

here&there... in Steeplechasing



Hi-Ho Dahoud. The Black Stallion? Silver? Trigger? No, that's Dahoud, a Jack Fisher charge enjoying himself during some turnout time at Saratoga.

Milestone Man

Trainer Jonathan Sheppard won the 3,000th race of his Hall of Fame career at Delaware Park in September when Fugitive Angel scored for long-time client Augustin Stable.

The feat puts Sheppard in rare company and recognizes his combined (steeplechase and flat) career total according to Equibase statistics. Just 28 trainers in history have reached that victory number. While discussing the most memorable horses of his career, and being sure to include legends such as Flatterer, Sheppard picked out a few steeplechase warriors:

Gaddo: The English import was the first Augustin/Sheppard partnership and won 21 races in the 1960s and 1970s.

Tall Award: Another Augustin runner, he put up strong numbers in the mid-1970s including 19 jump wins and a schedule that would tax a bumble bee. He made 16 starts in 1976 and 14 in 1977. For four consecutive years, he went postward at the NSA's first three stops – Atlanta, Aiken and Camden from 1975-78. He made five consecutive starts in Aiken's featured Imperial Cup – winning in 1975 and 1976, placing third in 1977 and winning again in 1978 and 1979.

Wustenchef: Yet another Augustin hero, the German-bred split time between flat and jump racing – and excelled. In the summer of 1971, he turned a rare trick by alternating stakes wins over jumps and on the flat. He won the Indian River Hurdle Handicap (June 11) and Sussex Turf Handicap (July 4) at Delaware Park, the Meadow Brook Hurdle Stakes (July 22) at Aqueduct and the Brighton Beach Handicap (Sept. 8) at Belmont Park.

Worth Repeating

"Every time we run a horse we think about Paul. It's hard to do, but it's also a good thing. It's great to remember him."

Jockey Jody Petty, about riding trainer Paul Rowland's former pupil Rainbows For Luck for trainer Eddie Graham; Rowland died this spring after battling cancer

"This time last year I was riding timber horses and trying to make it."

Co-leading inckey Boss Geranti

Co-leading jockey Ross Geraghty, comparing Shawan Downs 2011 to 2012

"He said we should think about running him in some claimers; we were going to be happy if he finished in the money."

Trainer Blythe Miller Davies, about her husband Joe's thoughts on where to run Lonesome Glory winner Pierrot Lunaire

"I said, 'Yup, no problem.' "

Paddy Young, when Ann Stewart called about riding Incomplete

"They tell me nobody wants to stand next to me."

Dennis Dahl, father of jockey Gus Dahl, after rooting for his son to win the first at Virginia Fall

"Dad was even nervous. You know you're doing something if he gets nervous."

McLane Hendriks, after winning a timber race at Virginia Fall Sunday

"It's like buying a lottery ticket. If you don't buy one, you're not in the game."

Owner/trainer Kate Dalton, about taking Cat Feathers to Saratoga

"I think they cashed such a big ticket the last time (2009) that they went back to the islands."

Jockey Bernie Dalton, on the lack of Jamaican fans cheering him on in the 2012 Lonesome Glory

"Touchdown."

Trainer Ricky Hendriks, auditioning for gig as NFL referee, as Sir Dynamite crossed the finish line first at Shawan Downs

"You got your job back."

Owner Nancy Brewster, to trainer Jack Fisher, after Straight To It won at Shawan

"Always take your wife's call."

Owner/breeder (and husband) John Price, grabbing his phone at Fasig-Tipton's Eastern Fall Yearling Sale

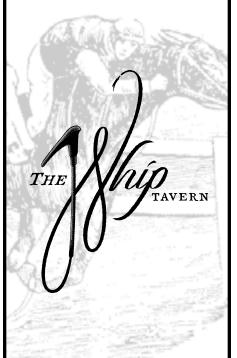
By The Numbers

12: People on the Long Island Railroad train from Penn Station to Belmont Park on the day of the Lonesome Glory.

Name of the Month

Nutty Wizard. The Foxfield entrant's name is just silly enough to be funny. Randleston Farm's 4-year-old filly is by Horse Chestnut out of Magical Chase





Steeplechase devotees prefer The Whip by overwhelming margins.

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Entries

What's Happening and Where To Find It

Here's your newspaper. Yeah, yeah, we know. It's been since June, September came and went and you're just now getting one of these. Blame schedules, life, advertising sales, lazy writers, anything you want, but here's your steeplechase catch-up. This should set you up for Far Hills and the championship races as the jump set gets more serious.



PAGE 6

The Hills Are Alive

Nominations are out, plans are being made, heck people are even dusting off the Wellies in case it rains again. The Far Hills Races – steeplechasing's best day of racing – are set for Saturday Oct. 20 in New Jersey. We give you a quick look at what to expect.



PAGE 10

Longshot City

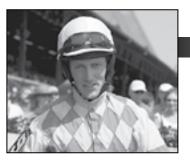
Pierrot Lunaire halts a looong losing streak with a gutsy stretch drive to deny Spy In The Sky in the Lonesome Glory at Belmont Park.



PAGE 16

Timber Winner

At Shawan Downs, Rainbows For Luck extends his career with another timber win for owner Greg Bentley and trainer Eddie Graham.



PAGE 19

Young Again

Three-time champion jockey Paddy Young wins four at Virginia Fall to suddenly get back in the race for another crown, plus some other news from around the circuit.



PAGE 22

Saratoga Rewind

The stars of the summer – Demonstrative, Spy In The Sky, You The Man and a filly nicknamed "Beatrice." That's Cat Feathers in case you didn't know.



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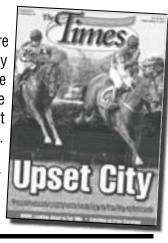
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On the Cover

Pierrot Lunaire (right) and Spy In The Sky battle over the last in the Lonesome Glory at Belmont.

> Photo by **Tod Marks**



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Douglas Lees Slip Away charges back into competition off a training flat win at Shawan.

Far Along

All eyes turn to 2012 championship meet as sport's best crank up for rich autumn runs

BY SEAN CLANCY

Big money. Huge crowd. Demanding course. Soft turf. Champions crowned.

The day of days.

The fall season stops, starts and flourishes with the most lucrative venue on the year-long tour, New Jersey's Far Hills Races, Oct. 20. Theoretically, the best open stakes horses, novices, fillies and mares, 3-year-olds, timber horses and maidens converge for the six-race, \$500,000 extravaganza.

Nominations closed Oct. 9 and ST got the lists early (so don't blame us if a few more show up in the program).

• The Grand National. Grade I Hurdle Stakes. \$250,000. 2 5/8 miles.

Nominations: Royal Bonsai, Demonstrative, Red Letter Day, Alajmal, You're The Top, Spy In The Sky, Charminster, Slip Away, Dynaski, Pierrot Lunaire, Jack Cool, History Boy, The Price Of Love, Divine Fortune.

Richard Valentine originally planned to skip Far Hills with leading earner Demonstrative but was forced to audible when regular rider Robbie Walsh hurt his hip at Belmont. Valentine opted to scratch the six-time winner from the Lonesome Glory and aim at the Grand National. Valentine has tabbed Matt McCarron, who rode the son

FAR HILLS RACES PREVIEW

of Elusive Quality to two wins as a 3-year-old, for the ride on Jacqueline Ohrstrom's stable star.

Last year, Demonstrative finished third behind Lake Placid and History Boy in the novice stakes at Far Hills.

"I haven't changed anything, the only thing is I won't put a fast work into him because he'll probably be sharp after having such a long break," Valentine said. "I have a question mark about the distance but he's a big horse who just stays galloping. Last year, Robbie said he was off the bridle going down the back but the horse never stopped trying. He had a hard year last year before the race, this year, he's fresher."

Jimmy Day tentatively planned to enter Randleston Farm's Spy In The Sky but won't run the veteran if the rain comes like it usually does. With a win at Camden two years ago, Spy In The Sky should handle the Colonial Cup's distance and going. The 8-year-old upset the A.P. Smithwick at Saratoga before finishing third in the Turf Writers and second in the Lonesome Glory

Former champion Slip Away returned for a flat spin at Shawan Downs. The front-running

See FAR HILLS page 8▶



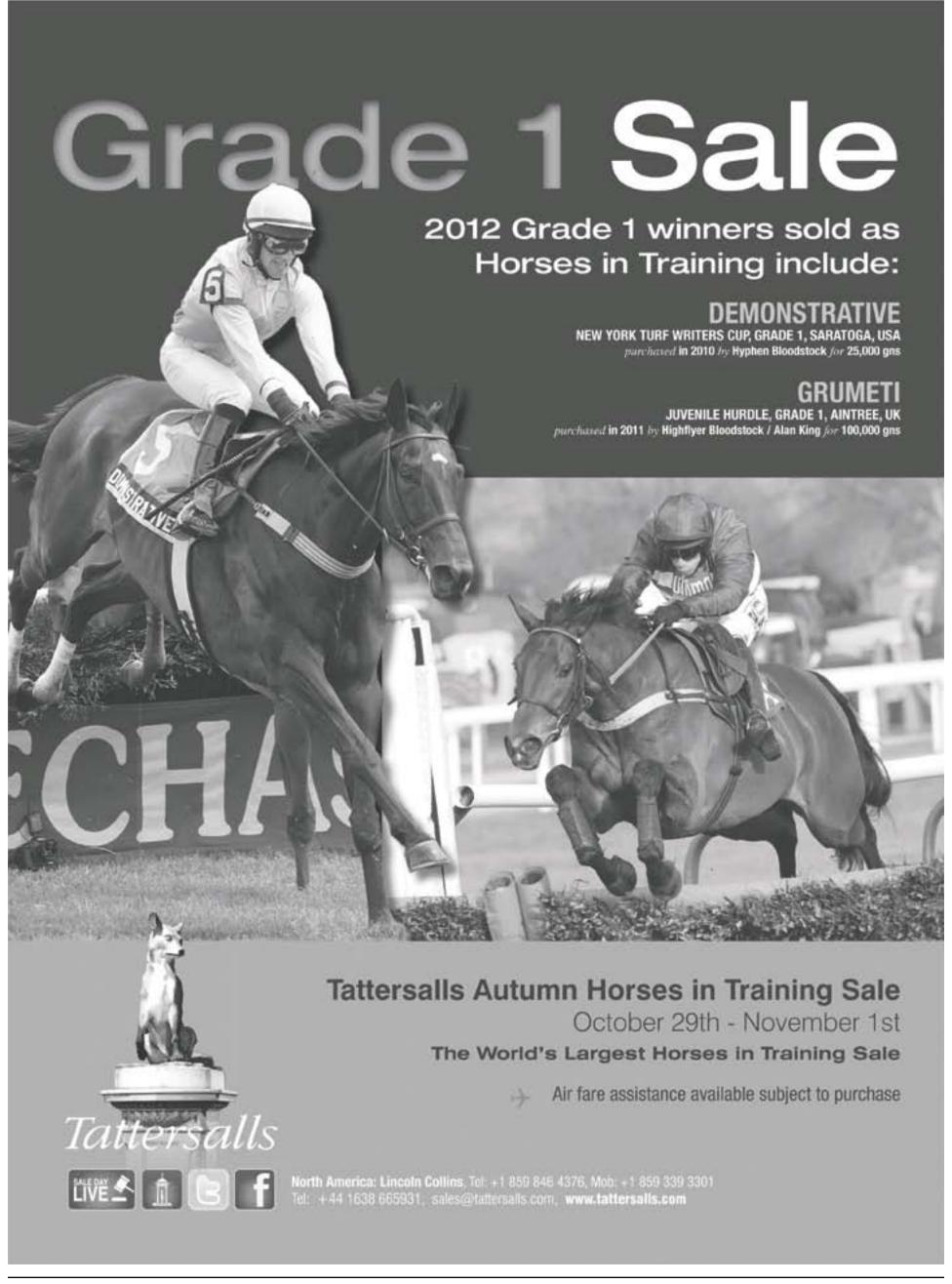


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Far Hills —

■ Continued from page 6

veteran won easily, signaling his readiness for Far Hills. The round-moving veteran has not relished soft going at Far Hills in the past but was second there in 2010. Owned by Ken and Sarah Ramsey, Slip Away put up his best performance, when clinching the title in the Colonial Cup two years ago. Last year, he finished second in the Iroquois before injuring a knee at Saratoga.

Paddy Young met up with his old friend at Shawan and signed his initials on the approval form.

"I have not ridden him since Saratoga last year. It's always nice to get back on a horse like that. Today he did his thing, nice to have him do everything the way you expect him to. Touch wood, everything felt good," Young said. "When they come back from something like that, you never know if they'll have the competitive edge they need. He picked up well turning in, nice feeling."

A gray front-runner wearing recognizable silks from the flat, Slip Away will return as the sport's flagship stakes horse.

"He's a gray horse, he catches everyone's imagination," Young said. "Everybody knows who he is. And the colors catch everyone's attention too. He represents the sport well."

Voss wanted to tighten the belt two holes, rather than one, at Shawan.

"Tom said he wanted to get him tired so that's why I squeezed him the way I did and let him gallop out like that. He picked up pretty quick," Young said. "Everything he did was pretty pleasing. I have a connection with him. I don't see any reason why he shouldn't come back. Just keep your fingers crossed. Would I take off him? No. I like the horse so much, he means a lot to me. I look forward to riding him."

Morten Buskop, the man who brought Purcussionist to Far Hills to upset the Grand National two years ago, has choreographed another globetrotting trip for British chaser You're The Top. Formerly trained by Nicky Henderson, You're The Top has won his two starts for Buskop, including a romp in the Norwegian Champion Hurdle. Irv Naylor has purchased the Frenchbred to run in the Grand National for trainer Brianne Slater.

Four-time winner Royal Bonsai is being imported from England for a possible tilt in the novice or open stakes at Far Hills. The 4-year-old won a Grade II juvenile hurdle in December for trainer



Douglas Lees

Orchestra Leader won the year's first 3-year-old race and heads to Far Hills for the Gladstone.

John Quinn. He will be trained by Richard Valentine.

Jonathan Sheppard plans to run Divine Fortune and History Boy in the Grand National. The former drifted off the pace in the Lonesome Glory and wound up sixth while History Boy, ridden by Xavier Aizpuru who replaced Brian Crowley on the day, finished fifth in his open stakes debut.

"We have those two who ran in the Lonesome Glory, they would go if they held up," Sheppard said. "I really don't have much for the fall."

Pierrot Lunaire will try to prove his Lonesome Glory upset was no fluke for Blythe Miller Davies. The 8-year-old snapped a long losing skid with a nose decision over Spy In The Sky.

Jack Cool has been imported from Ireland for Irv Naylor and Brianne Slater after winning five of 17 hurdle starts. The 6-year-old's most recent win came at Fairyhouse in 2011. He carries an official rating of 140.

A.P. Smithwick runner-up Left Unsaid was not nominated and neither was third-place finisher All Together.

• The Foxbrook Champion Hurdle. \$75,000. Novice Stakes. 2 1/2 miles.

Nominations: Fog Island, Royal Bonsai, Forgotten Man, Alajmal, Staying On, Duc de Savoie, Call Me Sonny, Prince Ludovic, Class Brahms, Ground Frost, Cornhusker, Gustavian, Wanganui, Plenty Pocket, Barnstorming.

Divisional leader Gustavian returned with flourish, winning the Entenmann for Hickory Tree Stable, trainer Leslie Young and jockey Paddy Young. As a maiden winner last summer, Gustavian slips under the novice deadline and rates a long look against many of the same foes he beat at Belmont.

Alajmal has emerged as a promising 4-year-old for Greg Hawkins and trainer Janet Elliot. Imported from England as a 2-year-old, the son of First Samurai broke his maiden this summer, beat allowance foes at Saratoga and overcame a tough draw to finish second behind Gustavian at Belmont. He's only getting better

Michael Moran gave Staying On a prep at Virginia Fall; the spring maiden winner won a nose decision over Slaney Rock. Bernie Dalton guided Staying On to the win.

Naylor and Slater also imported Plenty Pocket, a French-bred, Britishtrained winner of one race. The 5-yearold is rated 114 after one win from eight starts over hurdles. He exits a seller at Uttoxeter in September.

Forgotten Man continues to get close for Doug Fout. The 4-year-old finished third at Saratoga and Belmont Park and could improve with the step up in trip.

Voss nominated Wanganui, Ground Frost and Cornhusker. A winner over the course last year, Wanganui put together several sharp efforts earlier in the summer. Ground Frost fell while in contention at Belmont and Cornhusker finished sixth in the Entenmann.

Undefeated Saratoga winner Virsito is out for the fall.

• The Peapack. \$75,000. Filly and Mare Stakes. 2 1/8 miles.

Nominations: Kisser N Run, Well Fashioned, Quiet Flaine, Lillehammer, Cordillera, Cubist.

Doug Fout prepped his leading ladies at Virginia Fall Point-to-Point, sending out Quiet Flaine and Well Fashioned for flat spins. Both finished second and rate long looks in the Peapack. Maggie Bryant's distaffers own stakes wins over hurdles before being ousted at Saratoga this summer but should relish the return to the hills of Far Hills.

Veteran Sweet Shani made her final career start when finishing second to Cat Feathers in the Mrs. Ogden Phipps at Saratoga. Cat Feathers, has been put away for the fall by trainer Kate Dalton. She nominated Lillehammer, who has finished fourth in her two starts so far, to the Peapack.

Valentine purchased Foxfield winner Kisser N Run from trainer Lilith Boucher and will aim the 4-year-old filly at Far Hills. Paddy Young keeps the ride on the daughter of Pleasant Tap for Whitewood Stable.

Sheppard has Saratoga winner Cubist returning to see if she can clinch championship honors. The homebred upset the Mrs. Walter Jeffords at Saratoga.

Naylor's Cordillera completes the nominations. The British import finished fourth behind Cubist at Saratoga.

• The Gladstone. \$25,000. 3-year-old stakes. 2 1/8 miles.

Nominations: Apostasy, Apse, Flagrant Honor, Awful Quiet, Complete

See *FAR HILLS* page 18 ▶

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Trophy Race

Pierrot Lunaire denies Spy In The Sky by nose

BY JOE CLANCY

Sally Jeffords came over from Manhattan to present the trophy for the Lonesome Glory, a Grade 1 stakes named for the great steeplechaser of the 1990s campaigned by her mother Kay, and thought it would be nice to have some company in the winner's circle.

"Bruce, do you want to help present the trophy for Lonesome's race?" she asked trainer Bruce Miller, author of Lonesome Glory's five steeplechase championships, two English victories and Hall of Fame status.

Miller, at Belmont Park to saddle longshot Pierrot Lunaire for the race Sept. 27, predictably declined – leaving the spotlight to Jeffords.

And then he stole it, as Pierrot Lunaire fought off Spy In The Sky by a nose in the \$150,000 race – winning the photo on a head bob as neither horse yielded late, after taking over at the last fence. Charminster finished third as just 6 lengths separated the first six finishers.

Now trained by Miller's daughter (and Lonesome



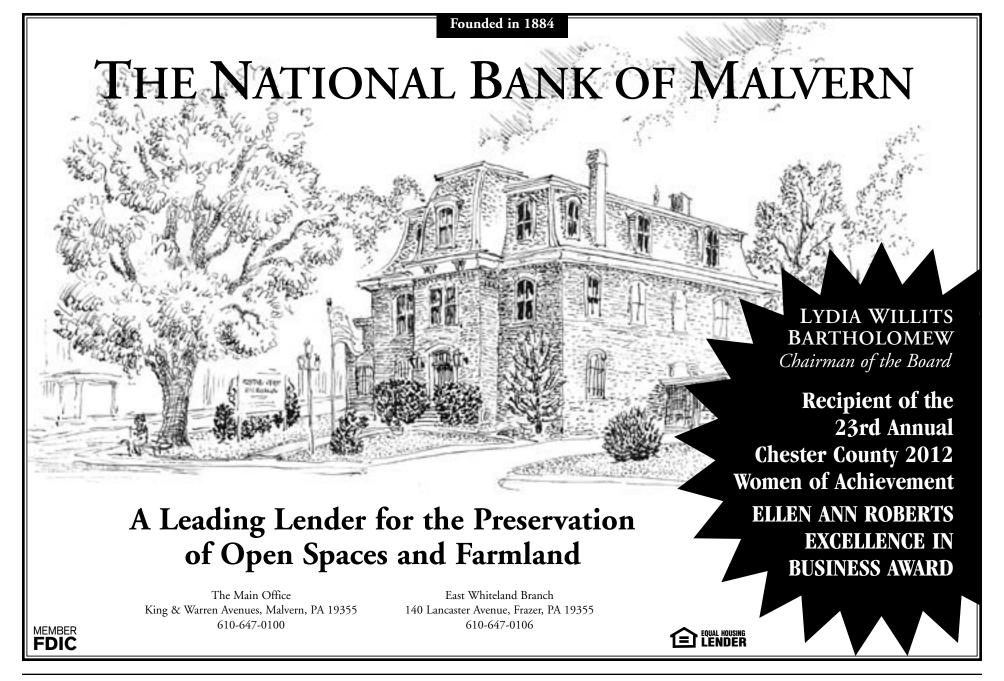
Tod Marks

Pierrot Lunaire (right) and Spy In The Sky battle through the stretch in the Grade 1 Lonesome Glory at Belmont Park.

Glory's jockey) Blythe Miller Davies, the veteran halted a losing streak dating back more than three years and salvaged a bitter day for jump racing on the big stage of New York. One race earlier, five horses fell and three jockeys were injured in a novice hurdle stakes that defied defense. As quickly as that happened, and as bad as it looked, Pierrot Lunaire and company put on a show worthy of Broadway in the Lonesome Glory.

The race lured 11 entries but lost its favorite in the paddock when trainer Richard Valentine scratched Demonstrative after jockey Robbie Walsh was injured in the opener. The remaining 10 filled every description. Tax Ruling, a star in 2010 and 2011, looked to get back on track for the fall. Divine Fortune and Left Unsaid, fallers at Saratoga, aimed for better results.

See **BELMONT** page 13 ▶



Deadly Doping Meets Its Match



Trainers Praise Natural Alternative

he pressure to win is so enormous that many horsemen resort to whatever it takes to get a piece of the purse or a decent sale... even if it means putting their horses' lives in mortal danger by doping them with illegal synthetic erythropoietin (EPO) drugs to boost endurance.

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Bioengineers at U.S. based Biomedical Research Laboratories (BRL), first discovered a completely natural EPO-booster for human athletes (and it's working miracles for top athletes and amateurs around the world). Seeing these results, horse trainers contacted BRL and asked about using this natural formula for their animals.

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Veterinarians at the Equine Research Centre in Ontario, Canada ran a double-blind trial investigating the blood building properties of the active ingredient in EPO-Equine in healthy horses. For 42 days, one group of horses was supplemented with the active ingredient in EPO-Equine and another group of horses was given a placebo.

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Belmont —

■ Continued from page 10

Spy In The Sky, first and third in two Grade 1 starts at the Spa, looked to earn a spot in the championship discussion and brought along stablemate Duc de Savoie. Novice stakes winner History Boy tried to prove he belonged. Recent imports Charminster and The Jigsaw Man reached for footholds in the American game. All Together stepped into the ring once again.

Pierrot Lunaire just looked for a reason to remain relevant. He'd won the Iroquois in his American debut in 2009, and struggled since. He didn't run at all in 2010. He lost eight in a row over jumps, headed by a couple of nonthreatening thirds, and was defeated by double digit lengths six times. At first trained by Bruce Miller, the 8-year-old son of War Chant made his most recent start for Blythe in the Zeke Ferguson at Colonial Downs in June. The only horse in the Belmont field not to race at Saratoga, Pierrot Lunaire went to New York fresh and without blinkers. He also went there as a longshot, starting at nearly 49-1 (more than triple any other horse in the field). And you know what they say about low expectations.

"Being the underdog, you've got no worries, no pressure," Dalton said. "If you finish second, everybody's still happy. They said he was training real well, otherwise they wouldn't have brought him up here."

As expected, Duc de Savoie bounded to an early lead while trying to help late-running stablemate Spy In The Sky with some pace. Tax Ruling set up in second, with The Jigsaw Man and Left Unsaid third and fourth, the latter waiting on the inside. Behind them came the closers - Charminster, Pierrot Lunaire, History Boy and Spy In The Sky. Duc de Savoie still led on the backside the final time. Tax Ruling came under pressure but stayed on task. Left Unsaid and History Boy looked poised to pounce. Behind them, Dalton hoped for a chance.

"I didn't think we went particularly fast early on and going down the back I thought they were going to quicken up and leave me," said the jockey. "He just kept jumping his way into it. He was traveling the whole way."

On the final turn, Left Unsaid, Charminster and History Boy zeroed in on the leader. Behind them, Pierrot Lunaire and Spy In The Sky unleashed identical moves - kicking wide but full of run off the turn. They touched down fourth and fifth at the second-last, carried the most speed away from it and looked like winners coming to the last. Pierrot Lunaire landed with a slight advantage, Spy In The Sky fought back, drew even and did everything but run past his rival. Pierrot Lunaire answered every lunge, every stretch, every stride, with his own and the lead flip-flopped in the final strides - ultimately going to Pierrot Lunaire because his head was down at the wire.

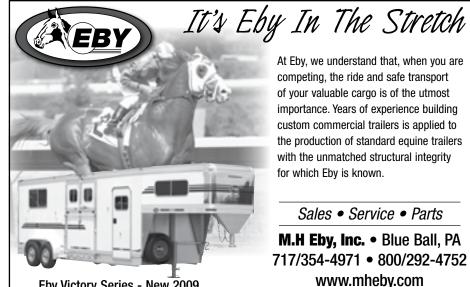
"I eased out coming to the secondlast and he winged it," said Dalton. "He got a bit of confidence from it. I brought Spy In The Sky with me and he was right there. My lad is a little on the leery side and was just doing enough. He kept sticking his head out, sticking his head out."

Back home in Maryland, Davies rode the race along with Dalton.

"I lost my voice watching it," she said. "He likes to come from behind. At home he'll follow another horse and he needed somebody to be patient and believe in him. Coming around the last turn, he looked like he was still going well, I could see him keeping his momentum and Spy In The Sky was really running too. Neither one of them wanted to be denied."

For Davies and Miller (who made it to the winner's circle after all) the win turned back time to the heady days of a chestnut wonder horse who won Eclipse Awards in 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997 and 1999. Lonesome Glory won at Belmont, Saratoga, Far Hills, Camden - Cheltenham and Sandown too. His race has been run four times (2007-09 and 2012). And transplanted Irish-

See **BELMONT** page 14 ▶

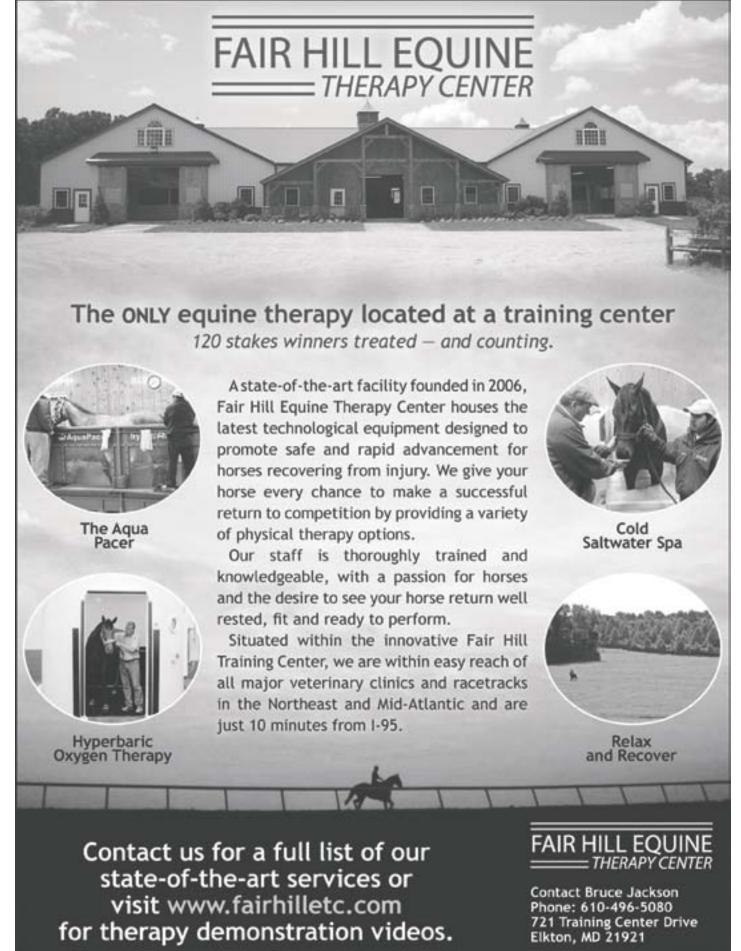


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Belmont —

■ Continued from page 13

man, Dalton has won twice and feels the connection.

"I saw Lonesome Glory run in England when he came over, I know who Lonesome Glory was, anybody who follows steeplechasing in any country knows who he was," he said. "It's quite a thrill to win this race for them and you can tell it was a great thrill for them. You can tell it means a lot."

• One race earlier, Gustavian and Alajmal nearly duplicated Pierrot Lunaire and Spy In The Sky in the \$50,000 William Entenmann Novice Stakes. They sprinted away from the last fence and battled to the wire. Gustavian (Paddy Young) got the nod, by a half-length, as the 7-5 favorite over second choice Alajmal with Forgotten Man 2 lengths back in third. Trained by the jockey's wife Leslie for Hickory Tree Stable, the winner exited the Ferguson at Colonial (like Pierrot Lunaire) and won for the third time in nine career jump starts.

Behind him was chaos. Fog Island fell at the seventh fence. Ground Frost and Dr. Wheat fell at the 10th (second-last) fence. Wild For Gold fell over Ground Frost. Birthday Beau fell at the 11th. Jockeys Matt McCarron (Fog Island) and Robbie Walsh (Dr. Wheat) went to the hospital. Brian Crowley (Ground Frost) went to first aid. Dr. Wheat was euthanized at Belmont due to a broken shoulder. Birthday Beau was euthanized later at New Bolton Center.

The bad news overshadowed a good



Tod Marks

Gustavian (right) jumps the last with Alajmal (left) and Forgotten Man in the William Entenmann Novice Stakes.

performance by the winner, who came into the race with three seconds in as many starts this year - each in a stakes and each a solid effort behind Baltic Shore at the Queen's Cup, Ballet Boy at Radnor and Via Galilei at Colonial Downs. The 6-year-old won twice last fall after racing on the flat through June 2010 with trainer Graham Motion. Hickory Tree's Jim Treptow bought the son of Giant's Causeway and Grade 1 winner Mossflower as a yearling at Fasig-Tipton Saratoga in 2007. Gustavian won twice on the flat, but reached a ceiling and joined the Youngs as a steeplechase prospect in 2010.

"He was a nice horse who wasn't go-

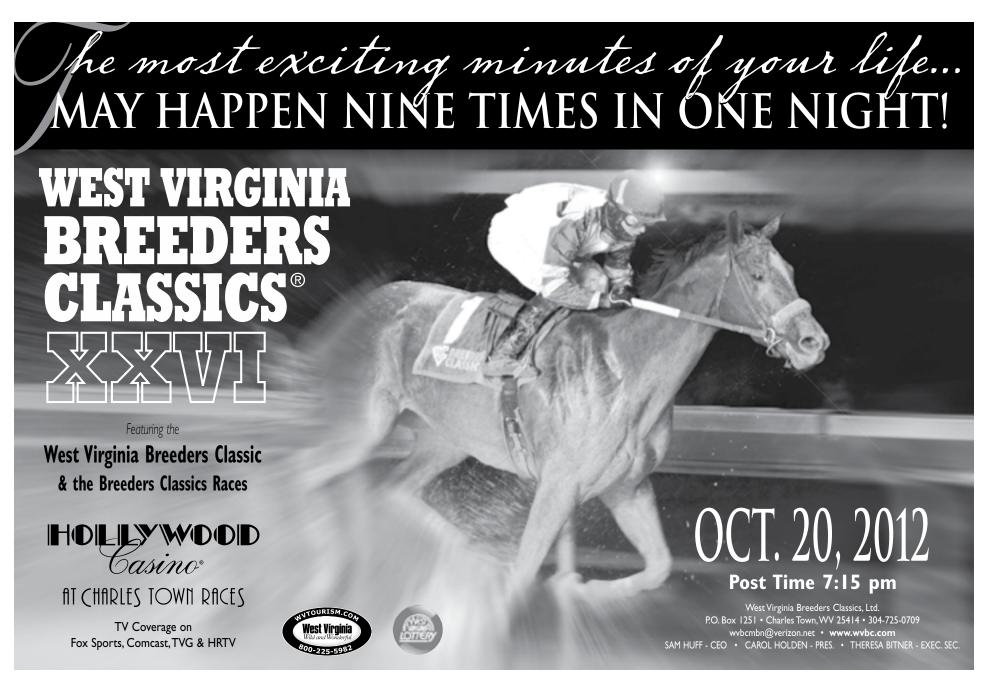
ing to be a stakes horses and they didn't want to lose him for a tag," said Leslie Young, a friend of Treptow's daughter Cheris. "Mr. Treptow stuck with us, he's been very patient. I'm happy for them, the horse has been second in some good races."

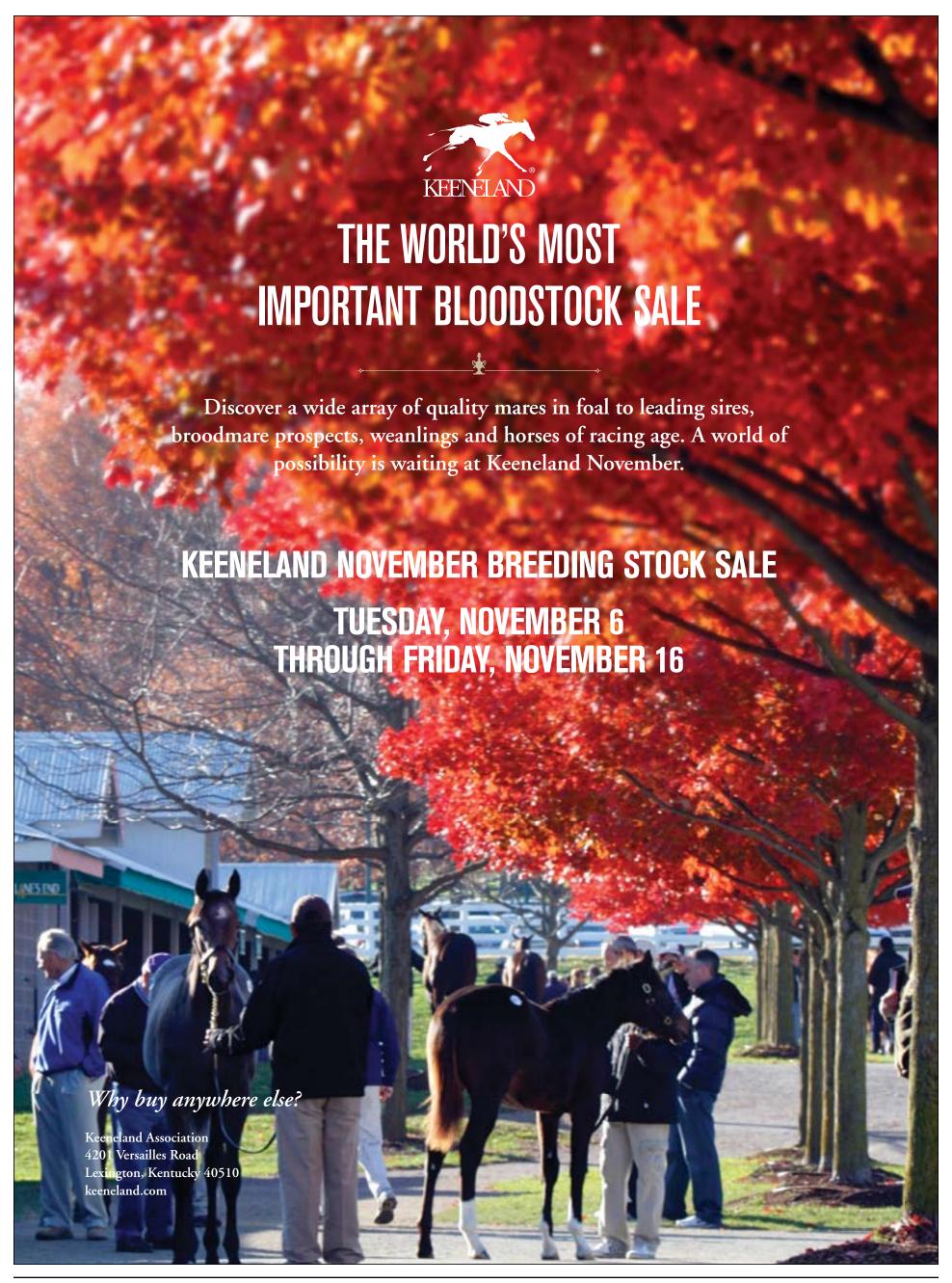
Gustavian just missed winning twice in the spring, and stepped into open company for the Ferguson in June. He was no match for Via Galilei, but ran yet another good race. Saratoga was next, but the connections passed for several reasons - Paddy Young's other riding commitments, the chance to run at Belmont in September and their horse's foot issues.

"After the Ferguson, we could have gone to Saratoga and we talked it over," said Leslie. "Paddy would have had other commitments, we thought the horse would be more suited to Belmont and the ground we get in the fall, instead of trying to train on harder ground all summer, so we just thought we should wait, freshen him up and go for a fall campaign."

The horse rewarded that plan, though the victory was tempered somewhat as Leslie Young also saddled Dr. Wheat in the race.

"Highs and lows," she said through tears. "It's our first real stakes win and it's hard to feel very excited about it."





A Little Luck

Petty, Graham combine for open timber score

BY JOE CLANCY

You can almost hear Eddie Graham and Jody Petty talking about Rainbows For Luck during the summer

Petty: "I'm not riding much, if you want to find somebody younger and more in the game, that's fine."

Graham: "No, you're riding him. Jody, you're riding the horse. I'm not going to let you say no."

Petty rode. Graham trained. And the longtime friends celebrated after Rainbows For Luck won the \$15,000 open timber at Shawan Downs Sept. 29. The veteran pulled Petty to the lead after 2-plus miles and stayed there, holding off first-year timber horse Grinding Speed by three-quarters of a length. Dakota Slew finished third. The win was Petty's third from just eight rides this year as the 2005 champion picks his spots while keeping plenty fit as an exercise rider at Fair Hill Training Center.

At 11 and a multiple winner, Rainbows For Luck fits Petty's race-riding schedule. They won at Willowdale together in May and at Morven Park last fall. Shawan came up tough with talented newcomers Grinding Speed and Dakota Slew getting the most attention along with returning stakes horse Monte Bianco. Rainbows For Luck figured too, though Graham soft-sold Petty.

"Eddie worried about having him fit enough and that's Eddie a little bit, but I could tell he was really thinking it this time," Petty said. "Then the horse goes out and runs like that. Six fences from home he landed running off with me."

Petty tried to ration that energy, but Rainbows For Luck powered forward.

"I do not want to be here. Why am I here?" Petty told and asked himself while barreling up the back-



Douglas Lees

Sir Dynamite makes it look easy in the conditioned claimer.



Douglas Lees

Rainbows For Luck (2) flies a fence in front of Monte Bianco in the open timber at Shawan.

For official results, see nationalsteeplechase.com. For previews and other coverage of NSA meets, see st-publishing.com

side. Owned by Greg Bentley, Rainbows For Luck kept running, responded when the others closed in at the last fence and then held off a belated rally by Grinding Speed to post a fifth career jump win including four over timber. Bred in Canada by Sam-Son Farm, the son of Benny The Dip won three times on the flat before joining Bentley and trainer Paul Rowland for a jump career. Rainbows For Luck broke his hurdle maiden at Kentucky Downs in 2008, but was a timber horse the next spring. Since then, he's dabbled at eventing and placed third in the New Jersey Hunt Cup last fall. He's won three of his last five and is carrying on a tradition.

"We miss Paul," said Bentley of Rowland, who died from cancer this spring. "What a fine human being. He'd be very proud of that horse for that effort."

• Witor probably didn't know what he was getting into when he came to the United States, but it's been quite a trip. After racing twice on the flat as a 2-yearold in his native Germany, he joined U.S. trainer Graham Motion and won two of his first three. Fifth in a minor stakes at Saratoga, Witor joined trainer Todd Wyatt's stable after being purchased by Merriefield

And then went about sabotaging himself – first by getting hurt at home, then by getting sick, then by taking a self-guided tour of suburban Saratoga.

"He got hung up on the fence and we lost about three months," said Wyatt of the first incident. "We got him jumping this spring and he got a temperature. We took him to Saratoga and he got loose and ran down the road.'

That he did. The 4-year-old went from grazer to runner, streaking down Henning Road and ditching his halter before being corralled in a school parking lot.

"Three guys pulled over in their truck and had him cornered against a wall by the time I got there," said Wyatt. "He didn't have a halter or anything."

Third at the Saratoga Open House and aiming for the since-canceled Saratoga Festival in September, Witor emerged with cuts and scrapes, went home to Maryland and regrouped. Wyatt targeted Shawan, a home game of sorts for owner Charlie Noell, and the horse rewarded the decision. Witor (Ross Geraghty) dropped well back in the big field early, picked his way to the front approaching the stretch and drew off to score by 4 lengths over Alfarabi with Martini Brother third.

"They went really fast in front of me, and he just got into a rhythm," said Geraghty. "I knew he would

quicken and he went down to the last and really jumped it well. He doesn't have to be that far back, he could be closer and he'll really suit racing here. He can sit there, sit there and then take hold of you."

- Dale Thiel's Sir Dynamite took hold of jockey Darren Nagle late in the \$10,000 conditioned claiming hurdle, rolling away late to win by 3 1/2 lengths over Parade Lap with Call Me Sonny third. Trained by Ricky Hendriks, the winner hadn't run over jumps in almost a year but tuned up for Shawan with a flat spin at Penn National in late August. Hendriks and owner Debbie Kachel claimed Call Me Sonny out of the race.
- Straight To It scored a hometown victory for owners Sheila Williams and Andre Brewster, rallying up the inside on the final turn to capture a \$10,000 maiden timber by 10 lengths for trainer Jack Fisher. Willie Dowling rode the winner, who won twice over hurdles and placed in a stakes. Shawan was the 6-year-old's first timber try, and he reeled in early leader Foyle, who was well clear of Chiaro in third. Alfa Beat, who last ran in the English Grand National at Aintree, settled for fourth in his timber debut for owner Irv Naylor and trainer Billy Meister.
- Training flat races went to Slip Away, who is on the road back to major stakes, and Canaveral, who might show up next in a flat stakes.



Douglas Lees

Witor jumps a fence early in his maiden hurdle win.



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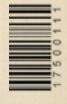
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Far Hills —

■ Continued from page 8

Chant, Trappe D'Or, Orchestra Leader, West Is Best, Top Man Michael, Kingdom, Personal Fight, More Tea Vicar, Powerofone.

With just one race in the books, the 3-year-old division is still a very open book.

Jimmy Day unveiled the best looking 3-year-old in the traditional opener at Virginia Fall when Bruce Smart's Orchestra Leader rallied from last to first against many he'll face at Far Hills. The son of Van Nistelrooy did not care for soft turf on the flat and probably wouldn't run on soft turf at Far Hills.

"He's run respectable races in two allowance races on the flat for me but

he ran horribly on soft turf at Belmont. He started schooling this summer, he loved it from Day One," Day said. "I told (Danielle Hodsdon) to drop him out the back and get him jumping good, then put him in the race, he's got plenty turn of foot. She gave him an absolutely beautiful ride, got his confidence and once he got in the pack, he was passing horses at every fence."

Jonathan Sheppard educated Powerofone with a win on the flat at Virginia Fall Point-to-Point. The well-bred son of A.P. Indy, purchased from Win-Star Farm, has been schooling well on the farm.

"He showed nothing at the track before I bought him, but he's a beautifully bred horse," Sheppard said. "He's training fine, he's a nice looking horse, he seems to be sound, I keep looking for the hole in him but I haven't seen it yet."

Irv Naylor purchased Top Man Michael from Ireland for trainer Brianne Slater. The son of Antonius Pius put together a win and a second in his only two starts over hurdles.

Valentine readies first-time starter Apse and Middleburg starter Apostasy. Neil Morris nominated Virginia Fall runner-up More Tea Vicar and Personal Fight.

• The New Jersey Hunt Cup. \$50,000. Timber Stakes. 3 1/4 miles.

Nominations: Rainbows For Luck, Triple Dip, Saluda Sam, Grinding Speed, Mecklenburg, Moonsox, Atrium, Lion's Double, Straight To It.

In direct competition with the International Gold Cup on the same day, the field is wide open at nomination time.

Incomplete leads the division, with a commanding margin over his closest pursuer, Maryland Hunt Cup winner Twill Do, who has not been seen this fall. Incomplete was not nominated to Far Hills.

The 11-year-old son of Press Card won the My Lady's Manor and Virginia Gold Cup in the spring and increased his yearly earnings to \$84,000, nearly \$40,000 more than Maryland Hunt Cup winner Twill Do. The title is pretty much clinched for Incomplete.

Jack Fisher nominated Shawan Downs winner Straight To It and spring winner Lion's Double.

Shawan Downs winner Rainbows For Luck could continue his prolific season for trainer Eddie Graham.

Jimmy Day nominated Triple Dip who ran well to be third at Virginia Fall.

"He ran a huge race, he was not tight, I was training him for Far Hills, he wouldn't be where I wanted him competing against Incomplete," Day said. "He'll go to Far Hills or the Gold Cup, whichever looks easier."

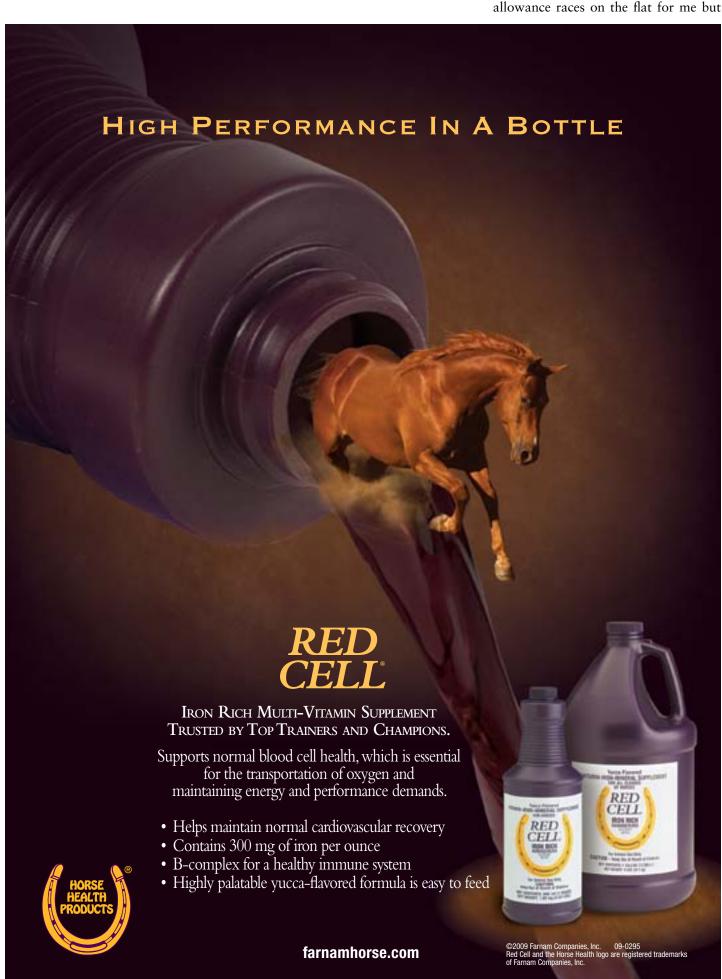
Alicia Murphy nominated first-year timber horse Grinding Speed after seconds at Shawan and Virginia Fall.

• The Harry E. Harris. Maiden Hurdle. \$25,000. 2 1/8 miles.

Todd Wyatt unveiled Puller to finish second at Virginia Fall while Tom Vosstrained Ahgogo and Jack Fisher-trained Dahoud made their debuts with trepid spins at Virginia Fall.

Sheppard has maiden Tropic Sea for Far Hills.

"I bought him from Billy Entenmann, he won a mile-and-a-half allowance race at Penn National last year," Sheppard said. "He ran well at Shawan and seems like he's doing well."



Young Again

Champion jockey wins four at Virginia Fall to get back in race

BY SEAN CLANCY

"Do you know the standings?"

Carrying his tack back to the jocks' room after a point-to-point flat race at Virginia Fall Sunday, Paddy Young stopped, shrugged and shook his head.

"You don't know?"

- "I don't look," Young said. "Seriously, I don't look."
 - "Want me to tell you?"
 - "Don't matter." "Five back."

"Five back . . . if we had another couple of weekends like that, it would be good," Young said. "I've been lucky, I've had eight winners for seven different trainers, I think that's a huge help while the other lads are kind of stuck with one, maybe two people they're riding winners for."

The three-time defending champion missed the spring season with a broken arm before returning this summer with an easy win aboard Eagle Beagle, a couple of tough losses on Left Unsaid and Wanganui, a win aboard You The Man at the end of Saratoga. By October, Young had managed four wins, good to be back, but title talk was a pipe dream.

VA FALL RACES – OCTOBER 6

Until Saturday, Oct. 6.

The Irishman swept four races at Virginia Fall, going from off the list to tied for fifth with Willie McCarthy on the list, five wins behind Ross Geraghty who had two seconds over the weekend and Brian Crowley who sat out the weekend after a jarring fall at Belmont Sept. 27. In between, Darren Nagle and Jeff Murphy are tied for third with nine wins.

Young rode leading timber horse Incomplete for the first time in the National Sporting Library Chronicle Cup. Winner of the Virginia Gold Cup in the spring, Incomplete reeled in Grinding Speed for owner Bob Kinsley and trainer Ann Stewart to win for the seventh time in his career.

"Ann called me at the end of the summer, it was lucky because they had asked me to ride G'day G'day and I'd said yes then they called me back and said I wasn't riding him, so I just got lucky," Young said. "It was weird because he was a bit quiet, I expected him to be hard on the bridle and pick up and go. I don't know if he was quite at



One of four winners on the day for Paddy Young, Incomplete flashes his form over a timber fence.

his best, really, but in all fairness to the horse, it was all class that got him there in the end."

A race later, Young helped Mimi Voss' Farndale break his timber maiden in the James P. McCormick, nailing Almarmoog in the final stride to win by a nose. Zulla Road finished third.

Young rode the 6-year-old son of Petionville at Shawan Downs a week earlier, finishing fifth, and learning a valuable lesson.

"I dropped him right in and he kind of fell sleep, but he really fell sleep and I couldn't get him going again. Not that

See **YOUNG** page 20



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Young —

■ Continued from page 19

anybody would have seen, but he came up the running like a 5-furlong sprinter once I finally got him going," Young said. "I said, 'Don't do much with him, put blinkers on him and run him right back.' It worked out great again because they went a good gallop, he got between a couple of horses and it gave him some heart and he tried hard."

Young pulled the natural hat trick with a win on Silverton Hill's Bluegrass Chat in the maiden claimer. Trained by his wife, Leslie, the 4-year-old son of Bluegrass Cat easily handled Three Hundred and Schoolhouse Woods to break his maiden in his second start over hurdles.

"He's not a bad little horse, he's got a few niggling problems, that's the reason he ran for a tag," Young said. "We were worried he might not stay the trip around here, but he jumped well, they didn't go quick and he's got a little turn of foot. I'm happy for the owners, because it had been a couple of years since they had a winner."

Young sat out the 3-year-old race when Voss scratched Kingdom. Young then watched Silverton Hill's Darkwatch, trained by his wife, win the maiden from atop Tom Voss-trained Ahgogo who wound up a quiet fourth in his debut.

Young made it four wins by taking the finale, a restricted maiden, aboard Daybreak Stable's Wolverton for trainer Jimmy Day. The 4-year-old son of Not For Love tracked Go For Green and Hu-



Tod Marks

Robbie Walsh

lako for most of the trip before cruising to a 3-length win as Go For Green bolted to the outside fence in the stretch, Hulako tired to be third and Gawaarib closed from well back to finish second.

"I rode him on the flat at Foxfield and he ran really well in the Virginia-bred race, he said he was going to run him back here and I said grand, as long as he jumped well, I didn't think he would be too far off it," Young said. "It wasn't that bad a race, they went a real good gallop, it helped him, carried him along and he got quicker as he went along. The main thing was to get him around, if he was there, try and win it."

Now, Young will try to win the title, mixing and matching for main client Voss and every other trainer who can get him on the phone. There is no better agent in the game. After missing the spring season, Young could now capitalize on injuries to Crowley, Robbie Walsh and Carl Rafter as rides become scarce. With double meets at Far Hills and International Gold Cup and again

at Montpelier and Callaway Gardens, there are 28 races left to ride.

Far Hills will certainly decide divisional championships and could well decide the jockey championship.

Young has 2010 champion Slip Away for the Grand National, Foxfield maiden winner Kisser N Run for the Peapack, Entenmann winner Gustavian for the Foxbrook, Ahgogo for the maiden and probably Voss-trained Kingdom for the Gladstone, and 2011 Houghland winner Triple Dip for the New Jersey Hunt Cup.

Six wins there . . . but who's counting?

Injuries sideline jocks

Jockeys Robbie Walsh and Carl Rafter are out for the remainder of the fall season with injuries from recent falls.

Walsh fractured and dislocated his left hip and suffered a torn labrum (shoulder) and torn cartilage when Dr. Wheat fell at the second-last fence at Belmont Sept. 27. The jockey had surgery in New York (three screws, anchors, stitches and 38 staples in his hip) and won't be able to put weight on his leg for six to eight weeks. Walsh won't ride this year, but hopes to be getting on horses by February. For Walsh, Dr. Wheat's fall was difficult to grasp. The horse suffered a broken shoulder and was euthanized.

"He was running really well at the time and he'd jumped fantastic up to then," he said. "It wasn't a stupid long spot, but it was a little long. He's quite scopy and athletic and he'd taken off from farther back than that before so I don't know. We didn't get there."

Walsh will miss key mounts on championship contender Demonstrative. Trainer Richard Valentine's charge was scratched at Belmont when Walsh was unavailable and likely replacement Matt McCarron was injured in the same race

"It's racing, but it is a shame," Walsh said. "I thought Demonstrative would be tough on the day (at Belmont). This time of year is tough to miss. There are some big races coming up. It's a bit sickening really."

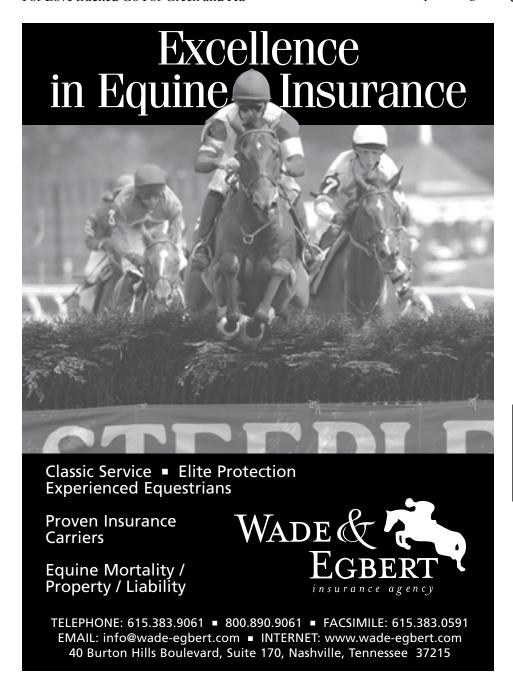
McCarron sustained a concussion and a cut to his ear (four stitches) in a fall with Fog Island earlier in the race. The former champion jockey underwent multiple tests at the hospital and has been cleared to ride. He will take Walsh's spot aboard Demonstrative.

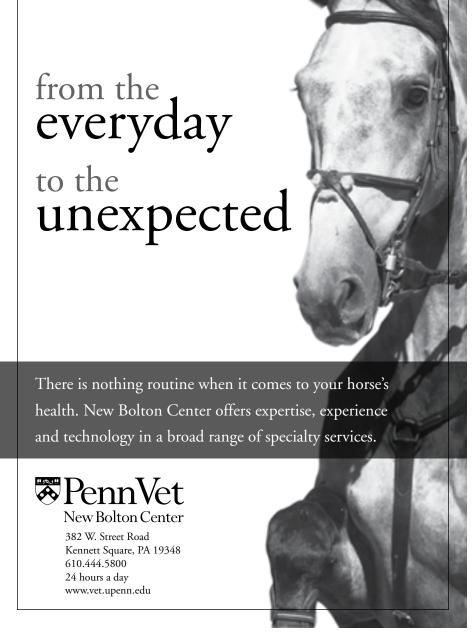
"I loved him as a 3-year-old so it will be nice to get back on him," said McCarron, who rode Demonstrative in his first three starts. "It's every jockey's dream to ride one of the favorites in the biggest races of the season – it's not the way I wanted it to happen, but that's the game sometimes."

Brian Crowley also went down at Belmont, falling with Ground Frost at the second-last in the Entenmann (though independently from Dr. Wheat), and missed scheduled mounts at Belmont, Shawan Downs and Virginia Fall.

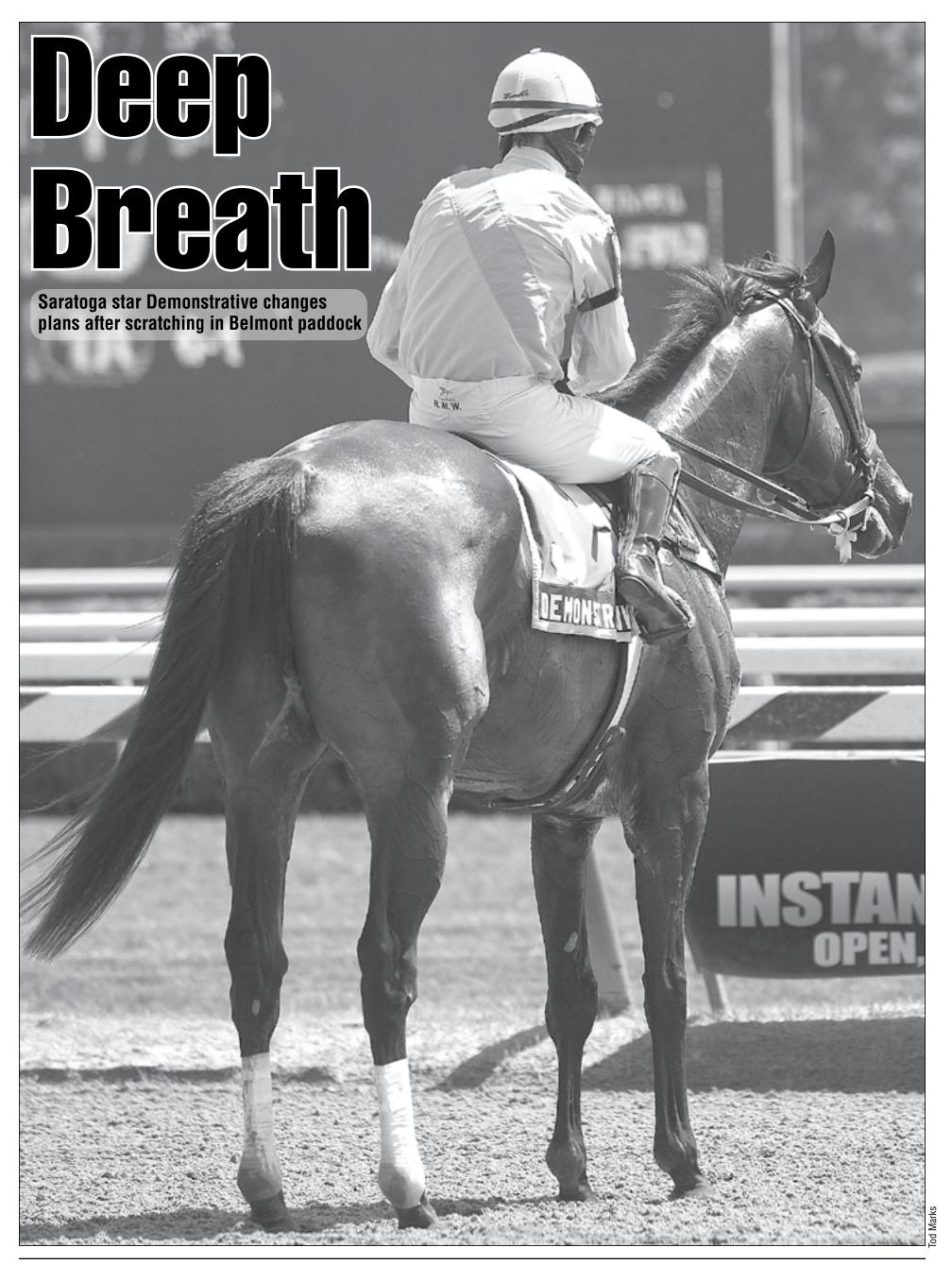
Rafter fell with Twojohnsandajack at Virginia Fall Oct. 6, emerging with a broken collarbone and nose, plus broken ribs. He was awaiting word from a surgeon and other doctors on his next steps, but is out for the remainder of the year. Rafter has won four races this year.

– Joe Clancy









Demonstrative states title case with Spa double

BY SEAN CLANCY

Head high, bay coat gleaming, Demonstrative walked the Belmont Park paddock with grace and purpose before the Grade 1 Lonesome Glory Sept. 27. Coming off two wins at Saratoga and looking at a chance to seize the stakes division, he was 5-2 (and dropping) on the morning line in a field of 11 for the \$150,000 race.

And then he wasn't.

Assistant trainer Laird George walked through the paddock after watching five horses, including his runner Fog Island, fall in the first race and motioned to Daniel Arreallono.

"Daniel, take him home."

Arreallono turned and walked Demonstrative back to the receiving barn.

Regular jockey Robbie Walsh was on his way to the hospital, so was likely second choice Matt McCarron. George and trainer Richard Valentine had options, but chose not to run. The odds board blinked and went dark next to Demonstrative's 7, the announcement was made, the mechanics of getting ready for a race continued. But everything was different.

Valentine mapped out a plan after Demonstrative won the Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes and the New York Turf Writers Cup at Saratoga. The plan started with the Lonesome Glory and finished with the Colonial Cup at Camden, S.C. in November. As the leader in the clubhouse with \$136,500, Demonstrative could afford to skip Far Hills, a course where he labored last year, and aim at venues where he had won races.

Then the September steeplechase at Saratoga was canceled, a novice race was added to the Belmont card, Fog Island and McCarron fell early, Dr. Wheat and Walsh fell late, jockeys were hurt and time was ticking. Valentine looked at George and fellow trainer Janet Elliot and that's about the time George ordered the reversal.

"I was worried about Matt and then Bernie Dalton walked in and said, 'Robbie's leg.' Between Laird, Janet and I, all three of us said, 'He's a nice young horse and this isn't the stage to make a rider change,' "Valentine said. "It was no reflection on who was left, it was a gut feeling that it was the best thing to take him home. If one of those riders had schooled him at home, I wouldn't have had a problem but it just wasn't the time."

Demonstrative? The big, strapping 5-year-old with the Clint Eastwood attitude figured his rivals just didn't want to see him again. He strolled back to the barn, heard Tom Durkin call Pierrot Lunaire and Spy In The Sky's photo finish in the distance and went home to Virginia.

"He did not care, they pulled the bridle and bandages and he put his head down and ate his hay. We worked him two days later, he did not miss a beat," Valentine said. "Everything about the horse is classy. He shipped to Saratoga on Wednesday in a box stall, he gets there, he rolls, Laird takes stuff out of the truck, throws him his feed and he has his feed done by the time Laird has the trailer unhooked and comes in the barn. He's just class, one of those classy horses. Those kind make my job so easy."

Plans are made, plans are altered, Valentine regrouped and re-aimed Demonstrative at the Grand National at Far Hills. McCarron replaces Walsh, who dislocated his hip in the fall at Belmont and won't ride for the rest of the fall.

Owned by Jacqueline Ohrstrom, Demonstrative has danced steeplechasing's stage since making his 3-year-old debut at Virginia Fall in 2010. He won that, lost McCarron when T-boned at the start at Far Hills and won at Camden. His 4-year-old season included eight starts, highlighted by a dominant win at Belmont and low-lighted by rough trips at Saratoga and non-threatening placings at Virginia Fall and Far Hills. He never missed a check.

This year, he lost Walsh with an awkward jump at Queen's Cup, finished last in the Ferguson when he jumped poorly and looked like he would have rather been anywhere but there, was diagnosed with and treated for EPM and and then reclaimed his career at Saratoga. Two polished efforts produced wins in his final novice start July 26 and his first Grade 1 try Aug. 23.

Valentine shipped Demonstrative

from his Virginia base for both races. The month in between starts consisted of work and play at two stately facilities – Whitewood and Hickory Tree.

"He went home, he was turned out in the paddock, he actually put weight on. He's gotten stronger, it was nice to have that week where I didn't have to put pressure on him," Valentine said. "I worked him once on the grass at home and he worked five-eighths on Sunday (four days before the Turf Writers) at Hickory Tree. Then we just kind of hacked him into it. He had four days off, doing nothing. Then he just went for a hack for a few days, went with the 3-year-olds to show them a hurdle and he took his front leg and hit the roll and the 3-year-olds went flying. We just kept him entertained, he's like that. He kind of needs to be entertained."

At Saratoga, Demonstrative was entertained and entertaining – handling novices with disdain and open stakes horses with aplomb. The Kiser was graduation. The Turf Writers, culmination.

"It's incredible. I hoped there was improvement and we were all confident



Tod Marks

Demonstrative reaches the finish line in front of the New York Turf Writers Cup.

but how can you be confident coming here with the Sheppard and Voss horses, all of them really. It's a good race. It's always a good race. Hard for me to believe that he won it," Valentine said after winning the Turf Writers. "It's a pretty special race to win. There's just so much history. The Turf Writers when you're a little kid and you hear of Saratoga and all the grown-ups talking about Saratoga you picture great racing and wild parties. Now that I'm here, it's pretty special, very special."

With Saratoga exploits in the books and the Belmont decision made, Valentine and Demonstrative point for Far Hills

"I think he's a better racetrack horse but we missed Belmont and now we're looking forward to Far Hills" Valentine said. "He's pretty easy to adjust, he doesn't get nervous, I haven't really changed much. Last year, he finished third there and he was only 4 and he had a tough year. Robbie says he's a much stronger horse this year."



lod Mark

Spy In The Sky digs in while taking the lead in the A.P. Smithwick Memorial at Saratoga.



Steeplechase Spy Games

Touted over winter, Day's charge puts up strong summer campaign

BY SEAN CLANCY

Jimmy Day said it. Sometime this winter, when asked about his 2012 roster. The Virginia-based trainer mentioned maidens, imports, 3-year-olds, timber horse Triple Dip and somewhere in the middle of the conversation, declared, "I've got Spy back at his best. It's taken me awhile, but he's doing great."

Day was talking about Randleston Farm's veteran Spy In The Sky. The 8-year-old hadn't won a race since taking the Carolina Cup in 2010. He had lost eight in a row on the flat and over hurdles, including an allowance defeat at Tryon and non-threatening sixths in the Zeke Ferguson and the A.P. Smithwick to close out a shortened campaign in 2011. And Day was talking about the horse coming back better than ever.

It was noted. Just not believed. Sorry for the doubt, Jimmy.

Joined with Danielle Hodsdon, Spy In The Sky turned into the most consistent stakes horse in the game this summer, upsetting the A.P. Smithwick, finishing a rough-and-tumble third in the New York Turf Writers Cup and dropping a this-stride-you-win-this-stride-you-lose photo in the Lonesome Glory.

Spy In The Sky began this year with a fourth in the Marcellus Frost at Nashville in May before finishing fourth again in the Zeke Ferguson at Colonial Downs in June. Exactly two months later, Spy In The Sky went off at 25-1 in the Smithwick and ran like he was insulted by the snub, turning back the likes of Left Unsaid, All Together, Decoy Daddy, Divine Fortune, Tax Ruling



Trainer Jimmy Day

For full coverage from Saratoga steeplechases, see st-publishing.com

and Ferguson winner Via Galilei.

Three weeks later, the Randleston Farm runner rallied again to be in contention at the last where he was forced to play hopscotch with Divine Fortune who fell, before winding up third behind Demonstrative and Charminster.

A month later, he constructed a third consecutive stellar effort, missing by a nose to longshot Pierrot Lunaire in the Lonesome Glory at Belmont. Demonstrative scratched in the paddock after Robbie Walsh was injured a race earlier – shaking an already shaken tossed division that no horse has seized.

Rolling into Far Hills, Spy In The Sky trails Demonstrative by \$28,250 at the top of the earnings race. Lonesome Glory winner Pierrot Lunaire is the only other horse to earn more than \$100,000 this season. The latter is probably more suited to Far Hills while Demonstrative handles the demanding course and Spy In The Sky will only go if it's firm (which it usually isn't).

"I told Danielle he's better today than he was going into Belmont, he's one tough little horse," Day said Oct. 7. "He'll go to Far Hills, only if the ground is good. He wouldn't even win a claimer on soft."

Purchased by Jim and Melinda Carter from Darley, Spy In The Sky entered the season with a decent career record. The son of Thunder Gulch broke his maiden in 2008, won a restricted stakes at Saratoga that summer, upset the Turf Writers in 2009, took the Carolina Cup in 2010 before going on a skid which included time off because of a suspensory injury. Day blamed himself for rushing.

"It's been a few things, in fairness to the horse, he was struggling last year coming back from a suspensory," the trainer said when asked about the turnaround. "With good horses, if something's not right, they're not going to put their best foot forward. This year, I said, 'Jim, he's a summer horse, let's back off and wait.' And it's really paid off big time."

Day will look at the \$250,000 Grand National at Far Hills but wasn't optimistic about the prospects of soft ground. October has brought its usual rain to the Northeast. Either way, Spy In The Sky should head to the \$100,000 Colonial Cup at season's end Nov. 17 in Camden, S.C.

"He's better than he's been, I think," Day said. "He's a monster right now, I wish Camden was next week."

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Manning Up

Wyatt horse puts illness aside, wins off layoff

BY JOE CLANCY

Todd Wyatt walked over to the television in the Saratoga picnic area to watch the replay of You The Man's upset win at Saratoga Aug. 30, but had to make

"Did you see that? He's some hell of a horse, isn't he? I don't know how we did that," the trainer said. "That was all him, right there, he's just some horse. I was worried if he had one of his days where he doesn't feel good. We got lucky. We're over the moon. You're the one that stuck by me and the horse. I can't believe it paid off."

Wyatt was talking to owner/breeder Bill Fossett, who did indeed stick by his horse and his trainer. The reward was \$39,000 payday and the satisfaction of seeing something through. You The Man did the work, charging through the stretch to catch Brave Prospect and win by almost 3 lengths, but Fossett and Wyatt did the sweating. The win was the 7-year-old's third in a sporadic, nine-start steeplechase career launched in 2009 after one win on the flat.

You The Man's 12-race past-performance list includes races from 2008. He started 13 times from January through October, Florida to Pennsylvania. He won once, lost 10 in a row, and by 2009 became a steeplechaser with Wyatt. He won two of his first three, including back-to-back races that first summer. It's been a battle ever since. The son of Lear Fan raced just twice in 2010 and did not start at all in 2011. This year never really looked possible until Saratoga, and even then was in doubt.

Go back to the beginning. After his solid rookie season, You The Man entered 2010 as a player in the novice division. He finished third at the Queen's Cup in April, fourth at Radnor in May. A fungal infection in his right hock shelved the season by summer and cost him the fall. Then he got sick to his stomach, over and over. Eventually, right dorsal colitis was the diagnosis. It comes with abdominal pain, weight loss, lack of appetite, fever, lethargy. The Merck Veterinary Manual puts it bluntly, "The prognosis for horses with right dorsal colitis is guarded.'

Though that specific ailment is behind him, Wyatt and his wife (and chief assistant) Blair guard. You The Man gets special feed, special medication, special at-

"His stomach is really challenged and we've taken him to a lot of people," said Wyatt. "We're always tinkering with his feed and he gets (ulcer medication) Gastrogard. We look after his stomach. He trains beautifully, but every once in a while . . . it's like he gets indigestion."

The only good thing in all of that is the ailment comes and goes. You The Man missed 838 days between races, but was not your typical layoff horse. He was fit in 2010 when the hock infection ended his season. He started back to work the next winter and trained well enough to make Wyatt start looking at the condition book.

"The hock infection got healed up, but he'd lost too much time to do anything with him at that point (in 2010)," said Wyatt. "Up until March last year he was getting close to breezing, but we couldn't get him over

SARATOGA STEEPLECHASE REVIEW

the hump. We just threw our hands up and turned him out for a while and brought him back this year. I don't know how we did it."

Patience is how.

Eventually, the 2012 comeback progressed far enough to make Saratoga look possible. Along with several jump trainers, Wyatt got stalls in a private barn at Saratoga. You The Man galloped in the slop at the Open House, trained all meet, worked three times on the turf at the Oklahoma training track, stayed healthy. And showed up - big time - on the meet's final steeplechase day. Wyatt even switched the Pennsylvania-bred back to his regular feed.

"I worry about him, and don't want to look in on him at night, because I'm always thinking something's going to go wrong," said Wyatt, who does anyway. "He was getting tired of the special feed and I wanted to keep him happy enough to run well (at Saratoga). He's a racehorse, just a racehorse - he wants to work hard, wants to do well for you."

And he did, coming through with a big performance in the optional claimer.

"I think he's a really talented horse, I don't know if he's a Grade 1 horse but if a good horse stubs his toe he'd make him pay for it," said Wyatt. "They could have gone a mile-and-a-half or two-and-a-half miles and nobody was going to beat him. Take away the layoff and all that, it was an impressive race."

Of course, You The Man got hit again after shipping home from New York to the Wyatts' base in Maryland and will miss the first part of the fall season,

"Saratoga was the perfect storm," Wyatt said. "He'd gotten a few bellyaches up there and we treated him accordingly. If he'd have gotten one three days before the race, he wouldn't have run. But he came home and his stomach started bothering him again. He's happy, he lives out 24 hours a day with his friends, but we need to get to the bottom of what causes him to have the problems. If we can't, I don't know when he'll run again."

Cat's Meow

Stakes-winning filly pays way to Saratoga, big year for Daltons

BY SEAN CLANCY

Todd Pletcher won 23 juvenile races and another championship. Ramon Dominguez won six races in a day – twice. Repole Stable reaped another owner crown. Wise Dan emerged as a Horse of the Year candidate. Alpha and Golden Ticket won the Travers. Point Of Entry continued his assault of the turf division.

Big stars, big scores, big checks at Saratoga. But, there was a bigger one.

Cat Feathers upset the Mrs. Ogden Phipps and finished second in the Mrs. Walter Jeffords to give owner/trainer Kate Dalton and her husband/jockey Bernie a season-changing payday and a memory of a lifetime. For enormity's sake, no performance was bigger at Saratoga 2012.

Cat Feathers earned \$45,000 for her win, another \$13,500 for her second and some healthy New York-bred bonuses. Sure, there were bigger dispersals from the horsemen's bookkeeper and there were bigger stories in The Saratoga Special, but Cat Feathers made the Daltons'

year. Remember, they keep the 10 percent trainer and jockey commissions.

Based in Camden, S.C. for most of the year, the Daltons made an offer on a small farm adjacent to Springdale Training Center in September.

"We're trying to buy the farm," Kate Dalton said. "We might call it Cat Feathers Farm."

She was only half joking.

The trainer/jockey, husband/wife team brought their two-horse stable to Saratoga, lodging at the Steeplechase Owners and Trainers Association barn on Henning Road, a barn organized by Kate. Known for developing fillies and mares in steeplechasing (see Miss Crown and Well Fashioned), the Daltons brought Lillehammer and Cat Feathers to Saratoga

Kerri Walsh and Misty May-Treanor, they weren't.

Lillehammer finished fourth at the Saratoga Open House and veered to Suffolk to finish third for a \$16,000 tag during the meet. Cat Feathers cost \$1,000 as a 2-year-old, won a maiden claimer at Charleston, lost three in a



Tod Marks

Cat Feathers (left) challenges Sweet Shani in the Mrs. Ogden Phipps Stakes.

row and went to the post as the 23-1 outsider in the Phipps. Bernie Dalton settled the daughter of Quiet American near the back of the nine-horse field before gradually working into a clash with the queen of the division, Sweet Shani. Cat Feathers, meet Cat Woman.

Rallying on the outside, Cat Feathers wore down Sweet Shani to tally a hard-earned 1 1/4-length win over Sweet Shani and Well Fashioned (formerly owned/trained by the Daltons). Three weeks later, Cat Feathers ran hard again but was denied by Cubist, losing by a neck.

Asked if she brought Cat Feathers for a reason or the season, Kate Dalton paused before answering . . . maybe both.

"I thought Cat Feathers was better on a flat track and some of the other fillies weren't as good on the flat tracks, so I knew Saratoga would be an advantage to us," she said. "Did I think it was going to be that much of an advantage? No. Did I think she would beat Sweet Shani? No. But we went up thinking we'd rather run in the summer on the flat track than wait until the fall. We didn't think she would like Far Hills."

The Daltons turned out Cat Feathers after Saratoga, patiently waiting for next year with a filly who has earned their patience and confidence.

Bred by Peter Wetherill's Happy Hill Farm, Cat Feathers was one of five 2-year-olds with the Daltons when lings and then Cat Feathers and one with foot issues. I said the one with foot issues may not ever make it and Cat Feathers might be OK but she's going to need to be 3 or 4. They said 'do you want her or do you know somebody who does?' "Kate said. "We took ownership of her in February and by March."

Wetherill died in 2010. Executors of his

estate called and asked about the horses.

"There were three really nice year-

who does?' "Kate said. "We took ownership of her in February and by March, she was turned out for six months. She's always been backward and needed time. We were like, 'See you in September.' "

Cat Feathers made her debut at Colonial Downs last summer, finishing 10th twice for maiden claimer tags before making her hurdle debut at Aiken in October. Two weeks later, carrying 132 pounds, she won a maiden claimer at Charleston. This year, she pulled up at High Hope before finishing a deceivingly promising seventh at Colonial Downs in June (Bernie came back and told Kate they were going to Saratoga). By September, the daughter of Catienus bolstered a credit application for a new farm.

"She's always shown enough to make you carry on with her, there's always been problems along the way, niggling little issues but she's never had a problem that made you want to give up," Kate said. "She'd have two really bad works and just when you thought she was completely backward and useless, then all of a sudden she'd spark up and throw in this great piece of work and you'd say, 'she's OK.' She's been an ongoing project from day one."

At Saratoga, the Daltons trained their two fillies before, between and after their jobs freelancing for flat trainers Dominick Schettino and Shug Mc-Gaughey. It worked.

"A lot of trainers train good horses, if you're lucky enough to come across a good horse, you do well and look good. She's one of the few who I'm not exactly sure if she would have cut the mustard for other people," Kate said. "Just because, she's been two steps backward, one step forward. Two steps backward, two steps forward. There's been a really fine line between training her and not breaking her down. She's been a lot of pleasure because you feel like our program did make a difference with her, it wouldn't have with every horse, but it did with her. She's special. She's family."





Tod Marks Bernie and Kate Dalton embrace after the win.



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Showing The Way

Alix Michel still leads with her Jumangi squad of talented jumpers. Demonstrative and Incomplete turned out to be wise choices among the leaders, though Far Hills and its lucrative paydays will make an impact on the Pick Six in addition to the regular NSA leaderboard of owners, trainers, jockeys and horses. Michel claims the prize for leading at the end of August and September. The top 22 through Oct. 12 are listed here.

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

Jumangi Demonstrative Incomplete Black Jack Blues Duc De Savoie Well Fashioned Old Timer	\$136,500 \$84,000 \$30,000 \$22,200 \$21,500 \$12,700
Fancy Clancy Farm Demonstrative Incomplete En Fuego Sweet Shani Total Command Tax Ruling	Joe Clancy \$136,500 \$84,000 \$25,950 \$13,500 \$12,000 \$7,500
Pony Girl Stables Eli Arcadius Incomplete Black Jack Blues Duc De Savoie Old Timer Green Velvet	izabeth Watrous \$90,000 \$84,000 \$30,000 \$22,200 \$12,700 \$0
My Three Sons Stable Demonstrative Divine Fortune Well Fashioned Bodie Island Hold Your Fire Nadal	\$21,500 \$10,50
Gone Away Stable Demonstrative Quiet Flaine Black Jack Blues Memorial Maniac Bon Caddo Artic Cry	
Shannonigans Demonstrative Baltic Shore Dance Faster Darkwatch Ptarmigan Cherokee Speed	\$136,500 \$55,500 \$15,150 \$11,500 \$9,000

Stupid for Steeplechasing L Incomplete Cubist Black Jack Blues Pullyourfingerout En Fuego Nadal JT Stables Demonstrative Black Jack Blues Duc De Savoie Sweet Shani Darkwatch Bubble Economy	\$84,000\$55,600\$30,000\$25,950\$0\$136,500\$30,000\$22,200\$13,500
Buddle Economy	\$9,150
	\$222,850
Jabberwocky Stables Sarah Spy In The Sky Quiet Flaine Black Jack Blues Duc De Savoie Total Command Bubble Economy	\$108,250 \$39,000 \$30,000 \$22,200 \$12,000 \$9,150
	\$220,000
Lefty Stable N History Boy Cubist Divine Fortune G'day G'day Bruno Frigerio Seven In Heaven Cure All Stables Susa	\$75,100 \$55,600 \$50,500 \$29,500 \$2,700
Cura All Stables Suca	n F Auialev
Demonstrative	\$136,500 \$39,000 \$19,500 \$9,150 \$7,500 \$1,250
	\$212,900
Diversified Stable Joe Demonstrative Black Jack Blues Memorial Maniac Opera Heroine Bon Caddo Share Out	\$136,500 \$30,000 \$21,050 \$13,700 \$10,500



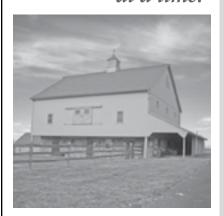
Veteran Cuse, who won at Virginia Falll, would have bolstered a few Pick Six stables.

Here's The Plan Incomplete Almarmooq Black Jack Blues All Together Well Fashioned Alfarabi	\$84,000 \$33,900 \$30,000 \$29,000 \$21,500 \$11,700
Passport Stable	\$2 IU, IUU
Pierrot Lunaire	
Lake Placid	\$42,500 eag. 500
G'day G'day	\$29,500
Memorial Maniac	\$21,050
Sweet Shani	\$13,500
Bundestag	
	\$209,550
Waggs Stable	
Demonstrative	
Well Fashioned	
Memorial Maniac	
Decoy DaddyGuts For Garters	Φ10,7000
Share Out	
Silate Out	ΦU Φ206 750
Bound & Leap Farm	φ200,700 Kata McCleary
Incomplete	Rate Micoleary
Lake Placid	\$42 500 \$42 500
Black Jack Blues	\$30,000
En Fuego	\$25,950
Well Fashioned	\$21,500
Plattsburgh	
BrownTrout Stable	Douglas Lees
Incomplete	\$84.000
Lake Placid	\$42,500
Black Jack Blues	
En Fuego	\$25,950
Sweet Šhani	\$13,500
Manacor	\$8,450
	\$204,400

Seabass Stable	Leslie Young
Incomplete	
Cubist	
Black Jack Blues	
En Fuego	\$25,950
Tax Ruling	
Mr. Universo	\$0
	\$203,050
Sight Unseen	
Incomplete	
Black Jack Blues	
Pullyourfingerout	
Duc De Savoie	\$22,200
Well Fashioned	
Classic Bridges	\$9,900
-	\$197,600
Secession Stables Jo	hn Haldeman
Incomplete	
Lake Placid	\$42,500
Black Jack Blues	\$30,000
En Fuego	\$25,950
Sweet Shani	\$13,500
Abraham Lincoln	\$0
	\$195.950
Smokescreen StableR	oss Geraghty
Incomplete	\$84,000
Lake Placid	\$42,500
Black Jack Blues	\$30,000
Black Quartz	\$27,000
Total Command	\$12,000
American Ladie	\$0
	\$195,500
Achin' for Aiken Stable	Bill Matlack
Demonstrative	\$136,500
Black Quartz	\$27,000
Well Fashioned	\$21,500
Bubble Economy	\$9,150
Tropic Sea	
Port Morsbey	\$0
	\$194,150



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TIMES EDITORIAL

Risky sport faces risky time

It's been a bad run for steeplechasing.

Two horses died because of falls at Belmont Park. Another died at Shawan Downs. Another died at Foxfield. And another died at Virginia Fall. Four racing dates, five fatalities.

As always, the response has been sadness and concern. Sadness for the horses. Concern for our sport. And still no answers. To falls or fatalities.

Do horses fall more often in maiden races? Are we using the safest fence? Which tracks produce the most falls? How many falls and fatalities occur? Should there be more restrictive entry qualifications for jump races at racetracks? How do we find a way to avoid green riders riding questionable horses? Do big fields cause more falls? Should we limit the field size? Should questionable horses be put on a stewards' list? What happens when a horse gets on a stewards' list?

Should the National Steeplechase Association be more responsive, more concerned, more proactive in dealing with the questions?

We don't have the answers to the first 10 questions (just opinions), but we know the answer to the

The entire steeplechase community needs to be ready when horses fall.

- Once and for all, create a proper study of the National Fence. Steeplechasing is a worldwide sport and we are the only racing jurisdiction using this fence. It's been improved, but its basic design is getting close to 40 years old. Are there better options? We need to know. Now.
- Apply safety measures. Limit field size to 10 at the racetrack (go to 12 in open stakes, maybe). Keep the quality high when we go to Belmont, Saratoga, any racetrack. Don't allow green riders to ride questionable horses.
- Know the numbers, so the sport can answer with facts. It's a small sport and it should know how many horses fall, how many die, in what type of races, on what type of ground and at what fences.
- Create a public relations mechanism, so the sport can respond intelligently and quickly in crisis situations. The sport should have a spokesman, such as the one created after the 1990 Breeders' Cup when three horses died, especially at racetracks where the sport is under the microscope like never before. Perhaps, the American Association of Equine Practitioners could assist.
- Teach owners, trainers and jockeys what to say, what not to say and how to say it - include a social media discussion.
- Create a video on the life of a steeplechase horse, a documentary on the quality of life of a steeplechase horse, showing footage of the farms where these horses live, interviewing the owners, trainers and jockeys who care about these horses. Put it on the NSA website, give it away to fans, hand it to media members who don't know. ST will write the script.
- Create a database of retired horses. Again, ST will help in this process (trainers e-mail a list of horses you've retired to sean@st-publishing.com). Inform and promote that jumpers enjoy a high quality of life and are often retired to other disciplines.

There's no doubt an individual jump race is more dangerous to a horse than an individual flat race and we aren't naive enough to think steeplechasing can be made risk-free.

We do feel that more can be done to manage the risk, decrease the danger and at least begin to provide the answers.



Road Trippers. Trainer Julie Gomena and Country Cousin enjoy a break after traveling to Saratoga (he with some grass, she with some Dunkin Donuts coffee) from Virginia for a summer steeplechase. Gomena and several other trainers utilized a private barn rented by the Steeplechase Owners and Trainers Association to give jump trainers a base. Winners Alajmal, Cat Feathers, Demonstrative and You The Man shipped into the barn.

Life Well Lived

Message of Michael O'Brien a reminder to all

On Dec. 23, 2011, Michael James Patrick O'Brien died, after succumbing to his final battle. Friedrich Nietzche once wrote, "That which does not kill you, will only make you stronger." He could easily have penned those words with Michael O'Brien in mind, for Michael was a man who had overcome the numerous challenges of life with a ferocious will, and certainly an indefatigable spirit.

His racing career had begun in the Newcastle Stables of Tom Taaffe, where Michael followed in the footsteps of his older brother, Leo, and became a steeplechase jockey. In the late 1960s, Michael ventured to the United States in the hope of carving a career in the world of American jump racing. Of course, racing and in particular jump racing was a vastly different world during that era. Steeplechasing was an integral part in the daily fabric of racing in New York, with jump races carded regularly at Belmont, Aqueduct and Saratoga.

His American career began inauspiciously when riding in a brush race for a young trainer named Jonathan Sheppard. O'Brien's performance lacked a certain verve, sitting behind the saddle and at the buckle over every fence. Unimpressed, Sheppard believed he

Guest Column

By Keith O'Brien

would not utilize O'Brien again, but displaying the determination and will that would come to characterize his life, O'Brien not only rode for Sheppard again but they forged a partnership that culminated in O'Brien becoming the first foreign born rider to be crowned champion American steeplechase jockey in

During his tenure with Sheppard, O'Brien rode the likes of Wustenchef, Inkslinger and Cafe Prince among many others. Yet, these accomplishments paled when compared to the triumph of the will that truly defined Michael O'Brien.

In 1974, aboard the previous year's champion Athenian Idol during the Carolina Cup, O'Brien suffered an injury that confined him to a wheelchair for the remainder of his life. It was a devastating accident for a young man with a young family to sup-

See O'BRIEN page 29 ▶

■ Continued from page 28

port. O'Brien's refusal to be limited by a tragic twist of fate and determination to prevail over any obstacle placed in his path continued to characterize his iourney.

He would not accept sympathy or pity for his condition, but demanded respect as a man working to carve a place for himself and his family. In the end of 1976, O'Brien and his brother Leo returned to Ireland to begin a new chapter in their racing lives and established Rathbride Stables on The Curragh in Ireland. Leo had suffered a fractured skull and broken jaw in a spill at Monmouth Park in September 1976.

Training successes soon followed. There was Bright Highway, who turned the Mackeson and Hennessy Gold Cup double in 1980. There were three wins in the Irish Grand National. There was Shawiya, who won the Triumph Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival. But one of his proudest days came in 1991, when his brother Leo returned to capture the Irish Two Thousand Guineas and together on the "handicapped" stand at

the Curragh racecourse, they cheered Fourstars Allstar home. It was the first American-trained horse to win a European classic.

O'Brien's loyalty was unwavering and unquestionable. His inimitable expressiveness and candor, belied a man of emotion, kindness and complete honesty. He was a man of tremendous courage in the face of enormous odds. He was an early champion for the rights of disabled people in Ireland. He fought the rigors of life spent seated in a wheelchair each and every day. A complex human being, who was a son, husband, father, grandfather, uncle, friend, and yes, jockey and horse trainer.

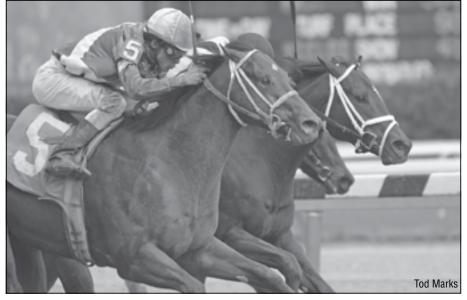
I can say without reservation that the two men whom I have most admired in my own life have been my father and my Uncle Michael. Perhaps, as we watch the races we can consider that there is more at stake than mere statistics and win percentages. There are real, emoting human beings, faced with the daily challenges of life and striving to carve their own place in it.

Former steeplechase jockey Keith O'Brien is the nephew of Michael O'Brien and son of Leo

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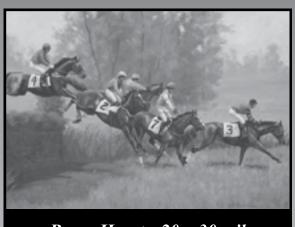
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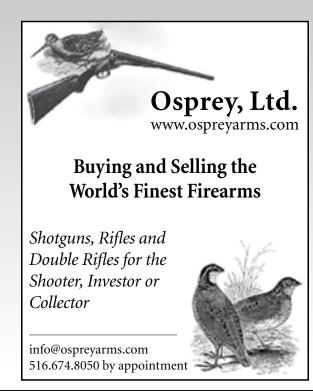


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