainer	Jockey
1.	Luongo	Lucy Lindsay	Jonathan Sheppard	Chip Miller
2.	Gliding	Brigadoon Stable	Doug Fout	Paddy Young
3.	Good Night Shirt	Sonny Via	Jack Fisher	Willie Dowling
4.	McDynamo	Michael Moran	Sanna Hendriks	Jody Petty
5.	Sovereign Duty	Hudson River Farm	Jonathan Sheppard	Xavier Aizpuru
6.	Three Carat	Jonathan Sheppard	Jonathan Sheppard	Danielle Hodsdon
7.	Orison	EMO Stable	Doug Fout	Matt McCarron
8.	Underbidder	Timber Bay Farm	Jonathan Sheppard	James Slater

All starters carry 156 pounds. Post time approximately 3 p.m. as the fifth of seven races.

McDynamo, and people are expecting a good effort from Good Night Shirt but it's not a two-horse race. There are some other good horses. My horse has had a great season and he's won two Grade I races."

Matt McCarron has defeated McDynamo on two occasions, both times with Hirapour (the 2004 Colonial Cup and the 2005 Royal Chase). Though McCarron used closing tactics to win both races he's not convinced that's the best way to defeat McDynamo.

"You need to have a horse that will run with him and keep him honest early. If there is a lack of pace and Jody (Petty) is able to make the running then you're in trouble. You can't let him get to the final bend and get an insurmountable lead; you need to be right on top of him and never let him relax," McCarron said. "It's tough to do because a lot of horses can do it for a mile but not a whole race. So if you don't have that kind of horse then you need someone else to do the dirty work."

In Hirapour's two victories over McDynamo, McCarron was able to get some help up front while he surveyed the scene from behind. Orison, though not nearly as talented as Hirapour, has the same running style, so once again McCarron will hope for others to assist on the front end.

"When I beat him here in 2004, Preemptive Strike was in the race and he opened up about 35 lengths. Sur La Tete was in there too and he was tracking. McDynamo never settled and kind of flattened out that day," McCarron said. "Each time I beat him I was able to make a run on him late and run him down. In the Royal Chase, I collared him midway on the turn. Orison is not the kind of horse to pressure him or be involved early so I will look to make a run at the end. He's won over the course before, so I think he'll handle it well, although it was over the plastic jumps and not the Cup jumps. He's an excellent jumper and I'll just try to get him full of confidence in the early going."

Like Dowling, McCarron believes a firm turf course could draw the others closer to McDynamo and level the field

a bit. Regardless, he's looking forward to his visit to Springdale Race Course.

"The firm ground will affect the race a lot. If McDynamo has a chink in his armor it will be on firm ground. It's not as disadvantageous to the others as the soft ground is," McCarron said. "Camden is one of the most amazing and spectacular sights in racing. You turn into the straight and you have nothing but space in front of you."

Xavier Aizpuru, who has locked up his first jockey's title, will tackle McDynamo with the hard-trying Sovereign Duty, who comes in off a solid second in the Grade I Foxbrook novice stakes at Far Hills. Hall of Famer Jonathan Sheppard will give Aizpuru a leg up on Sovereign Duty for the first time.

Aizpuru and Paradise's Boss bested McDynamo in the 2005 Zeke Ferguson at Colonial Downs. Aizpuru, much like Dowling in the Iroquois, dictated the pace and the result was a flag-to-wire victory by a widening 5 1/4 lengths. McDynamo trailed in fifth and was unable to make up any ground in the stretch, finishing second.

"A lot of people were surprised we beat McDynamo, but I wasn't. Paradise's Boss was a very fast horse and it didn't surprise me," Aizpuru said. "He had a lot of speed and was a very good horse but I don't really think there is a good way to attack McDynamo. He's just one of those freaks. To step off the table and not only win the Breeders' Cup, but do it the way he did it, it's just amazing. I don't think there is any way to beat him if he's on his game."

Sovereign Duty is an outsider in the Colonial Cup, but Aizpuru believes he has one trump in his hand.

"He hasn't had a hard year and that's important. A lot of horses in there have had hard campaigns and that could help us; I'm hoping it means something," Aizpuru said. "I like the horse. I can't say a lot about him because I haven't ridden him before, but I like the horse. I'm a great believer in doing what's best for your horse, so while I will have my eyes on horses like Good Night Shirt and McDynamo, I have to do what's best for my horse and let it play out."

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SEAN CLANCY BLOODSTOCK

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McDynamo's *other* Cup

BY JOE CLANCY

To the average fan, McDynamo made his bones in the Breeders' Cup Grand National. Five consecutive wins in the country's richest steeplechase will do that.

But the future Hall of Famer's real feat might be his success in the Colonial Cup. The Cup has crowned champions since its creation, as the first American jump race with a six-figure purse, in 1970. Sunday, McDynamo takes on seven others in his bid to match Flatterer's total of four victories in the race – which headlines a seven-race card at the season finale in Camden, S.C. Post time is 12:30 p.m. with the feature slated for about 3. A little more than five minutes later steeplechasing will have its 2007 champion and perhaps another signature moment.

Owned by Michael Moran, McDynamo excels at the Cup's many challenges – which take several forms around the 2 3/4-mile, 17-fence course.

"It's extraordinarily difficult to win," said trainer Sanna Hendriks. "It's a real combination of things. You have to have speed, be a really good jumper, and have enough stamina to go that far."

With four Cup wins as a trainer (McDynamo in 2003, 2005 and 2006 plus Lord Zada in 2001) and one as a jockey (Mistico in 1992), Hendriks knows what she's talking about. She calls jumping the key to winning around the sprawling layout.

"When you turn down the backside and you've got six fences in a row, you've got to be able to really run and jump," she said. "That plays into McDynamo's hands more than a course with less jumping."

Last year, McDynamo and Mon Villez put on a jumping tutorial and finished a length apart. Two years



Tod Marks

McDynamo checks out the paddock while parading at the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup.

ago, Hirapour began to march toward the lead on the backstretch only to flub a fence and lose valuable ground. He settled for second. In 2003, McDynamo attacked the 15th fence from so far back the crowd (a quarter-mile away in the grandstand) gasped. He landed running and left the field in his wake.

"It's a jumping course," said Hendriks. "If Hirapour hadn't missed that fence, would he have gotten us? Well . . . maybe. That's McDynamo's strength."

The 10-year-old puts that strength against Good Night Shirt once again in the \$150,000 Colonial Cup. They have split a pair of meetings this year and enter the race 1-2 in the NSA standings. Good Night Shirt can set a record for earnings in a single year with a victory for owner Sonny Via and trainer Jack Fisher. The \$90,000 winner's share will move McDynamo to the

top spot, but he must win to be assured a fourth Eclipse Award.

Jody Petty will again be aboard McDynamo while Willie Dowling gets the return assignment on 6-year-old Good Night Shirt. In the Breeders' Cup, McDynamo picked up the running with about a mile to go and turned aside a prolonged challenge from the other horse – who faltered late to finish fourth (beaten less than 8 lengths).

Other Breeders' Cup starters Luongo, Three Carat, Underbidder and Orison return and are joined by Foxbrook winner Gliding and runner-up Sovereign Duty.

"Good Night Shirt still looks like the one to beat," said Hendriks. "Gliding could run a hell of a race and Sovereign Duty ran great in the novice race (at Far Hills). We'll just try to get a clean trip and keep him pretty handy. When he picks it up halfway through, he runs his best race. In the Breeders' Cup, I could see he was toting Jody right along early and I love to see that."

McDynamo worked at Fair Hill Training Center Monday and – like many of the Cup runners – headed to Camden early (he was on the road at 9 Wednesday morning) for final preps and a school over the Colonial Cup's natural brush fences.

"Not that he hasn't jumped them before, but you need to school over those fences," said Hendriks. "He seems like he's doing well and I'll get on him in Camden to get another feel – I was pretty calm, but now I'm starting to feel the nerves again."

NOTES: Of the eight horses in the race, only McDynamo and Underbidder have started over the Colonial Cup fences . . . Lonesome Glory and McDynamo are the race's only three-time winners. Flat Top, Zaccio, Grand Canyon and Cafe Prince won the race twice each.

MID ATLANTIC



Moon Catcher
2004 Grad
Delaware Oaks-G2

Photo: Lydia Williams

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A Grand Slam for Flatterer

BY JAMIE SANTO

"The Flatterer saga is a somewhat remarkable one." So said the *American Steeplechasing* yearbook in 1983. It was true then – and it had only just begun. Now, it's legend.

By Mo Bay out of Horizontal, Flatterer was bred by Bill Pape and Jonathan Sheppard, who owned him in partnership with bloodstock agent George Harris.

Flatterer enjoyed a busy, if unspectacular, 3-year-old campaign in 1982, racing 18 times from January to December, posting a 4-2-2 mark with \$45,845 in earnings. He put together a three-race win streak against state-breds at Keystone, and wound up the year as a third-choice, in-with-a-chance type against claimers in New York and New Jersey. Sheppard switched him to jumps the following season, and unspectacular was never again a word associated with Flatterer.

Of all his accomplishments, perhaps the greatest are his four consecutive Colonial Cups. The only horse to win the great race four times, Flatterer made his mark in the 2 3/4-mile test (first run in 1970). This year, McDynamo bids for his fourth (in five tries).

1983 – On The Way

A young upstart must do two things to establish himself – flash some precocious talent, then back it up by taking on the big boys.

Flatterer quickly announced his presence on the jump scene, winning his debut at Atlanta by 8 lengths. Though second weeks later in a Foxfield allowance, he was given a few goes on the flat at Belmont Park, where nobody saw fit to drop his name in the claim box.

Returned to the jumps at Saratoga, he took an allowance then wheeled back for the New York Turf Writers eight days later, finishing fourth.

He followed with a fine fall season and came to Camden riding a three-race win streak, albeit one that dates him slightly, scoring victories in an allowance at Rolling Rock, the Grand National at Foxfield and the Temple Gwathmey at Belmont.

A daunting dozen lined up for the \$50,000 Colonial Cup, the richest race of the year: Sailor's Clue, who took the Cup in 1980 and hit the board in the '81 and '82 renewals; Irish distaffer Double Wrapped, third the previous year; and Double Reefed, who'd won the New York Turf Writers three months earlier.

Thanks to the weight-for-age conditions, Flatterer received 11 pounds from most of the field, except for fellow 4-year-old Twas Ever Thus.

Under English champion John Francome, who had come over for the Gwathmey, Flatterer hung comfortably near the back while Percy Sharp (Ben Guessford) took a big lead before bolting off course at the seventh. Heart Of The Desert (Toinette Jackson) picked up the front-running duties, and Flatterer picked it up and moved into contention. Two fences from home,

the leader gave way and Flatterer took over, with Twas Ever Thus (John Cushman) and Census (Jeff Teter) right there. Flatterer held a slight lead at the last, then pulled away to win by 3 1/4. Census, unable to locate a finishing kick, finished third.

Flatterer had his first Cup, his first Eclipse Award.

1984 – Twin Cups

The field came up small, but fans hadn't come to Camden to see the field. The 1984 affair was a match race, perhaps even a grudge match, between Flatterer and Census.

They'd met four times already that year, with Flatterer holding a 3-1 edge.

Flatterer kicked things off in Atlanta winning the Delta Airlines by 4 lengths, Census responded by taking the Hard Scuffle by 4 1/2, then Flatterer took the Turf Writers by 1 3/4 and Belmont's Brook by 2.

They finished 1-2 each time, and you usually had to wait a while to see who came third. The margin between place and show in their last three outings had been 12, 12 1/2 and 21 lengths, respectively.

Flatterer under Jerry Fishback, Census under Jeff Teter, and five horses hoping for a nice third met the starter at Camden.

Flatterer came close to calamity in the early going with a disastrous seventh fence, and it took all the athletic ability of both horse and rider to save the situation. Afterward, events followed more closely to script. Flatterer and Census took center stage, jumped together from the 14th, Census giving his all to hold off his rival. But Flatterer had earned himself a slight lead by the last, and used the stretch to extend that margin to 1 1/4 lengths. Typically, it was another 18 lengths back to third.


1985 – Number Three

Making just his third start of the year, after finishing second in the Midsummer at Monmouth Park and winning the Temple Gwathmey, Flatterer needed a win at Camden to put a third Eclipse Award on the mantle.

See **FLATTERER** page 9 ►



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Lydia Williams
Retired after winning four Eclipse Awards and making the Hall of Fame, Flatterer lives in a field at owner Bill Pape's farm in Unionville, Pa.

Flatterer —

■ Continued from page 8

With Census sidelined for the year, the champion's main threats in the nine-horse field were French invader Salute and Chammsky, who had pulled the Jersey Shore upset.

Kalankoe (Ricky Hendriks) set the pace, but Flatterer and Salute (under Jean Michel Lefebvre) stayed in sight. The Gallic gelding took over after a mile, Flatterer following right behind. Salute proved game, refusing to give in to his more accomplished foe. When Flatterer blasted the second-last, leaving a horse-sized hole in the brush and losing a length in the process, it seemed this just might be the day for an upset.

But it was only another chance for Flatterer to display his greatness. Drawing even again, he aired the last and landed running, pouring it on in the stretch to win by 2 lengths.

1986 — The Grand Slam


For the three-time champ, there remained only one foe who could still inspire fear — the NSA handicapper. After winning at Atlanta under 173 pounds and taking the National Hunt Cup with 176, Flatterer fled the country to avoid being assigned weight Orson Welles could make. Following a more-than-respectable second in the French National Hurdle at Auteuil in June, he

returned to the States, where anticlimax waited in the wings. All set for the inaugural Breeders' Cup Steeplechase, he came up lame the morning of the race with a muscle spasm. That race instead saw a return to form of his old rival Census. Flatterer missed a few days training but soon came around, with a grand rematch suddenly scheduled for the Colonial Cup. That was dashed the day before when Census had an old tendon flareup and was forced to miss the race.

After that, all Flatterer had to do was show up. He bided his time, took command at the 14th and rolled home to immortality, as he took his fourth Cup by 17 lengths.

"Most horses don't get to run in the race four times, let alone win," jockey Jerry Fishback said afterward. "He's the best I've ever ridden, and I've been on champions."

Footnote: Flatterer, now 28, lives in retirement at owner Pape's farm in Unionville, Pa. Early in his non-racing days, the Pennsylvania-bred worked as a dressage horse but now he's simply a lawn ornament. "He seems happy and looks good," said Sheppard, who saw his old charge recently. "I went to Bill's house to watch the Breeders' Cup and between races we fed him a lump of sugar and said hello. He liked the attention. I don't supposed we'll see another one like him for a while."



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NSA Standings

CURRENT THROUGH NOV. 17

Jockeys (Races Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Xavier Aizpuru.....	66	20	10	7	\$623,742	.30
Paddy Young.....	92	15	14	14	319,186	.16
Matt McCarron.....	86	14	15	11	455,951	.16
Carl Rafter.....	74	14	7	12	232,340	.19
Jody Petty.....	61	13	8	9	532,544	.21
Chip Miller.....	58	12	12	7	484,325	.21
Danielle Hodsdon.....	62	11	14	10	521,910	.18
James Slater.....	71	9	12	6	225,140	.13
Gregg Ryan.....	32	7	3	4	63,050	.22
Chris Read.....	14	6	1	0	108,550	.43

Trainers (Races Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Jack Fisher.....	98	21	18	13	\$799,025	.21
Jonathan Sheppard.....	113	20	21	17	857,194	.18
Sanna Hendriks.....	65	18	10	8	606,402	.28
Doug Fout.....	87	15	16	12	488,526	.17
Tom Voss.....	78	15	9	14	461,453	.19
Kathy McKenna.....	63	11	7	10	172,040	.17
Neil Morris.....	38	7	7	1	145,950	.18
Ricky Hendriks.....	41	7	4	5	105,990	.17
Paul Rowland.....	45	6	3	3	104,600	.13
Arch Kingsley.....	27	4	4	4	98,406	.15

Owners (Money Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Bill Pape.....	26	6	7	3	\$364,015	.23
Augustin Stable.....	39	14	4	4	274,500	.36
Sonny Via.....	16	2	5	2	265,013	.13
Arcadia Stable.....	19	6	3	1	257,780	.32
Michael Moran.....	7	1	1	1	193,900	.14
Brigadoon Stable.....	27	6	4	5	192,615	.22
Calvin Houghland.....	45	2	7	6	191,348	.04
Irv Naylor.....	49	6	8	5	168,900	.12
Fox Ridge Farm.....	11	4	1	2	162,600	.36
Kinross Farm.....	38	7	7	1	145,950	.18

Horses (Money Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Good Night Shirt.....	4	2	1	0	\$224,163	.50
McDynamo.....	2	1	0	0	187,500	.50
Mixed Up.....	5	2	0	0	159,215	.40
Footlights.....	4	2	0	1	143,780	.50
Planets Aligned.....	8	3	1	1	142,600	.38
Gliding.....	7	2	1	1	128,715	.29
Divine Fortune.....	7	3	2	0	127,540	.43
Orison.....	6	1	2	0	103,401	.17
Irish Prince.....	4	4	0	0	102,000	1.00
Rum Squall.....	6	3	1	0	81,600	.50

Timber Horses (Money Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Irish Prince.....	4	4	0	0	\$102,000	1.00
Salmo.....	2	1	1	0	63,600	.50
Seeyouattheevent.....	5	2	0	2	63,500	.40
The Bruce.....	2	1	0	0	46,750	.50
Bubble Economy.....	6	1	2	0	32,400	.17

Novice Hurdle Horses (Money Won)

Horses which started 2007 as maidens over hurdles

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Planets Aligned.....	8	3	1	1	\$142,600	.38
Divine Fortune.....	7	3	2	0	127,540	.43
Rum Squall.....	6	3	1	0	81,600	.50
Imagina.....	7	3	1	0	71,700	.43
Swimming River.....	10	2	0	1	44,000	.20

Fillies/Mares (Money Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Footlights.....	4	2	0	1	\$143,780	.50
Imagina.....	7	3	1	0	71,700	.43
Sweet Shani.....	6	0	1	1	61,774	.00
Lair.....	3	2	0	1	44,000	.67
Orchid Princess.....	4	1	0	0	39,720	.25

'Mon' of the house

Miller/Houghland hero takes third Noel Laing

BY JOE CLANCY

MONTPELIER STATION, Va. — Three jockeys, one horse, three wins.

Mon Villez goes to Montpelier and wins the Noel Laing Stakes, no matter who rides.

Bred in France but an American since 2005, Mon Villez sports a 3-0 record in the Laing with wins over its natural hedge fences in 2005, 2006 and 2007 for jockeys Chip Miller, Jody Petty and now Carl Rafter.

"Chip, Jody, Carl — I guess it's the horse, right?" said trainer Bruce Miller of Calvin Houghland's veteran hurdler. "It's the distance and the jumps. You can go through them but going over them you gain another length with every stride the way he does it. He's such a good jumper, he's scopey and he just loves this course."

In the 2007 version, worth \$35,000, Mon Villez rated off the early pace of Preemptive Strike and gradually worked into the race. Seventh of eight early, Mon Villez moved to fifth and was third with about



Douglas Lees

Mon Villez (left, Carl Rafter) challenges Preemptive Strike at the last fence in the Noel Laing.

a half-mile to go as the field sped past the Montpelier mansion. Mon Villez drew alongside Preemptive Strike (Paddy Young) before the last and took the lead with another fluid leap, but braced for a challenge from Gliding (Matt McCarron). Mon Villez made the sharp final turn in front and Gliding roared to top speed on the inside. At the wire, Mon Villez prevailed by a length in 5:12 4/5 for the 2 1/2 miles. McCarron checked sharply just before the finish as Mon Villez drifted. A foul claim was disallowed, but Rafter was fined \$250 for careless riding.

"Matt did grandstand a bit, but I did come across in the middle of the course," said Rafter. "The fine was justified. I didn't keep my horse straight. It was a little bit harsh, but you're better off getting days or a fine instead of the race taken from you."

Aboard for the first time, Rafter was impressed with Mon Villez, winless in 10 U.S. starts away from Montpelier (though he's run some dynamite races, including a second to McDynamo in the 2006 Colonial Cup).

See **MONTPELIER** page 12 ►

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BELLINI MARTINI (by Whiskey Wisdom out of Something Light Has a 6 month foal by her side, by Goldmember

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Montpelier —

■ Continued from page 10

“He’s smashing, great – the jumping is really special with him,” said the jockey. “He was blinded at one and he just came up in my hands, came up, not a problem, landed, not a problem. Some horses you end up in spots that are a little bit sticky. With him, that doesn’t happen. He put himself in between horses to land. Awesome.”

For Miller, the performance helped soften a difficult fall season dealing with firm turf on his usual training ground in Pennsylvania.

“This year I haven’t been able to get anything trained right because of the hard ground,” said the trainer, who has won just three races this year. “I went to Delaware, I went everywhere and nobody has fired until he came here. Basically, I’m way behind.”

Not with Mon Villez at Montpelier.

• One race prior to the feature, Rafter started a double by steering Melinda and Jack Bass’ In Pursuit Of Love home in a \$20,000 allowance hurdle. Trained by Jonathan Sheppard, the winner hung tough in the stretch to edge the rapidly closing Harry’s Firebolt by a neck.

The Cobblers Son took the early lead and was joined by Harry’s Firebolt with three fences to jump. Humdinger moved to third with In Pursuit Of Love right there in fourth. Heading to the second-last, Harry’s Firebolt (Roderick Mackenzie) held the lead but lost ground to In Pursuit Of Love who carried a slight advantage over the last. Harry’s Firebolt re-rallied in the final yards but came up just short of the winner, who clocked 4:30 4/5 for the 2 3/8 miles. Orpington (Willie Dowling) finished third.

Rafter blamed and credited the Montpelier course with the win.

“The last two fences can be a little tough because they’re on the brow of hills and with big leggy horses like him you really have to wrap up and help them,” he said. “It’s funny because horses do come from behind here, but it’s a very tricky course to ride. It’s difficult to get the timing right. Roddie missed the second-last and nearly got back up to beat me.”

Restricted to non-winners of \$12,000 once other than claiming, the race attracted six recent maiden winners plus

the more experienced In Pursuit Of Love and Gather No Moss. A 6-year-old son of Northern Baby, the winner broke his maiden at Aiken last fall and opened his fall campaign with a third at Shawan Downs.

• The \$15,000 maiden hurdle overflowed with 27 entries on the overnight and the full set of 12 runners in the program. Owner/jockey Gregg Ryan put Belknap County on the lead and made the advantage last, holding on for a 2-length victory over Focus On A Star (Rafter) with G’Day G’Day (Mackenzie) third in 4:11 for the 2 miles.

Third in his only start over hurdles (at High Hope in May) the winner looked vulnerable late as the closers stacked up behind but he saved enough for the stretch. Trained by Julie Gomena, Belknap County survived a foul claim by Rafter for alleged interference in the stretch. Ryan picked up the 146th victory of his career, and spoke about the need for experience at Montpelier.

“You can get lost in the country here,” he said. “If you center the fences right, sometimes you have to angle back in afterward – you jump at one angle and then just end up wide. People follow horses that do that and all of the sudden if you’re paying attention you can make up ground.”

Ryan galloped Belknap County, a son of More Than Ready, for flat trainer George Weaver who lost the horse to a claim and claimed him back. Ryan purchased the 5-year-old from Weaver, and Gomena did the rest.

“Sometimes when you’re galloping a horse you’ll see a shadow on the track and think about it being a jump,” said the jockey. “I would do that on this horse – he just made you think about him being a jumper.”

• In the jump opener, Blackwood Stable’s Motel Affair halted a three-year victory drought by powering through the final quarter-mile to win a \$15,000 conditioned claiming hurdle for trainer Tom Voss. Motel Affair (Jake Chalfin) broke last, settled into stride midway through the race and followed Slattery, Old Fellow and One Sea into the second-last. Motel Affair passed all three there and drew off late to win by 14 3/4 lengths in 4:35 3/5 for the 2 3/8 miles. Old Fellow (Mackenzie) stayed for sec-

See **MONTPELIER** page 13 ►



Tod Marks

In Pursuit Of Love (left, Carl Rafter) battles with Harry’s Firebolt in the allowance hurdle.



Douglas Lees

Cutting the corner in the Laing, Preemptive Strike leads Mon Villez (obscured) and Gliding.

Montpelier Hunt Races.

Montpelier Station, Va. Saturday, Nov. 3.
Turf: Firm.

1st. Training flat. 1 Mile.

1. CRUMMIE’S RUN	L 150 J Murphy
2. GAME FACE ON	L 150 McCarron
3. PAN ADAM	L 155 Harris
4. PIZARRO	L 155 Gillam

Mgn: 7. Time: 1:41 1/5.

O: Kinross Farm. T: Neil Morris.

Dk.B./Br. g. 3 Snow Ridge-Fortunatetestimony, Deputed Testimony. Bred by Al-Aco Farm (FL).

2nd. \$15,000. Cond. cl. hurdle. 2 3/8 miles.

NW 3. \$15,000 clm. pr.

1. MOTEL AFFAIR	L 143 Chalfin
2. OLD FELLOW (ARG)	L 139 Mackenzie
3. IRISH ACTOR	L 148 Dowling
4. ONE SEA	L 148 Foley
5. SLATTERY	L 152 Young
6. HEROS AMONG US	L 144 Rafter
LR. UDEMAN	L 148 McCarron
PU. SILVER WHEAT	L 143 J. Murphy
PU. BEYOND REPAIR (IRE)	L 139 McVicar

Mgn: 14 3/4. Time: 4:35 3/5.

O: Blackwoods Stable. T: Tom Voss.

Dk.B./Br. g. 7 Colonial Affair-Motel Queen, Bates Motel. Bred by Larry Bowen (KY).

3rd. \$10,000. Mdn. clm. hurdle. 2 3/8 miles.

\$10,000-\$5,000 clm. pr.

1. CUMULUS NIMBUS	L 139 J. Murphy
2. SCOTT’S GOLD	L 148 Foley
3. SUSSEX COUNTY	L 156 Dowling
4. HEY DOCTOR	L 150 Young
5. SANTA CATALINA (CHI)	L 150 McCarron
LR. LUVYODAD	L 148 Fahey
PU. HIGHLAND STORM	L 150 Rafter
PU. TAKEH	L 155 Ryan
PU. GLIDE KING	L 141 Gillam

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

O: Kinross Farm. T: Neil Morris.

Dk.B./Br. g. 4 Pulpit-Sky Blue Pink, Strawberry Road (AUS). Bred by Stuart Janney (KY).

4th. \$15,000. Maiden hurdle. 2 miles.

1. BELKNAP COUNTY	L 155 Ryan
2. FOCUS ON A STAR	L 154 Rafter
3. G’DAY G’DAY	L 145 Mackenzie
4. DR. KINSOLVING	L 150 McCarron
5. TAX RULING	L 149 Fahey
6. RUNNING TIDE	L 149 Santoro
7. DYNAMONT	L 150 Young
8. FLYROCK	L 154 McCormack

9. ENDLESS MOUNTAIN	L 149 J. Murphy
10. RAINBOWS FOR LUCK	L 149 Gillam
LR. FANTORINI	L 154 Dowling
LR. LEAVES OF AUTUMN	L 139 McVicar

Mgn: 2. Time: 4:11.

O: Gregg Ryan. T: Julie Gomena.

B. g. 5 More Than Ready-Las Manitas, Faraway

Son. Bred by CHO LLC & Liberation Farm (KY).

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

NW \$12,000 once other than claiming

1. IN PURSUIT OF LOVE	L 152 Rafter
2. HARRY’S FIREBOLT	L 156 Mackenzie
3. ORPINGTON	L 144 Dowling
4. HUMDINGER	L 145 J. Murphy
5. DEJAVUALLOVERAGAIN	L 156 Ryan
6. CHANGE COURSE	L 144 Young
F. THE COBBLERS SON	L 145 Chalfin
PU. GATHER NO MOSS	L 144 Foley

Mgn: Neck. Time: 4:30 4/5.

O: Melinda Bass. T: Jonathan Sheppard.

Dk.B./Br. g. 6 Northern Baby-Chasing John, John Alden. Bred by Jonathan Sheppard (PA).

6th. \$35,000. Hurdle stakes. 2 1/2 miles.

The Noel Laing. Brush course.

1. MON VILLEZ (FR)	L 150 Rafter
2. GLIDING (NZ)	L 158 McCarron
3. PREEMPTIVE STRIKE	L 150 Young
4. DUKE OF EARL (IRE)	L 146 Dowling
5. CHIVITE (IRE)	L 146 Foley
6. TRIPLE DIP	L 134 McVicar
7. MAJOR VERNON (IRE)	L 148 Fahey
PU. MAURITANIA	L 152 Ryan

Mgn: 1. Time: 5:12 4/5.

O: Calvin Houghland. T: Bruce Miller.

Ch. g. 8 Mon Villez-Europa (SPA), Legend of France. Bred by SARL Classic Breeding & Ste. D’Elevage Des Chartreux (FR).

7th. Training flat. 1 1/2 miles.

1. MONSIEUR HENRI	L 155 Foley
2. BUNT	L 155 McCormack
3. WHISTLING DEPUTY	L 150 Dowling
4. LOST IN BOSTON	L 155 Young
5. AREA LIMITS	L 155 Ryan
6. SERMONIZE	L 150 Fahey
7. GREEN PRO	L 150 Gillam
8. SHADOW OF A CLOUD	L 152 McCarron
9. CALL ME MOXIE	L 152 Rafter

Mgn: 1 1/4. Time: 2:39 2/5.

O: Little Everglades Ranch. T: Janet Elliot.

B. g. 4 Chester House-Lady of Vision (IRE), Vision. Bred by Francis O’Toole (KY).

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Montpelier —

■ Continued from page 12

ond with Irish Actor (Dowling) third.

First-year apprentice jockey Chalfin improved to 2-for-3 on his young career (his batting average dropped to .500 with a loss later in the card), after auditioning for the ride at Voss' farm in Monkton, Md., earlier in the week. With a background in eventing and fox-hunting, Chalfin turned to jump racing this year and won with his second lifetime ride (The Cobblers Son) for Jazz Napravnik at Virginia Fall. Napravnik introduced Chalfin to Voss, who put the rider on some horses in the morning. A few days before Montpelier, Chalfin rode Motel Affair and the trainer suggested a quick school.

"I was walking back to the barn when Tom said, 'Why don't you just run him up over those hurdles real quick?' and I did," said Chalfin. "That was Wednesday morning."

Later that morning, Voss named Chalfin to ride the 7-year-old son of Colonial Affair.

"I guess that school went OK, because Tom didn't say anything afterward," Chalfin said. "It was a very good school."

• Making his third start of the fall, Cumulus Nimbus rallied through the stretch to catch Scott's Gold in the final yards and win a \$10,000 maiden claiming hurdle for Kinross Farm and trainer Neil Morris. Second at Aiken a week earlier for Xavier Aizpuru and fifth at Morven for Matt McCarron, the winner responded to apprentice Jeff Murphy at Montpelier.

"You just have to nurse him a bit, because if you're tough on him he's not going to give you anything," said the jockey. "Tom (Foley on Scott's Gold) sent down the hill and I just cruised on down the hill behind him. I absolutely halved the second-last, but he winged the last. Tom was still in front of me but the turn is so tight that if they start lengthening their stride before it they lose ground — so I just sat and waited to get round and then asked him. He really dug in then."

A 4-year-old son of Pulpit, Cumulus Nimbus scored by a half-length over Scott's Gold with Sussex County another half-length back in third in 4:36 2/5 for the 2 3/8 miles.



Douglas Lees
Motel Affair (Jake Chalfin)



Belknap County (Gregg Ryan)
charges to the finish with a
maiden win.

Tod Marks

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Saturday, November 3

In Orbit

Planets Aligned, Miller team up for stakes win

BY SEAN CLANCY

Chip Miller drove to Far Hills with one thought in his head, "Short. Short. Short."

No, he wasn't listening to his Randy Newman anthology. Miller was reminding himself to look for short spots on Far Hills' soft turf.

In the Foxbrook Novice hurdle stakes, Miller forgot his lines – seeing and going for long strides with Planets Aligned who nailed (at Miller's count) 12 out of 13 hurdles like Edwin Moses in his prime. The flamboyant jumping put the Tom Voss-trainee on the lead and eventually on the tilt as he faded in the holding ground to finish third behind Gliding and Sovereign Duty.

Two weeks later at Callaway Gardens for the \$100,000 AFLAC U.S. Championship Novice, Miller got it right. The 37-year-old veteran cued the 6-year-old novice for a short spot at the first and set the dye for a more prudent spin in the 2 1/4-mile stakes, the feature at the Nov. 3 meet in Pine Mountain, Ga. Owned and bred by Fox Ridge Farm, Planets Aligned saved ground in last before reeling in Sheriff Dillon, Divine Fortune, Swimming River, Lead Us Not and Dr. Bloomer. Planets Aligned won by 1 1/4 lengths over Lead Us Not (James Slater) and Dr. Bloomer (Xavier Aizpuru) in 3:58 4/5. The victory, worth \$60,000, clinched the NSA novice championship for Planets



Tod Marks

Planets Aligned (right) jumps a big one at Far Hills, two weeks before winning at Callaway Gardens.

Aligned. He earned \$142,600 for the year.

Miller knows it should have been more.

"At Far Hills, every fence came up long and I couldn't stop myself from riding to those long spots and I just wore him out," Miller said. "At Callaway, I did exactly what I should have done at Far Hills and made him go short at every fence, wait, wait, wait. I rode a cleaner, more conscious race at Callaway and he did what he had to do."

A winner of four flat races with trainer Pat Kelly, Planets Aligned made his jump debut at Atlanta this spring, falling at the second-last. He returned to finish 10th, yeah 10th, in a Foxfield maiden. Miller climbed aboard for the first time at Nashville where the Kentucky-bred son of Gold Fever took the Sport of Kings

maiden over Dr. Bloomer and Fantorini. Miller liked the horse but thought it was more of a fluke than a sign of greatness. That's changed.

Planets Aligned won the Mickey Walsh Novice at Saratoga in August, then finished third in the Somerset Medical Center at the Meadowlands. Far Hills and Callaway solidified the horse's record with Miller at three wins, a second and a third in five starts. With other jockeys, Planets Aligned hasn't finished better than sixth.

"He's improved. The race at Callaway was a much better race than any race he ran prior, that's a testament to Tom's training and just the way horses can improve over a year, if they don't miss any time, they

See **PLANETS** page 15 ►

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Planet —

■ Continued from page 14

get the right experiences, they don't get gutted, all that stuff," Miller said. "The horse who won at Saratoga is not the horse who won at Callaway. That's the great thing about horses, they can change dramatically in a relatively short period of time."

So can jockeys. It wasn't the same Miller at Far Hills.

"Voss thinks I gave him a bad ride at Far Hills because I was on the lead," Miller said. "The mistake wasn't that I was on the lead, the mistake was the way I jumped every fence. I kept seeing a long spot from so far out that I just let him lengthen 10 strides out and he gladly did it, but you can't do it on ground like that. And I know that. I did it on C R's Deputy, I did it on Party Airs, I did it on Best Attack, but

for whatever reason I didn't on Planets Aligned."

Nobody in the jocks' room sees strides like Miller. He counts them like an MIT student counts cards. Sometimes for better, sometimes for worse.

"I saw them, like 30 strides out, as soon as I could see them. As soon as I could back him up, five to eight strides after the fence, I could see the next spot," Miller said. "I'm used to seeing my spot 10 strides out, when you see it at least 20 strides out, it's irresistible, like a Sunday buffet when you're hungry."

Consider Callaway Gardens Jenny Craig.

"I think I got every one of them short except for the second-to-last," Miller said. "It took him one fence before he knew what we were doing and then he just let me idle him, that's what older horses do, you give them a little tug and they go, 'Oh, OK.' That was the coolest part about it, now he's completely made."



Paul Sandifer

Swimming River (right) and the rest of the pack rate behind Dr. Bloomer (not pictured) in the Callaway feature.

Lair steps up

Mare knocks off bigger names in Crown Royal

BY BRIAN NADEAU

James Slater and Lair exchanged pleasantries for the first time in the paddock at Callaway Gardens, prior to the Crown Royal Hurdle Stakes for fillies/mares Nov. 3. Some 2 1/4 miles later they seemed like long-lost friends after they defeated Imagina by 1 1/2 lengths for Mimi Voss and her husband, Tom.

"I never sat on her before but I talked to Tom before the race and he told me a little bit about her," Slater said. "He said that she would stay on but she might find the running a little quick out there and not to leave her with too much to do."

Lair stalked the early pace in third as Guelph (Cyril Murphy) and Orchid Princess (Rylee Zimmerman) sparred for the early lead. Imagina, who had defeated Lair in the Peapack at Far Hills two weeks

earlier, sat fifth for Jody Petty, though she was only 3 lengths off the leaders.

Guelph bolted through the wing nearing the eighth and Lair moved up with Imagina drawing in closer. The pair raced on even terms as they turned for home, but Lair fought gamely and turned back Imagina's challenge late. It was 1 1/4 lengths back to Thrumcap (Xavier Aizpuru) third.

"She was coming off some good races but I did expect a couple of them to be tough in there. I really thought Guelph was going to be tough to beat," Slater said. "Obviously I had my eyes on Imagina as she is right in the shakeup every time and a hard-knocking mare. (Lair) was up in the bridle for me the whole way and I had my foot on the brakes slightly all the way around. She surprised me in that she was really push-button."

The meet marked Slater's first trip to Callaway, though he treated it like a morning walk to get the paper with two wins and two seconds from his four mounts on the hilly, right-handed course. For good measure, he also won the training flat with Three Carat.

See **CALLAWAY** page 16 ►



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Steeplechase at Callaway

Pine Mountain, Ga. Saturday, November 3.
Turf: Firm.

1st. \$20,000. Maiden timber. 3 1/8 miles.

1. ACROSS THE SKY	L 160	Walsh
2. HE'S A CONNIVER	L 160	Slater
3. WON WILD BIRD	L 144	W. Haynes
4. HADDIX	L 160	Zimmerman
5. FIGHT SONG	L 160	R. Haynes
6. WESTERN FLING	L 165	Petty
7. BERANI	155	Helders
PU NINETY DAY NOTE	L 165	Traurig

Mgn: 1 1/4. Time: 6:25 2/5.

O: Jimmie Lockhart. T: Paul Rowland.
B. g. 5 Valley Crossing-Little Dipper, Thirty Eight Paces. Bred by Alan Anthony (MD).

2nd. \$20,000. Hwt. hurdle. 3 1/8 miles.

Amateur jockeys

1. UNDERBIDDER	L 180	Slater
2. SUMMERSVILLE	L 167	R. Haynes
3. DYN IN TEXAS	L 162	Helders
4. CAPITAL PEAK	L 176	Read
5. NAVESINK VIEW	L 162	W. Haynes

Mgn: 6 1/4. Time: 5:47 3/5.

O: Timber Bay Farm. T: Jonathan Sheppard.
B. g. 6 Awad-Joli Princess, Lejoli.
Bred by Mitch Byrd & Mona Gardella (MD).

3rd. \$100,000. Novice stakes. 2 1/4 miles.

The AFLAC U.S. Championship (Grade I)

1. PLANETS ALIGNED	L 153	C. Miller
2. LEAD US NOT	L 150	Slater
3. DR. BLOOMER	L 150	Aizpuru
4. DIVINE FORTUNE	L 150	Hodsdon
5. SWIMMING RIVER	L 153	Walsh
6. SHERIFF DILLON	L 150	Petty

Mgn: 1 1/4. Time: 3:58 4/5.

O: Fox Ridge Farm. T: Tom Voss.
Ch. g. 6 Gold Fever-Flying Minister, Deputy Minister. Bred by Fox Ridge Farm (KY).

4th. \$50,000. F&M hurdle stakes. 2 1/4 miles.

The Crown Royal

1. LAIR	L 136	Slater
2. IMAGINA (CHI)	L 152	Petty
3. THRUMCAP	L 140	Aizpuru
4. FEELING SO PRETTY	L 144	Traurig
5. ORCHID PRINCESS	L 148	Zimmerman
6. PUSH MY LUCK	L 136	Hodsdon
7. SUNTARA	L 140	Walsh
OC. GUELPH	L 144	C. Murphy
PU. NORTHERN GALE	L 136	R. Haynes

Mgn: 1 1/2. Time: 3:54 2/5.

O: Mimi Voss. T: Tom Voss.
B. m. 5 Lion Cavern-Lostris, El Gran Senor.
Bred by Mimi Voss (MD).

5th. \$25,000. SOK mdn. hurdle. 2 1/4 miles.

1. SWAGGER STICK	L 154	Aizpuru
2. GIGGER	L 154	C. Miller
3. THE PRICE OF LOVE	L 148	Hodsdon
4. ZOZIMUS	L 148	Petty
5. LOVE PALACE (IRE)	L 149	Zimmerman
6. TANK ZONE	L 136	W. Haynes
PU. PLUM BRUSH	L 148	Walsh

Mgn: 2. Time: 4:58 2/5.

O: Gil Johnston. T: Jack Fisher.
Gr./Ro. g. 6 Cozzene-Regal State, Affirmed.
Bred by Clovelly Farms (KY).

6th. Training flat. 1 1/2 miles. Amateur jockeys.

1. THREE CARAT	L 168	Slater
2. KAPAK (GB)	L 168	W. Haynes
3. HOT RIZE	L 160	R. Haynes

Mgn: 4. Time: 2:46 3/5.

O/T: Jonathan Sheppard.
B. g. 7 Storm Broker-Gemini's Gem, Gemini Dreamer. Bred by Jonathan Sheppard (PA).



Paul Sandifer

Swagger Stick (left) leads Gigger and The Price Of Love in the Callaway maiden hurdle.

Callaway —

■ Continued from page 15

"This was the first time I had ever ridden there but Tom gave me some advice on the course and how to ride it. Obviously I like it now," Slater said. "Going down the hill and into the straight was a little tight so I'm glad the fields were a bit short, as you would have been bumping around with each other out there."

- Slater's other winner on the day came aboard Timber Bay Farm's Underbidder for trainer Jonathan Sheppard. After testing his mettle against the best, Underbidder enjoyed some considerable class relief in the 3 1/8-mile allowance for amateur jockeys. Earlier this summer and fall the 6-year-old son of Awad ran in three consecutive Grade I stakes; the New York Turf Writers, where he finished second; the Lonesome Glory, where he was sixth; and the Breeders' Cup Grand National, where he checked in fifth.

Footlights, Good Night Shirt and McDynamo stayed away from the \$20,000 Callaway race — though they were eligible — and the result was a predictable one for the classy Underbidder.

Summersville (Russell Haynes) set off on an ambitious trip, leading by as many as 15 lengths early, with Slater remaining unswayed aboard Underbidder, who was third as they hit the 2-mile marker. With little urging, Underbidder moved in on Summersville as they approached the final turn and overpowered the frontrunner to draw off by 6 1/4 lengths. Dyn In Texas (Adam Helders) was 3 1/4 lengths back in third.

"We felt like this would be a spot where he would be more competitive. He's kind of been up against it all year though he has never disgraced himself and run some really good races over the summer," said Slater, who works for Sheppard. "He's run well in some Grade I's but he is a little outclassed at that level. He's a dead-honest horse but the level weights makes it hard on him. He's a good jumper and a lot of fun to ride. He has a lot of ability and he goes better when you're able to sit behind with him and give him some confidence. Then he pricks his ears up and says 'now we're having fun.' If you watch his videos when he gets to the second-last he begins to step it up, like he knows it's time to go to work. We've been together so long it's like we see the same stride out there and he knows what he's supposed to do out there. He enjoyed running against horses he was supposed to beat and he knew he could beat."

- Across The Sky (Robbie Walsh) got the day underway, taking the first, a maiden timber at 3 1/8 miles. Owned by Jimmie Lockhart and trainer Paul Rowland's wife, Jodi, Across The Sky was making his timber debut and the 5-year-old handled it like a seasoned pro, though it wasn't a major surprise to his trainer.

"I always thought he would be a good timber horse but I only schooled him three times leading up to the race. He's such a good jumper, but he is only 5 years old, so I wasn't sure

if I wanted to try him over timber yet," Rowland said. "He doesn't have the turn of foot for an allowance race and they weren't getting any easier, so I thought he would make the transition and I'd give him a shot."

Across The Sky broke his hurdle maiden for a \$5,000 claiming price this spring at Aiken, then battled through five starts against winners.

At Callaway, Walsh placed Across The Sky close to early leaders Western Fling (Petty) and He's A Conniver (Slater) during the initial stages. The winner travelled comfortably for the first 2 miles and took charge while building a 5-length lead on a tiring Western Fling on the final turn. He's A Conniver made a race of it late, but Across The Sky was 1 1/4 lengths to the good at the wire. Won Wild Bird (Will Haynes) finished a non-threatening third.

"My worry was that he made the front too soon. He's become more relaxed as he's gotten older. He's always been keen and it's taken him some time to relax," Rowland said. "When Robbie tried to pull him up he took hold of the bridle again, so you know he won't mind the distance. He can be a contender in some of the Maryland timber races next year, and right now we'll leave him on timber."

- Jack Fisher always thought he would be training Swagger Stick, it just took a little longer to happen than he first anticipated. Gil Johnston's gray son of Cozzene rewarded Fisher's patience with a 2-length victory under Aizpuru in a \$25,000 maiden hurdle.

"I called Gil and said 'I'll train him,' but she told me she bought him to be a flat horse and gave him to Graham Motion. He ran pretty well for Graham on the flat for a while," Fisher said. "Graham said he had too many flat horses to have just one jumper though, so he sent him to me."

Purchased for 220,000 guineas at England's Tattersalls Sale in 2004, Swagger Stick is a half-brother to 2003 Breeders' Cup Classic winner Pleasantly Perfect and came to the United States in time for the 2005 season with Motion. The Kentucky-bred won a third-level allowance and finished third in the Grade III Stars and Stripes before injuring himself. He reappeared this spring with mixed results and even made a hurdle start under Motion's name at Saratoga Open House before finally joining Fisher for a maiden hurdle at Shawan Downs Sept. 29.

Swagger Stick and Aizpuru barely got comfortable that day, as they parted company at the second fence. The result was more professional at Callaway. Sitting in second off of Love Palace (Zimmerman), Swagger Stick moved to the lead from the inside and held off Gigger (Chip Miller) by 2 lengths with The Price Of Love (Danielle Hodsdon) third.

"I ran him at Shawan but with the ground so hard I didn't have much time to school him. He lost Xav but he didn't fall, he just jumped awkwardly. We just needed to figure out how to ride him. He's got a lot of talent," Fisher said. "I ran him at Callaway because I knew the ground would be good there. Gus Brown gets a lot of credit too, as he did the schooling on him (with Motion). I just told Xav to school him around there and if you win, great, but I don't care. I just wanted to get some schooling into him but he won pretty easy."

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Did you hear?

Earmark survives wild battle with Shady Valley in timber stakes

BY BRIAN NADEAU

PENNSYLVANIA HUNT CUP

Sunday, November 4

UNIONVILLE, Pa. — Irv Naylor's Earmark (Billy Santoro) took the featured \$30,000 Pennsylvania Hunt Cup timber stakes by a widening 8 3/4 lengths over Shady Valley (Russell Haynes), which sounds normal enough.

Sounds.

What figured to be a salty spot for timber ace Bubble Economy ended moments after it got started. Arcadia Stable's 8-year-old, the 2004 timber champion, is one of the most accomplished runners on the circuit with wins in the Grand National, Ski Roundtop and Mason Houghland. But when he refused at the first fence, the race turned as wide open as an automatic door at the Acme.

Music To My Ears (Lucy Horner) fell at the first, leaving just three to continue. Until Patriot's Path (Will Haynes) refused the third and found himself distanced from the two leaders. He finally got untracked only to refuse the fourth and be pulled up. For Santoro, strategy quickly went out the window. Since Earmarked stopped at Genesee, Santoro wanted a lead in the Pennsylvania race.

"Things really changed right at the start when we lost three really quick,"

said Santoro. "(At Genesee) he was jumping nicely and then just stopped. I did get a chance to sit on him last weekend but not do a whole lot and he was still not really confident but he did get going better. I hoped to get a nice lead and see if he was confident enough to go on because he is a great galloper and you don't want to leave an awful lot for him to do at the end because he doesn't have that much foot."

Shady Valley and Earmark staged a match race with 18 fences remaining. Shady Valley took the initiative, sprinting clear and opening daylight as they came up the hill to complete the first lap. Earmark jumped back into contention over the ninth, pulling within a length of his dance partner. As the pair disappeared in the distance and circled back toward the spectators with about a mile to go, Shady Valley began to reassert himself. He came back into view some 6 lengths in front and sprinted free to open up 15 heading downhill toward the 17th.

With the real running yet to begin Santoro wasn't about to panic.



Tod Marks

Earmark (Billy Santoro) flies a fence in the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup.

"At that point, when he was sprinting away, I was comfortable where we were," Santoro said. "The second time up after we jumped out into the wind I let him ramble down the hill to let him make up a few lengths that way and then I let him relax as we went up the hill. I still had over a mile to go. We were making ground up over the jumps and anywhere we were going downhill."

As the duo approached the 18th, Shady Valley began to show signs of weakness from his enterprising tactics. He stumbled over the 19th and soon Earmark was only 2 lengths behind.

Exiting the final turn and straightening up for the stretch, Earmark challenged Shady Valley and roared past to draw off and win comfortably.

"You like to make a good ramble down the hill and try to catch up to where you want to be," Santoro said. "It appeared after we left the third-last that I was picking up on Shady Valley

and I let the horse just gallop on past and fortunately we were still there at the end."

Like his jockey, trainer Billy Meister was unfazed after Shady Valley tried to steal it on the front end.

"I was thinking that we stood a very good shot when I saw the other three horses go down; we had been around the Steeplethon a bunch of times so he's seen everything, so a course like this would suit him," Meister said. "I was very comfortable where we were; I thought Shady Valley was going too soon. I saw Billy had a ton of horse and he shook his hands a little bit and I knew we still had plenty of horse. I knew he was a 4-mile horse; he's a good galloping kind of horse who will go all day long."

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See **PENNSYLVANIA** page 20 ►

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Tod Marks

Erin Go Bragh (right) jumps with Genghis early in a maiden timber win.

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Steeplechase 101

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**Informing The
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Q: Will Flatterer’s weight-carrying record (176 pounds to win the National Hunt Cup in 1986) ever be broken?

A: (from Flatterer’s trainer Jonathan Sheppard): “I don’t think so. There aren’t that many handicaps anymore so horses have other options. They don’t have to run in handicaps to win championships because three of the five Grade I stakes are weight-for-age now; only the Royal Chase and the Turf Writers are handicaps. When we did it with Flatterer, we kind of set out to do it since he had already gotten close. We looked for a race that would suit and a course that would suit and Radnor was perfect. I didn’t want to run him somewhere with a long stretch where the weight would matter more.”



Bragh's trainer Doug Fout called Gregg Ryan early Sunday the amateur rider immediately put his ear to the tracks.

"Doug called and mentioned that Matt McCarron might not be feeling so well and he said that I had ridden the horse before at some point-to-points in some amateur races," Ryan said. "He said 'You know the horse, would you like to ride him?'"

Ryan took the reins and Brigadoon Stable's New Zealand-bred Erin Go Bragh scored by 1 3/4 lengths over Why Not Baby (Willie Dowling) and Irish Laddie (James Fahey) in a \$10,000 allowance timber.

Win 147 tied Ryan, who won his first race at Hard Scuffle in 1981 aboard Close To Glory, with Rigan McKinney as the sport's all-time winningest amateur jockey. Though his winners have slowed over the past few years Ryan took a moment to reflect on a career that has spanned the better part of three decades.

"Things have been a little slow but this fall kind of reminds me of years past in that I've kind of pushed the sun back higher and it's 12:00. It's just kind of nice to reflect on it," Ryan said. "People say 'Are you going to retire after you get the record?' But I've always enjoyed this for fun. You retire from work. So why would you retire from a sport or a hobby? It's neat because the people that are rooting for me more are all the professional jockeys, so it's kind of fitting that this was a catch ride."

Erin Go Bragh has made a smooth transition to the timber scene this season after running credibly over hurdles against the best of the division. In 2005 he won the Grade III Appleton at Far Hills and in 2006 he was third in the Grade I Iroquois while knocking heads all season with the likes of Sur La Tete, Hirapour and Mixed Up.

Erin Go Bragh switched to timber for his 8-year-old debut at My Lady's Manor in April, and he teamed with Ryan to run second to Mr Liberator. With McCarron aboard, Erin Go Bragh decisively broke his timber maiden at Shawan Downs in September – airing by 7 lengths over Ravens Rock, who returned to win his next start. Erin Go Bragh was hardly disgraced when running a close third to undefeated Irish Prince in the New Jersey Hunt Cup prior to the win.

Ryan gave Erin Go Bragh a stalking journey, following early leader Genghis (Woods Winants) through the early running of the 3-mile allowance test. Noblest (Chris Read) and Bad Birdie (Tom Foley) took turns sparring with Genghis through the first 2 miles.

As the field went out of sight for the final time Noblest and Erin Go Bragh had assumed control with Genghis third. Noblest fell over the 13th leaving Erin Go Bragh, Ravens Rock (Paddy Young) and Irish Laddie to fight it out on the front. Turning into the straight Erin Go Bragh pulled clear and streaked to the last and had plenty in reserve at the wire.

"He got a good lead in front there and I just kind of brought him back. He was comfortable the whole way around for me," said Ryan, who fell with Hotspur one race earlier. "Turning for home, at the second-to-last, I was probably a little too conservative. I was running down inside and I had plenty of horse but my shoulder kind of popped out on me and I think I dislocated it a bit, so that's why I looked so awkward coming down the stretch. It just goes to show that a good horse can overcome any jockey."

• George Hundt (see sidebar) got the day started with a 2-length score aboard Lucy Stable's Professor Maxwell in the first, a \$5,000 amateur heavyweight timber. Richard Valentine trained the winner, an 8-year-old son of Buckhar.

Professor Maxwell lagged at the back of the seven-horse field as Major Frank (Boyd Martin) made the early running with Ice Bullet (Anne Hambleton) keeping them honest.

"I was comfortable being out the back, it's where I rode my other horse for Richard as well. They both would like to be up front but they will settle enough and it makes for an easier race, especially for an amateur," Hundt said. "I almost went down at the fourth when Jim Whitner and Chinese Whisper went down. I was halfway off of my horse but he showed a lot of athleticism and propped me back up."



Tod Marks

Professor Maxwell (right, George Hundt) holds off Ice Bullet late in the amateur heavyweight timber.

Redemption Song

Hundt stays course to win at Pa. Hunt Cup

George Hundt gazed across the race course to see NSA Starter Barry Watson's flag cutting through the air like an arrow at a bullseye and thought 'This isn't how this is supposed to work.' Unfortunately, Watson was aiming at Hundt and his mount Melting, who had veered drastically off course in the amateur heavyweight timber race at last year's Pennsylvania Hunt Cup.

Needless to say, Hundt's first NSA ride didn't go according to plan. He had the play drawn up in the sand but a tidal wave washed it away. Or a 1,200-pound Thoroughbred with a mind of his own. Hundt and Melting went on to finish the race, though they were distanced at the finish. And while it wasn't the way he wanted his amateur career to begin, Hundt had something to aim for the following year.

"Barry threw the flag at us to get us back on course and I've been thinking about that day since then. I literally thought about my performance every day

for the past year," Hundt said. "So to go back there and win for myself and for Melting, I just have to pinch myself."

Hundt guided Professor Maxwell home in this year's amateur heavyweight timber at the Hunt Cup Nov. 4 and celebrated his 44th birthday a few days early in the process. A successful New York trader at JP Morgan, Hundt swapped *The Wall Street Journal* for riding boots and a saddle and returned to his roots in 2006, moving back to his hometown of Malvern, Pa.

"I've been riding horses since I have been able to walk. I grew up in a horse family; my dad was a master at Radnor," Hundt said. "I was living in New York for the past 17 years and moved back a few years ago and started foxhunting again and now I build stone walls and ride my horses."

Though Hundt has had limited chances, he has made the most of his opportunities – Professor Maxwell provided Hundt with his second win from only five mounts.

Hundt took the 2007 amateur heavyweight timber championship. He scored his first victory earlier this year aboard Michele Marieschi at Willowdale May 13 and has also ridden in seven point-to-points.

Hundt races under two stable names; Anna Stable and Lucy Stable, named after two nieces. Richard Valentine trains his runners. In addition to Professor Maxwell, Hundt's string includes Michele Marieschi, Melting, and new acquisition Water Hunter. Valentine takes the horses heading to the races, while those not in training stay with Paddy and Leslie Young in Unionville, Pa.

"Once a week I'll head to Virginia and work with Richard Valentine and drive him crazy. I have been trying everyone's patience but they've all been great and have really helped me with my riding. I still consider myself a work in progress. It's feast or famine for me; in the same race."

– Brian Nadeau

Pennsylvania Hunt Cup.

Unionville, Pa. Sunday, November 4. Turf: Firm.

1st. \$5,000. Amateur hwt. timber. 3 miles.

NW \$9,000 once in 2006-07

1. PROFESSOR MAXWELL	L	170.....	Hundt
2. ICE BULLET.....	L	170.....	Hambleton
3. PROFOWENS (IRE)	L	170.....	Horner
F. MAJOR FRANK	L	170.....	Martin
LR. CHINESE WHISPER.....	L	193.....	Whitner
LR. HOTSPUR.....	L	180.....	Ryan
PU. DR. RAMSEY.....	L	180.....	Gillam

Mgn: 2. Time: 6:58. O: Lucy Stable. T: Richard Valentine.
B.g. 8 Buckhar-Pas de Basque, Bounding Basque.
Bred by Janet Elliot (PA).

2nd. \$10,000. Allowance timber. 3 miles.

NW 2

1. ERIN GO BRAGH (NZ).....	L	165.....	Ryan
2. WHY NOT BABY.....	L	160.....	Dowling
3. IRISH LADDIE	L	155.....	Fahey
4. HANKO (GER).....	L	160.....	Horner
5. RAVENS ROCK.....	L	165.....	Young
6. GENGHIS	L	170.....	Winants
F. NOBLEST	L	165.....	Read
PU. BAD BIRDIE.....	L	160.....	Foley

Mgn: 1 3/4. Time: 6:34. O: Brigadoon Stable. T: Doug Fout.
B. g. 8 Desert Sun (GB)-Ball Road (NZ), Vice Regal (NZ).
Bred by W.P. Maher (NZ).

3rd. \$30,000. Amateur timber stakes. 4 miles.

The Pennsylvania Hunt Cup

1. EARMARK.....	L	160.....	Santoro
2. SHADY VALLEY	L	160.....	R. Haynes
F. MUSIC TO MY EARS (IRE)	L	155.....	Horner
LR. BUBBLE ECONOMY	L	165.....	Gillam
LR. PATRIOT'S PATH	L	155.....	W. Haynes

Mgn: 8 3/4. Time: 8:56 3/5. O: Irv Naylor. T: Billy Meister.
B. g. 11 Personal Flag-Fenimore, Relaunch.
Bred by Mr. & Mrs. Roy Jackson (KY).

4th. Training flat. 2 miles. Apprentice jockeys.

1. WITSAND BAY	L	160.....	Mackenzie
2. BOUNDING CAT	L	160.....	Boyce
3. ARTIST'S STROKE	L	160.....	Gillam
4. JACKSONIAN	L	160.....	Chalfin
5. EAT EM ALIVE.....	L	150.....	Hunter
6. BLAZING ACE.....	L	160.....	Santoro
R. SALUTE THE NEWS.....	L	160.....	Chubb

Mgn: 1. Time: 4:12 4/5. O: Cherry Knoll Farm. T: Janet Elliot.
Gr./Ro. g. 4 Cape Town-Demure Di, Greinton (GB).
Bred by Joe Koepfer (KY).



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 \$1,225,000

Contact Anne McIntosh



Painter's Branch, Lovettsville, VA

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\$5,700,000

Contact Anne McIntosh



Triple J Road, Berryville, VA

105 acres with 2 DUR's. All open rolling pasture with super building site possibilities. Minutes to Berryville, 15 min to Winchester, 30 minutes to Leesburg and the Greenway. Significant tax break potential if put in scenic easement.
 \$1,500,000
 20 acre parcel with one DUR.
 \$500,000

Contact Anne McIntosh



Leeds Manor Road, Fauquier County

In the heart of Old Dominion Hunt country, 154 acres in 3 parcels of approximately 50 acres each, with long hard surface road frontage, rolling terrain, woods, pastures, water and westerly views.

\$795,000/parcel

Contact Chris Malone



Elm Spring, Berryville, VA

Country estate located in Blue Ridge hunt country. Stunning 13 room French style home sits on 93 acres. Gardens, pool, pine flooring and exposed beams. Barn and run-in sheds, pasture with board fencing.

\$2,350,000

Contact Anne McIntosh



Hilltop Lane, The Plains, VA

Ultra charming stucco cottage on 10+ acres, superbly located between Middleburg and The Plains. Very private, in a lovely wooded setting, nicely elevated, with views to the Blue Ridge. Great hunt box, weekend or full time residence.

\$985,000

Contact Chris Malone



Overlook Farm, Marshall, VA

Gracious private country home on 97 acres, minutes to village. House offers 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, spacious eat-in kitchen, finished lower level, charming guest house, 3 car garage and barn. Great opportunity with easy access.

\$2,400,000

Contact Butter Strother



Sycamore Street, Middleburg, VA

Rare find in the middle of residential Middleburg, beautiful garden and trees, large pool with outdoor entertaining area. 4 bedrooms. One level living with potential for in-law suite or separate apt. on lower level. House in immaculate move-in condition.

\$675,000

Contact Bundles Murdock or Butter Strother



Stone Echo, Middleburg, VA

Stately brick colonial on 5 acres with 3 stall barn and paddock. Extra large master bedroom with balcony and ensuite bath. 2 additional bedrooms each with private bath and additional full bath on main floor. Recently updated. Fantastic commuter location.

\$1,095,000

Contact Bundles Murdock

STEEPLECHASE 'Pick Six' FANTASY STABLE GAME

THE HOFFBERGER INSURANCE GROUP

Deck the stalls with boughs for Holly

Christmas is coming early to the Palmetto State. As the NSA season comes to a close in Camden, McClellanville's Winfield Sapp has the Pick 6 title already wrapped up, bow and all. Thanks to his Holly Stable (and the Hoffberger Insurance Group), there will be a \$300 gift certificate under his tree, as well as a \$50 gift certificate in his stocking for leading at the end of November. With McDynamo, Orison and Imagina all likely to run on the Colonial Cup card, Sapp can still add to his total, but no one can catch him.

The gold medal is sewn up tight, but silver and bronze are still there for the taking, and the Colonial Cup will serve as the deciding heat.

Four folks are in with a chance for the \$150 runner-up share: McDynamo's fourth Cup would lock up second for Ernie Moulos; Gliding could carry Charles Reid onto the podium with a win; victory by Orison (with Gliding third or worse) would see Ashley Monroe in second; while a score by Good Night Shirt would catapult Jumpin' Jack Clancy up from sixth.

Third place is well and truly up for grabs, and a number of stables could still bring home the \$100 prize.

The top 44 stables (through Nov. 17) are listed here. See www.st-publishing.com for full standings.

— Jamie Santo (45th place)

Holly	Winfield Sapp
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Mixed Up.....	\$159,215
Orison	\$103,401
Irish Prince	\$102,000
Imagina.....	\$71,700
Northern Gale.....	\$9,700
	\$633,516

MVP Stable	Ernie Moulos
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Mixed Up.....	\$159,215
Irish Prince	\$102,000
Imagina.....	\$71,700
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Pukka.....	\$15,000
	\$605,327

Pony Up Stable	Ashley Monroe
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Orison	\$103,401
Irish Prince	\$102,000
Imagina.....	\$71,700
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Class Deputy	\$10,950
	\$545,463

The Dukester	Charles Reid
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Gliding	\$128,715
Orison	\$103,401
Imagina.....	\$71,700
Prep School	\$16,500
Miles Ahead	\$15,000
	\$522,816

Singapore Lions	Bill Hutchinson
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Mixed Up.....	\$159,215
Imagina.....	\$71,700
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Miles Ahead	\$15,000
Pukka.....	\$15,000
	\$518,327

Lacrosse Rules	Jack Clancy
Good Night Shirt.....	\$224,163
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Best Attack.....	\$77,900
Ghost Valley	\$22,000
Gold Mitten	\$5,400
Ten Cents A Shine	\$0
	\$516,963

Twelfth Night Farm	Nicholas Schweizer
Good Night Shirt	\$224,163
Footlights.....	\$143,780
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Seeyouattheevent.....	\$63,500
Mark The Shark.....	\$9,250
Fiscal Storm	\$0
	\$510,605

Ms Demeanor	Linda Cowasjee
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Irish Prince	\$102,000
Imagina.....	\$71,700
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Swimming River	\$44,000
Riddle.....	\$31,956
	\$507,068

Try Again	Jim McVey
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Mixed Up	\$159,215
Imagina.....	\$71,700
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Diego Cao	\$25,500
Sharp Face	\$23,100
	\$494,015

Jabberwocky Stables	Sarah Greenhalgh
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Orison	\$103,401
Imagina.....	\$71,700
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Mr Bombastic	\$29,450
Diego Cao	\$25,500
	\$487,463



Tod Marks

A maiden for next year? Witsand Ban (right) draws away to win the training flat at the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup.

Mr. McGuggles Inc.	Suzanna Lampton
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Mixed Up.....	\$159,215
Orison	\$103,401
Ghost Valley	\$22,000
Guelph	\$2,500
Haggard	\$2,500
	\$477,116

All4Fun&Fun4All	Lulu Verney
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Mixed Up.....	\$159,215
Swimming River	\$44,000
Orchid Princess.....	\$39,720
Big Is Best.....	\$15,450
Class Vantage.....	\$15,000
	\$460,885

Boots & Bows	Delaney Shields
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Mixed Up.....	\$159,215
Preemptive Strike.....	\$52,702
Slew's Peak.....	\$35,740
Diego Cao	\$25,500
Rosbrian	\$0
	\$460,657

Hunter's Rest	Betsy Parker
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Orison	\$103,401
Imagina.....	\$71,700
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Praise The Prince	\$9,000
Fershaw	\$8,700
	\$450,213

SeaBass Stable	Leslie Young
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Orison	\$103,401
Imagina.....	\$71,700
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Miles Ahead	\$15,000
Flyrock	\$0
	\$447,513

Living On A Prayer	Lisa McLane
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Orison	\$103,401
Imagina.....	\$71,700
Mr Bombastic	\$29,450
Chivite.....	\$28,374
Pukka.....	\$15,000
	\$435,425

Flying High Farm	Kathryn Rasch
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Mixed Up.....	\$159,215
Orchid Princess.....	\$39,720
Chivite.....	\$28,374
Erin Go Bragh.....	\$18,700
Alumni Hall	\$0
	\$433,509

Dadoffthree Stable	Joe Clancy
Planets Aligned	\$142,500
Orison	\$103,401
Best Attack.....	\$77,900
Imagina.....	\$71,700
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Coal Dust	\$9,000
	\$431,501

Carglen Stable	Joe Clancy Sr.
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Orison	\$103,401
Lair.....	\$44,000
Swimming River	\$44,000
Rare Bush	\$27,000
Ghost Valley	\$22,000
	\$427,901

Too Far Out Farm	Tiffany Webb
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Orison	\$103,401
Imagina.....	\$71,700
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Miles Ahead	\$15,000
Pukka.....	\$15,000
	\$419,601

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Cheltenham Invasion	Richard Hutchinson
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Orison	\$103,401
Imagina	\$71,700
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Diego Cao	\$25,500
Askim.....	\$0
.....	\$415,101
Third Brother Stable	Nolan Clancy
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Gliding	\$128,715
Swimming River	\$44,000
Bubble Economy	\$32,400
Prep School	\$16,500
Gold Mitten	\$5,400
.....	\$414,515
Hodges' Arcade	Angela M. Benjamin
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Imagina	\$71,700
Seeyouattheevent.....	\$63,500
Preemptive Strike.....	\$52,702
Riddle.....	\$31,956
Dynamont	\$0
.....	\$407,358
WILCO	Tina Smith
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Orison	\$103,401
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Diego Cao	\$25,500
Miles Ahead	\$15,000
Gold Mitten	\$5,400
.....	\$406,713
McHistory	Owen Demare
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Orison	\$103,401
Imagina	\$71,700
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Pukka	\$15,000
Askim.....	\$0
.....	\$404,601
Northbrook Stable	Peggy Falini
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Footlights	\$143,780
Chivite	\$28,374
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Miles Ahead	\$15,000
Flyrock	\$0
.....	\$401,654
PonyGirl Stables	Elizabeth Watrous
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Mixed Up.....	\$159,215
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Class Deputy	\$10,950
Bug River	\$10,500
Guelph	\$2,500
.....	\$397,665
Lucy's Lunging Leapers.....	Lucy Seginak
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Mixed Up.....	\$159,215
Feeling So Pretty	\$17,865
Angel Del Viento.....	\$15,000
Miles Ahead	\$15,000
Quem Se Atreve	\$0
.....	\$394,580
Fancy Footwork Stable	Jared Marks
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Irish Prince	\$102,000
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Diego Cao	\$25,500
Meadow	\$4,500
Evidential	\$2,000
.....	\$391,412
Refuse To Lose Racing Stables	Gina Perri
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Planets Aligned	\$142,500
Gryffindor	\$26,300
Barrington	\$18,200
Coal Dust	\$9,000
Guelph	\$2,500
.....	\$386,000
Stampede Farm	Jean Donnan
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Orison	\$103,401
River Bed	\$63,040
Across The Sky	\$21,750
Won Wild Bird.....	\$9,800
Askim.....	\$0
.....	\$385,491
Thunder Road Farm	Diana Rowland
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Swimming River	\$44,000
Orchid Princess.....	\$39,720
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Miles Ahead	\$15,000
.....	\$383,132

Gush Katif Farm	Howard Newstadt
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
The Bruce.....	\$46,750
Slew's Peak.....	\$35,740
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Pukka.....	\$15,000
.....	\$381,902
Irish Imports	Ann Morss
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Imagina	\$71,700
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Riddle.....	\$31,956
Pukka.....	\$15,000
Askim.....	\$0
.....	\$376,068
Overcoming All Hurdles.....	Debbie Pederson
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Footlights.....	\$143,780
Erin Go Bragh.....	\$18,700
Miles Ahead	\$15,000
Tenacious Rhythm	\$11,050
Bonfo	\$0
.....	\$376,030
Millstone Farm	James Watrous
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Orison	\$103,401
Orchid Princess.....	\$39,720
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Pukka.....	\$15,000
Askim.....	\$0
.....	\$372,621
Western Run Racing.....	Regina Welsh
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Best Attack.....	\$77,900
Swimming River	\$44,000
Bubble Economy	\$32,400
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Guelph	\$2,500
.....	\$371,300
Stupid Stunt Stables	Brian Malone
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Imagina	\$71,700
Preemptive Strike.....	\$52,702
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Miles Ahead	\$15,000
Class Deputy	\$10,950
.....	\$364,852
Space Stable	Keegan Shields
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Orison	\$103,401
Preemptive Strike.....	\$52,702
Gigger.....	\$17,000
Mary Cat	\$3,000
Bulawayo	\$0
.....	\$363,603
Daring Daughter Stable	Pam Hodsdon
Mixed Up.....	\$159,215
Orison	\$103,401
Slew's Peak.....	\$35,740
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Prep School	\$16,500
Miles Ahead	\$15,000
.....	\$356,856
Jacob's Jumpers	Jacob Benda
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Gliding	\$128,715
Orchid Princess.....	\$39,720
Askim.....	\$0
Cripple Creek.....	\$0
Quem Se Atreve	\$0
.....	\$355,935
Exeter Township.....	Sarah Hutchinson
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Orison	\$103,401
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Miles Ahead	\$15,000
Pukka.....	\$15,000
Gold Mitten	\$5,400
.....	\$353,301
Not A Clue	Jack McVey
McDynamo.....	\$187,500
Paradise's Boss.....	\$69,912
Slew's Peak.....	\$35,740
Sur La Tete.....	\$27,000
Bold Turn	\$16,450
Miles Ahead	\$15,000
.....	\$351,602
Can't Claim Prize Stable	Sean Clancy
Good Night Shirt.....	\$224,163
Best Attack.....	\$77,900
Rare Bush	\$27,000
When The Saints.....	\$15,000
Jellyberry	\$7,100
Straight Gin.....	\$0
.....	\$351,163

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.



WHY SUPPORT THE NSF?

Formed in 1995, the National Steeplechase Foundation (N.S.F.) has raised and distributed over \$1.6 million on programs that promote safety, education, fairness and the spirit of amateurism throughout American steeplechasing. These funds made a significant impact on the sport, and also provided an indirect but invaluable bulwark for an industry that is a tremendous provider for charities in general.

Last year NSA meets contributed approximately \$5 million to charities: a remarkable total for a sport of this size, considering that American steeplechasing has only about 750 participants. These contributions to worthy causes are something supporters of the sport should be very proud of. At the same time, supporters should be determined to help the foundation and the race meets maintain and expand.

Almost all of these charitable contributions are raised by the race meets – but if there wasn't a sport that is *extremely family-friendly and accessible*, that brings in *high-end commercial sponsors* because of the type of spectators it attracts, that presents an *exciting yet relaxing way to spend a weekend afternoon* with little of the hassles involved in attending most big-time sporting events, then there would be no money donated to charity by these race meets. **In short, steeplechasing fuels these contributions.**

This is why support of the National Steeplechase Foundation is so critical. Among the programs we provide to the sport:

◆ Safe Courses-Sound Horses. The course inspection and assessment program has helped improve racecourse conditions and make racing much safer.

◆ Drug Testing at all NSA race meets.

◆ Promoting amateur racing. We have supplemented purses for amateur races, not only giving young riders an opportunity to grow in the sport, but providing a continuing involvement for non-professionals who may become horse owners and leaders of the sport in the future.

◆ Helping pay airtime and production costs for steeplechasing on ESPN. This is great exposure for the sport in general, and by appearing on some of the top flat-racing shows, we keep ourselves very much in the consciousness of the flat community.

In short, the Foundation does many things that help keep the sport we love healthy and vital, thus also providing invaluable support to its non-profit beneficiaries.

As the fall season begins, you will receive many requests from charities, all of them worthy of consideration. We hope our work of the last 12 years will inspire you to contribute to the National Steeplechase Foundation, thus continuing to make that work possible and helping our sport thrive.

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A Great Ride

Winsome Adante closes the book on a stellar career

BY JOE CLANCY

You know those retired baseball players who go to spring training? They sit there, look at the rookies and remember. The old-timers threw better, ran faster, hit farther – even talked a better game.

Someday soon, that will be Winsome Adante. One of America's most accomplished event horses officially retired Nov. 13 in an announcement from owner Linda Wachtmeister and trainer/rider Kim Severson. The 14-year-old English Thoroughbred sustained a suspensory injury to a hind leg and moves on to a well-deserved life of leisure.

"He's out in his field in the middle of the farm," said Wachtmeister, who owns Plain Dealing Farm in Scottsville, Va. "He gets to check out who's on cross country every day and he's very happy."

Winsome Adante piled up career accomplishments that rival any in the sport including four-star victories at Rolex Kentucky in 2002, 2004 and 2005; three United States Eventing Association Horse of the Year crowns, team gold at the 2002 World Equestrian

EVENTING NEWS

Games, team bronze and individual silver at the 2004 Olympics and dozens of other stellar performances on stages large and small. Perhaps more importantly, he captured a big share of the public who instinctively rooted for the bold bay gelding.

"He's pretty special," said Severson. "Not too many horses can claim they've been such a favorite of the fans. It also means he's not really your horse."

No, he belonged to pretty much everyone thanks in part to his record but mainly to his style on the cross-country course.

"Did you ever see him going around Rolex or Badminton or any of those places?" asked Wachtmeister. "He's foot perfect, incredible to watch. Every single step was perfect. When he went around cross country at Badminton, all the British people had heard these tales but I don't think they believed them. He won them over too."

Bred in England by Chris and Janet Gooch, Winsome Adante grew up on their farm near Lichfield, with a herd of cattle as company. As a 3-year-old, he jumped over a gate out of his field – only to jump back in again. Competed twice in England at the earliest levels, he was identified as a prospect and sent to

See **WINSOME ADANTE** page 26 ►



Shannon Brinkman

Winsome Adante and Kim Severson compete in the 2004 Olympics.



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Shannon Brinkman

Winsome Adante flies into the water during one of his three Rolex victories

Winsome Adante —

■ Continued from page 24

the United States in 1999.

At 6, he was in Jan Bynny's barn when Severson first saw him. The son of ex-racehorse Saunter wasn't big, didn't look all that impressive, but fit the description of a project she and Wachtmeister could buy, improve, compete and most likely sell. He was good business, or seemed like it.

"You would not have picked him out of the lineup," Severson said. "His conformation is a bit challenging, he's quite a bit lower in front than he is behind, a little on the small side. Linda and I were first starting, getting horses to resell and he certainly was cute enough to fill that bill. He just happened to far exceed our expectations."

And then some.

He won the Radnor CCI** in 2000 and backed that up with a second at Foxhall and a victory at Blenheim the next year. The 2002 season included the WEG team gold and a sixth individually, plus the first Rolex tally. The 2003 season was a loss as Severson broke her leg just before Rolex and Winsome Adante colicked and required surgery in the days leading up to Burghley.

In 2004, Winsome Adante and Severson returned healthy and raised the stakes. They won a second Rolex in April and earned individual silver and team bronze at the Olympics that summer in Athens. Another Rolex victory came in 2005, which also included a trip to Burghley in England where a fall in cross country cost them a chance at a solid placing. No matter, he was still Horse of the Year.

With three Rolex titles safely won, Severson aimed for Europe again in 2006 and Winsome Adante traveled to the World Championships in Aachen, Germany. They were third after dressage, but ran out on cross country and finished 17th. Once more, a foreign try beckoned in 2007 and this time Winsome Adante delivered one of his signature performances to place third in the CCI**** at Badminton.

"Everything he ever did was a highlight," Severson said. "We went to our first Olympics together, our first Bad-

minton, first Burghley. Every moment with him was a good moment. He was consistent at everything every time out. If we had a problem, it was usually my fault."

Foot problems caused Winsome Adante to miss some training this year, but he had recovered and was up to cantering – with the long-range goal being the Olympics next year – when the hind suspensory trouble flared. He faced several months of rest, a slow build up to fitness and then perhaps a return to competition.

"He'd been in the stall for four or five months with the foot problems, because that just took time," said Wachtmeister. "He was right on track to get ready again, and then this other injury happened. We could have thrown him back in the stall, but it wasn't in his best interests."

Retirement became the best decision, though a difficult one.

"He was very sound over the years, one of soundest horses the team has had," said Severson. "But we were rehabbing him from one injury, and getting to the end of that and it created the other problem. I feel like he's saying 'OK, that's it.'"

Severson and Wachtmeister called Winsome Adante a horse of dreams – one that surpassed even the most optimistic of goals. Only one other horse, Dr. Peaches (1984, 1988, 1989), has won three Rolex competitions.

"My goal and my dream has been to have this farm and support riders, so to have a horse that took my family to the Olympics and to stand inside the winner's circle at Rolex was very special," Wachtmeister said. "The first time, I remember thinking this will never happen again. But it did, twice. We lived for the moment, but it kept happening with him. It was a wonderful thing to be part of."

For Severson, Winsome Adante's retirement changes everything except her job. She's in the midst of starting her own eventing business at Blue Bird Hill Farm (also in Scottsville) but will do it without the best horse she's ever ridden.

"I'll miss him a lot, miss having him around every day," she said. "I'm throwing myself into this business and I have some other horses, but it makes next year look a little bit different."

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Wilson, Broadway star at Rubicon novice

BY KATY CARTER

Some victory lap. Katy Wilson didn't know she'd won at Rubicon Farm Horse Trials until she received a congratulatory phone call from a friend.

"I had no idea we'd won," said Wilson, a small-animal veterinarian from Middleburg, Va. "It was so surprising."

Wilson and her 10-year-old Thoroughbred Broadway climbed the standings from sixth to first in a gung ho Novice Rider division at Rubicon Farm Horse Trials, Nov. 9-11, in Lucketts, Va.

Wilson finished on her dressage score of 33.2. Louise Foster and Along Came A Spyder finished second (35.1) and Karen Baile ended the day third aboard Dolly (35.3).

"He was kind of a rescue case," said Wilson, who obtained Broadway in 2002. "He was a fire-breathing dragon at first. I thought 'What am I doing with this horse?' He has matured a lot and enjoys life now. He's very spoiled."

The dressage scores were competitive, leaving the window of opportunity open for many. A rail, time penalties or a stop had the potential to significantly change the outcome, and Wilson's consistency over fences helped secure the win.

"Dressage was most disappointing for me because we've had better tests," she explained. "Broadway is a big mover and that makes him a tough ride for me. I need to ride a little better."

Any feeling of disappointment Wilson felt about dressage didn't appear to affect their round in show jumping, as she and Broadway jumped cleanly and within the time allowed to move up to third. Foster and Along Came A Spyder, who sat second after dressage, pulled a rail to drop down to fourth while Baile and Dolly ascended from eighth to fifth after

RUBICON FARM HORSE TRIALS

November 9-11

putting in a double-clean round.

"Broadway is an old pro about stadium and saves me," she said.

Wilson and Broadway negotiated David O'Connor's cross-country course double clean, improving upon their previous run at Rubicon in June, where they had a stop at the Novice ditch.

"That is my bogey fence," she admitted. "And I was thrilled with how he sailed over the ditch."

She also admitted that often her pre-cross-country butterflies affect her performance and decision making, but that Broadway's improvement and love of jumping have helped her deal with any nervousness.

"He loves cross country and makes my job easy," Wilson said. "He always looks for the next fence."

Wilson and her husband David Johnson, also a veterinarian, moved to Middleburg to be close to the thriving eventing community.

"I never had any intention of competing beyond Beginner Novice," she said. "But now here we are going Novice with an eye on moving up to Training next year and hopefully doing the half star."

"This is my favorite event," declared Wilson. "Eric and Sheryl Williams do a wonderful job and I'm grateful to be able to go."

Eventers agree, having voted Rubicon Farm Horse Trials "Best Event in Area II."



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Paxton Abbey, Jordan make trip

BY KATY CARTER

Mary Jordan and Paxton Abbey defied the odds on their way to win Division A of the Waredaca Training Level Three Day Event, Oct. 23-27 in Laytonsville, Md.

Jordan and her 9-year-old mare survived an 11-hour trailer ride (which included a two-hour delay on the George Washington Bridge from New York), torrential downpours throughout the week, challenging courses and tough competition to finish on their dressage score of 31.05. Lesley King finished second aboard Carrabeg Journey (36.86) and Rosella Hunter secured third riding Lance (37.07).

"Completing a half star was one of our goals for this year, and we had so much fun at the GMHA half star in August, that we decided to come here, too," said Jordan, who lives in Wells, Maine, roughly 30 miles south of Portland. "Paxton loves her job. If I gave her directions to an event, I think she'd get herself there."

In contrast to the summer-long drought on the East Coast, competitors executed USEA Training Level Test B (which includes 15-meter circles and lengthening of stride at both trot and canter) in monsoon conditions. Jordan's accurate ride earned a score of 31.05, good enough to hold the lead until Hunter and Lance, the last pair of the day, turned in a score of 29.47, relegating Jordan to second. Losing the lead didn't discourage Jordan.

"It was our first time in a large arena and it was fun," she said. "Paxton was very focused and I was pleased with our score."

Their good standing set the tone for Endurance Day, which included roads and tracks and steeplechase in addition to cross country. Positive momentum, forward riding and clean jumping enabled Jordan and her mare to tackle the challenging questions over equally challenging footing and reclaim the lead.

"Making the time was tough, mostly because of the ground being so wet," said Jordan. "I was thrilled with how Paxton jumped so fast and confidently."

Paxton Abbey's huge stride ate up the ground and allowed Jordan to make up time when she needed to, avoiding the greasy footing at the skinny and taking the safer option to ensure a penalty-free performance.

"Normally, we would take the direct route, but I felt that it was not the day to do so," she said. "I knew we could hustle."

Their double-clean run was one of two; the only other came from Sam Hellerman and Taylor's Cede.

"I knew we had a rail in hand going into stadium on Saturday," Jordan said. "But I really wanted to go double clean."

Paxton Abbey did not disappoint and sailed around

WAREDACA TRAINING THREE-DAY

October 23-27

the final day of competition flawlessly to seal the victory.

"It was all Paxton. I just hunkered down in my zone and let her do her job," Jordan said. "It was one of those events where I knew my horse was having a great time."

• Goal setting was a common theme throughout the week at Waredaca, and the competition was even tighter in Division C, with Karen Rubin and Southern Dancer taking the blue on a score of 42.23. Cindy Wood and Unbelievable's 44.6 earned them second while Kristen Willie and A Deck Above finished third with 44.60.

Rubin, of Kennett Square, Pa., rides with Sarah Richardson in West Grove, and purchased Southern Dancer as a 3-year-old. Now 14, the Thoroughbred/Percheron cross affectionately known as "Big Buddy Rubin" continues to excel in the sport.

"His greatest asset is his ability to get me out of trouble," Rubin said. "Completing this competition was my year-end goal and I couldn't be happier."

Wood also had her long term sights set on the half star.

"I was the stable manager for this event the last two years and I told the organizers they needed to find a new stable manager for 2007 because I was going to ride," she said. "It was such an exciting and fun week. I'm so happy we did well."

Rubin sat fourth after dressage, earning a 32.63, while Wood's 35 proved good enough for sixth at the end of day one. Rubin usually carries a whip for dressage, but rules for the half star prevented her from doing so.

"I could have used a whip," she said. "I was kicking so hard to keep him in front of my leg that I worried I was not presenting a pretty picture."

That changed when one of Big Buddy's giant hooves hit a giant puddle and sent a tidal wave into the judge's box.

"That helped me relax," Rubin joked.

They added 5.6 time penalties on Endurance Day, but jumped cleanly around the muddy cross-country track, which Rubin described as the most challenging Training level course she has ridden.

"It was a good test," she said. "It was fair and not scary and there were so many different jumps. I loved the two waters and the keyhole."

Wood echoed Rubin's comments that the questions were tough, but rideable.

"Unbelievable really rose to the occasion," she said. "We got out there and he said to me 'OK, I'll do it.'"

In spite of tacking 9.6 time penalties on to their score, Wood and Unbelievable's accurate and clean jumping helped move them up to fourth going into Saturday's show jumping phase.

Show jumping proved more influential in Division C than in the other two sections, with all but three competitors finishing with at least one rail. A narrow vertical set in the middle of the ring proved the undoing of many, as horses and riders had to negotiate a tight right turn to the fence and then turn left immediately after. A plank jump set on flat cups over a liverpool also produced rails, as did the triple.

Rubin and Wood agreed that forward and brave yet accurate riding was the best strategy.

"It was definitely a championship-quality course," said Rubin, who had a rail. "Adjustability was so important, as there were a few off distances between jumps. You had to be certain of the ride and know whether you were going to go for the forward stride or the collected one."

"Show jumping was fabulous," said Wood, who bred, raised and trained Unbelievable. The 5-year-old was raised as an orphan foal after his dam colicked, enabling Wood to start building a special relationship with him from the beginning.

"I picked out his name before he was born," she said, "and he's been trying to live up to it since he arrived."

Their double-clean round moved them up from fourth to second. Unbelievable also earned the Best Conditioned Horse Award, which Wood found especially gratifying considering she and Unbelievable live on Maryland's flat Eastern Shore.

"We did more long trot sets than you'd normally do," she said. "We only galloped once a week."

Rubin praised the organizers, officials and volunteers at the event.

"I was so impressed with the support from everyone involved, especially with the educational parts of the event," she said. "In steeplechase, I thought we were just going to run and jump, but the upper level riders who were there to help taught us there was more to it. After practicing steeplechase with their help, I knew we were going to be OK."

• Chaney Detmer-Lillard and California Dreamin won Division B for juniors. A score of 40.25 just got the best of Chequer and Stephanie Cauffman (40.37). BFF Savannah and Molly Curtiss finished third with a 41.63. The winning round was the third time around the Waredaca course for California Dreamin and Detmer-Lillard. They teamed up to win over the training level course in July and finished third there last July. It was the third win in 2007 for California Dreamin who also won at Surefire Farm this summer.



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Enthusiasm, Always

Longtime owner, organizer Thompson dies at 89

BY MARGARET WORRALL

After more than three decades in the sport, Peter Schuyler Thompson of Easton, Md., can legitimately be described as the most dedicated steeplechase owner on two continents. The longtime owner, organizer and enthusiast died Sept. 30 at 89.

The saga begins in the 1970s in partnership with Charlie Fenwick on a horse (the name of which is long forgotten) purchased at the Doncaster Sale in England.

"The animal was not terribly good and soundness problems ended his career pretty quickly," said Fenwick, now retired as a rider and chairing the Shawan Downs race meet, "but when Ben Nevis went to England [to run at Aintree], Peter bought a horse with Tim Forster and leased another named Hovis from James Weatherby for me to ride in Peter's colors. Soundness plagued the first and the second was very slow, but as is so often the case, they took Peter and me to the best of places."

In the United States, Thompson purchased a British-bred eventer named Baythorne that trainer Joe Clancy turned into a timber horse for him.

"Baythorne won his first race by 50 lengths with Dougie Small up," recounted Clancy, "but then a tendon stopped him. We had another horse named Society Hill that ran over hurdles. He won at Foxfield and Elizabeth Taylor presented the trophy. Peter really liked that."

In 1982 Thompson, with customary enthusiasm, determined that Chicago's Arlington Park should card a timber race on Arlington Million Day.

"Peter said to me, 'If they can put a man on the

moon, we can build a portable timber fence,' " recalled Fenwick. "Danny Brewster and I built the first prototype which Arlington duplicated."

Thompson organized a purse of \$15,000 for Arlington, the largest for a timber race in NSA history at that time. He also leaned on owners and trainers, producing a field of 10 that included eventual timber champion, Prince Saran, and Thompson's entry, the Tom Voss-trained Shy Donald. With 30,000 fans betting more than \$164,000 on this race alone, Shy Donald at 4-1 beat the favored Prince Saran by 22 lengths. The Arlington timber race lasted three seasons. In addition to Arlington, Thompson was instrumental in other racing developments including corporate sponsorship at Fair Hill in the 1980s.

Along with the American success, Thompson continued with his British stable. Hovis, champion jockey John Francome in the irons, won three races in a row. Knock Hill, the most well-known of Thompson's horses across the pond, was trained along with numerous others by the late John Webber. In 1985, the chaser won the Midlands Grand National and the New Year's Day Chase at Cheltenham, a performance he repeated two more times.

Many good horses with Webber established a keen friendship between the two men, and, indeed, the entire Webber family. In 1985 Thompson shipped Priest's Rock to the United States, with the goal of winning the Maryland Hunt Cup. Trained by Paddy Neilson, Priest's Rock finished second in the Grand National and seventh in a grueling Hunt Cup, described by in the NSA yearbook as a "one of the best fields in years."



Douglas Lees

Peter Thompson owned numerous steeplechase winners in the United States and England.

Priest's Rock was ridden by champion British amateur rider Paul Webber, the son of Thompson's English trainer.

"Priest's Rock won a handicap chase, then got a bit sour," Paul Webber remembered. "I took him fox-hunting and one weekend on a slow day a friend and I jumped everything we could find on the way home."

See **THOMPSON** page 31 ►

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Thompson —

■ Continued from page 30

After a few drinks, the story sounded so good that Peter suggested we run his horse in the Maryland Hunt Cup.

"It seemed a grand idea at the time," Webber continued, "but it was tough. He went straight down on his head at the 11th and I grabbed him back up. But it just didn't go well at all."

A decade-long partnership took off about the same time with trainer Rusty Carrier who also had horses in England and Ireland as well as the U.S. The star of this venture was a Carrier-bred gray of somewhat difficult

temperament named Dr. Fusco. The best years were 1990 (when Dr. Fusco won at Oxmoor, Fairfax and Genesee Valley), and 1992 (when he took the Radnor and New Jersey Hunt Cups). Jamaica Bay won the 1993 International Gold Cup and 1994 Pennsylvania Hunt Cup for Thompson and Carrier.

Not only active as an owner, Thompson served on the board of the National Steeplechase Association for many years, and was honorary vice president of The Countryside Alliance, supporting field sports in the United Kingdom. He became the secretary of the North American chapter in 1995 and helped create a New York auction as a major fundraiser for that group.

A World War II veteran who served in the Pacific

theater, Thompson was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal nine times. Following the war he and his wife, Rebecca, moved to Easton. A stockbroker there, Thompson was also treasurer of Congressman Rogers Morton's campaigns and raised prize-winning Hampshire hogs and Charolais cattle. In 2005 Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich cited Thompson for his work as a member of the Talbot Paramedic Foundation, which Thompson initiated in 1985. Rebecca Thompson died in 1987.

Thompson is survived by his second wife, Jacqueline Moir; two sons, John Thompson of Charlottesville, Va., and Peter Thompson, Jr. of Fort Pierce, Fla.; and two daughters, Caroline Thompson Benson and Nancy Thompson of Easton.

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