

# The *Times* Steeplechase

Complimentary

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Good Night Shirt**  
*takes first step  
toward three-peat*



### INSIDE

- ◆ Mixed Up returns at Aiken
- ◆ Rare Bush scores at Stoneybrook
- ◆ Robbie Walsh rides to fast start



# Maryland

# Steeplechasing

*Catch the Action!*

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photo by Bob Keller

## SPRING 2009

**Sunday, March 15:** Foxhall Farm Trophy Team Chase • **Saturday, March 21:** Howard County-Iron Bridge Race Meet • **Saturday, March 28:** Green Spring Valley Point-to-Point Races • **Saturday, April 4:** Elkridge-Harford Point-to-Point Races • **Sunday, April 5:** Marlborough Hunt Races • **Saturday, April 11:** My Lady's Manor • **Saturday, April 18:** Grand National Steeplechase • **Saturday, April 25:** Maryland Hunt Cup • **Sunday April 26:** Maryland Junior Hunt Cup • **Sunday, May 17:** Potomac Races • **Friday, June 5:** Awards Reception

For complete conditions for the Series and individual races, as well as for point updates, visit [www.marylandsteeplechasing.org](http://www.marylandsteeplechasing.org)





News & Notes from around the circuit

# for Starters

## Worth Repeating

"I get real serious about it, start looking at the weather report two weeks out and when it's bad I'm a mess. I'll stomp around the house and complain. Sally just says 'well, there's nothing you can do about the weather.' Yes there is, I can get mad about it."

**Carolina Cup chairman Austin Brown, on rainy weather on raceday**

"The wrinkles are starting to get in the way."

**Jockey Ted Thompson, 40, on returning to the saddle**

"I'm sure AirTran will wait for me."

**Jockey Xavier Aizpuru, whose tack was being used in some still-life photography at the end of the Carolina Cup**

"Because I'm not eating."

**Jockey Robbie Walsh, on why he looked grumpy even after winning two races at the Carolina Cup; he tacked 144 pounds on the day.**

"I understand how they get from the bus to the party, but how do they get to the bus after the party?"

**Carolina Cup marketing director Wendy Kingsley, on the mental state of the guests in College Park**

"Digression is the theme of my riding career."

**Amateur jockey Blake Curry, who turned up at the Howard County Point-to-Point**

"We put him in the top barn, but I don't think he's going to stay there – it was Always First's stall."

**Assistant trainer Jack Clancy, after dropping off Dictina's Boy at Tom Voss' farm in February while stakes horse Always First was at Gulfstream Park**

## Take A Number

**27** Minutes it took to drive 1.4 miles down Springdale Drive on Carolina Cup Day.

**7** Jersey number of jockey Robbie Walsh on The Whip Tavern indoor soccer team that plays weekly games in Calvert, Md.

**5:05** Time Friday evening that the Carolina Cup ordered two additional tents for College Park at the races the next day.

## What's In A Name

**Global Genius, Camden.** His handle may lack modesty, but it doesn't lack justification. Born in Ireland to a French-bred mare and a European champion named for Italian smart guy Galileo, this 6-year-old has already traveled to England, California and South Carolina.

**Ouinpohja, Aiken.** We didn't know what to make of this, until Wikipedia told us that it's a special stage of the Rally Finland road race. His original connections must have sensed steeplechasing was in the horse's future, as Ouinpohja is apparently known for "its spectacular high-speed jumps."

**River Kwai, Stoneybrook.** A mare by Valley Crossing named for a bridge built (and later blown up) by Alec Guinness. What's not to like?



Tod Marks

**HAPPY RETIREMENT.** The Carolina Cup saluted longtime administrator Janet McCorkle (center) at the March 28 races. McCorkle joined the Cup staff in 1982 and stayed 27 years. Co-workers Heather Williams (left) and Beverly Odom joined in the ceremony.

*Postcard from Cheltenham*

"I miss them. Xavier rang me a month ago, it was strange, we don't speak like we used to, and Bob Massey, I don't know what he's up to, I'd love to see him, 'Shagger' as we used to know him. Carl (Rafter), I wouldn't know him as well, but he's a good lad. I miss Xav and Bob Massey, they were good lads and we had good fun. May-they'll come home one day.

"Out of all the lads, if you told me they'd end up in America, I wouldn't believe it. They were proper homeboys. Xavier was a proper Cotswolds lad, I never thought he'd leave."

— *Robert "Chocolate" Thornton*  
on his fellow English jump jocks  
plying their trade across the pond



# Entries

## What's Happening and Where To Find It

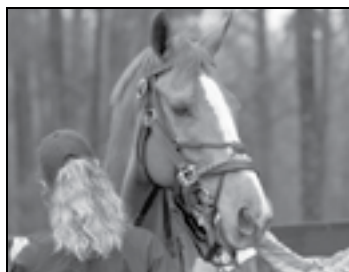
Here's your newspaper. Winter break is now officially over. Like the first day of school, Aiken reunited us with old friends and introduced a host of fresh faces. Camden provided the first big test of the year and the Class of 2009 swung into Southern Pines with everyone already comfortably back in the swing. After three weeks racing through the Carolinas, the circuit heads north and the coursework increases. So hit the condition books.



### PAGES 5-7

#### Rare Finds

Stakes winner Rare Bush beat the field and the claim box in the feature at Stoneybrook, rarely seen Ogden Dunes went right from the bench to the winner's circle and Waracha showed that you can go home again.



### PAGES 8-13

#### Shirt Collection

Somewhere at the Via residence there's a trophy case ready to burst. Good Night Shirt launched his quest for a third Eclipse Award in Camden and landed himself the Carolina Cup, his seventh consecutive stakes score.



### PAGES 14-19

#### Spring Fashion

Aiken showed that the retro look is in, as Mixed Up and Paradise's Boss made stylish returns. The Pape-Sheppard label (Mixed Up) demonstrated its timeless nature and Janet Elliot (accompanied by the timeless Flat Top) had a collection of hits.



### PAGE 22

#### Staying Power

Robbie Walsh figured he'd spend a year in the States. That was back in 2001. The Irish-born jockey is still on the scene, and right now, he's on top of his game.



### PAGES 24-26

#### First-class Response

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#### 2009 Publication Dates

|          |              |             |
|----------|--------------|-------------|
| March 17 | May 22       | October 9   |
| April 10 | June 5       | October 23  |
| April 24 | July 10      | November 13 |
| May 8    | September 18 | December 11 |

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#### On the Cover

It's Shirt vs. Strike II in the Carolina Cup at Camden, S.C. In a repeat of their Colonial Cup tussle last November, Good Night Shirt again got the nod over Preemptive Strike – this time by 2 1/4 lengths.

Photos by Tod Marks



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The Steeplechase

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# Worth the Wait

Leslie Young's patience pays off

BY BRIAN NADEAU

Wine. Cheddar. Ogden Dunes. What are three things that improve after years on the shelf? Correct.

Ogden Dunes made his return to the races at Stoneybrook Steeplechase April 4, and owner/trainer Leslie Young's talented but fragile 7-year-old powered to an easy 5 1/2-length win in the \$15,000 maiden hurdle.

Though his last official race came 28 months ago for another trainer, Ogden Dunes inspired belief from Young ever since her husband, jockey Paddy Young, took him out for a spin.

"After I got Ogden started up last year Paddy got on him and after riding him one day he said to me 'I really like this horse,'" she said. "That's when I knew he was going to be all right."

Ogden Dunes stalked Honolua Storm early in the 2 1/8-mile contest while waiting for a cue. Paddy gave the signal

## STONEYBROOK STEEPLCHASE

Saturday, April 4

at the 12th fence and the son of Swain switched gears, taking charge and drawing off while ridden out to score over Nationbuilder (Danielle Hodsdon) and Giant Strides (Padge Whelan) in a final time of 4:00 2/5.

A half-brother to 2005 juvenile champion Stevie Wonderboy, Ogden Dunes raced four times on the flat for breeder Watts Humphrey Jr. and trainer Vickie Oliver. He broke his maiden at first asking on the Monmouth Park dirt in September 2005 and showed promise the following year, running second in a Churchill Downs turf allowance.

Ogden Dunes ventured south to Payson Park in Florida with the rest of Oliver's string but bowed a tendon in

See **STONEYBROOK** page 6 ▶



DWAIN SNYDER/Eclipse Sportswire

Ogden Dunes (Paddy Young) rolls to an impressive victory in the Stoneybrook opener.

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# Stoneybrook —

■ Continued from page 5

January 2007. He was sent to Kentucky to recuperate when Leslie Young caught a break.

"I have a good friend, Missy Kauffman, who was working in Lexington at the time and she saw the horse on the farm. He was out in the field and she saw how nice and athletic he looked," she said. "She inquired about him for me and in February 2007 I purchased the horse from Mr. Humphrey."

With his past performances sporting as many layoff lines as career starts, Young knew what she was getting. Instead of rushing, she backed off and took her time.

After "kicking him out" for more than a year, Young readied Ogden Dunes for a trial run in a maiden hurdle at a point-to-point last September. There was just one problem.

"We sent him to Blue Ridge just to see what we had. Well, Paddy had a ride in the maiden hurdle, and being that he can't ride against one of my horses we were forced to run in the open hurdle," Young said. "We wanted to just to get him out there and get a run into him but at the top of the stretch he was right there and Paddy is pretty competitive so he went for (and got) the win. Needless to say we were very happy with the way it came out."

Ogden Dunes won by 3 1/2 lengths over a field of seasoned hurdlers and looked good doing it. But again the trainer decided patience was the best card to play.

"He's a very fragile horse that can be hard on himself, so we decided that rather than run him back on some hard ground we would give him the rest of the year off and point to the spring when the ground would have some give in it," Young said. "Paddy has really done all the work with him and when he thought he was ready we pointed to Stoneybrook. It's nice that we own the horse because there's no pressure and we can take our time with him and it all worked out."



DWAIN SNYDER/Eclipse Sportswire

Rare Bush (left, Xavier Aizpuru) and Mecklenburg battle on the lead in the Stoneybrook feature, an optional claimer.

• Jack Fisher appeared to be taking a big gamble in the fourth, dangling Rare Bush for a \$25,000 claiming tag. After all, Sheila Williams' 9-year-old won the Appleton Stakes in 2008 and came to Stoneybrook on the heels of a solid third to Mixed Up and Paradise's Boss in the Imperial Cup at Aiken. Fisher remained unconcerned.

"Other people were worried, I wasn't," he said. "He's a lunatic to train. Nicest horse in the world in the stall or in the field. Training? Forget it. He either refuses to train or he runs off."

As it happened, Rare Bush (Xavier Aizpuru) ran off to a 5-length win over Dalucci (Robbie Walsh) in the \$25,000 optional claimer. And no one claimed him.

With a decided class and speed edge, Aizpuru wasted little time putting Rare Bush in front as they began their 2 3/8-mile journey. Rare Bush maintained a measured lead over Mecklenburg during the first 1 1/2 miles while Dalucci tracked intently in third and Terpsichorean, Fogcutter and Orchid Princess sorted themselves behind the leading trio. Rare Bush hit the far

See **STONEBROOK** page 7 ►

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### Stoneybrook Steeplechase

Raeford, N.C. Saturday, April 4. Turf: Firm.

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

|                    |       |           |
|--------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1. Ogden Dunes     | L 154 | Young     |
| 2. Nationbuilder   | L 154 | Hodsdon   |
| 3. Giant Strides   | L 144 | Whelan    |
| 4. Western Dynamo  | L 139 | Mackenzie |
| 5. Aero            | L 139 | McVicar   |
| 6. Decisive Play   | L 154 | Walsh     |
| 7. Dutch Smoke     | L 154 | Rafter    |
| PU. Johann Star    | L 149 | W. Haynes |
| PU. Honolulu Storm | L 154 | Aizpuru   |

Mgn: 5 1/2. Time: 4:00 2/5.

O/T: Leslie Young.

Dk.B./Br. g. 7 Swain (Ire)-Heat Lightning, Summer Squall.

Bred by G. Watts and Louise Humphrey (Ky).

#### 2nd. \$10,000. Mdn. clm. hurdle. 2 1/8 miles. \$12,500-\$10,000 clm. price.

|                     |       |           |
|---------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1. Rusty Reign      | L 142 | Walsh     |
| 2. Bk's Double Jade | L 148 | Rafter    |
| 3. English Dancer   | L 145 | W. Haynes |
| 4. Red Monkey Kid   | L 138 | Petty     |
| 5. River Kwai       | L 144 | Slater    |
| PU. Crackmeup       | L 143 | McVicar   |

Mgn: 3 1/2. Time: 4:01 1/5.

O: Edition Farm. T: Janet Elliot.

B. g. 4 Banker's Gold-Reign Girl, Reign Road. Bred by William McCarthy (Pa).

#### 3rd. \$10,000. Cond. clm. hurdle. 2 1/8 miles. NW2. \$15,000-\$10,000 clm. price.

|                       |       |           |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1. Waracha            | L 144 | Whelan    |
| 2. Bold Turn          | L 136 | Petty     |
| 3. Second Approval    | L 146 | Slater    |
| 4. Summersville       | L 142 | Rafter    |
| 5. Charismic American | L 154 | Hodsdon   |
| 6. Socca Beat (Chi)   | L 131 | Mackenzie |
| F. Roseland           | L 136 | Dalton    |
| PU. Suits And Ties    | L 146 | Spate     |
| PU. Prancing Cat      | L 144 | Young     |

Mgn: 3 3/4. Time: 3:56 1/5.

O: Mimi Voss. T: Tom Voss.

Ch. g. 5 Not For Love-Call To Arms, Lord At War (Arg). Bred by Mimi Voss (Md).

#### 4th. \$25,000. Optional clm. hurdle. 2 3/8 miles. NW1X or for \$25,000 clm. price.

|                       |       |           |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1. Rare Bush          | L 152 | Aizpuru   |
| 2. Dalucci (Ire)      | L 148 | Walsh     |
| 3. Terpsichorean      | L 148 | Hodsdon   |
| 4. Right Hand Red     | L 147 | Santoro   |
| 5. Cuse               | L 147 | McVicar   |
| F. Sweep Domino (Chi) | L 139 | Mackenzie |
| LR. Arcadius          | L 148 | Rafter    |
| PU. Fogcutter         | L 148 | Whelan    |
| PU. Orchid Princess   | L 146 | Spate     |
| PU. Mecklenburg       | L 143 | W. Haynes |
| PU. Pleasant Pick     | L 144 | Petty     |

Mgn: 5. Time: 4:27 1/5.

O: Shelia Williams. T: Jack Fisher.

B. g. 9 Dynaformer-Nutbush One, Conquistador Cielo.

Bred by William Kenan Rand Jr (Ky).

#### 5th. Training flat. 1 1/2 miles.

|                    |       |         |
|--------------------|-------|---------|
| 1. Planets Aligned | L 155 | Whelan  |
| 2. Wingplow        | L 140 | Dalton  |
| 3. Silence         | L 155 | Hodsdon |
| 4. Bawdy Ballad    | L 155 | Rafter  |

Mgn: 1/2. Time: 2:44.

O: Fox Ridge Farm. T: Tom Voss.

Ch. g. 8 Gold Fever-Flying Minister, Deputy Minister. Bred by Fox Ridge Farm (Ky).

#### 6th. Training flat. 1 1/2 miles.

|                      |       |         |
|----------------------|-------|---------|
| 1. Monsieur Henri    | L 155 | Walsh   |
| 2. The Price Of Love | L 155 | Hodsdon |
| 3. Fabi's Legacy     | L 155 | Spate   |
| 4. Cup Half Full     | L 171 | Washer  |

Mgn: Neck. Time: 2:43 1/5.

O: Bob Blanchard. T: Janet Elliot.

B. g. 6 Chester House-Lady Of Vision (Ire), Vision. Bred by Francis O'Toole (Ky).

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# Stoneybrook —

■ Continued from page 6

turn in complete control and extended his lead over Dalucci nearing the line, while Terpsichorean (Hodsdon) rallied belatedly to finish a distant third.

Fisher noted the prior stakes success but knew Rare Bush wouldn't mind not having to deal with the likes of Mixed Up or Preemptive Strike.

"He's got some ability and he's done pretty well," the trainer said, "but he was very happy to reach that level (Saturday) instead of running in another stakes."

• Mimi Voss may have let homebred Waracha leave her care, but she never let him leave her sight.

Things came full circle when Waracha (Whelan) took the \$10,000 conditioned claimer over Bold Turn (Jody Petty) and Second Approval (James Slater) carrying Voss' colors.

"I sold him as a yearling at the Timonium sale to Nick de Meric, who then sold him as a 2-year-old the following season," Voss said. "I had kept him in my stable mail and saw that he was running short on the dirt for a claiming price in Florida. Well, we knew he's bred to run long on the turf so I made a few inquiries about him but they put me off. We were in Saratoga a few months later and saw he was in for \$10,000 and (my husband) Tom said 'Why don't you just claim him?' So that's what I did."

Picked up for a tag from Calder in August 2007, Waracha made his first start for Mimi Voss at Middleburg in April 2008 and took a maiden claimer at Morven Park in October. He started his 2009 campaign at Aiken but tired badly and finished fifth after opening up 15 lengths early.

At Stoneybrook, Whelan was able to settle Waracha early and track Second Approval for the first 12 fences. As the field hit the far turn of the 2 1/8-mile affair Whelan moved up along the inside of that rival and took the lead as they straightened away in the lane. Bold Turn followed that move in behind and then angled out at the second-last but by that time Waracha was well clear and scored by 3 3/4 lengths.

Waracha's story goes a bit deeper than Mimi Voss simply bringing a homebred back to the farm. The 5-year-old son of Not For Love is out of her mare Call To Arms, an unraced full-sister to the multiple Grade I winner John's Call. Tom Voss trained John's Call for Douglas Joyce's Trillium Stable from 1994-2001.

John's Call was named after Kentucky bloodstock agent John Stuart, who purchased the horse for Trillium. In 1998, John's Call had yet to reach his peak and wasn't even a stakes winner when Call To Arms entered the Keeneland sales ring in November. That's when Mimi Voss' phone rang.

"John called me and mentioned that he thought Call To Arms would sell for

cheap," she recalled. "She was just 3 and in foal to Alydeed but at the time John's Call had only won a few races but nothing too big. So I watched on TV as I bought her."

• Janet Elliot and Robbie Walsh continued their white-hot starts to the season when Rusty Reign took the \$10,000 maiden claimer over Bk's Double Jade (Carl Rafter) and English Dancer (Will Haynes). Elliot now sits tied atop the trainer standings with three wins (and two seconds) from just five starters while Walsh leads the jockey race with four wins from 11 mounts.

Walsh was content to sit second early, tracking 3 lengths behind Bk's Double Jade for much of the 2 1/8 miles. Rusty Reign drew closer to the leader approaching the last, tussled with him briefly and drew off under the line for a 5-length win.

Now owned by Harry and Vivien Malloy's Edition Farm, a racing and breeding operation based in Hyde Park, N.Y., the 4-year-old son of Banker's Gold raced nine times on the flat without winning for his breeder William McCarthy.

Vivien Malloy, always on the lookout for a steeplechase candidate, got a call from Elliot last summer.

"Janet called me and mentioned the horse could jump and that she likes him. So I told her to make an offer but it was turned down," Malloy said. "Well, the owner called back a few weeks later after something else fell through and I was able to buy him."

Rusty Reign made his hurdle debut at Middleburg in October and checked in sixth. He bettered that by one spot in the Gladstone at Far Hills and headed to Camden for the Raymond Woolfe, where Malloy got her first glimpse.

"I saw him jump at Camden for the first time last fall and he looked like a dream; he looked like he could be a conformation hunter," Malloy said. "After that race Janet gave him the winter off and worked with him and obviously this year he's really improved."



DWAIN SNYDER/Eclipse Sportswire  
**Rusty Reign (right, Robbie Walsh) stalks Bk's Double Jade in the maiden claimer at Stoneybrook.**



DWAIN SNYDER/Eclipse Sportswire  
**Mimi Voss' homebred Waracha (Padge Whelan) stays ahead of the field in the conditioned claiming hurdle.**

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Jim Graham

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### 2009 Results

**Small Pony (13.0)**.....Erin Noland riding Rip Tide, owned by Jessica Knox

**Small Pony (13.2)**.....Lisa Perri riding Annabelle, owned by Suzy Almony

**Large Pony**.....Robyn Weaver riding Ode to Joy, owned by Night Sight Farm

**Leadline Pony I**.....Margaret Buchanan riding Merry Legs,  
owned by Heather Hunter

**Leadline Pony II**.....Joey Dipierro riding Desert Storm, owned by Joey Dipierro

**Heavyweight**.....Todd McKenna riding Matinicus Rock,  
owned by Keystone Thoroughbreds

**Novice**.....Jody Petty riding Brandy Station, owned by Augustin Stable

**Open**.....Jody Petty riding Irish Prince, owned by Augustin Stable

**Foxhunter's**.....Suzanne Stettinius riding Ghost Bar, owned by Irvin S. Naylor

**Thank you everyone for making it a great day!**

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# Damp Shirt Retains Form

Champion runs streak to seven in Gr. II score

BY JOE CLANCY

CAMDEN, S.C. – Willie Dowling and Good Night Shirt walked in a circle awaiting the official results of the Carolina First Carolina Cup. Both breathed heavily from the physical effort, but one had an extra reason to sweat.

“There was enough room when I passed Jody, right?” the jockey asked, a little worry in his voice. “I was clear, wasn’t I?”

## CAROLINA CUP RACES

Saturday, March 28

He was, but that didn’t stop the stewards from posting an inquiry and taking a look at the head-on replay of Good Night Shirt passing Preemptive Strike (Jody Petty) deep in the stretch of the \$75,000 stakes at Springdale Race Course March 28.

The video showed Good Night Shirt charging past and lugging left before drawing off to win by 2 1/4 lengths in a repeat of the 1-2 finish of the Colonial Cup last fall. Sonny Via’s two-time champion covered the 2 1/4 miles in 4:36 1/5 over a soft turf course. Isti Bee rallied for third, 9 3/4 lengths behind Preemptive Strike.

“I’m disappointed there was an inquiry,” Dowling said after seeing the video. “Jody didn’t stop riding and the best horse definitely won.”

Before the race, questions centered on Preemptive Strike’s dangerous early speed and bold jumping. The



Good Night Shirt (5) runs down Preemptive Strike in the stretch of the Carolina Cup.

Tod Marks

warrior nearly upset the champion in the 2 3/4-mile Colonial Cup over Springdale’s natural-brush fences last fall and the Carolina Cup offered a rematch over the same course with a half-mile less ground to cover. Preemptive Strike bounded to his customary early lead and left out a stride at the first fence, but Good Night Shirt set up in second (never more than a few lengths

behind the leader) while jumping fluidly (better than in the Colonial Cup) as part of the compact field of five.

Preemptive Strike maintained an easy lead until the final turn, where Good Night Shirt and Isti Bee (Paddy Young) worked into contention. Good Night Shirt gained ground at the second-last and drew

See **CAROLINA CUP** page 10 ►

## Did you know

...that the National Steeplechase Foundation funded the initial launch of the padded whips used in National Steeplechase Association races? First used in Irish and English jump races, the whips were adopted here in 2004 and have since been put in use by Irish and English flat racing and are being considered for North American flat racing. This important step puts the NSA on the cutting edge of horse safety, creates a safer racing environment for horses, helps the NSA answer questions from the media about horse safety and ensures a level playing field for owners, trainers and jockeys.

Tod Marks photo



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Photo by Douglas Lees



Bee Charmer buzzes over the last fence in an easy starter allowance win at the Carolina Cup.

## Carolina Cup –

■ Continued from page 8

alongside as they spun out of the turn. They jumped the last as a team and matched 10 strides before Good Night Shirt powered away with the 12th victory of his career. The winner angled to his left, toward Preemptive Strike, after two right-handed smacks from Dowling, but straightened up, drew off and hit the line full of power.

“Other horses are sports cars, they might be quicker but it looks like he’s got a big diesel engine pushing him,” said trainer Jack Fisher. “He just keeps running.”

And winning. The son of Concern is turning steeplechase stakes into mere formalities with nine wins in his last 10 starts and seven consecutive victories.

“I try not to worry about much – if he got beat today he got beat,” said Fisher. “He doesn’t seem any different to me than he did last year.”

Champion steeplechaser in 2007 and 2008, Good Night Shirt took care of step one in his quest for a third straight title – a feat that hasn’t been turned since Flatterer won four from 1983-86. The 8-year-old earned \$45,000 to pass Lonesome Glory and move into second on the career earnings list with \$979,493. Three-time champion McDynamo leads the way with \$1,310,104.

Dowling works hard to not take the success for granted, and admits he still battles some nerves.

“I worry about everything before the race. I get butterflies, but why should I worry?” said the jockey. “What should I worry about? When I get out there, I know I’m on the best horse in the country and that is an unbelievable feeling. I’ve never had that feeling in the world. You go down to the second-last and you’re not even waiting on horses to come from behind. He’s that good. With other horses, you’re just waiting for them to come get you. With Good Night Shirt, you’re going to have to wait for a really good horse to come and pass him.”

• The fourth race officially started when the flag dropped, but the horses took their time in the \$30,000 starter allowance hurdle – until Bee Charmer

went to work. Whitewood Stable’s Irish import galloped to a clear lead when no one would and never looked back while winning by 7 1/4 lengths for trainer Richard Valentine.

“Nobody wanted to be in front, nobody. I was hoping someone would go, but nobody did,” said jockey Robbie Walsh. “He jumped the first and he went on. With no pace I wasn’t going to get into a fight with him.”

Walsh would probably lose that battle, so instead opted to put his hands down and hope Bee Charmer would relax. A stakes horse on the flat, the second-season jumper pricked his ears and galloped comfortably while taking four rivals for a merry run in the 2 1/8-mile contest.

Ten lengths clear on the first run past the finish line, Walsh took a peek at the big-screen TV and liked what he saw as Fantorini and Class Real Rock tried to keep pace. The group cut the lead to 5 on the backside, but Bee Charmer kicked away again and cruised home in 4:22 1/5. Zozimus (Danielle Hodsdon) rallied for second with Fantorini (Xavier Aizpuru) third.

“He met the second-last all wrong and made a mess of it, but it didn’t faze him and he jumped the last really well,” said Walsh. “He can be a nice horse and with a bit of pace, he would settle in and run great. My best option was to just let him go. The more you fight him the more he fights back. You have to sit as quiet as you can.”

A three-time winner on the flat with trainer Michael Matz, Bee Charmer won a training flat race at Camden last spring and finished with a win and a third (behind The Price Of Love and Be Certain in a Saratoga novice stakes) in three jump starts last year. Shelved for the fall season, he brings potential into his novice year.

“He’s still kind of green, you know?” said Walsh. “He’ll get better, much better. He’s got a serious engine on him.”

• Owner Calvin Houghland studied the timber race at the Colonial Cup a few years ago and turned to his trainer Jonathan Sheppard.

“You know, I’d like to have a timber horse. See if you can find me a timber horse.”

See **CAROLINA CUP** page 12 ►





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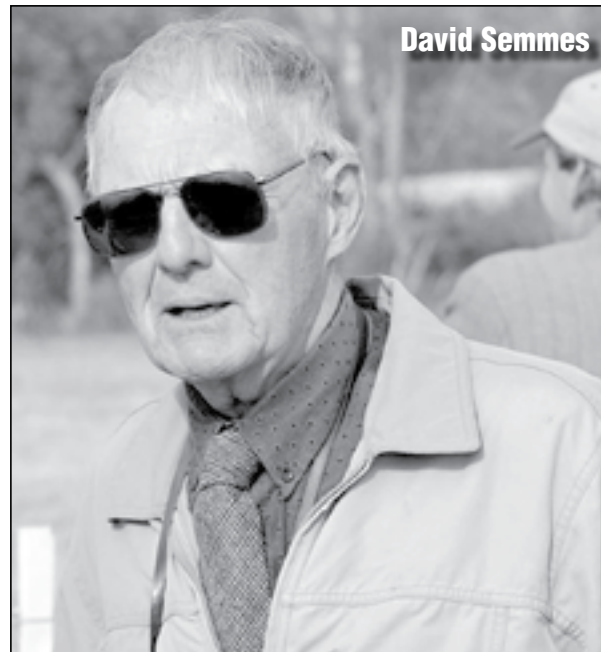
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David Semmes

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|                |  |
|----------------|--|
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| (804) 569-3238 | Colonial Downs, New Kent                   |
| April 12       | Loudoun Hunt Point-to-Point                |
| (703) 777-8480 | Oatlands, Leesburg                         |
| April 18       | Middleburg Spring Races                    |
| (540) 687-6545 | Glenwood Park, Middleburg                  |
| April 19       | Fairfax Hunt Point-to-Point                |
| (703) 787-6673 | Morven Park, Leesburg                      |
| April 25       | Foxfield Races                             |
| (434) 293-9501 | Foxfield Race Course, Charlottesville      |
| April 26       | Middleburg Hunt Point-to-Point             |
| (540) 454-2991 | Glenwood Park, Middleburg                  |
| May 2          | Virginia Gold Cup                          |
| (540) 347-2612 | Great Meadow, The Plains                   |
| May 3          | Bull Run Point-to-Point                    |
| (703) 866-0509 | Brandywine Park, Culpeper                  |
| May 9          | Bedford County Point-to-Point              |
| (540) 297-3419 | Wolf Branch Farm, Forest                   |
| September 12   | Thornton Hill Hounds Point-to-Point        |
| (540) 987-8346 | Thornton Hill Farm, Sperryville            |
| September 19   | Blue Ridge Fall Races                      |
| (540) 539-1577 | Woodley Farm, Berryville                   |
| September 27   | Foxfield Races                             |
| (434) 293-9501 | Foxfield Race Course, Charlottesville      |
| October 3-4    | Virginia Fall Races                        |
| (540) 687-5662 | Glenwood Park, Middleburg                  |
| October 10     | Morven Park Races                          |
| (703) 777-2414 | Morven Park, Leesburg                      |
| October 17     | International Gold Cup                     |
| (540) 347-2612 | Great Meadow, The Plains                   |
| October 25     | Steeplechase at Oak Ridge                  |
| (540) 364-1962 | Oak Ridge, Covington                       |
| November 7     | Montpelier Races                           |
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Photos by Douglas Lees  
and Tod Marks

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# Carolina Cup —

■ Continued from page 10

With a healthy breeding operation, Sheppard wasn't about to go shopping — even if timber is no longer his forte.

"I've got way too many horses of my own," he thought. "Surely I can fit one into the picture somehow."

Sheppard turned to He's A Conniver, a strapping chestnut with a big jump, a long stride and more stamina than his breeding might suggest (his sire, Crafty Friend, did his best work at 7 furlongs). Now 7, the timber recruit improved to 2-for-6 over the lumber and could be headed to stakes competition.

One race before wiring a hurdle field with Bee Charmer, Walsh put He's A Conniver on the lead in the 3-mile allowance and ran the field into the ground. The winner thwarted several early challenges and kicked clear of hurdle-stakes winner Orison (Young) late to score by 7 3/4 lengths in 6:30. Patriot's Path (Darren Nagle) picked up third.

"When we first started schooling him, he did show a great jump — springs in his heels," said Sheppard, who won the 1968 Maryland Hunt Cup with Haffaday but has only dabbled in timber since. "He was too sharp and rank though so we had to do a fair amount of work. It's been a matter of getting him to relax a little and get the distance. I give Robbie a great deal of credit because he's made a big difference in him. He's gotten a little bit better all the time."

- With three fences to go, Northern Bay and Paddy Young found a perfect spot from which to launch a bid in Camden's \$25,000 maiden hurdle — inside, ready to strike, just behind working-too-hard leader Pleasant Top.

Then they found all kinds of trouble.



Tod Marks

He's A Conniver (right) leads Orison over the last fence in the allowance timber.

At the third-last, Northern Bay bobbled and lost a position. At the second-last, he ran into the back of Pleasant Top, lost momentum and watched Country Cousin (Carl Rafter) fly to the front.

On the final turn, Northern Bay battled for space on the rail and jumped the road crossing. At the top of the stretch, he was third behind Country Cousin and the surging Mischief.

And then Northern Bay reversed his fortunes with a little luck and sheer will in the stretch. Mischief fell

at the last, Country Cousin faltered in deep stretch and Northern Bay just kept trying. He rallied from a length down to win by a neck for owner Cary Jackson and trainer Doug Fout. The winner covered the 2 1/8 miles in 4:24, building off his point-to-point score at Blue Ridge March 7. Pleasant Top (Dowling) held for third.

"What a great little horse," said Young. "He was finding it a bit difficult in the ground. He's not very big and having to jump in and out of it, every fence was an effort. At the last, I saw (Mischief) just disappear so I thought I had a chance. Halfway up the straight, I saw Carl's horse kind of going up and down in a spot and the more we got there, the more my horse found. It's nice to feel a horse try like that."

- Before the start of the Camden finale, owner Andre Brewster looked at Diva Maria and smiled.

"I like this filly," he said. "There's something about her."

A few minutes later, the head of Arcadia Stable had plenty to like. Diva Maria charged away with the \$20,000 filly/mare maiden hurdle in her first start for Arcadia. The gray daughter of Maria's Mon showed promise in two starts versus 3-year-olds of both sexes last year for owner Grace Ritzenberg. Sold to Arcadia in the off-season, but still part of Fisher's barn, Diva Maria (Aizpuru) jumped to the front before the final run down the backside and kept going — winning by 4 1/2 lengths in 4:23 1/5 for the 2 1/8 miles.

"After the way she ran last year, I thought she'd be a nice filly for this year, but she still surprised me," said Aizpuru. "I got to the front too soon, but it didn't stop her. She got there and pricked her ears and let me just slow it up a little. She came down to the last, met it on the perfect stride and galloped away."



Tod Marks

Northern Bay (right) battles Mischief (left) and Country Cousin late in the maiden hurdle.



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Diva Maria (Xavier Aizpuru) flies to victory in the Camden finale.

Tod Marks

### Carolina Cup Races

Camden, S.C. Saturday, March 28. Turf: Soft.

#### 1st. Training flat. 1 1/2 miles.

|                      |       |           |
|----------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1. Left Unsaid       | L 155 | Whelan    |
| 2. Dalucci (Ire)     | 155   | Dalton    |
| 3. Pleasant Pick     | L 155 | Price     |
| 4. Monsieur Henri    | L 155 | Walsh     |
| 5. Torino Luge (Aus) | L 155 | Young     |
| 6. Lunar Labor       | L 155 | Williams  |
| 7. Thirty Two Skidoo | 155   | Taurig    |
| 8. Coupe De Ville    | L 155 | Mackenzie |
| 9. Dutch Smoke       | L 155 | Rafter    |
| 10. Touring England  | 155   | Marzullo  |
| 11. Class Bopper     | 155   | Boucher   |

Mgn: 2 3/4. Time: 2:29.

O: The Fields Stable. T: Tom Voss.

B. g. 4 Dynaformer-Hello Soso (Ire), Alzao.

Bred by Mrs. Jerome Amerman & Bobby Frankel (Ky).

#### 2nd. \$25,000. SOK mdn. hurdle. 2 1/8 miles.

|                         |       |           |
|-------------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1. Northern Bay         | L 144 | Young     |
| 2. Country Cousin       | L 154 | Rafter    |
| 3. Pleasant Top         | L 144 | Dowling   |
| 4. Indy Run             | L 149 | Mackenzie |
| 5. Chime Choir          | 155   | Taurig    |
| F. Mischief             | L 154 | Whelan    |
| PU. Class Crash         | 144   | Boucher   |
| PU. Global Genius (Ire) | L 154 | Walsh     |

Mgn: 1/4. Time: 4:24.

O: Cary Jackson. T: Doug Fout.

B. c. 4 Sligo Bay (Ire)-Hickory Crest, Caro (Ire).

Bred by Equus Farm (Ky).

#### 3rd. \$20,000. Allowance timber. 3 miles. NW2.

|                    |       |          |
|--------------------|-------|----------|
| 1. He's A Conniver | L 165 | Walsh    |
| 2. Orison          | L 160 | Young    |
| 3. Patriot's Path  | L 155 | Nagle    |
| 4. Woodmont        | L 160 | Thompson |
| 5. Dig This Hoss   | L 155 | Helders  |
| F. Skiperoo        | L 160 | Petty    |
| PU. Meadow Larking | L 165 | Aizpuru  |

Mgn: 7 3/4. Time: 6:30.

O: Calvin Houghland. T: Jonathan Sheppard.

Ch. g. 7 Crafty Friend-Better To Be Lucky, Roberto. Bred by Jonathan Sheppard (Pa).

#### 4th. \$30,000. Starter allow. hurdle. 2 1/8 miles.

##### NW2X or started for clm. price in 2008.

|                      |       |         |
|----------------------|-------|---------|
| 1. Bee Charmer (Ire) | L 144 | Walsh   |
| 2. Zozimus           | L 144 | Hodsdon |
| 3. Fantorini         | L 144 | Aizpuru |
| 4. Class Real Rock   | 134   | Boucher |
| PU. Barrington       | L 148 | Whelan  |

Mgn: 7 1/4. Time: 4:22 1/5.

O: Whitewood Stable. T: Richard Valentine.

B. g. 7 Anabaa-Bayourida, Slew O' Gold.

Bred by Sarl Elevage Du Haras De Bourgeauville (Ire).

#### 5th. \$75,000. Hurdle stakes. 2 1/4 miles.

##### Carolina First Carolina Cup (Grade II). Brush course.

|                      |       |         |
|----------------------|-------|---------|
| 1. Good Night Shirt  | L 158 | Dowling |
| 2. Preemptive Strike | L 150 | Petty   |
| 3. Isti Bee (NZ)     | L 142 | Young   |
| 4. Best Attack       | L 150 | Aizpuru |
| 5. Dr. Bloomer       | L 154 | Walsh   |

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

O: Sonny Via. T: Jack Fisher.

Ch. g. 8 Concern-Hot Story, Two Punch.

Bred by Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowman (Md).

#### 6th. \$20,000. F&M mdn. hurdle. 2 1/8 miles.

|                      |       |          |
|----------------------|-------|----------|
| 1. Diva Maria        | L 143 | Aizpuru  |
| 2. Moon Dolly (GB)   | L 153 | Whelan   |
| 3. Dynaskill         | L 153 | Young    |
| 4. The Manner Born   | L 153 | Hodsdon  |
| 5. CLass Tie         | 143   | Boucher  |
| 6. Straight To Court | L 153 | Rafter   |
| 7. Farah T Salute    | 160   | Williams |
| PU. Tatjana's Salute | 153   | Walsh    |
| PU. Class Miner      | 143   | Petty    |
| PU. Scandalizer      | L 153 | Spate    |

Mgn: 4 1/2. Time: 4:23 1/5.

O: Arcadia Stable. T: Jack Fisher.

Gr./Ro. f. 4 Maria's Mon-Dust Bucket, Spend A Buck. Bred by Grace Ritzenberg (Va).



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# Right side Up

Stakes vet Mixed Up returns to winning ways

BY BRIAN NADEAU

Jonathan Sheppard arrived at Aiken with a multiple Grade I-winner and an unknown quantity. An earner of \$457,730 and a horse that hadn't met the starter since July. One with eight lifetime jump victories and one that hadn't won a race in 19 months.

Mixed Up, meet Mixed Up.

**AIKEN STEEPLECHASE**  
**Saturday, March 21**

Just which Mixed Up came to South Carolina wasn't immediately clear, but somewhere between the top of the stretch and the wire of the \$45,000 Southern Bank & Trust Imperial Cup Grade I talent won the race against injury and inactivity. Bill Pape's Mixed Up (Danielle Hodsdon) proved a game and determined nose winner over Paradise's Boss in a thrilling renewal of the 2-mile stakes that helped usher in the 2009 NSA season in Aiken, S.C. March 21. Welcome back, old friend.

"It sure is good to see him run like that," Sheppard said. "He didn't win a race last year and it had been a long time since he showed himself. We were looking



Tod Marks

Mixed Up (right) battles with Paradise's Boss near the finish of the Imperial Cup at Aiken.

forward to running him at Saratoga last summer but he ended up having some soundness issues, so it all got to be very frustrating."

Mixed Up put out those past frustrations and rekindled future promises in the Imperial Cup. The 10-year-old Pape-Sheppard homebred broke running and secured a forward position behind Hip Hop and Spy In The Sky from the inside during the first lap. Paradise's Boss (Xavier Aizpuru), the 2004 novice champion who missed all of 2008 due to injury, took a surprising spot at the back of the six-horse field, though never more than 6 lengths from the leader.

Hodsdon stayed glued to Hip Hop's inside as the field hit the line for the second time, while Paradise's Boss moved up to her outside. As the field entered the

final turn Hodsdon guided Mixed Up through along the inside, while Aizpuru negotiated traffic while following that move.

Turning for home the two veterans raced in tandem. They approached the last on even terms and Paradise's Boss appeared to stick a nose in front as they took flight. Mixed Up jumped it better, and put that momentum to good use.

They landed inseparable and continued that way to the line. Only the photo-finish camera – after a lengthy review by the placing judges – could tell for sure that Mixed Up put his nose in front to get the win. He stopped the timer in 3:44 2/5. Rare Bush (Padge Whelan) held third.

See **AIKEN** page 15 ►



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Tod Marks



# Aiken —

■ Continued from page 14

Hodsdon admitted the path to victory doesn't always go according to plan. "I didn't intend to sit second or be that close, but he set the tone after the first jump. He tried to run off on me so I had to keep him tucked in and covered up right inside Hip Hop's tail," Hodsdon said. "Getting the jump up the inside was the key. It was such a tight finish and to be able to save that ground was huge."

Hodsdon has long regarded Mixed Up as a personal favorite and the 2006 champion jockey has ridden the star in all but one of his 22 hurdle starts. She even climbed aboard for a stakes try on the flat at Colonial Downs in 2007. She got on at Aiken hoping for the best but also realistic in the chances of a 10-year-old that had been away a long time.

"Going in we really didn't think he would like Aiken or 2 miles, and I would have been happy to ride around and get up for third," Hodsdon said. "As a younger horse he liked the distance and he was versatile, but now he's a bit older and not as speedy."

With the dominance of Good Night Shirt, the resurgence of Preemptive Strike and the budding potential of Be Certain, Mixed Up had been all but forgotten over the past 18 months. In the "what have you done for me lately?" world of racing the New York Turf Writers and Royal Chase trophies can get dusty in a hurry.

The only horse not named McDynamo to beat Good Night Shirt since



Sunshine Numbers (Jody Petty) flies the last en route to a front-running win at Aiken.

Tod Marks

2007 (in the April 2007 Royal Chase at Keeneland) has struggled to get past his stall door since.

Last May at Nashville, on the day Good Night Shirt won his second consecutive Iroquois, Mixed Up checked in a disappointing fourth in the Grade III Marcellus Frost.

Sheppard regrouped and pointed to Saratoga, where Mixed Up had won the Grade I Turf Writers in 2006 and the Grade II A.P. Smithwick in 2007. But the son of Carnivalay never made the Spa races in 2008, turning up with an injury shortly after running second in a training flat at Open House. Instead of rushing to make the fall season Sheppard showed the patience of an ice fisherman

and skipped the rest of the year.

He gave Mixed Up pointed to 2009. After initially contemplating the Carolina Cup and a potential tilt with Good Night Shirt, the trainer opted for the Imperial Cup, which had been shortened 2 furlongs from last year's 2 1/4-mile distance. Like his jockey, Sheppard entered and hoped for the best over the speed-favoring course. Racing without Lasix for the first time in a jump race, Mixed Up came through for the team.

"We were a bit concerned because he's not as speedy as he once was and he doesn't have that burst of speed that he used to, so we wanted to keep him a bit closer to the pace. Aiken, going 2 miles, you can't make up as much ground,"

Sheppard said. "He ran against a real good horse in Paradise's Boss and it proved to be quite a race. They came to the last together and both fought very hard and in the end class shows."

• On paper, the \$25,000 allowance left little to the imagination. Sunshine Numbers would blast off to a monumental lead, tire entering the far turn and by midstretch be relegated to nothing more than a minor award. Since breaking his maiden at Stoneybrook in April 2008 the theme had played out in all five of his subsequent NSA races.

But a funny thing happened around the far turn of the \$25,000 allowance. Sue Sensor's charge kept going, fended off a late challenge from Sermon Of Love (Hodsdon) and posted an overdue 3 1/2-length win for trainer Arch Kingsley.

True to form, Sunshine Numbers (Jody Petty) broke in front and assumed command, drawing off by 10 lengths at the mile marker. The lead blossomed to 25 with just a half-mile remaining before the others began to draw in. Miss Crown and Sermon Of Love seemingly cut a length off with every stride and turning for home Sunshine Numbers held a tenuous 5-length lead. Once again the inevitable was becoming reality.

As the field came out of the final turn Sermon Of Love picked up the chase, and cut the margin to 2 lengths in midstretch. But this time, Sunshine Numbers braced for the challenge, dug in gamely and held sway under the line. Zozimus (Aizpuru) rallied late for third, some 10 1/4 lengths behind Sermon Of Love. The winner covered the 2 miles in 3:44 2/5.

See **AIKEN** page 16 ►

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Bounding Cat (Robbie Walsh) shows the way late in the conditioned claimer.

Tod Marks

## Aiken —

■ Continued from page 15

The 7-year-old son of Polish Numbers had shown signs of talent in his brief hurdle career but the Quarter Horse mentality doesn't play out well when you're running and jumping for 2 miles. The pop-and-stop had become his custom last year until November, when he opened up 20 lengths and held on for third in a Camden starter allowance. Things brightened considerably at Little Everglades Point-to-Point March 8 when Sunshine Numbers went flag-to-wire and won by 17 lengths. Kingsley left for Aiken confident.

"We've worked really hard in his training and his races to get him to relax a little more so he can have something left for the stretch," Kingsley said. "In the stretch he wasn't giving anything and they weren't getting anything. I guess you could say getting an early run at Little Everglades helped, but you know the others in there were ready to run as well."

- It's hardly surprising to see a steeplechase horse return from more than a year off. Nor is it surprising when the horse's trainer says she doesn't know what to expect in that first start back. Janet Elliot wasn't about to deviate from the norm. Elliot sent out Laura Thiel Shull's Silent Vow (Bernie Dalton) for the first time in 16 months and he delivered a 1 1/2-length win over Rusty Reign (Robbie Walsh) and Bethpage Black (Carl Rafter) in the third, a \$10,000 maiden claimer.

"He had a really bad suspensory injury in 2007 but the owner was good enough to give him the time to come back and we were able to take it slow and let him tell us when he was ready," Elliot said. "I wasn't quite sure how he would run or jump because we really didn't do a lot of schooling with him. We wanted to just send him out there and get a nice sensible run in him and see what we had. We didn't want to overdo it, but if he's there for you, go for it."

He was there like a shadow.

Silent Vow tracked in fourth for much of the running, while Bethpage Black and Red Monkey Kid battled on the lead. The 6-year-old drafted into contention nearing the final turn, ranged up in the stretch and drove clear late.

Silent Vow showed promise in 2007 for trainer Paul Rowland. He crossed the line first at Tyron only to be disqualified from the win and then followed that effort with a pair of fourths.

- Elliot always knew how to get Bounding Cat to the winner's circle; she just needed a little afternoon cooperation. The 9-year-old homebred has long been regarded as difficult to ride. If you can tuck him in and get him to settle, odds are you're riding the winner. If he wins the battle of wills, odds are you'll be heading backward at the finish.

Walsh got a briefing from Elliot and Aizpuru prior to the finale, a \$10,000 conditioned claimer, and carried the instructions out to perfection en route to a 5 1/2-length score over Bold Turn (Petty) and Summersville (Rafter).

See **AIKEN** page 19 ►

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# Aiken —

■ Continued from page 16

Bounding Cat settled at the back of the seven-horse field, 20 lengths behind runaway leader Waracha, before passing the entire group on the far turn and drawing off for an easy win.

"I had talked to Xav (who'd ridden the horse twice) and Janet and they both told me to keep him covered up or he'll run off on you," Walsh said. "I just dropped him off the back, about 2 or 3 lengths behind and just sat on their tails for a bit. He jumped his way into it down the backside and turning for home I tipped him out and he just took off going to the last."

Bounding Cat made his hurdle debut in 2003 at Middleburg and spread 10 more jump starts (and several flat tries) over the next five seasons. Bounding Cat lost his first eight starts, often because of his inability to relax early, before breaking through with a last-to-first move at Montpelier in November. He refused to start in his next race at Camden, but Elliot didn't panic.

"He's an old homebred so I thought at Aiken that it wasn't a big deal because he's my own horse and I use him as a pony as well, so if he didn't want to run, then that would be OK," Elliot said. "But maybe now he's starting to come into himself a little bit. He improved last fall, before Aiken, and he's showing consistency. If you cover him, he relaxes and finishes quite well and that's what we saw here."

• Sheppard, Pape and Hodsdon started out an Aiken double when Dugan drew off to a 6-length win over three rivals in the second, a \$25,000 Sport of Kings maiden.

Dugan stalked early leader So Amazing (Liam McVicar), took charge enter-



Tod Marks

Dugan takes flight in his maiden hurdle win.

ing the far turn, and powered home to an easy 6-length win in an effort that stamps the son of Forest Wildcat as a name to remember in the novice division. So Amazing easily held second, 11 1/4 lengths ahead of BK's Double Jade (Rafter).

Bred by George Strawbridge, Dugan raced for Augustin Stable on the flat with Sheppard from 2006-2008, scoring a pair of wins in 14 starts. Last fall, as Strawbridge downsized his vast operation, Sheppard mentioned the horse to Pape, along with one major selling point to go with him.

"I like to give all my horses a try over something, be it a log or a baby hurdle, when they are younger. It helps me get a line on their personality. I did that to Dugan last spring at Camden and he seemed to like it, so I knew he had some talent, which I knew Bill would like as well," Sheppard said. "Once they learn to jump they don't forget it. I haven't had a great deal of luck converting racehorses into hurdle horses, and that's why I think this works a lot better. At Aiken he was very poised and composed for a horse making his first start over hurdles."

## Aiken Steeplechase

Aiken, S.C. Saturday, March 21. Turf: Firm.

### 1st. Training flat. 1 1/4 miles.

|                       |       |           |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1. Bud Mon            | L 155 | Walsh     |
| 2. The Key To Honour  | L 160 | Williams  |
| 3. Sweep Domino (Chi) | L 155 | Mackenzie |
| 4. Silence            | L 155 | Aizpuru   |
| 5. Italian Wedding    | L 155 | Hodsdon   |
| 6. Complete Zen       | L 145 | Boucher   |
| 7. Thirty Two Skidoo  | 155   | Traurig   |
| *DQ. Saluda Sam       | L 155 | Frederick |

\*From 4th for jockey's failure to weigh in.

Mgn: 3/4. Time: 2:20 4/5.

O: Greg Hawkins. T: Janet Elliot.

B. g. 4 Buddha-Montjac, Montbrook.

Bred by Five Oak Farm (NY).

### 2nd. \$15,000. Maiden hurdle. 2 miles.

|                     |       |         |
|---------------------|-------|---------|
| 1. Dugan            | L 154 | Hodsdon |
| 2. So Amazing (Ire) | L 149 | McVicar |
| 3. BK's Double Jade | L 154 | Rafter  |
| PU. Class Bop       | 144   | Boucher |

Mgn: 6. Time: 3:48 2/5.

O: Bill Pape. T: Jonathan Sheppard.

Ch. g. 5 Forest Wildcat-Ratings, Caveat.

Bred by George Strawbridge (Ky).

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

\$15,000-\$10,000 clm. price.

|                           |       |         |
|---------------------------|-------|---------|
| 1. Silent Vow             | L 156 | Dalton  |
| 2. Rusty Reign            | L 142 | Walsh   |
| 3. Bethpage Black         | L 148 | Rafter  |
| 4. Suite G                | 151   | Traurig |
| 5. Society Milliner (Ire) | L 147 | McVicar |
| 6. Red Monkey Kid         | L 140 | Petty   |

Mgn: 1 1/2. Time: 4:09 3/5.

O: Laura Thiel Shull. T: Janet Elliot.

B. g. 6 Broken Vow-Heel And Toe, Pas Seul.

Bred by Summer Wind Farm (Md).

### 4th. \$25,000. Allowance hurdle. 2 miles.

NW1X.

|                       |       |         |
|-----------------------|-------|---------|
| 1. Sunshine Numbers   | L 144 | Petty   |
| 2. Sermon Of Love     | L 144 | Hodsdon |
| 3. Zozimus            | L 156 | Aizpuru |
| 4. Miss Crown         | 138   | Dalton  |
| 5. Charismic American | L 144 | Walsh   |
| 6. Ounin pohja (Ire)  | L 144 | Whelan  |
| PU. Belknap County    | L 144 | Rafter  |
| PU. Cuse              | L 156 | McVicar |

Mgn: 3 1/2. Time: 3:44 2/5.

O: Sue Sensor. T: Arch Kingsley.

Dk.B./Br. g. 7 Polish Numbers-Saturday Sun-

shine, Dahar. Bred by Dresden Farm (NY).

### 5th. \$45,000. Hurdle stakes. 2 miles.

NW \$27,000 twice in 2008-09.

Southern Bank & Trust Bank Imperial Cup

|                    |       |         |
|--------------------|-------|---------|
| 1. Mixed Up        | 158   | Hodsdon |
| 2. Paradise's Boss | L 158 | Aizpuru |
| 3. Rare Bush       | L 154 | Whelan  |
| 4. Pals Pride      | L 150 | Dalton  |
| 5. Spy In The Sky  | L 154 | McVicar |
| PU. Hip Hop        | 146   | Petty   |

Mgn: Nose. Time: 3:44 2/5.

O: Bill Pape. T: Jonathan Sheppard.

B. g. 10 Carnivalay-Oh Nonsense, Oh Say.

Bred by Bill Pape & Jonathan Sheppard (Pa).

### 6th. \$10,000. Cond. clm. hurdle. 2 miles.

NW 2. \$15,000-10,000 clm. price.

|                      |       |           |
|----------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1. Bounding Cat      | L 148 | Walsh     |
| 2. Bold Turn         | L 139 | Petty     |
| 3. Summersville      | L 144 | Rafter    |
| 4. Roseland          | L 150 | Dalton    |
| 5. Waracha           | L 148 | Whelan    |
| 6. Prancing Cat      | L 153 | McVicar   |
| PU. Socca Beat (Chi) | L 141 | Mackenzie |

Mgn: 5 1/2. Time: 3:47 1/5. O/T: Janet Elliot.

B. g. 9 In Case-Pas De Basque, Bounding

Basque. Bred by Janet Elliot (Pa).

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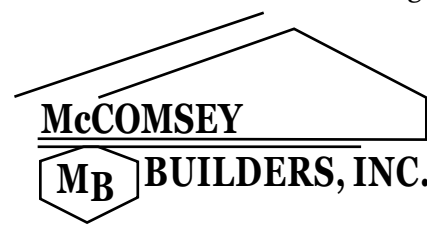
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# NSA Standings

TOP 10 THROUGH APRIL 10

## Jockeys (Races Won)

|                       | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Money    | Win% |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|------|
| Robbie Walsh.....     | 11  | 4   | 2   | 0   | \$52,750 | .36  |
| Danielle Hodsdon..... | 8   | 2   | 3   | 1   | 52,500   | .25  |
| Xavier Aizpuru.....   | 8   | 2   | 1   | 2   | 44,350   | .25  |
| Paddy Young.....      | 6   | 2   | 1   | 2   | 37,100   | .33  |
| Jody Petty.....       | 10  | 1   | 3   | 0   | 32,900   | .10  |
| Padge Whelan.....     | 9   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 16,750   | .11  |
| Willie Dowling.....   | 2   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 47,500   | .50  |
| Bernie Dalton.....    | 5   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 10,000   | .20  |
| Carl Rafter.....      | 10  | 0   | 2   | 3   | 10,900   | .00  |
| Liam McVicar.....     | 8   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 6,800    | .00  |

## Trainers (Races Won)

|                        | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Money    | Win% |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|------|
| Jonathan Sheppard..... | 10  | 3   | 2   | 1   | \$62,150 | .30  |
| Janet Elliot.....      | 5   | 3   | 2   | 0   | 24,300   | .60  |
| Jack Fisher.....       | 9   | 3   | 1   | 3   | 90,100   | .33  |
| Arch Kingsley.....     | 6   | 1   | 2   | 0   | 19,400   | .17  |
| Doug Fout.....         | 8   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 29,000   | .13  |
| Tom Voss.....          | 8   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 12,250   | .13  |
| Leslie Young.....      | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 9,000    | 1.00 |
| Richard Valentine..... | 2   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 18,000   | .50  |
| Karen Gray.....        | 8   | 0   | 1   | 2   | 6,250    | .00  |
| Britt Graham.....      | 2   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 7,900    | .00  |

## Owners (Money Won)

|                       | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Money    | Win% |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|------|
| Sonny Via.....        | 3   | 1   | 0   | 2   | \$50,500 | .33  |
| Bill Pape.....        | 3   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 37,000   | .67  |
| Calvin Houghland..... | 4   | 1   | 2   | 0   | 22,200   | .25  |
| Sheila Williams.....  | 2   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 19,500   | .50  |
| Whitewood Stable..... | 2   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 18,000   | .50  |
| Sue Sensor.....       | 3   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 15,800   | .33  |
| Cary Jackson.....     | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 15,000   | 1.00 |
| Polaris Stable.....   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 13,500   | .00  |
| Arcadia Stable.....   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 12,000   | 1.00 |
| Leslie Young.....     | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 9,000    | 1.00 |

## Horses (Money Won)

|                        | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Money    | Win% |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|------|
| Good Night Shirt.....  | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | \$45,000 | 1.00 |
| Mixed Up.....          | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 27,000   | 1.00 |
| Rare Bush.....         | 2   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 19,500   | .50  |
| Bee Charmer (Ire)..... | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 18,000   | 1.00 |
| Northern Bay.....      | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 15,000   | 1.00 |
| Sunshine Numbers.....  | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 15,000   | 1.00 |
| Preemptive Strike..... | 1   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 13,500   | .00  |
| Diva Maria.....        | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 12,000   | 1.00 |
| He's A Conniver.....   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 12,000   | 1.00 |
| Ogden Dunes.....       | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 9,000    | 1.00 |

## 2009 NSA Spring Schedule

**Saturday, April 11..... My Lady's Manor**  
Monkton, Md. [www.marylandsteeplechasing.com](http://www.marylandsteeplechasing.com)

**Saturday, April 25..... Queen's Cup**  
Mineral Springs, N.C. [www.queenscup.org](http://www.queenscup.org)

**Saturday, April 11..... Strawberry Hill**  
New Kent, Va. [www.strawberryhillraces.com](http://www.strawberryhillraces.com)

**Saturday, May 2..... Virginia Gold Cup**  
The Plains, Va. [www.vagoldcup.com](http://www.vagoldcup.com)

**Saturday, April 18..... Block House**  
Tryon, N.C. [www.trhcevents.com](http://www.trhcevents.com)

**Sunday, May 3..... Winterthur**  
Winterthur, Del. [www.winterthur.org](http://www.winterthur.org)

**Saturday, April 18..... Grand National**  
Butler, Md. [www.marylandsteeplechasing.com](http://www.marylandsteeplechasing.com)

**Saturday, May 9..... Iroquois**  
Nashville, Tenn. [www.iroquoissteeplechase.org](http://www.iroquoissteeplechase.org)

**Saturday, April 18..... Middleburg Spring**  
Middleburg, Va. [www.middleburgspringraces.com](http://www.middleburgspringraces.com)

**Sunday, May 10..... Willowdale**  
Kennett Square, Pa. [www.willowdale.org](http://www.willowdale.org)

**Saturday, April 25..... Atlanta**  
Kingston, Ga. [www.atlantasteeplechase.org](http://www.atlantasteeplechase.org)

**Saturday, May 16..... Radnor Hunt Races**  
Malvern, Pa. [www.radnorhorraces.org](http://www.radnorhorraces.org)

**Saturday, April 25..... Foxfield Spring**  
Charlottesville, Va. [www.foxfieldraces.com](http://www.foxfieldraces.com)

**Sunday, May 17..... High Hope**  
Lexington, Ky. [www.highhopesteeplechase.com](http://www.highhopesteeplechase.com)

**Saturday, April 25..... Maryland Hunt Cup**  
Glyndon, Md. [www.marylandsteeplechasing.com](http://www.marylandsteeplechasing.com)

**Saturday, May 23..... Fair Hill**  
Fair Hill, Md. [www.fairhillraces.org](http://www.fairhillraces.org)

See [www.nationalsteeplechase.com](http://www.nationalsteeplechase.com) for updates.

## STEEPLECHASE NEWS

### Obituary

### Henry Rathbun, 87

Henry Tompkins "Duffy" Rathbun, a founding partner of the Washington law firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering, who bred and raced Thoroughbreds with his wife Sheilah, died March 19 in Cape Coral, Fla., from complications following a heart attack. He was 87.

A native of Elmira, N.Y., he graduated from Amherst College and served on a Navy destroyer escort in World War II. At the University of Virginia Law School, he was on the law review but jeopardized his high class ranking by skipping his last classes to go to the races at Charles Town, on a blind date where he met his future wife.

In 1963, the couple bought a 30-acre farm near Middleburg, Va. where they maintained a small broodmare band. They bred and raced stakes winners Worrisome Thing, Miss Otis and Shiny Sheet; Rathbun also raced an occasional steeplechaser and was a regular at the Saratoga races each summer. His trainers included A. Ridgely White, Timothy White, Dick Small, Tom Voss, Ian Balding, Charles Hadry Jr., and his son, Gordon Rathbun.

In jump racing, Rathbun owned a share of Peer Prince with Dogwood Stable and also campaigned 1970s runner Inns Of Court, 2007 winner Back To Even and current runner Imperial Way.

Rathbun also collected sporting art and was a supporter of the National Sporting Library in Middleburg. He is survived by his children, Gordon Forrester Rathbun of Middleburg, Jennie Henry Rathbun of Arlington, Mass. and Sheila Rathbun Benfey of Amherst, Mass.; and two grandsons, Thomas and Nicholas Benfey of Amherst Mass.

A memorial service will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Upperville, Va. May 9 at 11 a.m.



Catherine French

Henry Rathbun

that point in the year). Strong thunder storms were forecast the week leading up the race, which may have impacted the course further, so organizers opted to cancel.

Equestrian Sport Productions, owner of the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center, scheduled the spring meet after a successful run last fall over the Thanksgiving weekend. Palm Beach will refund all payments made for tickets.

"Our first priority is the safety of the horses," ESP chief executive Mark Belissimo said in a press release. "Demand for tickets for the spring steeplechase is greater at this stage than it was for the inaugural event four months ago. Arrangements were being finalized for a day of exciting competition . . . while disappointed, we look forward to the fall Palm Beach Steeplechase."

The cancellation cost the NSA circuit four races and \$125,000 in total purses. The feature was slated to be a \$50,000 novice hurdle stakes.

### Palm Beach cancels meet

Citing the weather and potentially poor turf conditions, the Palm Beach Steeplechase canceled its spring meet nine days before the scheduled race-day of April 4 (the same day as Stoneybrook).

In a press release, Palm Beach pointed to a winter/early spring drought in Florida that brought just 1.63 inches of rain to the Wellington area (when compared the annual average of 9.26 at

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Photographer: Catherine French



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# Staying On

Off to quick start, Walsh crafts a career from 'one year' trip to U.S.

BY BRIAN NADEAU

Robbie Walsh stole a busy minute from a busy day while playing father to 10-month-old daughter Laura and 3-year-old son Kevin. The Irishman summed up the past eight years since coming to the United States in 2001; he had 50 seconds left over.

"Well, I was only planning on coming over for a year and I'm still here, so it must be going pretty good."


Indeed, Walsh has turned a one-year excursion into a career, and the 33-year-old is off to a flying start in 2009. Through the first three weeks of the season Walsh leads the standings with four wins and looks poised to have a good year.

Walsh grew up in County Kilkenny just a short drive from the mighty Coolmore racing and breeding conglomerate. Born into a racing family, he knew early on what his career path would be.

"My dad Paddy was an amateur flat and hurdle jockey and later a trainer, so from a young age I was always involved with horses," Walsh said. "I went to riding school at 7, started jogging horses at 10, galloping them at 12 and schooling at 14."

From there Walsh continued to advance through the ranks, working and then riding for top barns such as Joe Crowley and his son-in-law Aidan O'Brien, as well as Paddy Mullins. Walsh rode his first winner, Our Weathercock at Ballinrobe in 1998 and as an amateur riding for Mullins' high-powered barn he cracked the top five in the standings. But in the following years, Walsh's fortunes never really progressed.

"Towards the end, business just began to dry up and I started struggling a little bit. I wasn't getting on the horses and I just felt I needed a break; it was time for a change," Walsh said. "I talked with my wife, Carmel, who was my girlfriend at the time, and we decided to come to the States for a year."



Dwain Snyder/Eclipse Sportswire

| Robbie Walsh       |     |     |     |             |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| Sts                | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Earnings    |
| 521                | 53  | 62  | 42  | \$1,470,885 |
| — Through April 10 |     |     |     |             |

They departed in 2001 and shortly after arriving Walsh landed a job riding out with Michael Moran's stable in Unionville, Pa. By spring 2002 Walsh found himself in Camden, S.C., where he met former jockey and trainer Joe Walsh (no relation). The two struck up an instant friendship and soon Robbie, with the Joe's guidance, began riding over timber. Joe Walsh helped continue the education that began back home in Ireland.

"Between my father back home and Joe here in the States, they've both had a tremendous impact of my career. Their experience has been a great help to me along the way," Walsh said. "I've been very fortunate over the course of my career to have worked with some great horsemen and it's been a big part of my success."

That same spring at Camden Walsh began schooling horses for Janet Elliot and Kathy McKenna. Elliot soon had a suggestion.

"One day Janet asked, 'Have you ever thought about taking out your license?' I didn't come over here to ride, I was just looking for some work around the barn," Walsh said. "But she got me thinking and so I decided to go for it."

After a trio of training flats, Walsh made his NSA jump debut at Straw-



Tod Marks

Robbie Walsh guides Bounding Cat over a fence at Aiken last month.

berry Hill in April 2002, finishing third aboard Bering Land Bridge for trainer Ricky Hendriks. He scored his first victory a month later aboard Hero's Tour at Willowdale for Hendriks and picked up another later that fall to conclude his freshman season with two wins from 43 mounts.

From there the win total grew to a career-best 15 in 2005 when Walsh finished third in the NSA standings. That fall season also included his most memorable moment — Preemptive Strike (then trained by Paul Rowland) opening up 30 lengths in a Meadowlands stakes and then easily holding off the legendary McDynamo. The race had more than a moment's significance to Walsh, however.

"He was the horse that got me going. It only takes one good horse, or one good ride and people start to take notice," Walsh said. "He was just awesome that day and I don't think there was a horse out there that would have gotten close to him."

Walsh's fast start this season is in nice contrast to his past two springs. In 2007, he missed significant time after suffering serious injuries — including a fractured cheekbone, jawbone and a broken shoulder blade — riding at a point-to-point. In 2008, he didn't score

his first win until Nashville in May. But by year's end he won nine times, including four stakes scores. Among them was his first career Grade I aboard Dr. Bloomer in the AFLAC Novice Championship at Callaway. Walsh learned long ago that pressing to get a victory isn't the approach to take.

Now he gallops for trainer Tim Woolley at Fair Hill Training Center and helps Joe Walsh with some steeplechasers.

"Even when I was struggling last year before the Iroquois I was still trying to go about my business and give every horse I rode the best chance of winning," Walsh said. "Winning obviously gives you a lot of confidence, but I've gone through enough spells in my career to know it will come around. You've got to get on the right horses and the wins will come."

And the wins are coming this year.

"Last year, I didn't win a race until May and just kept asking 'Am I doing something wrong? Am I ever going to win a race?'" Walsh said. "I had a great run the rest of the year, but it's nice to jump out the first meet and have a winner. It helps your confidence so much. Instead of asking 'What am I doing wrong?' you're thinking about riding a winner on everything."

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# Doctors On Board

BY JOE CLANCY

## Md. meets put first-class medical system to use

The horse falls. The radio call goes out. "Jockey down at Fence 12. Unit 2 respond." A specially outfitted John Deere Gator, Unit 2 races to the scene with two paramedics, a backboard and a host of equipment packaged specifically to deal with traumatic injuries.

Once on the scene, the paramedics go to work. They assess the injured jockey, stabilize his injuries, prepare him for transport, place him on the backboard and on the Gator. Slowly, safely, surely, the Gator transports the jockey to the ambulance stationed in an area designed to speed exit from the property. The ambulance then transports the jockey to the hospital.

That's the plan anyway.

A customized, step-by-step medical protocol for a steeplechase meet looks something like the above – especially in Maryland. The Grand National, Maryland Hunt Cup, Shawan Downs and several point-to-points work with Special Events Medical Systems, a Baltimore-based company that specializes in emergency services for events and mass gatherings. Working with Dr. Jeff Sternlicht, chairman of emergency medicine at Greater Baltimore Medical Center, and other doctors, SEMS crafted a steeplechase plan several years ago and continues to hone the services offered.

"How do we get care to the jockeys? That's the big question and it underlies everything we do," said Clay Richmond, president and owner of SEMS. "Most

ambulance services have a hard and fast rule that you don't take ambulances off a hard surface. They just aren't made for it, they could flip, they could get stuck, it's not a good idea."

And that's where the Gators come in. No ordinary farm utility vehicle, the SEMS Gators have special suspensions and are customized to carry an injured person in the most efficient way possible.

The NFL, NASCAR, motocross races and college sporting events all use Gators or other small vehicles to transport injured participants.

Richmond's company began by servicing 5K road races and walkathons and moved on to equestrian events, motorcycle events, monster-truck races and more. Started in 1997, SEMS will provide medical services for 1,000 events this year and now offers a steeplechase certification program – including helmet and boot removal, the potential injuries involved, a site tour – for paramedics planning to work a race meet.

"The biggest thing we've learned is the value of pre-planning," Richmond said. "We have a plan, we work that plan and we continue to improve that plan. We can't predict where an injury will happen or when, but we are prepared for it all."

Doctors such as Sternlicht are part of the equation. The course physician at the Grand National for the past seven years, he has studied steeplechasing like any other cause of an emergency situation. The sport brings with it inherent risks, but also carries a subset of issues centering on location, space, weather, animals, spectators and more.

Sternlicht considers jump racing full of unique situations for medical personnel and remembered his first impression.



A Special Events Medical Services emergency Gator stands at the ready.

See **MEDICAL** page 26 ►

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# WHY WOULD YOU CALL ANYONE ELSE?

Rookie steeplechaser **Left Unsaid** scored on the flat at the Carolina Cup.



Tod Marks

## A GREAT START TO 2009

**Good Night Shirt** wins the Carolina Cup, his seventh stakes in a row.

**Rare Bush** wins the Sandhills Cup at Stoneybrook.

**Left Unsaid** wins training flat at Camden in his first start for The Fields Stable and trainer Tom Voss.

**Beachcomber** wins open flat at Marlborough Point-to-Point in his first start for owner/trainer Eddie Graham.

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# Medical —

■ Continued from page 24

"It was very intimidating and it still is intimidating," he said. "You never know what's going to happen. The courses are spread out, the terrain is rough, you're doing medical care in a field . . . it's much simpler to be in my controlled emergency department at the hospital."

Considering GBMC sees tens of thousands of emergency patients per year, that statement carries some weight.

The third link in the equation involves the Baltimore County Emergency Medical Services program. The Maryland meets often call on Baltimore County ambulances to transport injured jockeys to the hospital, leaving the on-course ambulances in place to serve later races in the day. Part of SEMS' work also involves notifying hospitals of race meets and the potential for injuries.

## Perception isn't reality

Maryland timber meets have faced their share of medical emergencies — Irv Naylor at the Grand National in 1999, Blair Waterman and Polly Gundry at the Maryland Hunt Cup in 2002, Ellen Horner at the Grand National in 2007, Stewart Strawbridge at the 2008 Grand National and others.

Under the current system, expertly trained emergency personnel respond in Gators and treat injured jockeys in the field. Older systems may not have been as equipped, as trained, as organized, as ready.



Douglas Lees

The potential for a fall is always there for jockeys and race meets.

To anyone not versed in emergency response, the actions still might look rushed and risky when in reality they are rehearsed and rational.

"We've been criticized for not bringing the ambulance on to the field, but there is a clear cut reason not to do that and it's safety," said Sternlicht. "You risk having a problem with the ambulance, you risk hurting your own people and you risk putting the patient in more danger."

The Gators — which aren't mere Gators — serve as field ambulances with the express purpose of safely moving injured jockeys to the full-size ambulances for transport to the hospital if necessary.

This year Sternlicht, Richmond and race organizers at the Grand National

will take the added step of creating a medical tent as "home base" for medical personnel and for evaluation.

Injured jockeys can be brought to the tent where medical personnel can work in a more controlled situation. The tent will also be used to evaluate jockeys who fall and need to be cleared to ride in a later race on the day.

"Sometimes concerned people are a real challenge," said Sternlicht. "They want to be involved, but my advice would be to let the medical people evaluate, assess and make treatment decisions."

Sternlicht and others compared steeplechase medical response to that of a ski patrol at a ski resort, where medics respond, stabilize the patient, get the patient to a first-aid center, make a proper assessment in a controlled area and then

have the patient transported to a hospital (if necessary).

Sternlicht and Richmond (whose work includes two pending books on emergency procedures at events) see their protocol as a potential national model for steeplechase meets. Both serve on the National Steeplechase Association Medical Advisory Board headed by NSA senior steward and medical professional Gregg Morris.

"The perception in the past may have been that there was no plan, but that's not the case at all," said Morris, a physician's assistant and former jockey. "There are very good, talented people involved and a great process. I'm hoping this tent idea gets off the ground. It might be something that gets recommended to all meets someday. It's another step, another level of procedure that improves care."

The Grand National overhauled its medical protocol eight years ago under the direction of Dr. Mark Wheeler, another GBMC physician with emergency experience. The system comes with a pricetag — Richmond and his Gators do not work for free — but the race meet sees it as a worthwhile expense. Sternlicht and the other on-site doctors (between five and eight) donate their services.

"(SEMS) charges us, but the expense isn't so much," said Grand National race director Peter Fenwick. "The time, thought, planning and volunteer efforts are pretty substantial and these guys are very qualified for the job. It's a lot of work on their part and on our part, but it's worth it and we are very happy with the system we have in place."

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# Just Visiting

## U.K. jockeys prepared for a taste of American racing at Charlotte

BY SEAN CLANCY

The Queen's Cup Steeplechase will welcome five European jockeys to its race meet April 25. One of four meets on the day, Queen's Cup decided to import the quintet to help alleviate an expected jockey shortage between the Maryland Hunt Cup, Foxfield, Atlanta and Queen's Cup.

The race meet will pay travel expenses and will pay the losing jocks' fee of \$150 if a jockey's mount fails to earn purse money.

David Crosse, Brian Harding, Chris Honour, Jimmy McCarthy and Jodie Mogford will arrive April 22. The jockeys will be available in Camden to school horses on Thursday and Friday prior to the Queen's Cup.

Crosse, 26, has accounted for 124 wins in his career. Born in Ireland, he won Cheltenham's Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge Cup aboard The Bushkeeper. He's ridden professionally since 1999.

Honour, 30, owns 62 winners in his career, including 11 aboard Cool Roxy at the Suffolk track, Fakenham.

McCarthy, 39, has ridden a winner at every jump track in Britain and has 441 races to his credit. He piloted the 25-1 Ogee to win the Grade I Sefton Novices' Hurdle at Aintree April 3.

Mogford, 32, has won 158 races from 2,570 mounts since turning professional in 1989. Born in Britain, he finished second in the Conditional Jockeys' title in 1999.

Harding, 36, has won 364 races since turning professional in 1992. Harding won the Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham aboard One Man and has ridden more than 4,500 races.

"I've never been to America so I'm looking forward to it. It's a chance to do something different, to ride abroad and see how it's done there," Harding said. "I've looked it up on the computer and I've talked to Willie Dowling. It's a challenge and a chance to see something different."

The imported jockeys will see something different if they line up for the \$20,000 open timber race, one of six races scheduled for the North Carolina meet. British jump racing runs primarily over hurdles and chase fences.

The National Fence used in America could be considered a cross between the British obstacles; not as imposing or stiff as a chase fence but higher and more significant than a British hurdle. The Marlborough Cup, Britain's first and only timber race, proved unsuccessful.

"I've ridden the Marlborough Cup and the cross-country races at Cheltenham so I'm used to it," Harding said. "Having said that, I wouldn't say I'm an old hand at it."

Married with two children, Harding calls himself one of the older lads in the British jockey colony and sees the trip as a one-off, something fun to do and a chance to ride a winner in America.

Honour sees the trip as an experience, but also an opportunity.

"I'm definitely looking forward to it," Honour said. "I saw it in our Jockey Association's newsletter and put my name down, not thinking I'd be chosen but glad I got the chance."

Like Harding, Honour will make his first trip to America and has done a little research on the Internet.

"We've had some lads go over and do well, Xavier Aizpuru and Carl Rafter," Honour said. "I know they've enjoyed it and I'm pleased for them that they found something new that they're enjoying. At the end of the day, you've got to enjoy it. Hopefully we'll get some good rides. It will be a life experience. I watched last year's meeting and it looked nice."

As for staying, well, Honour didn't rule it out.

"I could be persuaded. I do all right here and I enjoy it here, I make a living but if something turned up, I'm not saying no."

Jockeys on vacations. But still jockeys.

"It's good prize money," Honour said. "We're coming over for the experience, to enjoy it, but we're also coming to ride a winner."

### Johnson jumps on the mic

Jockeys won't be the only thing in demand on the weekend as veteran race caller Dave Johnson returns to steeplechasing at the Queen's Cup. With steeplechase regular Tony Bentley at Atlanta, the "And down the stretch they come" guy gets the call.

He's got plenty of experience.

"The first time I called a steeplechase race was when I was the assistant to Fred Capossela at the NYRA tracks in 1971," Johnson said via e-mail this week. "Cappy did not like to call steeplechase races, because he said they were too long. So, he let me call them that year."

Johnson became the regular announcer at NYRA the next year and called steeplechases at Belmont and Saratoga. He's also called jump races at The Meadowlands, Fair Hill, Nashville (for the Royal Chase in the fall), Kentucky Downs (then Dueling Grounds), Colonial Downs and some television work at Callaway Gardens.

He's best known for his work on the flat and has called races all over the country including network TV posts for the Triple Crown during a 40-year career. He's retired from regular track assignments, but still calls a few races each year while also co-hosting a racing show on Sirius satellite radio.

Jump or flat, a race is pretty much a race.

"Any race, with a small or large field, on the flat or over the fences, is a once in a lifetime event," he said, "so I approach each race I call wanting to know the story lines and the implications of a victory or defeat."



Tod Marks

The Queen's Cup timber course will be something new to the visitors.

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## TIMES EDITORIAL

### Winning and losing the race to safety

You think it's easy? Be Richard Boucher. Like everyone else, the jockey started his NSA season at Aiken. He worried about his horses, his tack, his fitness and thought through his decisions to run, ride, show up for another year.

And his horse still died.

Class Bop, a 4-year-old gelding owned by Mede Cahaba Stable and trained by Boucher's wife Lilith, started in the maiden hurdle at Aiken. He rated last in the field of four, but tugged at the reins and pulled into second after one circuit. Class Bop raced too forward, over-reached with a hind foot and struck into his left front ankle just before the sixth fence. He landed and broke down, too injured to save despite immediate veterinary care and a trip to nearby Carolina Equine Clinic.

Boucher looked for a reason, but found nothing definite. Like it usually does, Aiken produced fast racing which can increase the risks. Boucher won't put all the blame on circumstances, however.

"It's a shame and I sort of blame myself for not keeping him covered up longer," said Boucher. "He got running too fast, made a legitimate mistake and hit his ankle."

Which could happen anywhere, though fast, flat courses tend to expose horses to such problems more often than other courses. This year, the NSA, horsemen and Aiken organizers agreed to shorten the races to 2 miles and nine fences in hopes of making the races safer. The changes responded to recent problems and came after much discussion and input.

The ironic part is the Aiken races used to be run at 2 miles or less and were lengthened, the thinking being horses would slow down and racing would be safer. Twenty years later, the races were shortened in search of safety. Still no answers to why horses fall or why they get hurt or why they die.

Taking the fence out on the turn seemed to help the racing, allowing horses to reach the stretch and the last fence with more energy. Without the hurdle on the turn, jockeys were able to ride a more tactical race and make proper rallies around the turn. The 2-mile distance arguably created more emphasis on speed even though there were no real problems – other than Class Bop's injury (and he didn't fall). No horse fell at Aiken. When the circuit returns to Aiken in October, would the 2 1/4-mile distance be a better choice? Leave the fence out, but push the distance back where it was? Maybe.

You can't make steeplechasing safe. You can try to make it safe-r, but the line remains fine. No change can eliminate falls, and that's something everyone needs to remember.

"It's a fast track at Aiken and everyone knows that, but taking jumps out where speed is prominent can make the race faster," said Boucher. "If you meet a fence long, you have to give your horse head and then they hit the ground running – it's tough to get them back – and you're going too fast all of the sudden and in a 2-mile race everyone can get in a hurry. Jockeys try to be sensible, but it's still a race."

No matter what you do to it.



Tod Marks

**WEATHER MAN.** Trainer Tom Voss deals with the elements – rain, wind, mud, soggy clothes, tobacco – at the Carolina Cup. He won the opener, a training flat, with Left Unsaid.

## Wild Horses...

This is the most nerve-wracking and exciting column I've ever written. As most of you know, I retired from riding races in 2000. It's been a long and crazy eight and a half years. We started The Saratoga Special, I wrote a book on Barbaro, got married, had a kid, won a few writing awards, traveled from Argentina to Dubai. And I can honestly say I've never been able to replace the thrill and rush of riding a race.

That's why I'm coming back.

I know it sounds crazy and I was always one of those guys who said I'd never come back, who believed that "once you're retired, you're retired." I scoffed at Michael Jordan, Brett Favre, Lance Armstrong – they all disgusted me with their returns. I watched Roger Horgan become a flat trainer and come back for fun, then break his leg in half. I watched Arch Kingsley retire because of head injuries and then return to ride a few of his own. I watched J.W. Delozier try it a couple of times. Paddy Neilson, well, he did it better than most. Then there's Billy Santoro (who I'm not sure ever retired) and a chain gang of other jockeys who dabbled with comebacks. I couldn't fathom why they would make the agonizing decision to walk away and then make another agonizing decision to come back and ride again. If you were so sure about retiring, how could you be so sure about un-retiring? It didn't make sense.

### The Inside Rail

By Sean Clancy

Now, it does.

I retired because of too many concussions. They were coming with more force and from lesser falls. I fell off Campanile after the finish at Radnor and got a concussion. That one scared me. How fast was I going? How hard a fall could it have been? Well, I haven't had a concussion since October, 2000 and my neurologist says I'm in no more danger than anybody else, now that it's been so long since my last head injury.

I've talked to the NSA and I can ride as an amateur. That's a big bonus. I have already been offered a Hunt Cup ride. I'm not telling who it is, because I have options and want to weigh those options. I should get started at the Grand National on a horse for my main man, Jack Fisher. Jack said he'd support my decision and that made a big impact on my choice to come out of retirement. And, look, he didn't have a Polytrack when I retired.

I've discussed it with my wife, Annie. She's hesitant, but accepts the fact that I'm a jockey. She met me when I was a jockey, fell in love with me when I was a jockey.

See **INSIDE** page 30 ►



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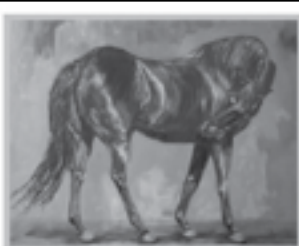


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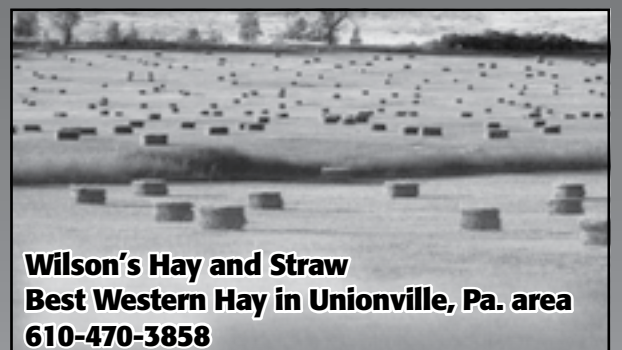
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Photo by Tod Marks

## Inside —

### ■ Continued from page 28

We had a baby in December. I'd like for Miles to see me ride a race, for him to see the real Sean Clancy. It's important to him.

I'm fairly fit and I'm pretty light already. I've been jogging five miles up and down the Chester County hills with Chip Miller and felt great. I think I might be lighter than Chip and I'm just as fit. Good thing I don't smoke.

I went to Cheltenham in March and that's when this plan really began to boil. I galloped every morning for George Baker and felt good. Like, really good. I rode on my toe, tucked my elbows, lowered my shoulders, my back never felt stronger. They asked me if I'd ever ride again. I said for the right horse, for the right race, for the right offer, sure, I'd ride again. They've struggled to find a steady jockey and offered me first-call in the stable. Baker won 30-plus races in his first year of training and new horses come up the driveway daily. I galloped a horse named Divy; he gave me the best feeling since I rode To Ridley at Saratoga in 1994. He just won a bumper by 19 lengths. He's my ride, whenever I want.

I'll be going over there to ride permanently for Baker at the end of our season. I want to ride here, get good and fit so I'm ready for the proper British season. It will be a big challenge, but I want to show Britain that American jump racing isn't just a last stop on the train ride for guys like Xav and Padge. No, the exchange program can work

both ways and I plan on winning a race at Cheltenham in the spring. Come on, Divy, one time.

Sure, it worries me to come back and ride and I'm not sure how I'll feel when I take my first fall, but I think I'm ready and can handle it. I'll pick my rides better than I did the first time. Being more selective should spare me a lot of falls. I won't put so much pressure on myself like I did the first time around, either. I plan to take it as seriously as an audit, but also feel like I don't have anything to prove, I can do it my way this time. I'll concentrate on the hurdle stakes and timber races and stay away from the maiden claimers and 3-year-olds. Looking back on it, I rode more than 1,000 races and, really, only a dozen made me retire. I plan on avoiding those dozen this time around. I only need 48 wins to reach 200.

I talked to Jack about backing up Willie on The Shirt, he said he was open to that, especially with Xav riding Paradise's Boss.

I'm going down to Jack's farm to see if I get along with Swagger Stick, there's a chance I could be fit enough to ride him in the Iroquois. Equal weights, I should be able to do 158 by then. Xav said just don't ask him for a spot and Willie said to sit back and let my reins slide. I wasn't very good at seeing a spot the first time and I can definitely let my reins slide (some things never leave you). I should be fine.

Hopefully, the sport will welcome me and the boys will give me my old spot in the jocks' room, first chair by the door.

*Editor's Note:  
Sean wrote this April 1.*

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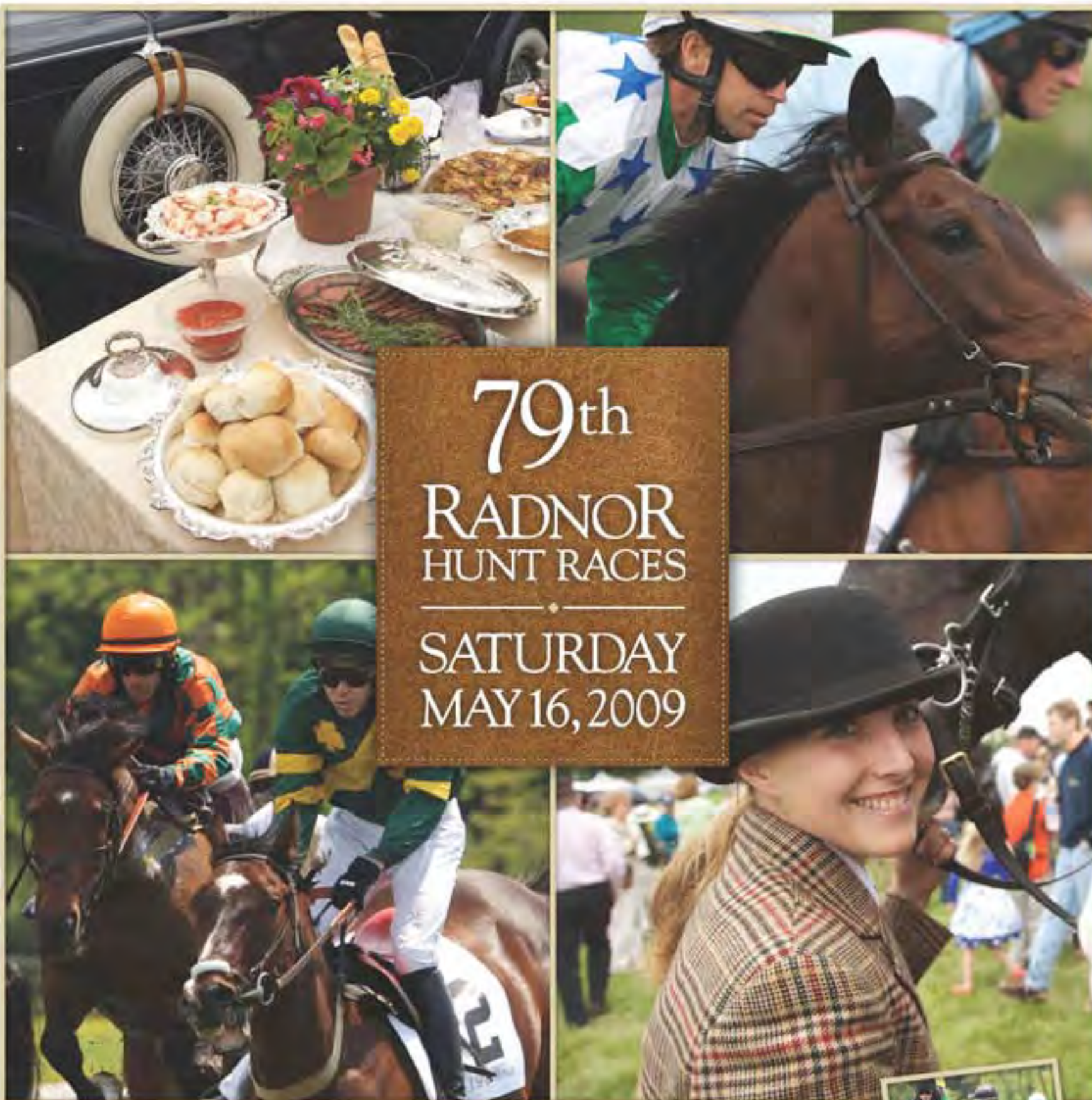
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