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# *The Times* Steeplechase



# Via Saratoga

**Ferguson winner heads summer cast**

**Weymouth wins again at Parx • Geraghty leads jockeys' race • Saratoga preview**





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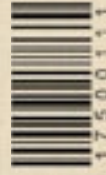
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**Rosbrian Farm's Mecklenburg**

Maryland Steeplechase Horse of the Year



Douglas Lees Photo



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here&there... in Steeplechasing



Jim Graham

**Video Patrol.** Several jockeys and horses went to Willowdale May 16 to create features for an interactive steeplechase exhibit at the National Museum of Racing in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Under the coordination of Hunt Cup Productions, the effort featured jockey-camera footage (main photo), original sound (left photo) and racing action (right photo). Look for the exhibit in the new steeplechase room this summer.

## Take A Number

**2.2:** Miles driven in 46 minutes to the Iroquois race course from the Residence Inn in Brentwood.

**3:** Best turned out awards won by trainer Jack Fisher's horses at the Iroquois (the team had starters in five races).

**5:** Owners with two legs on the current Maryland Hunt Cup (it takes three victories to retire the trophy), which went into service in 1984. Arcadia Stable, Move Up Stable, Northwoods Stable, Irv Naylor and Lucy Goelet make up the quintet.

**53.01:** Seconds it took Mabou to work a half-mile at Aqueduct May 12.

**10,800:** Dollars earned in bonuses (breeder and owner) by Gene Weymouth for Wild For Gold's win at Parx June 12, in addition to \$18,000 standard winner's purse.

## Names of the Month

**The Price Of Love:** He's made this list before, but Bill Pape and Jonathan Sheppard's stakes winner is by Prenup.

**Cranky:** Niall Saville's 4-year-old is out of Future Starlet.

## International Lunch Date

At Parx, trainer Jack Fisher and owner Gill Johnston headed to the track snack bar in search of a victory meal after En Fuego's maiden score at Parx. Fisher, the Yank, suggested a local delicacy. Johnston, the Briton, thought of the perfect warm-up for a rainy day.

**Fisher:** "Come on, let's go get a Philly cheesesteak."

**Johnston:** "I could really go for some Shepherd's Pie."

**Fisher:** "I don't think they have that."

**Johnston:** "I don't know anything about a Philly cheesesteak."

**Fisher:** "And they don't know anything about Shepherd's Pie..."

## Worth Repeating

"Now I need oxygen."

**Matt McCarron, after riding (hard) to a win aboard Sillium in the maiden at Parx**

"He stayed in a nice tracking position throughout the entire race."

**Trainer Jonathan Sheppard, assessing the third-place run of Tracking at Parx**

**Acquaintance:** "Hello Mr. Pape, how are you?"

**Owner Bill Pape:** "I'm sick... we had one pay \$44 at Delaware the other day and I didn't have it." He wasn't alone. Twice The Price won a maiden claimer on the turf June 11, and returned \$44.60.

"I may be on my way out, but I'm not there yet and I'm going out my way."  
**Trainer Bruce Miller, on setting up a course walk and video session with Pierrot Lunaire's jockey Jacob Roberts at the Iroquois**

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# Entries

## What's Happening and Where To Find It

Here's your newspaper. Spring gives way to summer. No time for the beach. No time for grass. No time to rest. The jumpers are still touring, with stops at Parx and Colonial already accounted for and visits to Penn National and Saratoga looming large. Cover boy Via Galilei buffered Irv Naylor's reign at the top with wins in the Temple Gwathmey and Zeke Ferguson. ST looks back at the spring and looks forward to the summer.



### PAGE 5

#### Here and There

Quotes, quips and camera-equipped jockeys from around the circuit.



### PAGE 8

#### Jumping Around

We covered the races as best we could on the web. Here are snapshots from the Maryland Hunt Cup to Strawberry Hill.



### PAGE 16

#### Parx Racing

Wild For Gold nails Wanganui in the last stride of a stirring allowance race at Parx while Sillium and En Fuego signed their names on the Saratoga stall list.



### PAGE 24

#### Bullshot?

Three-time champion Paddy Young left a big gap at the top of the jockey standings. Big enough for a gaggle of Irishmen to taste the championship at the season's halfway point.



### PAGE 30

#### Saratoga here we come

Excited for Saratoga? This will get you educated and excited. We go through all the barns, digging and delving to give you the best in Saratoga steeplechasing prospects.



**ST Publishing, Inc.**  
364 Fair Hill Drive, Suite F,  
Elkton, MD 21921  
In the Heart of Fair Hill Horse Country

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

#### The Staff

**Editors/Publishers/Staff Writers:**  
Sean Clancy and Joe Clancy

**Advertising:** Contact the office or call  
Kathy Rubin (203) 650-6815  
Michelle Rosenkilde (410) 692-5977  
Jim McLaughlin (484) 888-0664  
Rene Stanley (804) 449-2388

#### Contributors:

Maggie Kimmitt, Jane Clark,  
Tod Marks, Barry Watson,  
Sam Clancy, Anne Clancy,  
Joe Clancy Sr., Ruth Clancy, Ryan Clancy,  
Jack Clancy, Nolan Clancy, Miles Clancy.

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#### On the Cover

Via Galilei adds the Zeke Ferguson at Colonial Downs to his fine spring season.

Photo by  
Susan Carter/  
Eclipse Sportswire



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## here&there... in Steeplechasing

"It's easy when they're fast."

**Trainer Ted Thompson, on training horses**

"I hope it's not the last."

**Owner Andre Brewster after announcer Nicho Meredith asked 'This is not your first trip to the winner's circle, is it?'**

"If he ran against Nijinsky, I'd choose him over Nijinsky."

**Jockey Brian Crowley, on his opinion of Arcadius**

**Iroquois fan:** "What do you do at the races, just watch?"

**Hall of Famer Jonathan Sheppard:** "No, I'm a trainer."

**Fan:** "So you, like, choose the jockeys and stuff?"

**Sheppard:** "Yes."

**Fan:** "Cool. You ever do the regular Thoroughbreds too?"

**Sheppard:** "Yes, those too."

"He's a perfect gentleman."

**Jockey Jeff Murphy, on Great Meadow winner Forgotten Man**

"Honest. And he deserved it."

**Trainer Doug Fout about Forgotten Man**

"He was a better ride at Middleburg, he loves attacking those big hedges, he's so quick on his feet; at the Gold Cup, you have to be more accurate, there are more timber fences. I missed the third-to-last and he doesn't miss a beat, he doesn't quit."

**Murphy about veteran Swimming River**

**after winning the steeplethon at Great Meadow**

"Now, we're going to Saratoga for Arch."

**Trainer Arch Kingsley, explaining how Baltic Shore won at Camden for Sue and George Sensor and the Queen's Cup for Bill and Carrington Price**

"Best of both worlds – dead heat for the three of them. Second best thing – one, two, three. And I'm not going to tell you who I think should be first, second or third."

**Fout, before Quite Flaine, Ptarmigan and Well Fashioned finished one, two, four at Iroquois**

"I don't know if anybody is going to beat him regardless but you don't know if you don't try."

**Trainer Jonathan Sheppard, before sending out Arcadius, Divine Fortune and Nationbuilder to take on two-time Iroquois winner Tax Ruling**

"I looked at him in over the stable door one day – that's as close as they let me get."

**Jockey Willie McCarthy, who moonlights as an exercise rider in the the Michael Matz barn, on Union Rags**

**McCarthy, on making sure he (and not trainer Arch Kingsley) gets to ride at Saratoga**

"It wouldn't have mattered if our horse was in with 100 pounds, he wasn't going to beat that horse."

**Jockey and trainer's husband Paddy Young,**

**on Gustavian (who carried 142) finishing second to Via Galilei (154) in the Zeke Ferguson June 2**

"It took me by surprise, I can assure you."

**Young on the flying leap from waaayyyy back by Eagle Beagle at the sixth fence of his win at Colonial Downs June 2**

"She's my biggest fan and my biggest critic – and she might be the best handicapper in this country."

**Jockey Ross Geraghty, on the impact**

**of girlfriend Kate McCleary on his success**

"Smart Strike can't be that good a sire, because I have five."

**Trainer Jack Fisher**

"Andre Brewster was saying 'Come on Opera.' I was saying 'Come on, Maya.'"

**Fisher, on watching Opera Heroine and Maya Charli charge down the stretch at Fair Hill; he trains Opera Heroine for Brewster and owns and trains Maya Charli**



Tod Marks

**Roddy Mackenzie watches the field leave him behind after falling with Tabitha's Monarch at Fair Hill. He had better luck a few weeks later with a win at Colonial Downs and his marriage to fellow jockey Danielle Hodsdon.**

"Wow, should have bet \$100 on her . . . well, I probably wouldn't have bet her with your \$100."

**Fisher, staring at \$14.40 payoff for Maya Charli at Fair Hill**

"It's out to the summer grass for me. Pull my shoes."

**Jockey Mark Beecher, a timber specialist, after winning at Fair Hill**

"McLane is voting for catch weights."

**Trainer Ricky Hendriks, whose son rode on the flat, before a scale was produced for the jockeys at Fair Hill**

"I built that into the package when I sold him – I'm full service."

**Hendriks, about helping bathe**

**former pupil Dance Faster at Winterthur**

"Do I still have a job?"

**Brown Advisory employee James Stierhoff, after beating his boss Michael Hankin's son Connor in the Maryland Hunt Cup**

"Even when she's in a sleeveless dress, she's got something up her sleeve."

**Quote scribbled in the Winterthur program**

**by ST's Joe Clancy, who can't remember who said it or why**

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# Jumping Around

Reports from the steeplechase circuit



Stablemates Maya Charli (right) and Opera Heroine battle over the last fence in the Valentine Memorial at Fair Hill.

Tod Marks

Call it the big gear shift. The spring schedule starts leisurely enough, kind of dawdles through March and the first half of April, then catches fire – racing and roaring through late April and May with multiple venues, double-meet weekends and all of the travel miles that come with them.

This year was no different as the lineup included timber greatness at the Maryland Hunt Cup and Virginia Gold Cup, the deep-end-of-the-pool quality of the Iroquois, novice stakes at Queen's Cup and Radnor, the western swing to High Hope in Kentucky and the finales at Fair Hill and Strawberry Hill.

We kept up with it all, or most of it anyway, on-line, but here's a brief introduction from each stop. For more, see [st-publishing.com](http://st-publishing.com).



Suzie Picou-Oldham

Rainiero wins his fourth consecutive at High Hope.

## – Strawberry Hill –

### Via Galilei wins Ferguson

When Via Galilei finishes with his steeplechase career, the Irish-bred will make somebody a nice show hunter. He's that flashy, that fancy, that well put together. But he's also a pretty good racehorse so the show career will have to wait.

The 7-year-old won his second American stakes with a steadfast victory in the \$50,000 Zeke Ferguson Memorial at Colonial Downs June 2. The race headlined Opening Day at the Virginia racetrack and served as the centerpiece of the reconstructed Strawberry Hill Races, a steeplechase meet with a long history in the Richmond area. The day included a dozen races, five over jumps.

Nobody put on a show like Via Galilei, another import in the silks of leading owner Irv Naylor, Maryland-based trainer J.W. Delozier and jockey Ross Geraghty. The team, fueled by purchases made by Nick Carter and Stephen Price, has produced 2012 stakes victors Pullyourfingerout, Black Jack Blues and Via Galilei plus maiden/allowance winner Black Quartz.

## – Fair Hill –

### Claimer to stakes in seven days

In 2011, Ross Geraghty rode a front-running mare in the feature at Fair Hill – and won. In 2012, the jockey did the same – and won again. But everything was different.

"Last year, I was forcing the pace the whole time, trying to push it and stretch them out behind her," he said of a victory aboard Green Velvet.

"This one, you want to milk it more, slow it down," he said of Maya Charli, who won the \$40,000 filly/mare stakes May 26. "I'd pick the bit up, back her up a bit, let them push her, then she'd run on again for me. Both times down the back, I slowed it up. She'd fly

around the bends, then come back to me."

Owned and trained by Jack Fisher, Maya Charli knocked off a field that included three stakes winners – leading at every step and holding off favorite Opera Heroine (also trained by Fisher) by 2 1/4 lengths with Well Fashioned third. Second-choice Ptarmigan was pulled up late with an injury.

## – High Hope –

### Make that four for Rainiero

Augustin Stable's Chilean-bred Rainiero ran his consecutive wins total to four with a triumph in the feature, a \$20,000 starter allowance hurdle going 2 1/8 miles. The 10-year-old reeled in leader Tizalaboutme late and won by an easy 14 lengths with Sumo Power third.

The winning streak started at Virginia Fall last October, followed up with scores at Montpelier and Camden to wrap up his 2011 season. High Hope was Rainiero's first start in 2012. Veteran Matt McCarron has been aboard the 10-year-old in all four efforts.

"This horse has taken better care of me than I could ever take of him," McCarron said. "He's the epitome of a racehorse. He has endeared himself to me because he's given me my last four wins; he got me to my 200-win plateau. I can't thank (trainer) Richard Valentine and (owner) George Strawbridge enough for giving me this mount. And this one was an easy win. I did nothing but steer."

## – Radnor –

### Ballet Boy dances off with novice

Cashel Stable's Ballet Boy upset a quality field in the \$50,000 National Hunt Cup novice hurdle stakes for trainer Tom Voss and jockey Willie McCarthy. The 8-year-old edged Gustavian (Carl Rafter) by a head

See [JUMPING AROUND](#) page 10 ►

# Twill Do

## WINS

# THE MARYLAND HUNT CUP



**Winning Connections:** The traditional winner's wagon was crowded after another memorable Hunt Cup. The group included (from left) Bunny Meister, Liz Stierhoff, Christopher Goelet, Billy Meister, Lucy Goelet, James Stierhoff, Amanda Leonard, Isabel Goelet, Frances Goelet, Maisy Cottingham, Phillip Goelet, Katharine Stierhoff, Lawrence Stierhoff and Amy Fenwick. Photo by Douglas Lees.

Congratulations to Lucy Goelet, Billy Meister and James Stierhoff from the Maryland Hunt Cup Association.

Thanks to all the participants, volunteers, and spectators for a great day of racing.

Please join us again next year for the 117th running of the Maryland Hunt Cup.

Saturday, April 27, 2013.





## By The Numbers

**65,000**

Dollars spent each year on drug testing procedures at ALL NSA race meets.  
*Total now at \$500,000.*

**28,000**

Dollars spent each year on race course safety inspections.  
*Total now at \$226,000.*

**7,500**

Dollars spent to purchase 100 Pro-Cush whips for licensed jockeys as part of the NSA's move to cushioned riding crops.  
*The NSA was the first North American racing jurisdiction to adopt such a policy.*

**17,500**

Dollars contributed each year to purses for amateur highweight timber races.  
*Total now at \$230,000.*

**53,000**

Dollars spent to purchase 50 pairs of safety wings for use in NSA races.

**91,000**

Dollars contributed to steeplechase-connected organizations and foundation partners including the Amateur Riders Club of America, the National Museum of Racing, the Wesley Foundation in Saratoga, etc.

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Tod Marks

Sisters Quiet Flaine (right) and Ptarmigan finish 1-2 in the Henley at Iroquois.

## Jumping Around —

### ■ Continued from page 8

in the 2 3/8-mile test. The Irish-bred son of Sadler's Wells repeated his triumph around the course in an allowance hurdle last year and improved to 3-for-8, with three seconds, over hurdles. Cornhusker, also from the Voss barn, finished third.

Over timber, Arcadia Stable's Delta Park (Darren Nagle) won the \$40,000 Radnor Hunt Cup for trainer Jack Fisher. A week removed from finishing third at Nashville, the 8-year-old son of Johannesburg won his third timber stakes (and sixth jump race) by defeating Four Schools by 1 1/4 lengths. G'day G'day was third.

### — Willowdale —

#### Radio Flyer dials up timber score

Trainer Richard Valentine entertained the idea of sending 11-year-old timber veteran Radio Flyer to Nashville for the timber stakes but opted to travel three hours up the road to Willowdale the next day. Smart move.

Augustin Stable's Irish-bred handled four rivals in the \$15,000 timber feature at the Unionville meet. Darren Nagle partnered Radio Flyer to a 3-length score over Brands Hatch and Battle Op. Radio Flyer prepped at the Virginia point-to-points while his four rivals had sparred on the tough Maryland timber circuit.

Veteran Rainbows For Luck scored a popular local win for owner Greg Bentley, trainer Eddie Graham and jockey Jody Petty. Taking advantage of a rare claiming timber condition, the 11-year-old son of Benny The Dip collared Brimson before drawing off to win comfortably over 14-year-old Music To My Ears.

Fenneka Bentley engineered a maiden claiming win with Parade Lap for owner/breeder Elizabeth Barr. Jockey Barry Walsh collected his first career victory.

### — Iroquois —

#### The game gives, the game takes

Among the pain, confusion, questions and sadness after the Iroquois Steeplechase May 12 in Nashville, Tenn. came a supreme effort. Arcadius put on a clinic on how to win the Grade I. Because of fate, circumstance, mortality, he paid the ultimate price in the process.

Arcadius came into the \$150,000 stakes as a player, a contender, a threat to stop Tax Ruling's bid at a historic third consecutive victory in the race.

Tax Ruling (Xavier Aizpuru) rambled to the front early, felt some pressure from Decoy Daddy through the first three fences and then established a rhythm — flying fences and forcing the others to back off. Arcadius found a spot behind Decoy Daddy early, and the others — Divine Fortune, Nationbuilder and 2009 race winner Pierrot Lunaire — were content to let the race unfold. Midway, Tax Ruling still showed the way but Brian Crowley nudged Arcadius into second, alongside Decoy Daddy and on the inside. The subtle move set up a win as Arcadius dogged Tax Ruling the rest of the way, never letting the two-time defending Iroquois winner get a breather. Four fences from home, Tax Ruling finally showed a weakness with his first less-than-perfect jump. He still led, but looked vulnerable as Arcadius flew that one and squeezed the balloon a little more at the third-last. Arcadius ranged up the inside there, took a short lead as Tax Ruling retreated and beat Divine Fortune to the corner. From there, the 8-year-old jumped two more fences and won by a length — seeing out the biggest win of his career.

See **JUMPING AROUND** page 12 ►

*Lucy & Christopher Goelet  
would especially like to thank:*

Billy Meister, James Stierhoff,  
Team Dream On and the  
wonderful race meets for their  
hard work and dedication — and  
of course TWILL DO.



Douglas Lees Photo



## Jumping Around —

■ Continued from page 10

### — Winterthur — Ready, Aim, Fire

After all the attention little brother Wanganui got last year as champion 3-year-old steeplechaser, Hold Your Fire probably figured it was time to get to work. He shook off some NSA rust and decimated four others to win Sunday's \$17,500 open timber feature at Winterthur in Wilmington, Del. for The Fields Stable, Tom Voss and jockey Kieran Norris.

Bred in Maryland by Voss' wife Mimi, the winner is by Waquoit out of the Eastern Echo mare Distant Drumroll, a hurdle winner for the connections, and extended a growing family tree of success. Besides Wanganui, Distant Drumroll produced two-time filly/mare hurdle champion Guelph.

### — Virginia Gold Cup — Completely Complete effort

At the Maryland Horse Breeders Association awards dinner this spring, emcee and racetrack announcer Dave Rodman introduced 2011 steeplechase champion Incomplete and recalled a race at Colonial Downs.

Rodman has a good memory, because that race came in 2004.

Incomplete finished second that day, another defeat in a long line of them during a flat career which lasted 29 starts spread over parts of three years. He won twice, earned \$29,000 and looked lost when it ended with a lopsided loss for a \$5,000 claiming price at Laurel in March 2005 — the last time Rodman called Incomplete's name.



Tod Marks

Baltic Shore (right) leads Gustavian over the last fence of the feature at Queen's Cup.

### Queen's Cup — Baltic Shore shops local

Timing is everything. Baltic Shore has been Timex this spring. Owned by Bill and Carrington Price and George and Sue Sensor, the 6-year-old has made two starts and provided two wins — two local wins for his connections. Trained by Arch Kingsley and ridden by Willie McCarthy, Baltic Shore won an allowance at Camden for the Sensors and a novice stakes at Queen's Cup for the Prices.

See **JUMPING AROUND** page 14 ►



Thanks to the crew —  
Tara, Mark, Jesse, Shoshana,  
Sarah and Bruce — for the great  
care this spring. It wouldn't have  
happened without you.

Douglas Lees Photo

Thank you to *Billy Meister*  
and the team at Dream On Stable  
for the care and attention to detail with  
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Grand National 2012 winner *And The Eagle Flies*

Douglas Lees Photo



“He’s a free-galloping horse, he likes to hit his lick, but if somebody wants to go quicker, there isn’t any issue about him settling,” Kingsley said. “He’s got a good gallop, those kind like to use it when they’ve got it. He’s a pretty sound horse mentally but he was a little too revved up in his races. It’s not like he’s a difficult horse, but it’s taken him a little while to relax and settle and understand the game.”

— Foxfield —

Timber graduation for Atrium

Ten-year-old Atrium won the maiden timber in his first NSA start for new owner Margaret Littleton and trainer Julie Gomena. The son of Broad Brush won twice over hurdles for Richard Valentine through 2010, missed 2011 with tendon issues and emerged with the new connections this spring. At Foxfield, Atrium (Carl Rafter) let Just Say Boo go early and ruled late, drawing off to win over Zulla Road and Lion’s Double.

Atrium raced on the flat for breeder Claiborne Farm, winning once at Ellis Park in 2005 and made a dozen hurdle starts for Valentine. Gomena took over this winter.

“I messed with him all winter long and he’s a tough individual,” she said. “He does laps around the field when you turn him out, he’s a difficult ride and he’s hard on himself. I feel great for him that he got a win. He’s on top of the world.”

— Maryland Hunt Cup —

Twill Do turns two for Meister, Goelet, Stierhoff

Billy Meister put a hand on Twill Do’s back, laughed and started talking. “You know he had four broken ribs and is missing part of a lung, don’t you? You’d have never known it,” the trainer said as his horse walked past at the barn after Saturday’s Maryland Hunt Cup. “We turned him out every day and he bucked and played like normal. Like there was nothing wrong with him. How’d you like to run the Maryland Hunt Cup with only two-thirds of your lung function on one side?”

If you were Twill Do, you apparently would not mind. The 12-year-old won the country’s most important timber race for the second time in three years, picking his way for 3 miles and then seizing control over the final six fences. Owned by Lucy Goelet, trained by Meister and ridden by James Stierhoff, the Maryland-bred held off Battle Op (Connor Hankin) by three-quarters of a length in 8:46 3/5 for the 4 miles and 22 fences. Bon Caddo (Sam Waley-Cohen) finished third in the \$75,000 stakes at Glyndon.



Douglas Lees

Twill Do (left) holds off Battle Op in the Maryland Hunt Cup.



Tod Marks

Delta Park denies Four Schools in the timber stakes at Radnor.



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# Golden Oldie

Weymouth colors fly again in allowance win

BY JOE CLANCY

BENSALEM, Pa. – As Brian Crowley warmed up Wild For Gold before an optional claiming hurdle at Parx Racing June 12, the questions kept coming.

“Are those Mr. Weymouth’s silks?”

“Is Mr. Weymouth here to see his horse run?”

“Hey jock, you riding for Mr. Weymouth?”

Decked out in new version of the owner’s storied gray and cardinal (with old-school “frogs” on the chest), Crowley replied that he was but wasn’t sure what all the fuss was about.

“To be fair, I don’t know, I wouldn’t know anything about the man,” said the jockey. “The amount of people, since I put these colors on, that asked me if they were Mr. Weymouth’s colors . . . I knew there was something going on besides just another ride. It’s an honor to win a race for him.”

The Irish-born jockey, who rode his first American race in 2010, can be excused for not recognizing the legendary Weymouth’s place at Parx (where he won



Barbara Weidl/EQUI-PHOTO

Wild For Gold (3) catches Wanganui at the wire – despite the angle here – to win the feature at Parx.

hundreds of races during a lengthy training career) or steeplechasing (where he won the Maryland Hunt Cup as a jockey in 1957 and as an owner/trainer in 1974). The retired Weymouth hasn’t started a horse as a trainer since 2010, but posed with his wife Cindy for yet another winner’s photo with Wild For Gold after the \$30,000 race, the feature of three jump races on the card.

Trained by Janet Elliot, the homebred broke on top, yielded the pace to the rapid Monteagle while a clear second and battled for the front with several others when the pacesetter pulled up on the final run down the backstretch. Wild For Gold looked beaten on the turn as Wanganui (Paddy Young) drafted into place on

the inside and landed in front over the last. Crowley’s horse summoned another rally in deep stretch, however, and got up in the final stride to win by a head over the champion 3-year-old of 2011. Longshot Dr. Wheat rallied for third.

“I was upside, I was in front, I was in second and he was just doing enough with me,” Crowley said. “When Paddy came to me, I just gave my horse a second to fill his lungs and gather momentum. When we turned in, I went for him again. I thought I was home and hosed for second, but my God he really dug in. When he had something to aim at, he really, really

See *PARX* page 18 ►



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Barbara Weidl/EQUI-PHOTO

En Fuego glides to the finish with a maiden victory for Gill Johnston and Jack Fisher.

## Parx —

■ Continued from page 16

gave me 110 percent.”

Weymouth won two flat races with Wild For Gold and sent him to Elliot as a hurdle prospect in 2010. The chestnut came with plenty of history from his owner/breeder and plenty of promise from his dam. The Screen King mare After The Glitter won 17 races and more than \$450,000 for Weymouth.

Ever patient, Elliot won a training flat race with the son of Wild Rush at Aiken in October, then sent him to the Colonial Cup for his hurdle debut — a third behind Good Request and Fog Island. The chestnut returned in 2011 and won a maiden hurdle at Penn National, off two training flat races, in late

June. Last fall, he finished second on the flat at International Gold Cup before two quality thirds in allowance hurdle company at Aiken and Charleston.

This year, Elliot dialed up flat preps at Stoneybrook (fourth), Willowdale (a fall) and Fair Hill (a win) before heading to Parx.

“It took us awhile, he was very awkward, on the wrong leads on the turns, he would cross-canter, lots of things like that,” she said. “It took us forever to get that sorted out. He’s very much better now. He causes me some headaches because I’m always second-guessing that something’s not quite right. He’s a lovely mover, a very pleasant horse to ride and he’s pretty game when it comes to a race too.”

• Xavier Aizpuru plopped down in a middle seat aboard a Southwest Flight 585 after the Iroquois — hot, tired, hungry, a little disappointed after favorite Tax Ruling finished fourth while bidding for history in the feature. The jockey was also proud of a gray 6-year-old he rode in the maiden. En Fuego found some trouble in a deep field, but kept to his task and finished second.

“I really like him, and I think he’ll be better at the racetrack,” said the jockey.

A month later, Aizpuru looked like a prophet as En Fuego blasted away from 11 others to win a \$25,000 maiden hurdle for owner Gill Johnston and trainer Jack Fisher. The winner got stuck in a crowd on the rail throughout, but made the best of it with a big leap at the last fence and plenty of power late to win by 3 1/4 lengths as the 6-5 favorite. Rod-dickton rallied late for second with Out Of The Ghetto third.

Aizpuru was impressed again.

“He’s a tough, tough little character. He had to be,” said the jockey. “Whether it was the conditions or just such a big field on such a small track, he wasn’t really enjoying himself for the first part of the race but he really came through at the end. He will try for you and try

See *PARX* page 22 ►

### Personals

A first for ST — but this is real.

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Aside from putting this in ST, SWF, 40, is completely sane, drama-free and looking for SW horseman, 35-45 for LTR. I have a great sense of humor (again, this whole putting a personal ad in ST), a kind heart and I am intelligent. Business-owning, green-eyed brunette standing 5’6”, 130 on an athletic frame, with a lovely smile. Would love if your emotional bags are packed and put away, and going to Saratoga is a must in the summer. You should take care of yourself physically and mentally and be a non-smoker. I’m willing to relocate for the right person down the line. Please respond to millersgamestop@gmail.com.

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# The National Steeplechase Museum – *Visit often & enjoy a membership!*



THE NATIONAL STEEPLCHASE MUSEUM NEWS • SUMMER 2012

## A Place of Honor

The National Steeplechase Museum has a mission to foster public interest in steeplechase racing and to reach a broad audience through public events, publications and exhibitions. It is the only institution in the United States dedicated to racing over fences and to the people, places and horses that have influenced its history.

Over the years the Museum has grown in terms of members and the collections which include documents, photographs, trophies, original art and sculpture, memorabilia and interactive exhibits. Since our last membership campaign, we have hosted three dynamic exhibits and undertaken the establishment of the Camden Antique Fair, a signature fundraising event. In addition, the Museum draws 85% of its visitors from outside Kershaw County, is a favored site to rent for special events, and often hosts corporate group retreats.

This newsletter is published for our annual membership campaign and we hope you will enjoy reading about our activities and continue to support the Museum.



Jonathan Sheppard and Casey Hamilton by Flatterer's case at "By the Number."



York Street Antiques at the fair.

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Kip Elser, Janet Elliot, Jeff Teter and Tony Bentley at the Bow Tie Affair.



Kip Elser, Charlise Cante, Hope Cooper, Douglas Davidson and Helen Elser enjoy a moment at the West Point Thoroughbred dinner held at the Museum this spring.



Warren and Karen Dempsey and Joe Aulisi at "By the Number"



George Sensor with the lovely girls from Vineyard Vines at the Bow Tie Affair. He tied on a lucky one and won the 2011 Carolina Cup.



Blythe Miller Davies by the panel on Lonesome Glory which was part of the exhibition "Quintet" honoring 5 horses who won both features at Springdale race Course. Lonesome was ridden by Blythe and trained by her father.



Sculptress, Mariab Kirby-Smith, Linda Solansky and Heidi Oneacre give Lonesome an expert cleaning and polish.

Jonathan Sheppard  
By The Numbers  
Presented By  
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An extensive exhibit, "By the Number," honored Jonathan Sheppard after his 1000th wins over fences.



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## Parx —

■ Continued from page 18

hard. It wasn't ideal, he was down there the whole race and I think the ground and where he was affected his jumping. There were a couple of times he wanted to play safe and I was trying to get a little bit more out of him. He really got rolling out of the home turn and once I realized we were going to meet the last on a nice stride he went to it nicely. He even over-jumped it a little bit and still won going away."

Johnston bought En Fuego on the recommendation of flat trainer Christophe Clement last year, only the distance loving son of El Prado didn't leave Clement's barn. He made a turf start at Keeneland for Johnston last fall, finished fifth, then moved to Fisher as a jump prospect.

"Christophe trains for me so he keeps an eye out," said Johnston. "The Kellys owned (En Fuego) and they've always got a lot of young horses coming along so he was for sale. It's worked out very well."

The winner started his new career with a second at Foxfield in April and then duplicated that effort at Nashville (where stablemate Virsito won).

• The steeplechase opener at Parx showcased the depth of the Pennsylvania-bred program with a restricted maiden hurdle worth \$25,000. The purse money came from the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association and produced a solid field of nine.

"It's something (PHBA board member) Roger Legg wanted to do," said executive director Jeb Hannum. "It made sense on paper, and we got a good field so hopefully this is just the start."

Fittingly, longtime state power breeder Augustin Stable produced the winner in Sillium. The 5-year-old son of Saint Liam raced on the flat with Graham Motion and moved to Richard Valentine's barn as a hurdle prospect last year. The rookie looked like an old pro, rallying outside horses on the final turn to collar Tracking and then Brother Sy in the stretch and win by 2 1/4 lengths at better than 12-1. Sillium (Matt McCarron) pulled early, relaxed in the middle and kept running through a race that included two awkward falls in a driving rain.

"He was dragging me in behind horses," said McCarron. "With a turn to go, he finally shut off. For that bunch, I thought we were hoofing it early. I was finding myself further and further back but if they were going as fast as I thought they were I was going to be OK. It didn't totally fall apart, but they came back to me. Richard said not to give up so I was riding him from a half-mile out."



Barbara Weid/EQUI-PHOTO  
Sillium blasts through the rain.

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# Bull Jockey

Geraghty shelves rodeo dreams, takes lead atop crowded standings

**BY JOE CLANCY**

Ross Geraghty asked Tom Voss the question, and got the answer. “Do you need me anymore?” the jockey said. “Probably not,” the trainer replied. Like that, a short partnership of success and failure ended in mid-season 2010 – less than a year after it began. Geraghty left the Maryland barn, and thought about his next steps. The Irishman had come to the United States to ride for Voss in September 2009, quickly won six races and then endured a rough start to 2010 with a single winner through the spring. The slump bred a change, and Voss gave rides to Paddy Young. “We never had a bad word, there were no bad feelings, but it wasn’t working out,” said Geraghty. “So I left.” And very nearly changed his career. He left on a Tuesday, did some checking and found a rodeo in Pennsylvania that started Friday. Geraghty – lifelong horseman, jockey, Irish as Guinness – was going to ride bulls. A big fan of the Professional Bull Riders events, he’d watched them on television and seen

them in person during a stop in Baltimore. But he’d never ridden a bull. Still hasn’t. “I rode a cow out in a field once, that’s about it, but I always wanted to try it, and I thought then that I had nothing to lose, nothing else to do really,” he said. “I’m a huge fan and I want to do it someday. I was going to do it then.” Instead, he took a phone call from trainer Michele Sanger, who needed someone to exercise horses, maybe ride a race. Owner Frank Bonsal had some horses that needed work. Trainer Jazz Napravnik needed help and had a mare she liked a little. Geraghty rode a winner for Don Yovanovich that fall, won a race at Far Hills on Green Velvet for Napravnik, endured a 3-for-46 season, but got by, kept working. Last year, Geraghty won the Iroquois maiden for Sanger and the Fair Hill filly/mare stakes for Napravnik in the spring. By fall, the jockey was riding for the powerhouse Irv Naylor stable trained by J.W. Delozier and finished with seven wins and more than \$300,000 in purse earnings. And now, Geraghty leads all NSA



**Black Quartz gave leading jockey Ross Geraghty two wins in the spring.**

jockeys with 10 wins through June 14. “Before he landed the job (with Naylor), J.W. had a 3-year-old and asked if I would school him,” Geraghty said. “Then he asked if I would be interested in a job riding out in the morning. Since then, neither of us has looked back. We work really well together. I felt

Tod Marks

## Jockeys –

■ Continued from page 24

bled at Colonial Downs June 2 to put a lid on the first 10 weeks of the 2012 year. Geraghty won eight for the barn, and picked up two spares (when Xavier Aizpuru was injured) aboard Maya Charli for Jack Fisher. “It makes a big difference to have a stable on your side,” said Geraghty, brother to top Irish jockey Barry. “It’s a huge team there, we all work together. Everyone’s enjoying it. Everyone works hard. It’s nice to win, we all sit down, clap each other on the back over breakfast sandwiches and doughnuts, but then we get back to work. A lot of work goes into it.” The would-be rodeo cowboy leads a contentious battle atop the jockeys’ standings, completed in close order by Brian Crowley, Jeff Murphy, Darren Nagle (eight wins each) and Willie McCarthy (seven). The group took advantage of a broken arm suffered by Paddy Young. The three-time defending champion went down in his first ride of the year at the Carolina Cup in March and didn’t ride again until Colonial – where he won aboard Eagle Beagle. The victory felt good, but he’s nine behind Geraghty with essentially half the season gone. “Paddy had a tough spring, nobody wants to watch races, but I’m delighted that he’s back,” said Geraghty. “He’s not three-times champion for nothing. He’s a very good rider.” But probably not good enough to get a fourth consecutive championship. “To be honest, no,” Young said when asked if he could catch the leaders. “It’s not anything I’m even thinking about. I just want to get back to riding well and see where it goes. I was lucky last year and had 16 winners in the spring. Nobody’s done that this year, but I think it will be impossible (to catch up).” Young is just happy to be riding. In his first jump mount of 2012, he broke his right arm in a fall from Darkwatch in the Carolina Cup’s maiden hurdle. He underwent surgery, endured some scary follow-up ap-

pointments and was cleared to ride two days before getting a leg up on Eagle Beagle. The duo won together for the seventh time. Young credited the horse and the doctors. “He was coming back from an injury too, so I wasn’t thinking he’d win, but he felt as good as he did before,” Young said. “At the appointments, the doctor kept saying ‘you’re not ready, you’re not ready.’ I only got cleared on Thursday. He laughed when I told him I wanted to ride a race, I had to tell him I understood the risk.” He bought extra win photos for his medical team. **Logjam at the top** Behind Geraghty, the jockeys’ race looks like the line at a Dublin Starbucks – crowded, anxious, competitive and Irish. Nagle put together wins from all over the trainers’ list (Sheppard, Jack Fisher, Richard Valentine, Leslie Young, Allison White, Liam McVicar) and condition book (hurdle, professional timber, amateur timber, stakes, maiden claimers). He will pick up summer mounts for Sheppard. Murphy rides first call for Doug Fout and won two races with leading filly/mare Quiet Flaine, but also gathered two from timber specialist Swimming River. First-time hurdle starter Extraextraordinary won at Colonial Downs to point to big things. The Virginia resident rode his first American race in 2002, captured an apprentice title along the way, but has never won more than nine races in a single season. That could change soon. “First time ever, hopefully I can keep it going,” Murphy said while leading the jockey’s standings earlier in the spring. “I would love to be leading rider one day. Dougie has some nice horses, you can’t be anything but confident going to the races. When things are going right, you just go out there like they’re all going to win.” McCarthy came to the U.S. for a few rides in 2009, winning once for Jimmy Day while subbing for an injured Liam McVicar. He did not ride here in 2010,

but endured a 1-for-44 season last year. He’s turned it around completely in 2012, with seven wins from his first 35 rides. Main client Arch Kingsley fed McCarthy live horses from South Carolina and they’ve won twice with the improving Baltic Shore. Like many of the others, McCarthy built a career on point-to-point success in Ireland and professional rides in England. The career found a middle ground, hung a bit, and McCarthy turned to American opportunities. This winter, he broke yearlings in Florida for Vinery and schooled steeplechasers in Camden weekly. Now, he works for flat trainer Michael Matz at Fair Hill. McCarthy gave partial credit for his successful spring to former champion jockey Kingsley (the two have watched videos and discussed tactics together), plus a familiarity with the circuit. “The racing over here is a bit faster, the ground conditions are going to be a bit faster,” he said. “Time-wise they mightn’t be faster, but they ride faster. A 2-mile race at home, you could drop in at the back of the field and take your time. Here, you tend to have to be in the first three or five to be in with a chance. They don’t come back as much. It took me a little while. I like to think I’m better. I’m improving, just trying to bang out winners.” The jockey picked up a stakes score for Voss aboard Ballet Boy at Radnor, and hopes to see more outside interest as the year progresses. Crowley is last of the top five in terms of mounts, but he’s won eight and heads to the summer with the backing of Sheppard’s always competitive barn. They won six races together at Saratoga the past two seasons and will no doubt be factors again. “You really need to be part of a barn that’s going well to pick up wins in summer racing,” said Young. “Ross seems to have the quality with J.W.’s horses, but no barn is dominant right now. Sheppard and Brian are tough at Saratoga, Darren is riding well and he picks up a lot of outside rides. Willie McCarthy is doing well and Jeff’s gotten good horses to ride. It’s very competitive at the moment.”



Tod Marks Photos

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## Irish Jig

Owned by travelers, Ballet Boy dances to stakes win at Radnor

BY JOE CLANCY

Jockey Willie McCarthy looked at the Radnor overnight, thought confident thoughts and picked up his phone to call Tom Voss. The trainer rarely answers, and didn't this time, so McCarthy left a message.

"I just wanted you to know I'll be there, I'd love to ride your horse," McCarthy said, or something to that effect. Voss never returned the call, but put the jockey on Ballet Boy for the \$50,000 National Hunt Cup novice hurdle stakes. McCarthy did the rest, getting the 8-year-old home by a neck over Gustavian May 19.

"I had the (guts) to call him up," McCarthy said. "I just wanted him to know I was available, that I was hungry. I saw my name down (after scratches and changes) and I spoke to him when I got to the races. I suppose things have been going well enough for me that I had the confidence. I might not have done it otherwise."

The victory was McCarthy's seventh this spring and his second score in a spring novice stakes after winning the Queen's Cup feature with Baltic Shore.

The Irishman spent the winter riding young horses at Vinery in Florida and went to South Carolina weekly to ride jumpers for Arch Kingsley. The efforts, combined with years of experience at home and in England, have paid off with success on the race course this year.

At Radnor, McCarthy let Ballet Boy rate off the early pace of Fog Island and Gustavian in a field of seven, then pounced in the stretch. Ballet Boy, who hadn't run since July, flew the second-last and took a short lead before repelling a late challenge from Gustavian in the final yards. Cornhusker finished third, nearly 12 lengths behind the runner-up.

"I liked him, he gave me a good feel, a great ride," said McCarthy. "I had ridden against Gustavian a few times (second to him at Aiken last fall, a winner over him at Queen's Cup this spring) and tried to remember him. I was happy to follow him for as long as I could. My horse jumped the second-last really well and I might have gotten in front a shade too soon. Luckily enough, he held on."

Ballet Boy won an allowance hurdle over the right-handed Radnor course a year earlier and finished fourth in



Tod Marks

Ballet Boy touches down over the last fence in front of Gustavian in the National Hunt Cup.

the 2010 National Hunt Cup. The son of Sadler's Wells broke his maiden at Foxfield in April 2010, but fit the non-winners of three condition of the novice stakes. He won five times on the flat in Ireland, before being purchased in fall 2009 during a trip to Ireland by Voss and several owners. Perry Bolton, Ben Griswold, Bob Kinsley and Charlie Noell were on the trip along with Betty Merck. The latter bought future Grade

I winner Your Sum Man, while the others went a different route.

"He was by Sadler's Wells so seemed out of our normal price range, so that's why we split him," said Bolton. "We were staying at the Cashel Hotel in the town of Cashel, which is where the stable name came from and the silks are the Irish flag. It was a great trip and this horse makes us think of it every time he runs."

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# Loss of a Winner

## Arcadius succumbs to aneurysm after securing the Iroquois

BY JOE CLANCY

*Editor's Note: A version of this article originally appeared in the New York Times print edition of May 15 and online at nytimes.com.*

NASHVILLE — Even the winners can die. Arcadius won a race that rewards the hardy, the brave, the stout. Three miles. Eighteen hurdles. He galloped, he jumped, he stalked, he flew home.

Jockey Brian Crowley dropped his whip after the last fence and still the horse won with his ears pricked, holding on by a length in the Grade I \$150,000 Iroquois Steeplechase May 12. Arcadius galloped out, pulled up, slowed to a walk and returned with Crowley aboard. At the winner's circle, the photographers waited. So did an owner, a trainer, a groom, a crowd of 25,000.

The trophies, the plaudits were his. He had won, triumphed, beaten one of the best to try the Iroquois in the two-time winner Tax Ruling. In his best opportunity, Arcadius came through. The 8-year-old gelding breathed hard as he walked back to applause.

"Well done, jock," a fan said to Crowley. The jockey nodded and pointed to his horse. "Not me, all him," the gesture said.

And it was. Arcadius seized the day, winning with the biggest, best effort of his life. The humans lined up, the horse was led in to the winner's circle. Catching his breath now, he stood for the brief ceremony — a sweaty, dirty, hot, victorious athlete. It was as if he knew he had won. Arcadius stared regally to the distance, ears at attention, and everyone else paused, soaking in the victory. The cameras buzzed. Crowley jumped down, unbuckled the elastic girths, removed the leather saddle, breastplate, black and red cloth with the white 3 on it. The jockey folded it all up on his arm, patted his horse on the back, one more reward for the effort.

Two minutes later, Arcadius was dead — steps from the finish line he had crossed with so much power, so much life.



Tod Marks  
Arcadius and Mike Benson head to the paddock before the race.



Tod Marks  
Arcadius jumps the last fence of the Iroquois with a slight lead on Divine Fortune.

It was quick, shocking, certainly eerie. After walking from that winner's circle celebration, while getting the usual after-race hosing and dousing with water, Arcadius stepped awkwardly to his right, raised his head, stiffened his front legs and dropped to the ground on his left side. Before he fell, his right eye went blank — flashing life, death, pain, something. Humans sprang to action — with more water, ice, medicine. It had looked like a heat stroke, even on a day when temperatures barely reached 70 under a gray sky. Horses do that: they overhear, they get medical attention, they cool off, they get up and walk away — tired, but alive. Not this time.

Dr. Monty McInturff of the Tennessee Equine Hospital said it was an aneurysm, a heart attack. At first, the veterinarian heard a heartbeat — irregular, but there. Intravenous fluids went in. The people talked to the horse, calmed him, helped him, gave him every chance to recover. Arcadius quivered, raised his head once or twice, moved his feet, then went still. The ice bags came off, the fluids were disconnected.

The groom, Mike Benson, who had ridden eight hours in a horse van from South Carolina with Arcadius the day before, helped take off his horse's bridle, and stood — shocked, gutted, alone, silent, as the race replay spun out on the infield television screen. A speck of mud dotted the corner of Benson's eye, put there by his horse's last few breaths. Owner Ed Swyer, who won two that day, could not speak. Trainer Jonathan Sheppard, whose horses finished one-two-three in the race, walked away. Crowley came back for a trophy ceremony that did not happen, looked at his horse, retreated to the jockeys' tent and asked a hundred mental questions.

"I don't get attached to horses, I just don't, but with him, it's different; he's the one horse I would be close to," he said while fiddling with a badly knotted

tie. "I'm not being a drama queen, I'm not just going on about it. I fed him carrots every day. I rode him, I schooled him. What a horse. I can't believe it. I'm crying over a horse. I can't believe it. You find out what you are when something like this happens, you find out how much you care."

Crowley, an Irishman, rode for years in England, broke his neck and missed 10 months, quit for three years. He came to the United States in the cold of January 2010, hoping for a break and a chance to ride meaningful races again. He slept on a couch in a decrepit house in Pennsylvania, woke early, went to work at Sheppard's farm and pushed a wheelbarrow between rides. He spent his first paycheck at T. J. Maxx, buying clothes. Arcadius was his first morning ride, his first American winner. Horse and jockey provided Sheppard with a milestone 1,000th steeplechase winner at New Jersey's Monmouth Park in September 2010.

Bred by Jayeff B Stable in Kentucky, Arcadius sold for \$500,000 as a yearling in 2005 to the top Irish owner Michael Tabor. In the care of the champion trainer Aidan O'Brien in Ireland, Arcadius, the son of Giant's Causeway, did not live up to the lofty opinion or purchase price and won a cheap maiden race at age 3 before being sold again and switched to hurdles. He won once in Ireland in 2008, crossed Sheppard's radar screen and joined the best steeplechase stable in the United States.

The bay gelding won once in 2009, twice in 2010 and closed 2011 with a solid third in the Grade I Colonial Cup. Given a winter break at Sheppard's farm in Pennsylvania, he returned April 28 with a third in a flat race at Charlotte, N.C. Fit and ready, Arcadius went to Nashville in a bid to spoil Tax Ruling's chance

See **ARCADIUS** page 29 ►

## Arcadius — ■ Continued from page 28

at a third consecutive win in the spring's richest race.

"It will take a hell of a horse to beat this horse," Crowley said to the boys in the barn all week. "He's pulling me around out there."

On Saturday, it was more of the same. Arcadius rated in third early, drafted into second, just off Tax Ruling, at the midway point, and challenged for the lead at the 16th fence — flying up the inside and landing with momentum. He soared the 17th, getting a length on the eventual runner-up, Divine Fortune, and stepped into the 18th full of run. Crowley was going for it. So was his horse. From there, no one was going to catch them.

"The further the race went, the better he was going — jumping, traveling, doing it," Crowley said. "He was as good as ever for me. I gave him one little flick going down the last and then I dropped my stick. I didn't mean to, but I didn't need it. He won easy. It wasn't a very tough race for him."

Shortly afterward, Arcadius was in the toughest battle of his life. Like a marathon runner who pushed too far or a basketball player with an unseen condition set off by one last run up the court, his heart gave out. He didn't make a mistake at a fence, didn't bow a tendon, didn't wrench an ankle, didn't fracture one of his delicate front legs, didn't do one of the things on the endless list of mishaps that can befall a Thoroughbred in a race. No, he had made it through all that. He even pulled up fine, came back to the winner's circle, posed for photographs, accepted the gentle pats of the humans in his life and tasted that first sip of cold water afterward. He was safe.

"He tried, he gave his all," Crowley said. "That's racing, I guess, but it doesn't seem like it. The ones that get hurt in a fall, in a race, it's no easier but that's part of the race. It wasn't like he fell, you can say a fall is racing or along the lines of racing; he won, he was there, he won, he made it. He won the race, he'd had his picture taken. Then boom . . . They could have all the prize money if I could have him back again."

That's not going to happen. Swyer will get his \$90,000. Sheppard and Crowley their \$9,000 each. Benson a small stake for the heartfelt care. Arcadius gets a place of rest in Tennessee, a triumphant/tragic spot in the memory of his owner, his trainer, his jockey, his groom and a part in a scene that won't leave anyone who was there.

A half-hour after their horse died, Sheppard and Crowley met outside the barn across the racecourse. The 71-year-old trainer told his 31-year-old jockey it was not anyone's fault, that they had all done right by the horse. A trainer since 1966 and a Hall of Famer, Sheppard tried to bolster Crowley, but wound up saying much more.

"It's a terrible loss; he just went out with the biggest win of his life, and we've got to remember that, we've got to remember him for that," said Sheppard, voice steady but measured as he half-paced, half-sat, half-leaned against a wall. "You have to say it's a freak thing, the horse has been cared for, the course is in great shape, it's a nice cool day, he was ridden by a guy who loves him, there was nothing out of the ordinary. It was one in 10,000 things that can happen. I don't know what you can say or do. I don't know."

*In addition to the Times, the article was discussed on the slate.com podcast Hang Up and Listen, national radio programs, etc.*



Sean Clancy  
Arcadius, at Camden last fall, tops the leaderboard after his Iroquois triumph.

## NSA Standings

### TOP 10 THROUGH JUNE 16

Jockeys (Races Won)						
	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings	Win%
Ross Geraghty .....	36	10	2	4	\$237,500	.28
Darren Nagle .....	36	8	7	7	229,300	.22
Jeff Murphy .....	32	8	4	2	137,050	.25
Brian Crowley .....	28	8	2	4	225,000	.29
Willie McCarthy .....	37	7	7	4	146,450	.19
Jacob Roberts .....	35	5	6	4	84,400	.14
Xavier Aizpuru .....	25	4	4	7	105,200	.16
Carl Rafter .....	29	3	7	4	105,900	.10
Danielle Hodsdon .....	24	3	3	3	70,450	.13
Mark Beecher .....	17	3	1	4	43,875	.18

Trainers (Races Won)						
	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings	Win%
Jack Fisher .....	45	10	4	13	\$232,575	.22
J. W. Delozier .....	35	9	1	6	231,050	.26
Jonathan Sheppard .....	32	6	5	6	285,600	.19
Richard Valentine .....	34	5	8	4	109,450	.15
Arch Kingsley .....	28	5	5	4	100,200	.18
Doug Fout .....	23	5	4	3	123,300	.22
Neil Morris .....	36	3	7	3	65,525	.08
Tom Voss .....	15	3	4	1	76,275	.20
Ricky Hendriks .....	5	3	0	1	26,500	.60
Alicia Murphy .....	11	2	4	2	33,550	.18

Owners (Money Won)						
	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings	Win%
Irv Naylor .....	53	11	4	8	\$275,025	.21
Hudson River Farm .....	3	2	0	0	137,000	.67
Maggie Bryant .....	31	6	5	7	126,650	.19
Bill Pape .....	15	3	1	2	83,500	.20
Bob Kinsley .....	4	2	2	0	67,500	.50
Woodslane Farm .....	9	3	0	3	63,000	.33
High Hope Stable .....	5	3	1	0	58,100	.60
Arcadia Stable .....	6	1	2	2	51,850	.17
Lucy Goelet .....	2	1	0	0	46,500	.50
Jonathan Sheppard .....	7	2	1	0	43,500	.29

Horses (Money Won)						
	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings	Win%
Arcadius .....	1	1	0	0	\$90,000	1.00
Via Galilei (Ire) .....	3	2	0	1	67,500	.67
Incomplete .....	2	2	0	0	63,000	1.00
Baltic Shore .....	2	2	0	0	48,000	1.00
Parker's Project .....	2	1	0	0	47,000	.50
Twill Do .....	2	1	0	0	46,500	.50
Divine Fortune .....	2	1	1	0	42,000	.50
Quiet Flaine .....	2	2	0	0	39,000	1.00
Lake Placid .....	3	2	0	0	38,000	.67
Maya Charli .....	5	2	0	2	33,000	.40



# A Listers

## Horses, horsemen eye big chances from summer steeplechase lineup

BY SEAN CLANCY

### SARATOGA STEEPLECHASING

The list runs long and varied, balancing optimism and realism. It includes reaches, stretches, pipe dreams and slam dunks. In mid-June, still five weeks to go, it includes 126 names, if you count all divisions, including a dart board of maidens and some glassy-legged veterans seeking one more day in the sun.

Yes, the Saratoga steeplechase roster. Changing every day, every set, every session in the ice tub.

On first glance, leader Jack Fisher looks loaded, J.W. Delozier is poised to win his first race at Saratoga, perennial leader Jonathan Sheppard looks lighter than usual (doubt him at your peril), Tom Voss lacks his customary firepower, Arch Kingsley could improve from his strong showing last summer, Doug Fout appears stronger than usual and the rest, well the rest, are stoking the embers looking for a summer flame. The Steeplechase Owners and Trainers Association rented a barn, which could help the commute. The purses are up, which could help incentivize. In all, nine races are scheduled (every Thursday) at the historic upstate New York oval. It all starts July 26.

- Fisher led all trainers with 10 wins through mid-June. Always dangerous, he has unveiled legions of maidens who could continue their ascent at Saratoga. En Fuego dominated at Parx while Virsito won at Nashville, which usually provides the barometer for the division. Battalion could graduate between now and then.

Opera Heroine clicked at Saratoga last summer and the veteran mare should find the 2 1/16 miles on a flat surface to her liking again this summer. Second in the Valentine at Fair Hill, she'll go straight to the Mrs. Ogden Phipps Stakes Aug. 9. Fisher shocked himself and the sport when Maya Charli took the Valentine at Fair Hill. A week earlier, she won for a \$10,000 tag. Owned by the house, the daughter

of Cozzene carries a "for-sale" sign and aims at the Phipps.

Winless this spring and summer, All Together will try again in the A.P. Smithwick, the consistent son of Danzig opened the meet with a win in the Kiser last summer. Spring winners Brave Prospect and Grand Pride could make the program and veteran Seer is on the comeback trail.

Fisher, also active on the flat last summer, applied for four stalls in the Oklahoma Annex again this summer.

"It worked out well last year and I hope to be just as busy on the flat and over jumps again," Fisher said. "Opera Heroine likes the flat track and All Together won there last year so at least they have the right kind of form up there. The maidens have run well so far. But you know, it's Saratoga . . ."

- Delozier hasn't been involved in Saratoga steeplechases since riding races (remember when maiden, Petroski, won an allowance race in 1994?). The trainer certainly has choices when it comes to the Irv Naylor arsenal. Champion Black Jack Blues won the Carolina Cup but hasn't been seen since. Via Galilei is the only horse to win two open stakes in 2012 and would land the favorite's role in the Smithwick. The mercurial Lake Placid adds intrigue to any race. Fans could see any combination of Decoy Daddy, Arctic Reach, Corsican Boy, Union Army, Black Quartz, Black Pond, American Ladie and Nightswimming at the Spa and as everybody knows with Naylor, IRT's plane is always on the runway.

- "We don't have much this year," Sheppard said, when asked about Saratoga.

That's like Superman saying he has this old cape, helps him fly, that's all.

Sheppard won the Frost and the Iroquois at Nashville but unfortunately doesn't have Arcadius or Parker's Proj-



Tod Marks

Divine Fortune eyes his third victory in the A.P. Smithwick at Saratoga.

ect for Saratoga. That's a tough one to overcome but Sheppard is anything if not resilient. The Hall of Famer won four of the eight races at Saratoga last summer and rumbles toward this meet with another balanced mix of oldsters and youngsters.

Veteran mare Sweet Shani pulled up at Nashville in the spring and could make her first appearance at the race-track since finishing fifth in the New York Turf Writers Cup in 2011. At 12, she's lost some of her velocity but still demands a long look in the Phipps, which would be her 19th consecutive stakes start, dating back to the L.V. Lachal Hurdle at Flemington, Australia in 2006.

Beyond the grande dame, Sheppard will rally his aging team of open stakes horses. Led by Divine Fortune, second in the Iroquois, the group also could include Sermon Of Love, Nationbuilder and perhaps The Price Of Love and Italian Wedding.

Divine Fortune won the Smithwick the last two seasons (Sheppard and owner Bill Pape have won four of the last five) after being away from the races for an entire year. This year, the three-time winner at Saratoga comes in

after two springs starts.

"I don't think it makes much difference, he's an easy keeper, he's an easy horse to train and ride," Sheppard said. "He's had a few soundness issues over the years, naturally, as nearly all of them seem to, he seems to be in pretty good fettle. He's been ticking over since Iroquois."

Sheppard has a decent, albeit small, string for the allowance races, led by spring maiden winners Total Command and El Season and stakes-placed History Boy. Veterans The Price Of Love and Sermon Of Love could try optional claimers. Novice stakes winner Sergeant Karakorum skipped the latter part of the spring but will reappear at the Spa in the novice stakes.

"History Boy has been a little disappointing, he seems to be a little confused with his jumping, but he fits in that one-other-than condition. I don't think we've seen the best of him yet," Sheppard said. "Sergeant is doing fine, he's about my only one for the novice, he's on ice until Saratoga. Sermon is fine, he's a very in-and-out performer. I was absolutely thrilled with Total Command at Great Meadow, he had been rather sticky with his jumping and it was like the light bulb went on a week before that race."

Bodie Island, Tracking, Tiger Jacques and Tropic Sea need to snap the maiden tape between now and then to be considered true threats at the real meet. Cubist could help the numbers in the Phipps and Jeffords.

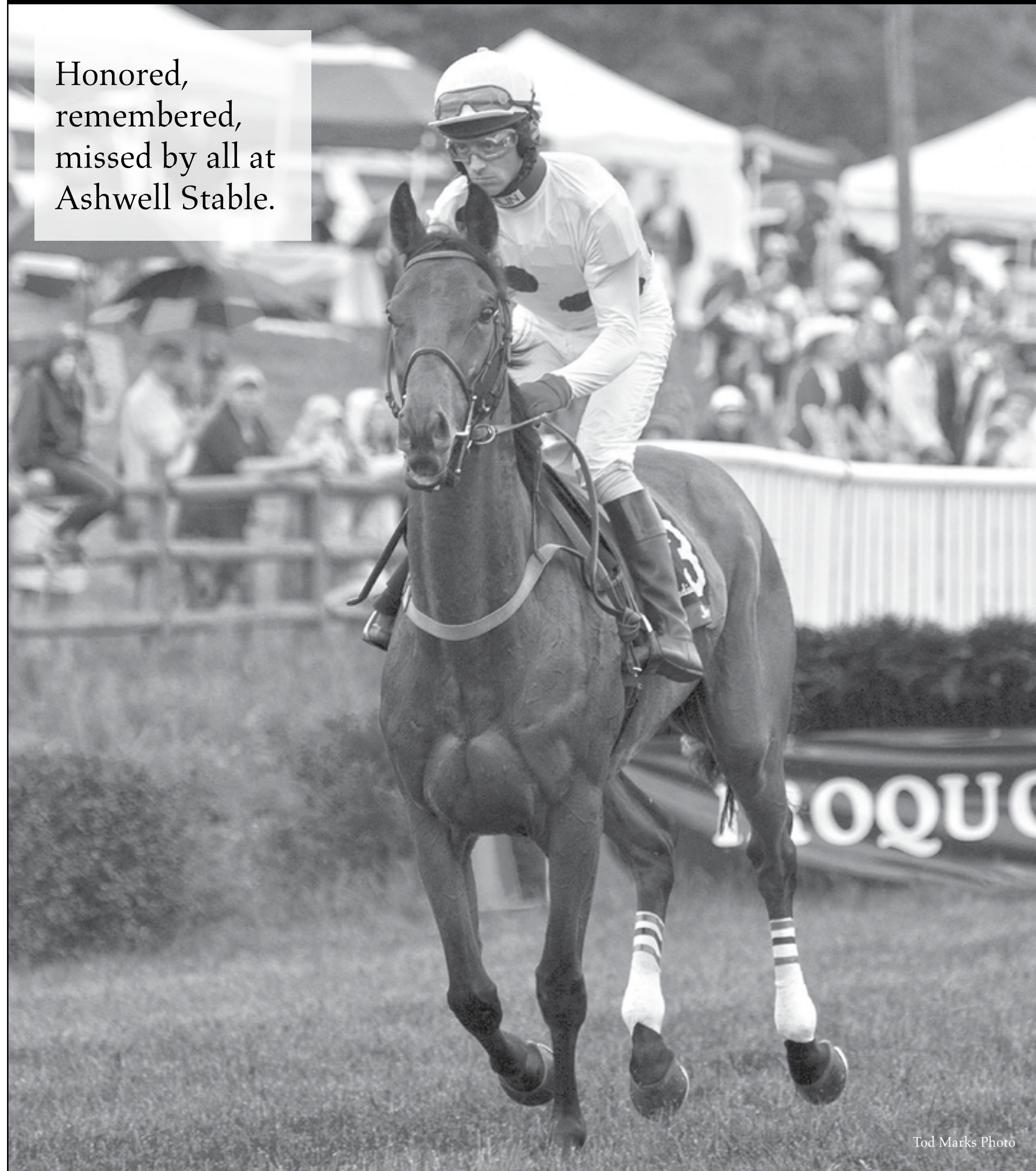
Sheppard has mastered the art of getting maximum efforts from marginal horses at Saratoga.

"It's very hard to place those in-between type horses," Sheppard said. "But you always hope if you can hold them together, either they'll improve just a little bit or there will be a weak spot in the stakes division and you can knock out a good race or two if you keep them sound, healthy and happy. A horse like Italian Wedding won a damn good race up there last year."

# Arcadius

(2004 - 2012)

Honored,  
remembered,  
missed by all at  
Ashwell Stable.



Tod Marks Photo



Sean Clancy

Saratoga steeplechase stakes winners turned show horses High Action (left, Beth Fout) and Dark Equation (Nina Fout) put in some work during their second careers. Dark Equation anchored the Fout Team that won the family class at the recent Upperville Horse Show.

See **SARATOGA** page 32 ►



Saratoga —

■ Continued from page 30

• Richard Valentine managed to remain in the top five in the trainers’ standings after an unlucky spring where he had eight seconds underneath five wins. The Virginia-based trainer will aim Demonstrative, a non-threatening last in the Ferguson, to the novice division at Saratoga. Parx maiden winner Sillium could make the docket as well as a few maidens (perhaps, Gawaar-ib) if they step out before August. Rainiero, riding a four-race win streak, will probably wait until fall.

• Kingsley launched a two-pronged attack at Saratoga last summer and nearly picked off wins with each horse. Baltic Shore just missed in an allowance race early and veteran Here Comes Art upset the finale. Kingsley pulled out the tack for the latter and will again toss his jockey bag in the van heading north. “Hopefully Willie (McCarthy) has me covered there,” Kingsley said of riding. “Saratoga . . . you’re a long way from home, spending a lot of money, the only way you can justify going is to make every start count, we are going to do everything we can do to try and be in the position to get lucky.”

This year, Kingsley opted to skip the spring season with Here Comes Art and last year’s Carolina Cup winner Sunshine Numbers, aiming the veterans at Saratoga by design. Kingsley has Dogwood Stable’s Trippo, who won his debut and finished third in the novice stakes at Queen’s Cup, for the allowance condition. High Hope Stable’s Baltic Shore won that novice stakes at Queen’s Cup and is primed to make amends for his nose defeat at Saratoga last summer. The three-time winner ranks at or near the top of the novice division.

“Straight there, he runs well fresh, he ran a winning race there last year, I think he’s capable of better than what we’ve seen if I can keep him sound,” Kingsley said after Queen’s Cup. “He’s got a license to be pretty good, he’s physically looking the part more than ever, he’s acting it, he’s brimming with confidence, everything’s falling into place, it’s cool to see a horse like him, that has the potential, start to reach it.” Maidens Sit A Spiel and Lucky Will could earn tickets north with strong showings later this summer.

• Fout produced five wins from just 23 starts this spring/summer and looks poised for his strongest stand at Saratoga. Last year, he engineered runner-up finishes from maiden Perfect Edge and filly Well Fashioned from just three starters. The latter has her sights on the Phipps Aug. 9. Bolstering Fout’s chances in the filly and mare stakes is two-time winner Quiet Flaine. Owned by Maggie Bryant, the 4-year-old filly broke her maiden at Camden and then officially ushered in the changing of the queens, winning the Henley at Nashville. Fout bypassed the Valentine at Fair Hill. “The goal with Quiet Flaine was to skip Fair Hill and go to Saratoga. She’s a great, big filly and she’s growing like crazy. No matter how she ran at Iroquois, we wanted to give her a little time and go to Saratoga,” Fout said. “I’ve been aiming Call You In Ten for Saratoga all year, he’s had six works (as of June 12),



Tod Marks

Iroquois maiden winner Virsito (left) could be a player in allowance company at Saratoga.

knock on wood, everything looks good, we’ll get a flat race into him at Open House and see where we are. He can pretty much go anywhere.”

Fout unveiled Clorevia Farm’s Extraextraordinary to win at first asking at Colonial Downs and the 5-year-old should join Forgotten Man and perhaps maidens Swell Party and Out Of The Ghetto in the allowance confines.

“He’s improved, he’s gutsy and I really liked him at Colonial after winning at Potomac,” Fout said. “He had a lot of pressure there and I figured he’d run well at Colonial.”

• Neil Morris has sent out the second most starters (behind Fisher) so far this year. Based in Middleburg, Morris rarely ventures to Saratoga but could have a couple of horses with the New York Thruway on their agendas. Roddickton ran well in his second start, finishing second at Parx while Classic Bridges, Old Timer, Enchanted Circle, Ed’s Big Bet and Saint Dynaformer are qualified for allowance/novice races.

• Last year’s champion trainer Tom Voss has toiled quietly so far, winning just three races from 15 starts. Always dangerous at Saratoga, he doesn’t appear to have his usual ammunition. Cashel Stable’s Ballet Boy won his only start this year, upsetting novices at Radnor. The Irish-bred will point for the novice division at Saratoga. Veterans Left Unsaid and Dynaski are trying to regain their footholds at the top of the division while 3-year-old champion Wanganui just missed in the allowance at Parx. That effort should buff the sophomore for the speed of Saratoga. Two-time winner Cornhusker was disappointing at Saratoga last year but has another year of seasoning. Voss still has a few maidens who could punch tickets. Habana, runner-up at Fair Hill, heads the list along with Paris Vegas, Will Kane and Upper Afleet. Voss has Uptown as a possible contender in the filly and mare division.

### Saratoga Predictions

ST's fearless handicappers take a crack at the full Saratoga lineup – more than a month early.

**Jonathan Kiser Novice Hurdle, July 26.**  
Joe: Baltic Shore, Black Quartz, Ballet Boy.  
Sean: Baltic Shore, Black Quartz, Sergeant Karakorum.

**Optional Claimer, August 2.**  
Joe: Total Command, Trippo, En Fuego.  
Sean: History Boy, Trippo, Wanganui.

**A.P. Smithwick Memorial, August 2.**  
Joe: Divine Fortune, Via Galilei, All Together.  
Sean: Via Galilei, Left Unsaid, All Together.

**Lillian Phipps Filly and Mare Stakes, August 9.**  
Joe: Quiet Flaine, Opera Heroine, American Ladie.  
Sean: Opera Heroine, Maggie Neary, Quiet Flaine.

**Optional Claimer, August 16.**  
Joe: Wanganui, History Boy, Extraextraordinary.  
Sean: Total Command, En Fuego, Grantor.

**Michael G. Walsh Novice, Aug. 16.**  
Joe: Wild For Gold, Sergeant Karakorum, Demonstrative.  
Sean: Demonstrative, Here Comes Art, Ballet Boy.

**New York Turf Writers Cup, August 23.**  
Joe: Black Jack Blues, Nationbuilder, Call You In Ten.  
Sean: Divine Fortune, Sermon Of Love, Nationbuilder.

**Optional Claimer, August 30.**  
Joe: Sunshine Numbers, El Season, Virsito.  
Sean: Virsito, Northern Bay, Trippo.

**Kay Jeffords Filly and Mare Stakes, August 30.**  
Joe: Sweet Shani, Well Fashioned, Maggie Neary.  
Sean: Maggie Neary, Pensy, Sweet Shani.

**The Rest of the Squad**

• Julie Gomena is aiming Country Cousin at the A.P. Smithwick. The Bodemeister of steeplechasing ran hard in each of his spring starts, finishing second in the Carolina Cup, Temple Gwathmey and Marcellus Frost. Gomena is also aiming Alfarabi to the maiden at Saratoga Open House.

• It's been three years since Todd Wyatt upset the Kiser with You The Man. The 7-year-old has made just five starts since. On the comeback trail, the son of Lear Fan could make an appearance at the Spa. Along the same storyline, Northern Bay tries to get back to the races for the first time since finishing fifth at Strawberry Hill in 2011. Wyatt also has seasoned maiden Brother Sy and debut maiden Witor penciled for starts at Saratoga Open House.

• Jazz Napravnik has veterans Pensy and Green Velvet eyeing 2012 debuts in the filly and mare stakes. American Ladie, Better Than Even, Cat Feathers, Meg Of My Heart, Eastern Starlett, Troubled Angel and Uptown could round out the division which is led by Sweet Shani, Quiet Flaine, Opera Heroine and Well Fashioned.

• Ferguson runner-up Gustavian is doubtful for Saratoga and is aiming for the Lonesome Glory at Belmont in September. Dr. Wheat, third at Parx, could head north for an allowance attempt while Darkwatch, Bluegrass Chat and Absolum need to step up and out of the maiden ranks.

• Veteran claimer Eagle Beagle returned with a flourish to win at Colonial Downs. He could put his experience to good use in the optional claimers for Debra Kachel and Ricky Hendriks.

• Michael Moran's one-horse stable could be represented by Staying On, who put nine maidens on the floor at Radnor.

• Janet Elliot managed to cajole another handy win from Wild For Gold at Parx. Gene Weymouth's veteran is eligible for the novice stakes. Veteran Red Letter Day continues to try and recapture his glory days. Cherry Knoll Farm's Irish maiden winner Maggie Neary could parachute in for the Phipps and Jeffords, along with another Irish mare The Grey Express (who recently finished second in a handicap hurdle at Ballinrobe). Maiden Alajmal certainly has the potential to qualify and compete at the big show.

• Cyril Murphy won an allowance hurdle with Inti at Colonial Downs and the accomplished gray could put his experience to use at Saratoga for Meritage Racing.

• Brianne Slater is toying with the idea of running two-time Iroquois winner Tax Ruling at Saratoga. Fourth in this year's Iroquois, the son of Dynaformer would add intrigue to the stakes program, especially going 2 3/8 miles in the New York Turf Writers Cup.

• Mabou, upset winner of the Smithwick last summer, worked a half-mile for trainer David Jacobson at Aqueduct. In May Claimed at Saratoga before his shocking victory in the 2011 Turf Writers, he hasn't run since pulling up in the Grand National last fall.

• Jimmy Day has shocked Saratoga before (Spy In The Sky in 2009, Intelligent Choice in 1989). Spy In The Sky, the Turf Writers winner three years ago, finished fourth in the Frost and Ferguson this year. Duc De Savoie aims at the allowance races while maiden Autumn Riches points for the Open House.

• On the “possible” list are Almar mooq, Pierrot Lunaire, Birthday Beau, Canardly, Class Indian, Quiet Approval, Cuse, Grantor, Memorial Maniac, Fog Island, Slaney Rock . . . For full schedules, check nationalsteeplechase.com and we'll see you in Saratoga.

<b>Pony Girl Stables</b> .....	<b>Elizabeth Watrous</b>
Arcadius .....	\$90,000
Incomplete .....	\$63,000
Black Jack Blues .....	\$30,000
Duc De Savoie.....	\$20,250
Old Timer .....	\$12,700
Green Velvet.....	\$0

<b>Smokescreen Stable</b> .....	<b>Ross Geraghty</b>
Incomplete .....	\$63,000
Lake Placid .....	\$38,000
Black Jack Blues .....	\$30,000
Black Quartz .....	\$27,000
Total Command .....	\$12,000
American Ladie .....	\$0

<b>Bound &amp; Leap Farm</b> .....	<b>Kate McCleary</b>
Incomplete .....	\$63,000
Lake Placid .....	\$38,000
Black Jack Blues .....	\$30,000
En Fuego .....	\$22,200
Well Fashioned.....	\$6,500
Plattsburgh .....	\$0

<b>Sight Unseen</b> .....	<b>Brad Galyean</b>
Incomplete .....	\$63,000
Black Jack Blues .....	\$30,000
Pullyourfingerout .....	\$30,000
Duc De Savoie.....	\$20,250
Classic Bridges .....	\$9,000
Well Fashioned.....	\$6,500

<b>BrownTrout Stable</b> .....	<b>Douglas Lees</b>
Incomplete .....	\$63,000
Lake Placid .....	\$38,000
Black Jack Blues .....	\$30,000
En Fuego .....	\$22,200
Manacor .....	\$4,500
Sweet Shani .....	\$0

<b>Chiki's Chasers</b> .....	<b>Roshna Kapadia</b>
Via Galilei .....	\$67,500
Black Jack Blues .....	\$30,000
Delta Park .....	\$29,000
Duc De Savoie.....	\$20,250
Well Fashioned.....	\$6,500
Bruno Frigerio .....	\$2,700

<b>Stupid for Steeplechasing</b> .....	<b>Lisa McLane</b>
Incomplete .....	\$63,000
Black Jack Blues .....	\$30,000
Pullyourfingerout .....	\$30,000
En Fuego .....	\$22,200
Cubist.....	\$10,600
Nadal.....	\$0

<b>Secession Stables</b> .....	<b>John Haldeman</b>
Incomplete .....	\$63,000
Lake Placid .....	\$38,000
Black Jack Blues .....	\$30,000
En Fuego .....	\$22,200
Sweet Shani .....	\$0
Abraham Lincoln.....	\$0

<b>Hard Boot Stable</b> .....	<b>Clara Allison</b>
Arcadius .....	\$90,000
Black Jack Blues .....	\$30,000
Total Command .....	\$12,000
Bubble Economy .....	\$9,150
Ptarmigan .....	\$9,000
Hulako .....	\$0

<b>Tutto Italiano Stable</b> .....	<b>Jay Avenatti</b>
Via Galilei .....	\$67,500
Baltic Shore.....	\$48,000
Duc De Savoie.....	\$20,250
Bon Caddo .....	\$10,500
Bruno Frigerio .....	\$2,700
Sweet Shani .....	\$0

<b>Yearling Sales Topper Crib</b> .....	<b>Haley Schwab</b>
Quiet Flaine .....	\$39,000
Black Jack Blues .....	\$30,000
Delta Park .....	\$29,000
En Fuego .....	\$22,200
Duc De Savoie.....	\$20,250
Wanganui .....	\$5,400

<b>O-B-T Farm</b> .....	<b>Don Denenno</b>
Incomplete .....	\$63,000
Parker's Project .....	\$47,000
Black Jack Blues .....	\$30,000
Bruno Frigerio .....	\$2,700
Double Eagle .....	\$2,000
Sweet Shani .....	\$0

<b>Daughters Rule Stable</b> .....	<b>Sarah Hutchinson</b>
Incomplete .....	\$63,000
Black Jack Blues .....	\$30,000
En Fuego .....	\$22,200
Total Command.....	\$12,000
Ptarmigan .....	\$9,000
Tax Ruling .....	\$7,500

<b>Mrs. Wass Stable</b> .....	<b>Andrea Wasserman</b>
Arcadius .....	\$90,000
Divine Fortune.....	\$42,000
Bubble Economy .....	\$9,150
Share Out .....	\$0
Brace.....	\$0
Sweet Shani .....	\$0

<b>Steeplestakes</b> .....	<b>Van Cushny</b>
Quiet Flaine .....	\$39,000
Black Jack Blues .....	\$30,000
Pullyourfingerout .....	\$30,000
Duc De Savoie.....	\$20,250
Bon Caddo .....	\$10,500
Classic Bridges .....	\$9,000

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# Business Decision

Inti puts Smith in game with successful start

BY SEAN CLANCY

“You have to look at the horse industry and your participation in it as a business, but at the same time you have to be realistic, if you’re not having fun at it, then don’t get in it at all.”

Brook Smith is having fun at it – in flat racing and steeplechasing.

The scion of Meritage Racing hooked up with Cyril Murphy in 2010, sending Inti to the Maryland-based trainer. The Uruguay-bred made his debut at Tryon last spring, finishing second. He broke his maiden in the fall, winning a crowded maiden at International Gold Cup by 6 lengths. This year, Inti missed a projected start at Tryon but came back to finish second at Radnor before winning an allowance race at Strawberry Hill this summer. In all, the 7-year-old has made seven starts over jumps, with two wins, three seconds, a third and a fifth. He’s earned \$34,500 since converting to the infield sport. Not bad, for a horse who had lost all 17 starts in this country while toiling for trainers Kieran McLaughlin, Dale Romans and William Denzik Jr.

Purchased by Shadwell Farm after wins in Uruguay, in hopes of following champion Invador’s path, Inti failed to win in five starts before being dropped in for a \$25,000 tag at Saratoga in 2009. Claimed that day, the son of Dubai Dust made another 11 starts for Meritage Racing before Smith and company decided it was time to make a business decision.

“He was pretty honest, he would always come from behind and run all day, a plodder I guess would be the best way to put it,” Smith said. “We got to the point where he didn’t make a whole lot of sense as a racehorse so we were looking for somebody to give him to make a pony because he’s well mannered.”

Enter Murphy, who happened to be in Kentucky, happened to see Inti, happened to make a comment that the horse might make a jumper. Denzik suggested Murphy take the horse and give it a try.



Susan Carter/Eclipse Sportswire

Inti flies a fence early in his victory at Colonial Downs June 2.

“Billy said, ‘I can’t tell you to go down that road or not, but maybe it’s worth a shot. I think he’s the kind of guy who would shoot straight and tell you if he’ll make a jumper or not,’ ” Smith said of the career change. “We figured we could always give him to Cyril or somebody as a pony. From the time Cyril got the horse, he was really high on the horse, he said he was a quick study.”

With Cyril and his wife, Becky, Inti hasn’t missed a check in seven starts over fences, handled 10 rivals at Colonial Downs and is poised for a start against novice company at Saratoga. As for Smith, he’s ecstatic, well, he’s trying to keep it in check.

“Because it’s the horse business, I always try to temper that excitement level, I don’t let my highs get too high or my lows get too low,” Smith said. “Inti is the classic example of that, because he’s had highs and lows. He’s had strange, little, nagging injuries pop up where I’m Googling the Internet to try and figure out what kind of bone is swollen, etc. But he’s been a lot of fun.”

Smith and Murphy make a good team. Smith knows the horse business well enough to stay out of the way and let his trainer train.

“The thing I like about Cyril is he’s very cautious and I think he gets rewarded for it. A lot of owners put pressure on trainers to produce a product that’s going to get them everything they want, that’s not

how it goes,” Smith said. “What I’ve learned with some trainers, and in particular with Cyril, if you really take the time, you get rewarded. That’s the case with Inti. He had some minor issue earlier in the spring but he rallied quickly right into that race the other day. I knew Cyril was excited about the horse and thought he had a chance, again, I was tempering myself, there’s no need to get yourself disappointed, it’s much better to get yourself surprised.”

Along with Jay O’Brien and Rick Sweeney, Smith’s Meritage Ventures invests in a variety of businesses, including an Edward Lee restaurant in Louisville. They look at the businesses as businesses but also try to have some fun with them. Horses fall into that category for Smith.

“What kills me is when owners who are successful business men and women and they want to try and strategize for a horse when they don’t do it every day. It’s like they park their brain at the desk when they get in the horse business,” Smith said. “I’m happy to provide some input, but at the end of the day, I’m like, ‘Cyril, what do you want to do?’ You have to be with the right people, that’s not just the horse business, that’s any business. With Cyril, my confidence level is off the charts, he’s a great guy and a great trainer.”

Murphy plied his trade as a jockey, winning the Breeders’ Cup on Quel Senor, while working for Tom Voss. Quiet and conservative, Murphy handles Inti (and Smith) with the same respect.

“I can see what the horse means to Cyril and that alone means a lot to me. Fortunately I’ve been around a lot of wins on the flat side, but that win the other day was just magical to me,” Smith said. “He and Becky work closely with the horse. Just a great guy, it was a wonderful, wonderful win. It makes up for a lot of the down time and a lot of the expenses. It’s why you do it.”

Before Inti, Smith’s knowledge of steeplechasing started and stopped with forays to the old Hard Scuffle Steeplechase in Louisville where he snuck his first sips of a beer. Now, he’s a full-fledged fan, enjoying the ride and thinking about increasing his involvement.

“It’s a lot of fun, it’s a good community of people who are in that sport, steeplechasing expands upon the great things around flat racing, the time around the barn, the horses, the people, you have these great events where people celebrate their friendships and their tailgates in different parts of the country,” Smith said. “Look I’d love to see myself in the winner’s circle after a big race some day, if I won one of the Triple Crown races some day, I can tell you this, I don’t think it would compare to the win at Strawberry Hill with Cyril, with all the history, the way everything lined up.”

# Stettinius eyes Olympic dreams

Amateur jump jockey makes most of chance in modern pentathlon

BY PATRICK RALEIGH

Suzanne Stettinius, an amateur steeplechase rider from Parkton, Md. is headed to London to compete in the modern pentathlon in the Summer Olympics. Her ascent from national competition, where she merely wished “not to be embarrassed,” according to her father, to the highest level of the sport has left her humbled and is a testament to the potential that any given athlete can fulfill if they commit themselves fully to the pursuit of their dreams. That’s the obvious narrative. It’s also false.

In speaking to Stettinius, 24, a portrait emerges of a ruthless competitor who shares many of the traits we associate with top athletes in more mainstream sports; your Jordans, Bryants, Mannings. Qualities like unwavering confidence, disgust at mediocrity and the desire to find an advantage and exploit it are more applicable to this woman than humility.

She says that her favorite aspect of the pentathlon, a grueling fusion that includes running, shooting, show jumping, swimming and fencing, is the equine event. Fair enough. Having grown up on a horse farm and started riding when she was 4, this hardly comes as a shock. To bond with such a powerful animal in pursuit of a specific athletic endeavor must be extremely rewarding.

“In this sport a lot of people don’t ride horses, they specialize in the running and swimming and learn the show jumping to compete in the event,” Stettinius said. “It can be a great advantage.”

Not very romantic.

But like all great athletes Stettinius is prone to missteps. She’s young; she does dumb stuff. Like in 2011, when she should have been committed to training for the World Cup, she broke her collarbone in a steeplechase fall – after having broken her neck doing the same thing a year earlier.

“That was stupid,” she conceded.

After taking a couple of weeks off to let the injury heal she gradually resumed her training, worried about potentially re-aggravating the damage. Just kidding, she was back in the gym working out days after the surgery.

If her resolve to train through injuries poses long-term risks that outweigh the immediate gains of nonstop work, it has been a difficult lesson for Stettinius to learn. She pulled her hamstring in April, which cost her a trip to a World Cup event in Russia. As if allergic to the concept of a pillow and a good book, she almost immediately resumed her training, daring the ligament to let her down one more time. With a couple of months of perspective, she concedes this might have been a little reckless.

“It almost cost me the Olympic team,” she said. “I should have given it more time.”

Mistakes overcome, commitment rewarded, Stettinius is on to the Olympics.

“Just relief,” she said when asked about the defining emotion that came with learning she had made the cut. “Well, it’s been my dream since I was young,” she said.

Wait a second, wasn’t her goal when she started competing merely to avoid embarrassment? How does one reconcile the doubt that was so prominent in her beginnings to such a lofty goal?

“Well, I’m not embarrassing myself by not losing.”

Sound like any athletes you might know?

After this summer, Stettinius plans to get a real job. She accepts the inevitability. And steeplechasing, the sport responsible for her broken neck, which almost derailed her Olympic dream, is thankfully a hobby she has not abandoned for good.

“This fall I’m getting right back to the races,” she said. “It’s been long enough.”

Some kids never learn.



Tod Marks

Trainer Paul Rowland, here with Across The Sky, died at 44 after battling cancer.

## OBITUARY Paul Rowland, trainer

Paul Rowland, trainer of multiple stakes-winning steeplechaser Preemptive Strike and others, died Friday, June 8 after battling cancer. Rowland was 44.

The transplanted Englishman worked for trainer Michael Dickinson at Fair Hill Training Center in the 1980s, and ventured out on his own as a steeplechase trainer with Preemptive Strike and others including Suntara, Rainbows For Luck, Swimming River, Across The Sky.

Owned by Polaris Stable, Preemptive Strike won eight races and earned more than \$491,000, most of it for Rowland, during a career that lasted from 2002-10. The flashy chestnut won the 2004 Carolina Cup, 2005 Georgia Cup, 2008 Imperial Cup, plus a stakes at the Meadowlands. He also finished second in the Colonial Cup three times (2004, 2008 and 2010).

Former trainee Swimming River is still going strong in the steeplethion division, as is recent timber winner Rainbows For Luck. Beyond horses, Rowland was a paramedic in Pennsylvania with the Second Alarmers Association and Rescue Squad of Montgomery County.

He is survived by his children Maddie (8) and Hayden (6), his brother Mark, his parents John and Christina and fiancée Amy Smith.

Rowland was diagnosed with mesothelioma, a rare form of cancer that affects the chest cavity, in 2010. He underwent numerous treatments, transferred some of the horses over to longtime friend Eddie Graham, but stayed in touch and attended the Willowdale Races last month.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations for Paul’s children to the Paul Rowland Irrevocable Trust, 11 Morris Road, West Chester, PA 19382.



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TIMES EDITORIAL

## Making news that matters

What is news?

Such a basic question, such a constant when it comes to this occupation.

Arcadius winning the Iroquois is not news. It's news in the the racing world, but not news in the outside world. Like it or hate it, that's not going to change.

Arcadius winning the Iroquois and dying after it is news. It's news in the racing world, and news in the outside world. Like it or hate it, that's not going to change either.

This age, this society rarely emphasizes niche efforts, feel-good stories about achievement anymore. It happens, but it's rare. Steeplechase fanatics are impressed with any winner of the Iroquois. But the rest of the world is not. Bummer.

Steeplechasing will never be mainstream. When it goes wrong, however, it crosses over. Fallen horses, injured jockeys, hectic races that unravel at every fence . . . those get mainstream attention. Hardened journalists recite the line, "If it bleeds, it leads." Roll that one over your tongue a few times, throw up, and get over it. A more palatable description, used by journalism professors everywhere and essentially meaning the same thing, is "Man bites dog." That's news. Dog biting man, not so much.

With the Associated Press at Nashville, Arcadius' death almost instantly made media outlets around the world. Sadly, most would not have picked up the story of the cool 8-year-old upsetting the two-time winner of the 3-mile stakes. But, a horse dying after winning? Splish, splash, above-the-fold.

Now in its 19th year of writing about steeplechasing, this newspaper walks a delicate balance between providing news and protecting the castle. On one hand, we would like to mention every horse who dies trying, just to say we noticed, we cared. But it's not of any real value and certainly doesn't help a sport constantly walking the fine line of good, clean fun and accidental death or demise.

ST's Joe Clancy began writing Arcadius' epitaph as soon as the Southwest plane left the runway from Nashville to Baltimore. He got home and wrote some more. Woke up Sunday, and wrote some more. Skipped Willowdale and wrote some more. Finished or at least spent, the article was about to make the ST Website when we thought a little bit bigger. Thought outside our circle. Thought about the news value. And sent the story to The New York Times. Sure, to get published, but also to tell the story behind the horse, to tell the world that the owner, jockey, trainer, groom – the sport – cared. To tell the world, that yes, it's part of the sport, but it's the part that changes you forever. To tell the world, that yes, Arcadius died, but he didn't die alone. To tell the world, that the 2012 Iroquois was more than a short report about a dead winner.

The idea worked. Arcadius wound up a big part of the New York Times – in print and online – with a photo on the front page and placement of the article on the front of the Sports section. Readers reached out by e-mail, phone, text, Twitter, Facebook, whatever to say they appreciated the story. They got the message, that Arcadius mattered, that the humans cared and grieved and did the best they could.

And all that was news, too.



Tom Haynes

**Class Act.** Retired steeplechaser Ninepins, winner of the 1999 Colonial Cup (here with Arch Kingsley aboard) and eight other races in nine American seasons, died in May at age 26. Owned by Hudson River Farm and trained by Jonathan Sheppard, the English-bred earned more than \$516,000.

# Remembering

## Thomas leaves another hole in sport's fabric

If I'd known I was going to write so many obituaries, I don't think I would have started Steeplechase Times. Some – the ones about old-timers and legends such as Burley Cocks, Cary Jackson and John Thigpen – were honors to toil over. Others brought pain, anguish, questions.

This one fits the latter category.

Sarah Beth Thomas died June 2 from injuries sustained in a fall from a horse she was exercising at trainer Jonathan Sheppard's farm near Unionville, Pa. She was 29, a graduate of Penn State University and Unionville High. She leaves behind a mother, a father, three sisters and a legion of friends from all walks of life. See the official obituary on the next page, but she joins Trish Daniels, Jonathan Kiser, Cort Marzullo, Bruce Haynes and the rest in the gone-far-too-soon category.

I didn't really know Sarah Thomas, we didn't really have anything more than brief conversations. I did trade e-mails with her, sent her some photos, wished her well, shared a laugh about horses and cameras and children and circumstances. That was the middle of

## The Outside Rail

By Joe Clancy

March. Nobody would have guessed she'd be dead in 2 1/2 months. It's cliché to talk about living every moment like it's your last, but that's the only lesson. This life, this biological accident of being is precious, fragile, short, unpredictable. Live it.

OK, sermon's over.

While working on the first edition of ST this winter, my 10-year-old son Nolan and I went to Sheppard's farm to interview assistant trainer Jim Bergen, check in with champion mare Sweet Shani, take a few photos and otherwise get out of the house on a chilly, sunny morning. Sarah was riding out, alongside Frank Steall and Alex Robertson. Nolan snapped photos of the goats, the barn, a No Parking sign, the training ses-  
See **INSIDE** page 37 ►

## Outside —

■ Continued from page 36

sions. Sarah rode Slice Of Gold on one set, Time Off on another. She looked clean, tidy, polished, hands and heels down. The horses trained well, looked ready for the season. Jim told us who was who, how far along they were, talked about his past as a commodities broker, his present as overseer to the Sheppard string. He didn't tell us about his girlfriend, Sarah, the rider with the smile and the curly black hair.

A few days later, I got an e-mail from Sarah. She wanted to know how the photos turned out and if I could send her some. She offered to pay. I laughed and sent her what we had. Several of Slice Of Gold turned out nicely. She wanted something of Time Off, but the memory card went haywire and the photos never actually got taken – despite probably 50 pushes of the shutter. Oh well. In an e-mail, Sarah called Slice Of Gold "Melman" after the accident-prone giraffe in the movie Madagascar. I cracked up. He looks like Melman, long neck, legs everywhere, kind of bug-eyed in a friendly sort of way. With creativity like that, Sarah could have been a writer.

I sent her the photos, she posted them on Facebook with a credit (Nolan was thrilled) and we used one or two in the March edition.

I didn't really think about Sarah again until I heard of the accident, which happened May 27 at the farm. Sarah was working a horse on Sheppard's wood-chip track. On the bottom turn, slightly out of view from the clockers' platform near the barn, Sarah came off. The horse ran off, loose. Sheppard and Sarah's co-workers Keri Brion and Amy Mullen arrived quickly, called 911. Sarah was breathing, could move her arms, but was otherwise unresponsive. Despite being an experienced rider, despite wearing a helmet and a flack jacket, she was hurt and was taken to Christiana Medical Center in Delaware.

There, she was lucid. She knew she'd fallen from a horse. She talked to her parents. Maybe she was going to be OK. Then she had a stroke and never spoke or truly lived again. She died June 2, six days after the accident.

"It's still unbelievable, still hasn't really set in," said Brion. "How do you



Nolan Clancy

**Sarah Thomas and Slice Of Gold (a.k.a. Melman) gallop on the track at Jonathan Sheppard's this winter.**

make sense of something like this? You can't. It's an accident, but it's a person too. Someone you knew, someone you enjoyed, someone you'd been with."

Brion remembered Sarah's first days at work a few years ago. The event rider with the college degree showed up in winter and learned about racehorses by jogging roads for miles and miles in the cold. Arcadius was one of her first morning rides, and he ran off at a trot. Three Carat bucked her off, Sarah laughed and climbed back in the saddle. A few minutes later, Mixed Up bucked off champion jump jockey Danielle Hodsdon. Sarah stuck it out, learned, improved, made a place.

Sarah put her animal science degree to good use, moving up to an assistant's role (even without the title). She helped Bergen organize the barn, the training, the various special treatments individual horses needed.

"She was great, she always smiled, she was always happy – I'm not just saying this," said Brion. "She was opin-

ionated, like all of us girls, but that's why she fit in. She stayed, she made it, she worked at it. She learned to do it."

Brion figured Bergen and Sarah would someday get married, that Sarah would carve out a career – with or without horses. In addition to the job with Sheppard, Sarah had worked at Select Breeders Services (an equine reproduction facility) and Unionville Equine Associates veterinary clinic.

"She could have done anything she wanted, whether she stayed here for a while longer or not," Brion said. "She had her degree, she had a pretty good business on the side making and selling horses, she'd worked for a vet for a while, she had a lot more life to live."

Instead, Sarah's death helped give life to others as her family donated her organs, turning an awful negative into something resembling a positive.

This week, I went back and read the e-mails Sarah and I exchanged. She ended some with a smiley face, used exclamation points, called the horses "fantastic." Somewhere along the line, she became one of my 513 "friends" on Facebook. I'm not a big sharer, I only superficially know a bunch on that list and I originally signed up for work.

But I realized an unseen and unplanned benefit to the social network-memorials. Sarah's page lives on beyond her as friends and family post photos, messages, memories. I hope they never take it down.

Sarah's own photos paint a picture of a life well-lived, a life we might not have known without computers and the Internet. I look through Sarah's Facebook files and see a young woman who smiles easily. I see happiness, joy, vibrancy. I see some zaniness, too, a little chaos, a few decisions she might regret (never, ever, let anyone take a photo of you doing a kegstand).

Mostly, I see a life...

Sarah Beth Thomas rode horses.

She played kickball for a team sponsored by a butcher shop (Number 20).

She competed in an Easter egg contest involving a ramp and a cannon of some kind.

She wore jeans, little black dresses, uncomfortable shoes, floppy hats, white blouses, pink platform sandals, wool hats with tails.

She took Bergen to Longwood Gardens for Christmas and out to dinner for a special occasion.

She made cookies.

She enjoyed looking for the perfect Christmas tree – and laughing about it.

She loved a dog.

She rooted for the Phillies.

She mucked stalls.

She twirled sparklers at picnics.

She once ate too much from Taco Bell.

She sang karaoke (at least once).

She danced with relatives and friends at weddings, even made a toast at one.

She was proud of her biceps.

She shot pool.

She had good taste in beer.

She participated (as Mary) in the funniest live nativity I've ever seen. It appears Bergen was Joseph, Bob Bailey a shepherd, one-eyed racehorse Dirge and an uncooperative goat the animals.

She took an African dance class.

She sat by a bonfire for a phenomenal profile photo that ought to be a greeting card.

And on and on. I've been back and people keep adding photos (a rainbow, clouds, a fun kickball game in early June), inspirational quotes, whatever.

I once told someone – a child, myself, I don't know – that God (or whatever is in charge of this) handles all the good in our lives. The great days, the joys, the success, the magic, the positives are his. Think about it, there are too many for them to just be random. God's got them, but he's too busy making sure everybody gets some good that he can't stop the bad. The deaths, the sadness, the accidents, the illnesses, the worries, the troubles, the natural disasters . . . they find us all, they just happen. It probably goes against every religious teaching you want to conjure, but sometimes it makes me feel better. And now it makes me think of Sarah.





Tod Marks Photo

Congratulations to the Willowdale Water Jump Ball winner of two tickets to **The Grand National at Aintree on the Orient Express!**

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