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# *The* **Time** *Steeplechase*

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Friday, Dec 14, 2012



**Two stars emerge during competitive season**

# 2012

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Thomas Boland

*A toast to the memory of Calvin Houghland, lifelong  
steeplechase enthusiast, gentleman jockey and sportsman.  
~ Mary Ann Houghland*

Thank you Calvin, Al, Becky, Bernie, Blythe, Bruce, Chip, Chris, Dr. Riddle,  
Keri, Lindsay, Sandi, CARLET, and most of all to the wonderful Pierrot Luneaire!



Don Clippinger



Tod Marks (4)



# here&there... in Steeplechasing



**Striding Out.** Jockey Matt McCarron heads to the post for the Hobkirk Hill – his final steeplechase ride – at the Colonial Cup Nov. 17. McCarron rode for 21 years and won 206 races including the Grade 1 Colonial Cup aboard Demonstrative one race before this one. In his career finale, 2003 and 2004 champion McCarron finished second aboard Rainiero.

Tod Marks

## Worth Repeating

"If he was a person, he would be incredibly fussed that people are making a big deal over him. It's easy for him."

**Trainer Richard Valentine, after Demonstrative's Colonial Cup**

"He makes racing around here boring."

**Journalist Tom Didato, after Sunshine Numbers won for the fourth time at Springdale Race Course**

"That horse makes me want to cry."

**Owner Sue Sensor after Sunshine Numbers won the Hobkirk Hill**

**Jockey Arch Kingsley, who won the Hobkirk Hill aboard front-running Sunshine Numbers:** "I felt like we were going in hand. How did the pace feel to you?"

**Jockey Gus Dahl, who finished sixth aboard Cuse:** "Oh, we were going quick enough."

"College wasn't that big then, and I couldn't even spell college."

**Brian Crowley, on leaving school in Ireland to become a jockey**

"Exactly. 154 for in the first. 160 in the last. I won't even need a lead bag."

**Amateur jockey Mark Beecher after being told he could get something to eat between the first and the last at Camden**

"The kind of pace they went would have suited him. He would have had all the time in the world to get into a rhythm and run his race."

**Jockey Bernie Dalton, dreaming about Pierrot Lunaire running in Colonial Cup**

"This year is void."

**Three-time champ Paddy Young, injured in the spring, after being dethroned by Ross Geraghty (we think Young was kidding)**

"Why don't you bring your (self) over here and I'll show you how it's going."

**Trainer Doug Fout, while raking gravel, when asked how it was going**

"If you gave me a million dollars, I can guarantee you to be leading owner, not a problem; the flat game, you can't do that. You could have a hundred million and it doesn't guarantee you a championship."

**Trainer Jack Fisher**

"I was very pleased that everybody backed it and stepped up to the plate, the money came in, there was no fighting, very little whining."

**Owner/trainer Kate Dalton, about the SOTA barn at Saratoga**

"I saw him in the ring schooling, he was about 15.2 and I just like the way he got in the air and came down. Now, it's an honor to walk in the barn and see a horse so enthusiastic, a horse who loves his job like he does."

**Trainer Ann Stewart, about spending seven years with timber champion Incomplete**

"Those steeplechase people must have a lot of money because they can put up with the time and expense. Flat people can't."

**Trainer Greg Wilson, who trained Incomplete on the flat**

"He's an ornery critter. We take him out with the pony, he can wheel out from underneath you faster than most horses I've known. He's great to gallop, once you're on the track and going he doesn't offer to do that. Going to and from the track, he's a bad child."

**Trainer Janet Elliot, about Novice Champion Alajmal**

"He's incredible. He loves racing, he couldn't be a nicer person to train for."

**Elliot, about owner Greg Hawkins**

"He was one person you really didn't want to see beside you after the last, a very good rider."

**Champion jockey Ross Geraghty, on Brian Crowley**

"I enjoyed it and it was very good for my riding – it helped me learn to sit quiet and be patient, but it's not for me. When a groom turns me loose on the track I get very competitive and there's no need for that over timber. I have no intention of going back."

**Geraghty, on riding (or not riding) over timber**

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# Entries

## What's Happening and Where To Find It

Here's your newspaper – your last newspaper of 2012. Slow down, savor it. It's winter, maybe get comfortable in front of a fireplace or something. The Colonial Cup was, as usual, special and a fitting end to a season that seemed to be on fast forward from the start. Wasn't it just last week we were gong to My Lady's Manor? Thanks for a great 2012. Peace.



### PAGES 8-12

#### Grand Finale

The Colonial Cup, as it should be, finished the season. Demonstrative turned in the race of the year with a last-to-first rally in the long, long Springdale Race Course stretch. Sunshine Numbers made everybody feel special. More Tea Vicar iced the 3-year-old title. Sporty and Nondo provided glimpses at 2013.



### PAGES 14-15

#### Two for the Show

Pierrot Lunaire and Demonstrative. Or was that Demonstrative and Pierrot Lunaire? No matter how you say it, they were THE horses of 2012. Pierrot Lunaire (left) won the earnings crown. Demonstrative settled for second. One wins an Eclipse Award.



### PAGE 16

#### Travelin' Man

Back in 2009, Ross Geraghty didn't tell his parents he was leaving Ireland for America. Now he's a champion jump jockey.



### PAGE 24

#### Fisherman

Jack Fisher reclaims his throne, and joins an exclusive club of six-time champion trainers.



### PAGE 28

#### Living for Tea

More Tea Vicar almost didn't live through his birth at Kinross Farm in Virginia. Now he's a 3-year-old champion.

The Steeplechase  
**Times**

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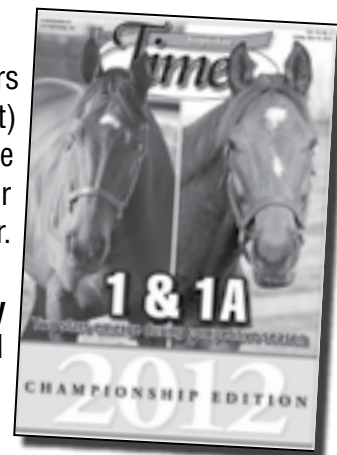
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#### On the Cover

Title contenders  
Demonstrative (left)  
and Pierrot Lunaire  
share the final cover  
of the year.

Photos by  
Douglas Lees and  
Lydia Williams



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# here&there... in Steeplechasing

## More from the Colonial Cup

"I don't even get nervous and I'm a little nervous."

**Assistant Laird George said, as Demonstrative left the paddock**

"I need an inhaler and a Geritol."

**Jockey Matt McCarron, after Demonstrative's Colonial Cup**

**Jack Fisher:** "Were you nervous back there?"

**Matt McCarron:** "You think?"

**Sean Clancy:** "You weren't even in panic mode."

**Matt McCarron:** "It felt like it."

**Bernie Dalton:** "How many times have you retired?"

**Matt McCarron:** "This is it."

## By The Numbers

**32:** Flights of stairs Manhattan resident Sally Jeffords navigated (with her dogs) during Hurricane Sandy.

**4:** Steeplechase Times covers made by Pierrot Lunaire this year. He's in the background of June (behind Via Galilei at Colonial Downs), featured in October and November with his Grade 1 wins and shares the December edition with Demonstrative.

**2:** Brothers that ran at Camden. Five-year-old Sporty won the maiden hurdle while Powerofone finished fourth in the 3-year-old stakes. Both are out of the Quiet American mare Byzantine.

## Name of the Month

**Apse.** The 3-year-old is by Arch out of In Reverence. In Latin, apse means arch or vault. In the architecture of a church, an apse is the area where the altar is placed or where the clergy are seated. Credit owner Mark Grier with the name.



Tod Marks

The well-named Apse goes postward at the Colonial Cup.

## 2012 Champions

This edition profiles the major champions of the 2012 National Steeplechase Association season, beginning on page 14. Other categories presented by the NSA included:

**Timber Owner:** Bob Kinsley. Paced by divisional champion Incomplete, Kinsley finished with \$88,500 in earnings from five rats, three wins and two seconds.

**Apprentice Jockey:** Mark Beecher. The Irishman shared this category with Jacob Roberts in 2011 and may soon be moving toward journeyman status. He won seven times in 2012 including a double at Genesee and the International Gold Cup with Grinding Speed.

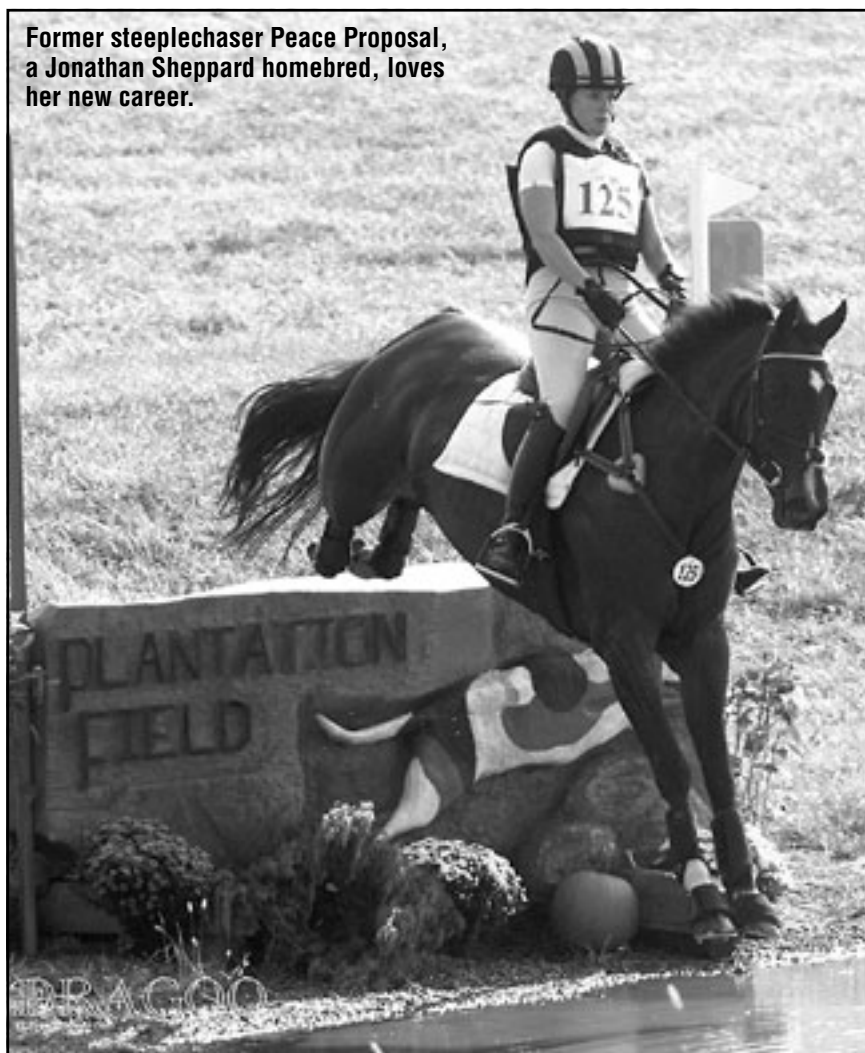
**Amateur Jockey:** Darren Nagle. Third consecutive title for Irish-born jockey, who finished second in the overall standings with 14 wins. Key victories came with Parker's Project, Delta Park and Straight To It. Also won the timber jockey award.

**Claiming Horse:** You The Man (below). He made just one start but the Bill Fossett homebred earned enough to take the award while racing for a \$30,000 tag at Saratoga for trainer Todd Wyatt.



# How About a Third Career?

**Former steeplechaser Peace Proposal, a Jonathan Sheppard homebred, loves her new career.**



Amy Drago photo

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# The Last of It



Tod Marks

## Demonstrative rallies from back to win season finale

BY SEAN CLANCY

**T**he last fence of the Colonial Cup. For 42 years, it's provided the moment; champions crowned, titles won, careers made, win and it's forever. There are bigger purses, there aren't bigger races. If timing is everything, the Colonial Cup is everything.

**COLONIAL CUP**  
**November 17**

Top Bid emerging through the mud in the first. Inkslinger, Soothsayer and Top Bid stretching in the second. Lucky Boy, Soothsayer, Dream Magic sparring in the fourth edition. Sailor's Clue, Corrib Chieftain, Martie's Anger battling, Too Few Stripes falling a decade later. Flatterer, done and dusted – four times in a row. Victorian Hill, extending, like only he could. Lonesome Glory holding Rowdy Irishman, twice. Flat Top, McDynamo, Good Night Shirt turning on their brilliance.

This year at Springdale Race Course in Camden, S.C. Nov. 17 nine horses, nine jockeys, took nine chances.

Longshot Wild For Gold and Bernie Dalton, reserves waning, clinging to the inside. Charminster and Ross Geraghty, stretching for a long one, still in the mix. Champion Slip Away, the one who had put them all on the run, still there, time ticking. Smithwick winner Spy In The Sky and Danielle Hodsdon rising, feeling the pinch. Veteran Decoy Daddy and Jeff Murphy, touching down in second, determined and undeterred. Divine Fortune and Darren Nagle, the horse deserving a big one, all they can see is open space, a furlong from freedom. Jack Cool and Xavier Aizpuru, landing fourth, but well past empty. Novice champion Alajmal and veteran Richard Boucher, rallying from the back, jumping up instead of out, when every inch counts. Demonstrative and Matt McCarron, detouring from the inside to the outside, hurling themselves at the last, fence the horse stoking his talent, the jockey stoking the dying embers of a storied career.



Tod Marks

**Top: Demonstrative (far left) jumps the last fence outside and last in the crowded field. Bottom: The winner (left) catches Divine Fortune strides before the finish of the season's final Grade 1 stakes.**

Then there was one.

Jacqueline Ohrstrom's Demonstrative slammed eight pretenders to his inside with a tornado-like rally, picking up at the last in last and rallying past the galant Divine Fortune. Demonstrative left it late, but he left no doubt.

With McCarron's whip down but active, Demonstrative reeled in Divine Fortune, strides before the wire to win by a length with Alajmal third. Decoy Daddy hung tough for fourth. Charminster, Spy In The Sky, Slip Away, Wild For Gold and Jack Cool completed the order, 8 3/4 lengths separated Demonstrative from Jack Cool. The only other runner, History Boy, pulled up before the second-last. The winner finished in 5:15.8.

The official chart said it all – Demonstrative fourth at the half-mile call, eighth at the mile mark, 10th at

the 2-mile split, 10th at the 2 1/4-mile call, ninth (still last) in the stretch, first at the wire. No horse, in the history of the race, passed that many horses, that late.

Trained by Richard Valentine, the 5-year-old son of Elusive Quality won for the third time this year, seventh time in his career, and scrambled back into the Eclipse Award picture with a dynamic performance that threw a shadow across Pierrot Lunaire's wins in the Lonesome Glory and Grand National. Trainers Bruce and Blythe Miller opted to keep the 8-year-old home, instead of risking his record at Camden, it was the only element missing from a brilliant crescendo. Pierrot Lunaire, holding a 2-0 margin over Demonstrative this year, will probably win the award, but Demonstrative gave voters a moment of pause, winning when it mattered most.

See **COLONIAL CUP** page 10 ►



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# Colonial Cup —

■ Continued from page 8

Slip Away, winless since the 2010 Colonial Cup, bounded to the lead of the 2 3/4-mile classic. Nagle placed Grand National runner-up Divine Fortune in a positive spot again, outside Slip Away in second as Murphy put Decoy Daddy into the race early, sitting third. McCarron melted late-running Demonstrative from the starter's flag. Last and settled on the gallop to the first, Demonstrative flew into the peloton in the air, landing sixth and beginning the battle. McCarron, completing his 21st and final season, braced against Demonstrative as the field jumped the second, third, fourth and Demonstrative gained ground at each. Going past the stands with the 2-mile circumference of Springdale in front of them, McCarron and Demonstrative had crept into fourth, next to Hodsdon on late-running Spy In The Sky.

"I almost said, 'Aren't we supposed to be further back?'" McCarron said. "But I was getting too run off with to talk."

Shoulders burning, teeth grinding, hands clenching, McCarron could feel it slipping away, early exuberance negating late stamina. An established and potent closer, Demonstrative was too close, too early.

"I didn't want to be out the back and we were close enough over the first couple, but he jumped so well that he jumped his way up into the race," McCarron said. "The next thing I know I'm fourth or fifth, and he's tanking, now I'm absolutely panicking."

Panic wasn't noticeable as McCarron bore the brunt like a man taking a punch on a dare.

Out into the country, Slip Away led, still setting a sensible pace for the class of the race, as Divine Fortune pressured from the outside and Decoy Daddy tracked in third.

Demonstrative and Spy In The Sky came next and a phalanx of horses gathered just beyond them. Alajmal trailed.

As always, the field as a whole injected pace as they turned down the long, lonely backstretch. Slip Away, jumping with typical alacrity, led Divine Fortune who jumped flawlessly as well. Decoy Daddy and Spy In The Sky held their spots. Jack Cool, Charminster and History Boy began to budge into the fray. Alajmal crept wide and Wild For Gold crept inside. Demonstrative slipped to last.

"As soon as we started down the back, they all started to go," McCarron said. "I was like, 'If I want any turn of foot, I can't go with them now.' All I could do is picture Richard saying, 'He's done. He's done.' I wasn't sure myself because he had come completely off the bridle, now the problem is I've got no shot of coming up the inside."

In the move of the year, McCarron let the pace go and allowed Demonstrative to take a long, slow breather down the back. Relegated to last, he jumped well and stayed close enough but the question loomed. Could he muster his patented run after pulling early and drifting back through the field? Like a judge's life sentence, the answer would come loud and clear.

"I gave him a chirp, after we jumped the third down the back," McCarron said. "And he filled the bridle again."

McCarron shut it down again, waiting.

Ten horses, within a first down from each other, jumped the third-last flawlessly. Turning for home, Brian Crowley pulled up History Boy who had gone wrong, Slip Away kept his foot on the floor and Divine Fortune, Decoy Daddy, Jack Cool and Spy In The Sky stacked five wide to the right at the second-last. Revving up, Alajmal angled wide. Charminster and Wild For Gold stayed low, just inside and behind Slip Away. All the while Demonstrative saved ground, buried behind the vanguard, still last but still live.

"On the turn, I don't have anywhere to go," McCarron said. "As soon as we straightened up, I pulled him out and he thrived on it, and sent after them."

Coming to the last, McCarron ratch-



Tod Marks

**Demonstrative (second from right) was up close and strong early in the race.**

eted Demonstrative right-handed, it wasn't 90 degrees but with time ticking, it looked like it. Demonstrative engaged, jiggling to the outside, across the heels of Alajmal, righting himself in time to measure the final fence.

He measured it — part Einstein, part Zorro — feet flicking, front legs stretching, landing like a fresh horse and lengthening his stride to tick off rivals, one-by-sitting-duck-one. McCarron, low and neat as ever, flicked him, whip down, right-handed as rivals fell like tin cans in a shooting gallery.

"I wasn't sure I was going to get there after the last but thankfully it's a long run to the wire," McCarron said. "He's got some engine in him. What a horse."

Demonstrative turned desperation into domination, in the denouement.

Valentine bounded out of the stands, summing up the race in two lines, "He's some horse. That was some ride."

Demonstrative, the second youngest horse in the race, did it again, turning on the lights just when it seemed like darkness had descended. McCarron, the third-oldest jockey in the race, did it again, winning his second Colonial Cup, like he knew it all along.

Funny how it looks to the observer and feels to the protagonist. McCarron, riding just his 16th race of the season, retired (again) after the Colonial Cup.

"This is it," he said, when asked how many times he had retired. "If it was 10 years ago, I give him a totally different ride. I just don't have the same reflexes, it doesn't come as smoothly. It's more of a thought process now, as opposed to it being instinctual as it was 10 years ago, when I was riding a lot of races and

winning a lot of races. I'm over-thinking things now."

Valentine has fought the urge to overthink things with Demonstrative. Purchased as 3-year-old at the Tattersalls July Sale, Demonstrative earned a championship as a 3-year-old (with McCarron), dominated a novice stakes as a 4-year-old and emerged as an open stakes winner this summer when taking the New York Turf Writers Cup at Saratoga. Forced to scratch from the Lonesome Glory after Robbie Walsh and McCarron were hurt, Valentine audibled and ran Demonstrative in the Grand National on soft turf at Far Hills. Demonstrative was gallant, but labored behind Pierrot Luneire, Divine Fortune and Royal Bonsai. The trainer took that in stride, chalked it up to the ground and aimed at the Colonial Cup. Preparations went smoothly and the big horse delivered on the big day.

"I don't know if the others stopped in front, but, man he looked like a black train coming down there on the outside," Valentine said. "I have to say I was very concerned when Matt went so dramatically to the outside to make a run. I thought he broke down or something went wrong. I didn't think he would get there and then when he did and went past with his ears pricked, it just tells you how special a horse he is. He is a phenomenal horse."

Not nearly as cool as his horse or as patient as his jockey, Valentine watched in agony.

"It was fun to watch . . . no it wasn't," Valentine admitted. "It was awful to watch. The end was fun to watch, the rest . . ."

. . . History.



Tod Marks

**Owner Jacqueline Ohrstrom gives Demonstrative a pat after the Grade 1 win.**



# The Shining

## Sunshine Numbers puts on clinic in Hobkirk Hill romp for Kingsley

BY JOE CLANCY

COLONIAL CUP

November 17

Whether walking through the stable area or powerhousing around the track, Sunshine Numbers spent his summer turning heads at Saratoga. Trainer Arch Kingsley had the veteran steeplechaser cranking up for a start late in the meet, and "Sunshine" was doing his part.

And then, in a day, it all went pfft. The horse was lame, the race was off, the training was halted and Kingsley was changing his goals.

"He's got ankles you wouldn't believe, suspensories and ankles," Kingsley said of the 10-year-old's issues. "He's not the soundest horse. It's just balance. I had this brief window at Saratoga this summer where I thought he would run and run really well. Travers Day I pulled him out to graze in the afternoon, the Saturday before the Thursday race and he was walking lame. I had to stop with him, start all over again. He was training better into that race than he was any race I've run him in. The window closed."

Kingsley started looking at autumn opportunities for Sue and George Sensor's stakes winner, 7-for-18 over jumps

including victories in his last three – two in 2010, one in 2011. The on-and-off racing schedule pointed to late fall and Sunshine Numbers showed up at Charleston Nov. 11. In his first start in more than 19 months, he finished second. Six days later, he went to the Hobkirk Hill – long a sidekick to the Colonial Cup and just as long a target of classy veterans at the end of the season. Sunshine Numbers won the starter allowance in 2009, and again in 2010. He missed the 2011 version, but showed up as one of 10 this year. He may as well have been alone.

Rocketing to the front at the start under his trainer, a former champion jockey who dusts off the gear for meaningful rides like this one, Sunshine Numbers led by 10, 15, 20, whatever and won by 10 1/2 lengths over fellow 10-year-old Rainiero with Tizsilk third. Kingsley, not surprisingly, laughed about it afterward.

"I thought we were going sort of sensibly, but I guess I was sitting on a good



Tod Marks

Arch Kingsley looks for competition as Sunshine Numbers heads to the finish of the Hobkirk Hill.

one," he said of the pace that unstrung the others. "Racing is a relative sport. That's his lick, he needs to go that fast to be effective, to use that jumping he has. You've got to leave him alone. If you slowed him down, he'd lose all of that."

Sunshine Numbers did not win the Colonial Cup, though Kingsley thought about taking a shot, but was easily the day's most popular winner thanks to the local connections of Kingsley and the Sensors.

"They get so much mileage out of these wins," said the trainer. "For a year and a half we've been riding high on that Carolina Cup (of 2011). His picture's all over town, everybody wants to know what Sunshine is doing. It couldn't be a more popular win. I've never been associated with a more popular winner than that horse. He's so charismatic, a beautiful horse."

See **UNDERCARD** page 12 ►

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Nondo motors over a fence late in the open timber at Camden.

Tod Marks

## Undercard —

### ■ Continued from page 11

• Owner Chuck Akre could have bought a sports car, gone fishing, taken up skydiving, pretty much done anything other than buy another racehorse after Twojohnsandajack died in a fall at the Virginia Fall Races in October.

But Akre got back on the horse, so to speak, when he called trainer Julie Gomena the week of the Colonial Cup.

"I want to get back in the game," Akre said. "I want to get right back in."

Gomena answered quickly, "Have I got a deal for you."

The deal was Sporty, an improving 5-year-old aiming for the \$25,000 maiden hurdle at the Colonial Cup Nov. 17 in Camden, S.C.

Akre agreed, made the purchase, and the bay gelding did the rest — winning by 3 1/2 lengths with an inside move at the last fence. Sporty (Mark Beecher) passed Three Hundred and Popplestone in the stretch and drew off to reward Akre's Rock Ford Stable with a win. Quietly sixth at Foxfield and fifth at Great Meadow for Gomena's Over Creek Farm, Sporty rewarded Akre for his faith.

"You don't know how people are going to respond, he could have said he didn't want to do it anymore and I would have understood," Gomena said. "He's been very supportive and I'm very happy for him."

Four times a winner on the flat for Jim Tafel and Carl Nafzger, Sporty became a steeplechaser by catching Gomena's eye on paper last year. She had trainer Speedy Smithwick take a look in Kentucky and he landed Sporty with a \$40,000 claim late in 2011.

Known for his success over timber, Beecher wound up with the ride somewhat by default — at first. Gomena's first-call Carl Rafter was injured in the Twojohnsandajack fall and Beecher was one of the few available jockeys at Great Meadow (held the same day as Far Hills). The combination got along well there, and Gomena asked if Beecher wanted to stay aboard at Camden — even if the amateur's season could have ended two weeks earlier after the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup.

"Not bad for a timber jockey," said Beecher. "I liked him after Gold Cup, he turned for home and was sitting nicely, and got a bit tired. Julie said if I wanted to ride him again, I could ride him, then I looked at 154 (pounds), I said, he's probably worth it. He was, he jumped super. I didn't think I would ride him again."

Beecher did 155 and told Gomena he'd be available when the horse moved to timber someday.

• Alicia Murphy hooked up the truck and trailer in Maryland and headed to Parx Racing in Pennsylvania. She'd finally worn down flat trainer Allen Iwinski, and was going to look at Nondo, a 6-year-old gelding whose flat career had drifted to the \$5,000 claiming level. The New Jersey-bred owned four career wins and about \$200,000 in career earnings, but his real value — to Murphy — had little to do with form.

"He's by Private Interview and there are not many Private Interviews. He's Private Attack's daddy and I wanted another Private Attack," said Murphy of her Maryland Hunt Cup winner. "I was looking and Nondo was the youngest that had done anything."

After a seventh in January 2011, Iwinski relented and told Murphy to come have a look. She walked into the barn with \$3,000 in her pocket.

"If I like what I see, he gets on the trailer, if I don't I've wasted a day," she told herself.

Down the shedrow, a bay horse hung his head over the webbing.

"I hope that's him," Murphy said. "I'd take that one."

It was him, and Nondo went home with Murphy. He's been a bit of a project, overcoming some back issues and two point-to-point falls this year, but hinted at bigger things with a front-running open timber win at Camden for owner Sportsman's Hall. Nondo (Jeff Murphy) showed the way throughout and won by 3 1/2 lengths over Dance Faster with Golden Slammer third.

Murphy likes the progress.

"He is a delightful horse, loves to fox hunt and his great to ride," the trainer said. "I think he really has potential. He can really jump and he's smart. We've made huge progress. He'll hunt all winter and we'll see where we go in the spring."



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Photos by GRC Photo



Sporty (right) challenges Poppleston (left) and Three Hundred at the last fence.

Tod Marks





# NSA Standings

## FINAL 2012 TOP 15

### Owners (Money Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings	Win%
Irv Naylor .....	101	13	11	15	\$449,075	.13
Mary Ann Houghland .....	7	2	0	2	268,000	.29
Jacqueline Ohrstrom .....	17	3	5	1	236,250	.18
Magalen Bryant .....	55	10	5	12	205,800	.18
Bill Pape .....	36	4	4	2	179,450	.11
Randleston Farm .....	8	2	3	1	138,400	.25
Hudson River Farm .....	6	2	0	0	138,000	.33
Jonathan Sheppard .....	14	3	2	2	113,500	.21
Sheila Williams .....	12	5	0	2	111,200	.42
Woodslane Farm .....	18	3	4	2	104,100	.17
Bob Kinsley .....	5	3	2	0	88,500	.60
Kinross Farm.....	30	4	5	4	83,750	.13
Gill Johnston.....	14	4	2	0	81,500	.29
The Fields Stable.....	12	1	5	2	75,400	.08
Timber Bay Farm.....	7	2	1	0	75,100	.29

### Trainers (Races Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings	Win%
Jack Fisher .....	90	16	11	15	\$453,645	.18
Richard LValentine .....	59	11	13	7	470,300	.19
Jonathan Sheppard .....	78	11	10	11	549,400	.14
Neil Morris .....	77	9	14	12	183,925	.12
J. W. Delozier .....	52	9	4	7	286,450	.17
Arch Kingsley .....	43	8	8	5	149,250	.19
Doug Fout .....	50	7	6	9	225,700	.14
Tom Voss .....	51	5	9	6	176,200	.10
Leslie Young .....	26	5	8	5	129,545	.19
Jimmy Day .....	37	5	5	4	179,300	.14
Ricky Hendriks .....	10	5	0	1	40,300	.50
Julie Gomena .....	28	4	8	2	106,050	.14
Lilith Boucher.....	37	4	7	5	86,050	.11
Alicia Murphy .....	23	4	6	2	86,550	.17
Todd Wyatt.....	15	4	3	1	88,950	.27

### Jockeys (Races Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings	Win%
Ross Geraghty .....	76	17	9	8	\$444,950	.22
Darren Nagle .....	72	14	10	12	391,775	.19
Brian Crowley .....	58	13	5	5	396,700	.22
Jacob Roberts .....	73	11	10	8	170,400	.15
Paddy Young .....	56	10	12	6	308,900	.18
Willie McCarthy .....	72	10	11	13	219,550	.14
Jeff Murphy .....	69	10	5	6	216,925	.15
Bernie Dalton .....	56	7	7	12	415,500	.13
Mark Beecher .....	30	7	4	5	123,525	.23
Roddy Mackenzie .....	55	6	8	6	137,800	.11
Danielle Hodsdon.....	47	5	5	8	209,710	.11
Matt McCarron.....	17	5	2	2	185,800	.29
Carl Rafter .....	55	4	11	8	185,950	.07
Xavier Aizpuru.....	48	4	7	7	149,870	.08
Gus Dahl .....	41	4	7	2	84,800	.10

### Horses (Money Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings	Win%
Pierrot Lunaire .....	5	2	0	1	\$253,000	.40
Demonstrative .....	6	3	0	0	209,000	.50
Divine Fortune .....	7	1	3	0	113,500	.14
Spy In The Sky .....	6	1	1	1	111,250	.17
Arcadius .....	1	1	0	0	90,000	1.00
Incomplete .....	3	3	0	0	84,000	1.00
History Boy .....	7	2	1	0	75,100	.29
Alajmal .....	6	2	1	1	74,000	.33
Gustavian .....	5	1	4	0	70,500	.20
Via Galilei (Ire) .....	4	2	0	1	67,500	.50
Cat Feathers .....	4	1	1	0	58,500	.25
Cubist.....	5	2	0	0	57,600	.40
Charminster (Ire) .....	4	0	1	1	56,000	.00
Kissern N Run.....	3	2	0	0	55,600	.67
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Tod Marks photo

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## Champs

BY SEAN CLANCY

Matt McCarron handed the saddle towel to the clerk of scales, slid two pounds of lead from his leather pad, and stepped on the scale for the final time. McCarron had just won the Colonial Cup with a last-to-first sweep from Jacqueline Ohrstrom's Demonstrative.

The win was powerful, chilling, iconic. One that had historians delving deep in their memory banks for a comparable performance. Most gave up, stammering, "I've never seen that before." Last to first, at the last, in the Colonial Cup. Never been done. But was it good enough for an Eclipse Award? In person, probably. On paper, perhaps. In reality, nobody knows. Remember, voters don't vote at Camden in November (hell, most couldn't find Camden on a map). They vote at a desk, in January.

"It's unfortunate," McCarron said, picking up his tack to go back to the barn to saddle Rainiero for the Hobkirk Hill. "Because the more he wins by, the more impressive he is and the better shot of winning the Eclipse Award."

Bernie Dalton, who barely had a view of the performance while inside on Wild For Gold, didn't want to hear any talk about Demonstrative winning the Eclipse Award.

"No Eclipse Award. No Eclipse Award," Dalton said, walking back into the jocks' room, finished for the year. He might have been smiling when he said it.

Dalton guided the other Eclipse contender, 8-year-old Pierrot Lunaire to two inexplicable and explosive wins in the fall. Mary Ann Houghland's veteran snapped a three-year losing streak by winning the Lonesome Glory by a nose in September (Demonstrative scratched while in the paddock) and backed it up with win in the sport's richest race, the Grand National at Far Hills, 10 lengths to the good of Demonstrative. Two strong performances, two defeats of Demonstrative (they finished fifth and sixth in the Zeke Ferguson in June), the earnings title. Strong credentials, but he stayed home when he should have shown up. Even Dalton knows that. On the flat, whether it's right or wrong, wins at the end of the year matter more than wins anywhere, anytime else.

"I knew he wasn't coming and I was disappointed," Dalton said of Pierrot Lunaire and the Colonial Cup. "I think if he didn't win it, he would have been second. You couldn't take anything away from Demonstrative on the day. He was impressive. The race would have suited a horse like Pierrot Lunaire – nice long run from the last. He probably wouldn't have been as far back at Demonstrative. In an ideal world, I would have gotten first run on him and beat him but we'll never know."

And so it goes. Another season. Another debate.

Most years, it's unanimous. Some years, it's default. This year, cut the bronze in half, two deserve it.

Upstart Demonstrative won the Jonathan Kiser, New York Turf Writers Cup and Colonial Cup. Veteran Pierrot Lunaire won the Lonesome Glory and Grand National. Combined, the two lost five in a row to start the season, then won five of six. Both produced highs – and lows.

Demonstrative lost jockey Robbie Walsh in his first start of the year, a novice stakes at Queen's Cup and

Pierrot Lunaire strikes a pose while turned out in December.



Lydia A. Williams

## Pierrot Lunaire

B. g. 8, War Chant-Playact, Hernando.

**Breeder:** Skymarc Farm (Ky.) **Owner:** Mary Ann Houghland.

**Trainers:** Bruce Miller & Blythe Davies.

**Jockeys:** Jacob Roberts & Bernie Dalton.

Revived career with back-to-back Grade 1 wins in fall season after three years of losing and just one prior U.S. win. Edged Demonstrative in earnings race \$253,000-\$209,000 though both won two Grade 1 stakes.

finished last in the Zeke Ferguson in the summer. After that he went 3-for-4, his only blemish a tired fourth in the Grand National when unable to handle soft ground.

Pierrot Lunaire opened his season with a decent fourth in the Temple Gwathmey, followed it with a lifeless fifth in the Iroquois and a non-threatening fifth in the Ferguson. That made nine losses in a row, all the way back to the 2009 Iroquois when he stepped off a plane to upset Good Night Shirt. Running for Bruce Miller in the summer and returning under Blythe Miller Davies' name for the fall, the 8-year-old son of War Chant "came out of the wilderness" according to Dalton to win the Lonesome Glory by a nose over Spy In The Sky.

In what would have provided the perfect stage to end all Eclipse conversation, the Lonesome Glory fell apart when trainer Richard Valentine was forced to scratch Demonstrative in the paddock. Walsh broke his hip in the prior race, probable backup McCarron was hurt in the same race. Valentine scratched and changed course to Far Hills, and Friday's rain washed

away his best chance. Demonstrative tried hard, finishing fourth, while Pierrot Lunaire did the impossible and caught Divine Fortune after the last fence in the Grand National. Looking back, that performance had historians racking their brains too, nobody could recall a horse rallying after the last fence to win the Grand National.

Poised for a showdown on the final day of racing in the Colonial Cup, Pierrot Lunaire stayed home, Demonstrative dominated, and the Eclipse Award was back up for debate.

"Part of me thinks we'll still get the Eclipse Award," Dalton said. "He won the biggest race on the year and beat Demonstrative both times they met. Well, he beat him at Far Hills, he just finished in front of him at Colonial Downs. If Demonstrative gets it, there would be no sour grapes. He did nothing wrong either. You don't want the ground to count against Demonstrative and you don't want not going to Camden to count against Pierrot Lunaire."

Dalton is opinionated and diplomatic, proud and satisfied, all at the same time. So is Valentine.

"I think Pierrot Lunaire will get it. We met him twice, he beat us twice. He finished in front of us at Colonial Downs when neither of us ran that well. Then he beat us at Far Hills," Valentine said. "If you put in the Kiser, it gives us one more win which helps us. I think people look at the Far Hills race and look at the form and he's got us on those two. I know my horse is a good horse. I know he had a great year."

Both are. Both did.

*Additional reporting by Joe Clancy.*



Douglas Lees  
Dual Grade 1 winner **Demonstrative** strikes a pose of his own while on vacation at White-wood Farm in Virginia.

**Editor's Note:** The official steeplechase champion is selected by the Eclipse Award voters.  
See [www.st-publishing.com](http://www.st-publishing.com) in January.



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## Traveler

BY JOE CLANCY

Bea and Tucker Geraghty were on a late-summer holiday in 2009. Their son Ross, fed up with the racing game at home in Ireland and his place in it, made a decision about America. He could ride there, couldn't he? Especially with a contact with leading trainer Tom Voss.

"It was Sunday night, and I flew on Wednesday morning," Ross said. "I didn't tell my parents. I just went. I was here a week and a half and of course they knew at that stage but I rode two winners and had two seconds at Monmouth."

The jockey's father picked up the phone and said "Good job." His oldest son, the one he worked closest with at the family's Pelletstown Riding Centre in Co. Meath near Dublin, was an American steeplechase jockey. Ross had ignored his father's advice not to go, but his father was proud anyway.

Imagine how he feels now. A little more than three years after leaving his home country, Ross Geraghty can add champion steeplechase jockey to his career description. He won 17 races in 2012, three more than runner-up Darren Nagle, and dethroned three-time champion Paddy Young. Geraghty picked up six stakes victories, reached \$444,950 in earnings, built a lead with a strong spring season and made it stand up in November.

The championship completed a mountainous climb in the U.S. Geraghty quickly won six races that first season, weathered a dismal three-win 2010, quit the job with Voss, briefly considered becoming a bull rider and turned it all around. He won seven races in 2011 and, after winning the crown in 2012, couldn't help thinking about his father's thoughts.

"I was working pretty close with my dad and he was losing me; he didn't want me to go," Ross said. "But it was one of those things I had to do. If I didn't do it, I'd still be at home with regrets."

That phone call after winning at Monmouth aboard Easy Red and Ground Frost erased those.

"That was great, he was hoping that was going to happen, he wanted it to happen for me and it worked," Geraghty said. "He was delighted for me, but he was afraid it wasn't going to happen. He loves that I'm doing well."

Riding an association with leading owner Irv Naylor, Geraghty bounded to the front with stakes wins at Aiken (Pullyourfingerout) and the Carolina Cup (Black Jack Blues). Though defending Eclipse Award winner Black Jack Blues went to the sidelines, Naylor and trainer J.W. Delozier imported another star in Via Galilei. The flashy Irish-bred won the Temple Gwathmey in April and the Zeke Ferguson in June. The loaded stable had Geraghty thinking championship, at least a little, from the start.

"With all the horses we had after the winter, I was confident I was there with a good shout," he said. "Quietly confident. If I could stay in one piece, I was going to get good horses to ride and I wasn't going to have to share them with anybody else like some of the lads do."

By June, he'd ridden 10 winners – eight for Naylor – and sat atop the standings. With Young injured

Ross Geraghty smiled long and last in 2012.



Tod Marks

## Ross Geraghty

Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings	Win Pct.
76	17	9	8	\$444,950	.22

First championship for 35-year-old Irishman, giving foreign-born jockeys six consecutive titles . . . Emerged from crowded group at the top as three-time champion Paddy Young missed the spring season with a broken arm . . . Won six stakes races . . . Rode nine winners for leading owner Irv Naylor . . . Picked up five for leading trainer Jack Fisher . . . When not exercising racehorses, gets on hunters for Frank Bonsal, Louis Bosley, Liz McKnight.

early and on the sidelines all spring, parity reigned on the leaderboard with five jockeys separated by just three wins at the top. As good as the Naylor horses were in the spring, they faltered just as badly in the summer and fall. Geraghty kept building, however, getting a Saratoga Open House win with Brother Sy for trainer Todd Wyatt and a proper Saratoga win with Alajmal for trainer Janet Elliot. When Willie Dowling went down with an injury at Far Hills, Geraghty won the maiden with Dahoud for trainer Jack Fisher. Three races later, Geraghty guided recent Naylor import Top Man Michael home first in the 3-year-old stakes.

The partnership with Dahoud produced another win, this time in the novice stakes at Callaway Gardens – where Geraghty also won with Seer.

"I won five races for Jack (Fisher) and it means something to get winners from a yard that size," said Geraghty, who led all jockeys with 76 mounts. "Other

people were showing interest in me riding for them, an up-and-coming trainer like Todd Wyatt, a Hall of Fame trainer like Janet Elliot. I needed wins like that in the end, but it's a good sign no matter what."

Geraghty comes by steeplechase racing naturally. He grew up at Pelletstown, birthplace of steeplechase legend Golden Miller, the only horse to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup and English Grand National in the same year (1934) and a five-time Gold Cup hero.

Today, it's a public riding facility with boarding, lessons, training grounds, sales and leasing. Tucker manages the horses, Bea takes care of the business and they have the odd point-to-pointer or racehorse as well.

The six Geraghty children all learned to ride there and took those lessons far. Ross, Norman, Barry, Jill and Holly all won races as jockeys. Ross and Barry (one of the top riders on the English and Irish circuits now) made riding races a career. Norman became a farrier (he actually shod Top Man Michael for trainer Noel Meade). Sascha edits the equestrian section of The Irish Field newspaper. Holly rode two winners for her father this season.

In the annals of jump racing, champion in America doesn't match younger brother Barry's career in the U.K. and Ireland. He's won the four big ones at the Cheltenham Festival – the Queen Mother, Champion Hurdle, Gold Cup and Stayers' Hurdle – plus a Grand National at Aintree. Barry Geraghty rides hundreds of races a year in England and Ireland, routinely wins at a

See **GERAGHTY** page 18 ►





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Maya Charli gave Ross Geraghty two wins in 2012.

Tod Marks

## Geraghty —

### Continued from page 16

20-percent clip. In the 2011-12 season, he won 119 of 524 rides in England and Ireland. That's a career in America. This summer, he collected his 1,000th Irish winner.

Jump racing is a way of life at places like Pelletstown, just down the road from Fairyhouse Racecourse. Conversely, the American sport is small, barely a business, hardly a way of life. But it's not a joke, either.

"It's different from the U.K. and Ireland, but still it's a big achievement," Geraghty said of his title. "It's the top of the tree, everybody wants to do it. To me it's a big achievement. It's as big as the sport is and I've heard from plenty of people back home about it. They're happy for me and know it takes hard work."

Geraghty likes the American prize money and the weekend racing, compared to the everyday grind European riders go through. The schedule helps Geraghty plan, think it through, be at his best on raceday.

"Back home you're on the road most days," he said. "It's a lot of traveling for rides. It's a huge volume and it can grind on you."

Geraghty never won more than 13 races in a season in Ireland. In 2000-01, he rode 314 races and climbed on at least 172 for six consecutive seasons. Like all jockeys at that level, he hit low spots, struggled (2-for-101 in 2007-08), questioned. He wasn't winning, wasn't getting good rides, it's a tough cycle. In the midst of such a run years ago, Geraghty got some advice from leading jockey Paul Carberry.

"You're trying too hard," Carberry said. "Sit back and enjoy the ride. See what happens."

Geraghty won his next race.

"There's a lot to be said for that, it can help you," said Geraghty. "I've probably improved since I came over. I have a lot more confidence now and a better grasp of all the tracks, all the horses, all the horsemen. When I came over, my confidence was sky high at first. It dipped down for a while when nothing was going right. I just kept grinding away and trying, but I was learning, learning, learning too."

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# Balancing Act

BY SEAN CLANCY

Racehorses, especially steeplechase horses, place owners at the intersection of good news and bad news. Every owner waits for the collision. For every good call, there is a bad call. Actually, it's more like a 1-5 ratio.

No owner is immune. The more horses you own, the more collisions.

In 2010, Irv Naylor won his first National Steeplechase Association owner championship with \$329,300. In 2011, the Pennsylvanian shattered the yearly earnings record, coupling \$719,725 during the year. Leading NSA earner Black Jack Blues contributed \$171,000 and an Eclipse Award. Naylor's stable earned 16 percent of the total purses offered.

This year, Naylor balanced the good and the bad, picking up his third consecutive championship while campaigning 42 horses through 101 starts for 13 wins and \$449,075 in earnings. He fell far off his own record-setting pace of the year before, but crushed his closest pursuer, Mary Ann Houghland, who rode the Pierrot Luneire money train to \$268,000 in earnings.

"This year's big difference was Black Jack Blues. We didn't have the dominant winner who carried the barn. In some instances you can run a horse but it's more speculative to run than not to run," Naylor said. "He had such a faint tear that you had to look at it four times in four directions, to see that there might be an injury pending, but who could take the chance? With an ordinary horse, you might say run him, but he's not an ordinary horse. He's too good to take that chance so we didn't. He'll be chewing at the bit come March '13."

That's Naylor, analyzing what happened and looking forward to what can happen.

Naylor began his odyssey decades ago, owning a few horses, riding the Maryland timber races, aiming at the Maryland Hunt Cup. He was the quintessential amateur. Gradually, he switched his focus from timber racing to hurdle racing. Now he's the quintes-



Tod Marks

The bell (decked out in Irv Naylor's colors after Iroquois wins in 2010 and 2011) tolled for the leading owner in 2012.

sential capitalist. Relying on proven European horses and also developing younger prospects, claiming older horses and playing at all levels of the sport, Naylor has built a juggernaut, one that hasn't been seen since Augustin Stable's grip of 14 titles from 1974-89.

But like any juggernaut, it's a constant clash of good news and bad news.

"The bad news is always 'bad.' You can put that second bad in quotes. There is no such thing as modestly bad news," Naylor said. "You learn along the way that bad news can occur at the sacrifice of good news at any time, with any horse, in any situation. You've got to be prepared to accept that bad with all that good or you're better served doing something else. Go play golf. Go buy a yacht."

Naylor came in well under par and steered his ship among the good and the bad, the ups and the downs, the push and the pull of 2012. Tee it up and take a ride through his season. . .

The good. Import Pullyourfingerout capitalized on an off-season change to the novice stakes conditions, dominating the Imperial Cup at Aiken.

The bad. He didn't run again.

The good. Champion Black Jack Blues picked up where he left off, routing the Carolina Cup in March. Undeclared in three starts in America, the veteran seemed poised to dominate at the top of the game.

The bad. He was finished for the year.

The good. Colonial Cup winner Tax Ruling was back for another season.

The bad. The talented veteran failed to win his third consecutive Iroquois and was on the sidelines by fall.

## Irv Naylor

Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
101	13	11	15	\$449,075

Third consecutive championship for York, Pa. resident and former amateur jockey whose stable is mainly based at his farm in Maryland (under Brianne Slater and J.W. Delozier in 2012). Won 12 races through June to take commanding lead and made it stand up all year. Stakes winners Via Galilei, Black Jack Blues, Pullyourfingerout, Top Man Michael led the way.

The good. Established veterans Decoy Daddy, Chess Board, Best Alibi, Saluda Sam and Fieldview looked capable of winning on any weekend.

The bad. None of them won a race.

The good. Imperial Gin returned for his second year of hurdling, after winning a classy maiden at Far Hills in 2011.

The bad. He ran once in 2012.

The good. New recruits Nearby, The Jigsaw Man, Plattsburg, Baraathen, Arctic Reach, Black Pond bolstered the ranks.

The bad. They didn't win a race and were out of action by fall.

The good. Black Quartz hinted he was a real threat to the novice division, winning at Foxfield and Radnor.

The bad. He pulled up in both starts at Saratoga and was finished for the year.

See **NAYLOR** page 22 ►



Tod Marks

Jockey Ross Geraghty joined Diane and Irv Naylor in the winner's circle after a win at Radnor by Black Quartz.



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## Naylor —

### ■ Continued from page 20

The good. Novice champion in 2011, Lake Placid, still had eligibility in starters, scooping \$15,000 at Virginia Gold Cup and \$21,000 at Iroquois.

The bad. He, too, was finished after Saratoga.

The good. Another British import, Via Galilei won the Temple Gwathmey in his first start and the Zeke Ferguson in his second. The veteran of 41 starts from Nad Al Sheba to Cheltenham before he came here looked like a lock at Saratoga and a solid candidate to take Black Jack Blues' place in the Grade 1 cauldron.

The bad. Part of a three-horse entry in the A.P. Smithwick, he beat one and didn't run again.

The good. Naylor rolled through the beginning of the season, winning 12 of his first 47 starts.

The bad. The stable finished 1-for-54.

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The good. J.W. Delozier took over as Naylor's main trainer in 2011. The former jockey produced clutch wins from Black Jack Blues, Lake Placid, Via Galilei and others.

The bad. The trainer was gone by the end of Saratoga.

The good. Imported before Saratoga, Charminster earned \$56,000 in four starts.

The bad. He was winless in those four starts.

The good. Cordillera vaulted out of sellers in England to finish second, third and fourth in filly and mare stakes.

The bad. Not for a lack of trying, she didn't win in three tries.

The good. Naylor ran four in the A.P. Smithwick, three in the Grand National and three in the Colonial Cup.

The bad. None finished better than fourth.

The good. Imported the week of Far Hills, Irish-bred Top Man Michael won the Gladstone at Far Hills, stamping himself as the 3-year-old leader.

The bad. While in contention at the last in the Raymond G. Woolfe, title in the balance, Top Man Michael fell.

The good. Last year, Naylor campaigned the top four earners.

The bad. This year, only Via Galilei cracked the top 10.

The good. Naylor earned his third consecutive owner's title.

The bad. No bad in that.

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**Thanks to the team which  
helped make it all happen,  
and here's to one more in 2013.**

Photo by Tod Marks



# Fishing for Wins

BY SEAN CLANCY

Jack Fisher gazed and appraised Three Hundred and Popplestone after his duo finished second and third in the maiden at the Colonial Cup. Two maidens, blowing hard, checks earned, going home.

"I can't believe they let the winner up the inside," Fisher said, half to himself, half to his jockeys.

Then Fisher turned toward owners Andre Brewster and Sheila Williams.

"That's all right," Fisher said. "They ran good, I'd rather have them as maidens for next year anyway. I need the points for next year, not this year."

For the owners, they would have rather had the money. For the trainer, the beat goes on.

With his sixth trainer championship clinched before Camden, Fisher looked ahead, stacking bricks for a title defense next season.

"I would rather have maidens next year, I'm just as happy to stop with them, I was glad there wasn't two more weeks in the season," Fisher said. "I can run them at early meets where somebody else might have a better horse but they don't have the experience mine have, I'll beat them."

Fisher earned his first title in 2003, repeated in 2004, then won three in a row from 2007-09. Jonathan Sheppard returned to the top in 2010 and Tom Voss ended a nine-year drought to win last year. This year, Fisher used every burner on the stove, somehow collecting 16 wins to reclaim his crown.

For the second consecutive time, it took the minimum to earn the leading trainer title. In 1974, Sheppard secured the title with 19 wins. It took at least 21 wins every year until Voss won it with 16 last year. This year, Fisher produced 16 victories from 90 starts to best Richard Valentine and Sheppard who tied with 11.

It wasn't pretty. Nothing special, no big horse, no individual titles. Seeds sewn, crops reaped, simply more wins than anybody else.

"I don't know if it's good or bad, but more trainers are winning races, I'm winning less races and am still leading trainer, it happened last year too. Everybody has less horses, I think it's a bad thing overall," Fisher said. "There are less starters every year, that's starting to catch up to us. Some people say it's a good thing because more people are getting a piece of the pie, but I wouldn't look at it that way."

He'd rather have a bigger pie. Fisher used every fork in the drawer this year, combining an eclectic group to earn the title, a group without anything resembling the glory days of Virginia Gold Cup icon Saluter, three-time timber champion Bubble Economy, Grade I wonderkind Good Night Shirt or even solid stakes horses like Paradise's Boss or All Together.

No, this was closer to the Bad News Bears than the New York Yankees.

Fisher's leading earner, Virsito, won twice from two starts to finish as the 17th leading earner in the sport. He came with a suspensory, left with a suspensory, finished after Saratoga. Brave Prospect, purchased for \$10,000, stayed busy, winning once from nine starts to earn \$53,200. Maya Charli won a maiden claimer at Radnor and the Valentine at Fair Hill seven days later. Seer added a late-season claimer. Monteagle, En Fuego, Grand Pride added maiden wins but were doing other things by fall. Classy flat horse Dahoud promised big things, winning twice in the fall.

As always, Fisher used a fleet of timber horses to



Tod Marks

Trainer Jack Fisher gets some love from pupil All Together in the paddock at the Carolina Cup.

## Jack Fisher

Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
90	16	11	15	\$453,645

Sixth overall title, and first since 2009. Fisher, Tom Voss and Jonathan Sheppard have won the last seven championships, and 14 of the last 16. Got two wins each from Dahoud, Straight To It and Virsito. Led victory total by five over Sheppard and Richard Valentine, third in earnings behind those two.

support the cause. Lion's Double, Delta Park and Shiny Emblem scratched lines on the chalkboard while Straight To It won twice. Without their input, it's a three-way tie with Valentine and Sheppard.

Fisher tells it straight.

"This year didn't feel as good as the others. The other years I had one good horse at least, I don't have the Good Night Shirt or anything just below him. We've got a big drop. I don't have the big one," Fisher said. "Dahoud looks like he's promising. Straight To It looks like he's promising. I've got a bunch of maidens but none of them have gone on to be the good horse."

Dahoud and Straight To It produced four wins (including two stakes) this fall, bolstering Fisher's arsenal which had lost the likes of Virsito, All Together and En Fuego to injuries or surgeries over the summer. To win a title, a trainer needs supportive owners, loyal help and consistent horses. Dedication and desire help too.

As flippant and jovial as Fisher presents himself, the Pennsylvania-born Marylander recognizes the change in the latter.

"I think what happens to guys like Sheppard, Voss, myself is I'm not hustling as much as I used to, I'm not pressing, 'Let's go buy more horses, let's go buy more horses,' " Fisher said. "For me, maybe Tom and Sheppard, it's getting a little old, we just don't feel like grinding it out that much. You're not working as hard to find the horses. You just don't have the enthusiasm you had."

Fisher might not have the enthusiasm as he once had but he still possesses the work ethic of an Everest sherpa. At the end of November, his sixth title deep in the books, he foxhunted five days in a row. He says it was out of boredom. Perhaps, but pencil in Grand Pride, Peace Fire, Worried Man, Battalion and Shiny Emblem as next year's timber squad.

As quickly as he says he doesn't want to grind it out like he used to, he tells you he's hunted four raw timber prospects on four consecutive days with Elkridge-Harford and Green Spring. Remember, he didn't say he sent out four raw timber horses for a day's hunting. As a rival trainer once said, "Jack doesn't fax the instructions every morning."

Fisher hunted four raw timber prospects himself.

"The fun part of the leading trainer is to look forward to next year," Fisher said. "I hope some of these

See **FISHER** page 25 ►



# Fisher —

## ■ Continued from page 24

will be nice timber horses. I hunted Shiny Emblem on Thanksgiving, I had to have a good one."

As for next year, 2011 novice champion All Together is back after a wind surgery. Two-time winner Mr. Hot Stuff returns after missing last season. Annawon, Popplestone, Three Hundred, Love Man, Syros and Sharp Numbers solidify the maiden ranks.

Like all trainers, Fisher relies on numbers to win titles while sifting and searching for the next big thing.

"The first time it meant a lot, now it doesn't mean as much," Fisher said. "What do I want? I want the good horse. I'm looking for the next Good Night Shirt, the next Saluter, or something close. That's why I still do it, looking for that horse."

The next obvious question hangs in the air.

Fisher stammers for a moment, then, like always, answers honestly.

"No. I don't have anything that I'm really, really excited about," Fisher said. "You'd like to say, a Syros or a Dahoud . . . but I'm like that. I never got high on Good Night Shirt, Saluter, any of them. I try not to do that."

## Six Packs

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Trainer .....	Titles
Jonathan Sheppard .....	24
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## Grade A

BY SEAN CLANCY

They can come from anywhere. Hall of Famer Burley Cocks cultivated a championship season from Flying Cottage in 1962. Jonathan Sheppard produced one with Haffaday in 1967. James Hruska designed a title run with Valley Hart in 1960. Grover Stephens won one with Gillian in 1956.

Jacko emigrated from Chile to win three in a row in the early '70s. Future British chaser Fort Devon took back-to-back titles in 1974-75. The flying Argentine, Dosdi, won two in the '70s.

Sam Son Of A Gun and Where's Pepo began as hurdle horses for Sheppard. Ironfist graduated from Virginia point-to-points. Ozymandias began his career at Hialeah, four years later, he was champion. Von Csadek, Jaughs, Joe's OK, Saluter, Bubble Economy . . . paupers to the pulpit.

Timber championships are not won with a compass, a blueprint or a road map. They're won by discovery, perseverance, patience. Timber horses don't have odometers. Timber owners and trainers don't wear watches.

Incomplete began his flat career in 2003, his steeplechase career in 2007, he became timber champion in 2012.

Bred and owned by Hugo and Marilyn Procopio, trained by Greg Wilson on the flat, discovered by Dawn Williams, purchased by Bob Kinsley, educated by Ann Stewart, tamed by Sarah Stein and Beth Supik, the 11-year-old son of Press Card posted a perfect 3-for-3 tab in 2012 to earn his first championship over 6-year-old newcomer Grinding Speed and Maryland Hunt Cup winner Twill Do.

Cue Paul McCartney, it was a long and winding road. And Wilson knows the road.

Asked to talk about a horse he trained seven years earlier, the Maryland-based conditioner paused for a moment, then like all trainers, recited the form of a long departed servant.

Two wins, 29 starts, 17 months.

"Gosh, it's been a long time," Wilson said. "I think I won two races on the flat with him. He broke his maiden and won a never-won-two-lifetime. A lot of times, horses can't get past that, he was never going to win a never-won-three-lifetime."

On the flat.

In three starts over timber, albeit over two years, Incomplete surpassed that condition. The 15.2-hand bay gelding won a highweight amateur at the Grand National with Blake Curry, came back a year later to win an allowance timber under Stewart's son Charlie Fenwick, then took the My Lady's Manor a year later.

Wilson always knew he was tough.

"He was always a sound horse, he was a very tough horse in the morning," Wilson said. "He was the kind of horse that it could be 20 degrees outside and you'd send him out there for a gallop, he would come back in a lather. He got a full bath in 20-degree weather and never got sick a day in his life. Just a very tough horse in the morning."

Riding a 13-race losing streak, Incomplete was riding the short list for Procopio and Wilson when Dawn Williams, assistant for Wilson and future Virginia Gold Cup-winning trainer, wrote a ticket out.

"Dawn really, really liked this horse, she was my assistant when I had a big stable of horses, she gets all the credit for finding this horse," Wilson said. "She recommended the horse, they liked him and the rest is history."

Williams taught Incomplete to jump and asked Stewart to come see the raw material. Incomplete



Douglas Lees

Incomplete and Beth Supik walk in the paddock at the Virginia Gold Cup.

## Incomplete

B. g. 11, Press Card-Sioux Lady, Poker.

**Breeder:** Hugo Procopio (Md.). **Owner:** Bob Kinsley.

**Trainer:** Ann Stewart. **Jockeys:** Joey Elliott and Paddy Young.

Veteran went 3-for-3 and earned \$84,000 to lead division over Grinding Speed and Twill Do. First timber championship for horse whose career started in 2007. Second timber champion trained by Stewart (Askim, 2006). Won just twice in 29 starts on flat – including 22-start campaign in 2004.

## Timber Standings

Horse	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Incomplete	3	3	0	0	\$84,000
Grinding Speed	6	3	3	0	55,350
Twill Do	2	1	0	0	46,500
Straight To It	2	2	0	0	36,000
Lion's Double	4	1	0	1	34,400

schooled over show jumps and Stewart liked him. She's not sure what she liked about him, she just innately liked him. Looking for a foxhunter for her daughter, Beth, Stewart thought she found the perfect horse. That didn't last long.

"I bought him for Beth and, oh, we tried hard, but he would dart off, go here, go there, nothing mean, it was too much for Beth," Stewart said. "I liked him enough that I wasn't going to let him go but he wasn't going to be anybody's hunter."

Stewart changed course, called Bob Kinsley who was looking to get involved in steeplechasing and handed the project to Stein.

"You need a pretty good rider, Sarah made the horse and Beth (Supik) does a great job, she's a good rider," Stewart said. "He doesn't want to throw you

off, he's just so exuberant, he just goes out and goes dancing every day. It's exhausting."

Incomplete showed up at the Grand National in March 2007, won three in a row over three seasons before falling in the Grand National to start his fourth season. Four losses followed before he reclaimed a foothold at the top of the sport, winning the International Gold Cup last fall. A mistake at the second-last cost him the New Jersey Hunt Cup a week later.

This year, he was flawless.

"I don't think the horse should have ever lost any race," Stewart said. "His losses were because I didn't do right or somebody else didn't do right. He must have gotten better because he can beat the top horses. Usually, when I look at Jack Fisher and Tom Voss and their top horses, I'm scared. I don't know why he could beat them but he could."

Stewart produced him to win the My Lady's Manor over Bubble Economy and Bon Caddo in April and the Virginia Gold Cup over G'day G'day and Guts For Garters in May. Irish amateur Joey Elliott guided him to those wins. Put away after the Gold Cup and introduced to three-time champion jockey Paddy Young, Incomplete returned to win the National Sporting Library Chronicle Cup at Virginia Fall but bowed a tendon in the process.

"He never touches the ground and never blows out a candle. It's seldom you have one that finishes like he does, he does it so easily. He amazes me," Stewart said. "He tried every time. They think he'll come back, if he wants to come back, I'll let him come back. You know what I mean?"

Of course, he's a timber champion, charting his course.



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## Live One

BY JOE CLANCY

Monday's Child, a broodmare at Lisa and Zohar Ben-Dov's Kinross Farm in Virginia, lay on her side, hurt and exhausted. She'd struggled in the cold and rain and mud, a long way from a straw-bedded stall, warmth and human attention. Her foal, a plain chestnut colt, was halfway into the world, halfway not. Unassisted, she wasn't going to become a mother and he wasn't going to live.

And then, by chance, help arrived.

Neil Morris and Chris Read, the Kinross trainer and chief assistant, saw the mare while driving between barns on the farm. Monday's Child wasn't due for a month and like all the other mares at Kinross, wasn't even supposed to foal at the farm near Middleburg. Morris and Read parked the Chevy Tahoe, hopped the fence, ran to the mare.

"She was distressed, just laying there like she'd given up," said Morris. "It was a breach birth, the foal was half out, she was hurt. It didn't look like either of them were going to make it."

Morris called veterinarian Dr. Ian Harrison, and asked for help. Even if he hurried, Harrison wasn't going to get there in time.

"You have to get the foal out or else you're going to lose him and the mare," Harrison said. "Get the foal out, do what you can and I'll be there as soon as I can."

Grabbing the front legs, Morris and Read pulled the foal into the world. He looked dead, with no movement, no noise, no struggle. Morris wiped the amniotic fluid off the colt's face, cleaned him, and – not knowing what else to do – blew into his mouth. Read took off his Barbour oilskin raincoat and placed it on the horse's back.

"Get him warm, do what we can," the two men thought.

The foal's tongue, blue and lifeless, flopped out of his mouth. They put it back; it flopped out again. Because they weren't sure what else to do, they started CPR by pressing on the foal's ribcage. They stopped and saw a little flutter, a small sign of life, just behind the foal's elbow.

"Did you see that?" Morris said to Read.

Just as quickly, the heartbeat was gone so they started again, pumping on the foal's ribcage and blowing air into his mouth. This time, the flutter came back. And stayed. The colt – cold, dirty, born dead a month early, lying on the ground in a Barbour coat – nickered. He was alive. Read picked him up like you would a sick dog, and carried him to the farm trailer for a ride with his mother to the barn. There, the crisis continued but this time with optimism.

"We just laid there with him, kept him warm, kept blankets on him and he came around," said Read. "He stood up in the stall like a normal foal. We were just doing what we thought might work – mouth to mouth, smacked him on the side, pushed on his side, tried to get him back and it worked. I really don't know why or how. They're the foals that die."

Not this one.

He lived, thanks in part to the last acts of his mother. Badly injured in the delivery, she lived a few months – long enough to nurse him, raise him to a healthy, seemingly normal foal.

"I remember thinking that we'd saved the foal, he could be a horse on the farm," said Morris. "Nobody



Douglas Lees

More Tea Vicar shows off during some down time at Kinross Farm in November.

## More Tea Vicar

Ch. g. 3, Congaree-Monday's Child, Lear Fan.

Breeder: Kinross Corp. (Va.).

Owner: Kinross Farm. Trainer: Neil Morris.

Jockey: Bernie Dalton.

Two seconds and a win in three starts earned crown, with victory coming in \$25,000 Raymond Woolfe Stakes at the Colonial Cup. Avenged losses to Orchestra Leader and Top Man Michael in win. Out of half-sister to Segregation Lane, champion 3-year-old of 2000.

## Three-Year-Old Standings

Horse	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
More Tea Vicar	3	1	2	0	\$21,300
Top Man Michael	2	1	0	0	15,000
Orchestra Leader	3	1	0	1	9,500

thought he would amount to anything. He was here, always kind of the bridesmaid, the extra horse."

More than three years later, the Virginia-bred son of Congaree named More Tea Vicar, is a champion – completing a 3-year-old hurdle season of a win, two seconds and \$21,300 earned in three starts. His victory came in the \$25,000 Raymond Woolfe Memorial at Springdale Race Course in Camden, S.C. Nov. 17. He led throughout, put his jumping skills to good use and kicked away from the last fence, where championship rival Top Man Michael fell, to win by 1 3/4 lengths. The development rewarded Read and Morris for their effort, a horse for his will. They don't call him Miracle Horse or anything else special around Kinross, but he's earned a spot as a homebred, a trier,

See **MORE TEA VICAR** page 29 ►



Tod Marks

More Tea Vicar accelerates like a Lexus (sorry) over the last fence in the Raymond Woolfe Memorial.



# More Tea Vicar —

■ Continued from page 28

a winner, a champion. His dam Monday's Child was a half-sister to Segregation Lane, champion 3-year-old hurdler of 2000. The daughter of Lear Fan was smallish, so Kinross chose Congaree for her first mating because of the sire's size and scope.

"It's kind of fun," said Morris. "These homebreds seem like they're around a long time but he's only 3. He's improved every time we've run him, done nothing wrong. He was on the short list, if he didn't do anything over hurdles, to be moved out of the barn. He didn't do anything on the flat because he's one-paced. They don't write races far enough for him. He was on the list to be reviewed the first of December, he's off the list now."

For sure.

More Tea Vicar made his racing debut at Fair Hill in late May, then tried four flat starts at a mile on the turf at Colonial Downs. He never got closer than third and was fourth (disqualified to fifth) in a race for amateur jockeys at Delaware Park in September. He made his jump debut at Virginia Fall in October and finished second by a neck to Orchestra Leader. Second again to Irish winner Top Man Michael in soft turf at Far Hills, More Tea Vicar went to Camden looking for firmer turf and a reversal. Ridden for the third time by Bernie Dalton, the chestnut got it — setting the pace throughout and kicking away late. Top Man Michael was threatening at the last, but you've got to jump all the fences.

"He's got a high-cruising speed and can use it," said Dalton, who picked

up the ride when Jacob Roberts chose stablemate Personal Fight at Virginia Fall. "He's real quick over a fence and can get you a length or more the way he does it. If he has to chip in, he can do that too. Every time I've ridden him, it felt like he improved 10 pounds."

Dalton didn't hear the full story until he'd ridden the horse, but thought of it after the Woolfe victory at Camden.

"Life is funny, he survived," said the jockey. "You'd like to think maybe he'd be something good."

Morris agreed.

"He's a good horse, I don't know whether he's great, but he's a good horse," said Morris. "He's been fun to take to the races, it's meant a lot to us, meant a lot to Zohar and Lisa. He's always been around people, he trusts people."

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## Not in a While

(written in honor of Sarah Thomas  
by Jim Bergen)

Cold January morning,  
Hot June afternoon.  
You came to us too late,  
And you left us all way too soon.

Winds blow across the fields,  
And they whisper your name.  
As for us...  
We are left behind,  
And we will never be the same.

Times of fun & laughter,  
Times of solace & tears.  
Be confident Sarah...  
We loved you.  
And that will not change,  
With minutes, data or years.

You met each day with a laugh,  
And that room filling smile.  
That memory will not pass amongst us,  
Not in a day, a week, a year...

Not ever... Not in awhile.



# Purrfect Horse

BY SEAN CLANCY

Bernie Dalton turned and pointed to a bay filly in a corner paddock in Camden, S.C.

"There's the champ," he said.

Then he pointed to another bay filly in another paddock.

"And there's the linebacker," Dalton said.

The champ, Cat Feathers, and the linebacker, Lillehammer, never looked up.

The diminutive Cat Feathers, a brown paper bag. The lanky Lillehammer, her frame waiting for a growth spurt. Tucked away, under the trees, last barn down the sandy lane at the corner of Springdale Training Center, the two fillies relished the down time.

Owned and trained by Kate Dalton and ridden by her husband, Cat Feathers won the filly and mare championship in a matter of three weeks, upsetting the Mrs. Ogden Phipps and finishing second in the Mrs. Walter Jeffords at Saratoga. The Daltons decided they had ridden it to the beach and put her away for the fall, hoping the rest of the division would divide and conquer through the fall.

Like deck chairs in a cyclone.

Last year's champion Sweet Shani finished second in the Phipps and retired. Kissar N Run broke her maiden at Foxfield, dominated the Peapack at Far Hills, then finished last in the Crown Royal at Callaway Gardens. Cubist won the Jeffords, labored in soft turf at Far Hills and finished fourth at Callaway Gardens. Well Fashioned fell at Far Hills before winning at Callaway. Cordillera finished second in the Peapack and third in the Crown Royal. All the while, Cat Feathers, blister on her legs and time on her side, waited for her 5-year-old season.

The three-week bonanza at Saratoga stuck as Cat Feathers emerged as champion filly or mare, earning \$900 more than Cubist and a couple thousand more than Kissar N Run. The linebacker did her job better than Singletary, earning a third at Far Hills and a second at Callaway Gardens. If Lillehammer fades, fails or falls when making a mistake at the second-last at Callaway, Cubist earns a third-place check and denies Cat Feathers the improbable accolade. It would have been the thousandth champion for Sheppard, it was the first for the Daltons.

A hard-working, put-up-their-own-money couple based in Camden for the winter and wherever horses take them after that, the Daltons earned a year-changing check and career-bolstering accomplishment.

Bred by Peter Wetherill's Happy Hill Farm, Cat Feathers was one of five 2-year-olds with the Daltons when Wetherill died in 2010. Executors of his estate called Kate and asked about the horses. Kate told them the truth; three were OK, one had major foot issues and Cat Feathers would be fine in two years.

Estates don't have two years.

The Daltons wrote a check for \$1,000 in February and turned her out until they returned to Camden in September. The long-term project was underway.

"There have been times when I'm riding her and Bernie's like, 'Just stop with that thing,'" Kate said. "We've had other ones from the family, they don't have the best hind ends, they have stifle issues, I'd be riding and Bernie would say, 'take her home,' and I'd say, 'just stop looking at her.'"

In January 2011, the Daltons bought Well Fashioned from the Keeneland January sale and teamed the then 4-year-old filly with Cat Feathers for Camden schooling sessions. Well Fashioned won in a matter of months, Cat Feathers went back to school.

"I was on Well Fashioned and Kate was on Cat Feathers and she couldn't figure out how to jump the rolls, she thought they were Irish banks that she was



Cat Feathers lounges in her paddock at Camden in November.

Tod Marks

## Cat Feathers

Dk. B./Br. f., 4, Catienus-Mistress Hemming, Quiet American

**Breeder:** Happy Hill Farm (N.Y.).

**Owner/trainer:** Kate Dalton. **Jockey:** Bernie Dalton.

Rode big Saratoga runs – a win and a second in distaff stakes – to narrow championship score over Cubist. Purchased from breeder's estate in 2010.

## Filly/Mare Standings

Horse	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Cat Feathers	4	1	1	0	\$58,500
Cubist	5	2	0	0	57,600
Kissar N Run	3	2	0	0	55,600

climbing up," Bernie said. "Kate's initial response was, 'She comes out of the gate well, let's give her a run or two on the flat.'"

Cat Feathers made her debut at Colonial Downs last summer, finishing 10th twice for maiden claiming tags. By fall, she transitioned back to hurdle horse, making her jump debut at Aiken in October. Two weeks later, she won a maiden claimer at Charleston.

"She had been an ongoing project, a big, leggy kid that took awhile for everything to sink in; all we were hoping for was a clear round and show some kind of promise. I couldn't believe it," Bernie said. "I thought I would have to be aggressive on her and she sat third or fourth, she pulled and jumped like she had done it her whole life, I had to look down to make sure I was on the right horse."

Put away for the winter, with at least a glimmer of hope induced by the win, Cat Feathers made her 4-year-old debut at High Hope. She pulled up.

Back to Colonial Downs June 2, Cat Feathers finished seventh in a tough allowance. Kate, shank in hand, walked to the track, cringing at what Bernie would say about a filly who he had told her to stop with time and time again.

"I went down to meet my filly, braced that he was going to batter her and he said, 'We're going to Saratoga,'" Kate said. "He said she learned everything she needed to know, she'll improve from that."

A sixth on the flat at Colonial June 29 added the finishing touches and the Daltons headed to Saratoga. Trainers and assistants (husbands and wives for that matter) need balance. Sometimes, it's necessary to instill confidence. Other times, it's necessary to instill reality. With Cat Feathers, there were times when Kate provided the confidence and Bernie provided the reality. And other times, the roles reversed.

The perfect confluence occurred at Saratoga. Two starts, a win and a second, championship earned. By then, Cat Feathers had begun to train with purpose. Bernie, confidence gained from her run at Colonial and Kate, confidence gained by morning exercise, were on the same page. Still, Bernie had to rub it in, at least a little.

"He had that moment when she finished seventh at Colonial Downs," Kate said. "After the Phipps, he came back and said, I told you she would improve."

Kate knew it all along.



# Fast Learner

BY SEAN CLANCY

Janet Elliot and Richard Valentine stood outside Shadwell's hospitality room in Park Paddocks, Left Yard at Tattersalls, October 2010, in Newmarket, England. A thousand horses on their minds, Timeform Guidebooks dog-eared, scribbled on, digested and dissected, tucked under their arms. Elliot had just finished a cup of tea (with milk, water must be boiling). Valentine, coffee. Shadwell's Johnny Peter-Hoblyn choreographed the show, showing horses while his wife, Isabel directed Hyphen Bloodstock's tour. Elliot and Valentine had another list, another assignment, ready to go. Then Elliot dropped her tea cup.

"Damn, look at him move," Elliot said as a bay colt floated past.

Another American wrote, "Great trot," above Lot 295 in his Timeform.

Alajmal meet Janet. Janet meet Alajmal, future novice hurdle champion of 2012.

"I remember it exactly. He was jogging up and down for somebody else. He just floated across the ground. Richard was standing there with me and I said, 'He looks nice.' Eventually I ended up looking at him."

First impressions are the best impressions.

Elliot looked, loved, then laughed.

He's 2. He's by First Samurai. He's 0-for-2. You don't go to Newmarket to buy an American-bred dirt horse who's never won a race. Or do you? Knowing instinct and risk are needed for success in racing, Elliot called owner Greg Hawkins.

"What do you think of a 2-year-old?" she asked.

"Well, yeah," Hawkins said.

"By First Samurai," she said.

"Yeah, I like First Samurai," he said.

Then Hawkins said the magic words for success in a game that relies and thrives on instinct and risk.

"Whatever you think," Hawkins said to Elliot, who's been his only jump trainer since his flat trainer, Mike Freeman, suggested sending a raw-boned, big-striding son of Lear Fan to Elliot. Campanile gave his owner all the confidence he would ever need in his trainer.

"You have to be a bit of a gambler in this sport," Elliot said. "It doesn't always pay off, but it's part of it."

With a bid of 23,000 guineas, Alajmal headed back to America, arriving in November on a pallet with Cornhusker, Alburj and Embezzle. Elliot began schooling Alajmal in Camden in the winter. She loved what she had bought.

"We schooled him, I always liked the way he jumped," Elliot said. "I thought to myself, 'Wow, this could be my 3-year-old this year.'"

Elliot unveiled Alajmal in a training flat race at Queen's Cup in April. Brian Crowley guided him to a facile score. Impressed, Elliot felt confident enough to take him to Monmouth Park in the summer where he finished fifth, beaten just 2 lengths in a maiden on the turf (future jumper Dax won it). The effort was promising, but Alajmal developed a high suspensory injury which ended Elliot's aspirations of him being, "her 3-year-old this year."

"I've thought that with several before and they've never materialized either," she said.

You don't get in the Hall of Fame by not being resilient and patient. Elliot rested Alajmal and prepared him for 2012.

In his 4-year-old debut, Alajmal finished second, beaten a nose by Wantan, in a training flat race at the Carolina Cup and returned to win a training flat race at Atlanta. Next, Elliot tried the racetrack, where Alajmal sat close to the pace and stopped in a 10-furlong

Trainer Janet Elliot escorts novice champion Alajmal out of the paddock at Far Hills.

Tod Marks



## Alajmal

B. g. 4, First Samurai-Alattrah, Shaded.

**Breeder:** Shadwell Farm (Ky.).

**Owner:** Greg Hawkins. **Trainer:** Janet Elliot.

**Jockeys:** Brian Crowley, Ross Geraghty, Richard Boucher.

Rookie led all horses who started 2012 as maidens with \$74,100. Won twice in six starts – a maiden at Penn National and an optional claimer at Saratoga – with two stakes placings. Purchased at Tattersalls in England as a 2-year-old. First 4-year-old to place in the Colonial Cup since 1993. Edged fillies Cubist (\$57,600) and Kisser N Run (\$55,600) for novice crown.

turf maiden at Belmont. Two weeks later, he made his hurdle debut at Parx Racing. Elliot preached caution to Crowley.

"Because of his high suspensory, I had done very little schooling with him this year, I was more intent on getting him back to the races, I knew he knew how to jump, we gave him a quick school down at Paddy Young's and ran him," Elliot said. "It was a little damp, a little slippery. Brian Crowley rode him, he always loved that horse, I said, 'Brian, please just be careful. It's his first start, he's done very little schooling this year. I don't care what happens, just come back in one piece. Don't get aggressive, don't ask for fences, don't get excited.' He ran a very sensible race."

Alajmal appreciated the perfect introduction to jumping and returned 18 days later to trash eight maidens at Penn National. At 4-1, he was a gift.

Elliot tried the flat again, running him on the dirt at Saratoga and yet again he disappointed. But, yet again, he came back sharp, taking an optional-claiming hurdle 10 days later. With Crowley committed to Bodie Island for Jonathan Sheppard, Ross Geraghty

guided Alajmal to a comfortable win over Brave Prospect and Memorial Maniac.

Sticking with the flat preps, Elliot sent him to Delaware for a 12-furlong maiden on the turf in September. He finished third. Fourteen days later, he ran hard to just miss against the experienced Gustavian in a spill-marred Entenmann at Belmont. Far Hills proved a bust as he failed to handle the soft ground and pulled up in the Foxbrook. Elliot wasn't finished.

Recalling the exploits of Highland Bud, Flatterer, Sailor's Clue, Martie's Anger, Inkslinger and Too Few Stripes (falling at the last while in contention), Elliot aimed her 4-year-old at the Colonial Cup.

"Obviously, he didn't seem to care for Far Hills. Before the race, I had it in mind to shoot for the Colonial Cup," Elliot said. "I thought it was a kind of course he would like, 4-year-olds get a big break in the weights, it's a better race than the big race at Far Hills for a 4-year-old."

In receipt of 10 pounds, teamed with Richard Boucher for the first time and treated with Lasix for the first time, Alajmal handled the class hike with aplomb, rating in the back before rallying to finish third to the seasoned Demonstrative and Divine Fortune.

"Richard gave him a nice ride, I think if the poor man knew him a little better, it would have been easier for him. I thought it was a great effort. He jumped well, traveled well," Elliot said. "One of the nicest things about that race was the picture of Tod Marks' at the last, I don't think I've ever seen so many horses so close together at the last fence in the Colonial Cup and he's right there, that was a great race."

In just his sixth career hurdle start, Alajmal rewarded his owner's conviction and his trainer's confidence. Again.



# The End

## Neck damage from falls sends top jockey Crowley to retirement

BY JOE CLANCY

Brian Crowley laughed at the question.

"What will I miss?" he repeated, and took a long breath. "... the money? To be fair, I've had a good relationship with the lads in the weighing room. They're a good bunch of people. And just the excitement of going out there and riding racehorses. The whole aspect of it, being involved in the schooling and the training, the racing, the lads, all of it."

And with that, Crowley closed the book on his career as a steeplechase jockey.

The veteran Irishman came to the United States looking for a new start in 2010, carved out a place in the top five for three seasons, ruled Saratoga, won some of the country's top races and rode some of the country's top horses. For the record, he won 37 of 175 American rides (21 percent) and his horses earned more than \$1.2 million. Add that to his 166 wins in England and Ireland and it's been quite a run.

He's retiring for health reasons – his neck injured in a fall with Ground Frost at Belmont Park in September.

A neck injury essentially ended the rise of a promising career in England, so he knows the dangers. The 31-year-old plans to stay in the U.S. and pursue a job with a breeding farm. Like that one, this latest injury didn't have to end his career, but Crowley couldn't help thinking about his future.

"It's been well documented with my neck," he said. "Basically, I'm getting arthritis in my bones, it's just natural. The bones have taken a little bit more pounding and it's not as solid as a normal neck would be. It's a decision you've got to make and unfortunately I've had to make it."

Crowley grew up in County Cork, Ireland, where horses are part of the culture. He got a pony for his eighth birthday. He worked for trainer Paddy Mullins at 13, Aidan O'Brien at 15. There was a racing yard on the way to secondary school and Brian would get off the bus there in the morning, get back on there in the afternoon and tell everyone at home how great school was going. At conference night, a teacher told his parents that young Brian should "go ahead



Tod Marks

See **CROWLEY** page 33 ► Jockey Brian Crowley announced his retirement after the Colonial Cup meet.

## What a year!

Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
59	11	13	7	\$470,300

New York Turf Writers Cup, Colonial Cup,  
Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes,  
Foxbrook Novice Stakes,  
Peapack Filly/Mare Stakes.  
Second in the trainer standings.

*To the owners, the jockeys, the team, and especially all the horses . . .  
Thank You! – Whitewood Farm & Richard Valentine*

valentine20198@peoplepc.com • (540) 270-1819



# Crowley —

■ Continued from page 32

and pursue his jockey career,” and so he did.

“Over there you eat, breathe and sleep horses, and there was no question about me,” Crowley said. “I was never at school. One of my teachers had a horse with Aidan O’Brien and knew I was very keen on becoming a jockey. He knew the drill.”

So off went the future jockey.

Crowley rode as an amateur in Ireland and moved to England at 17. He rode six years for top trainer Venetia Williams. He won a Welsh National, rode in the English Grand National at Aintree, won 48 races in the 2002-03 season.

In February 2004, he injured his neck in a fall at Ludlow and missed 10 months. When he returned, future top jockey Sam Thomas was getting most of the rides. Crowley stuck with it, but was toiling against a strong tide. He quit for nearly three years to work on a stud farm and as an assistant trainer and exercise rider. He returned to race riding in 2009, and won aboard 100-1 shot Tenormore at Bangor On Dee in July while trying to rebuild his career.

“I was working for Paul Cashman, he had about 25 horses and I was riding the majority of them but I could see I was going nowhere,” he said. “There was nothing to hold me back, so I woke up one day and said ‘I think I’ll try America.’”

A Facebook message to former jockey Calvin McCormack led to a job with Jonathan Sheppard and Crowley arrived in the cold and snow of January 2010. He mucked stalls, pushed a wheelbarrow, rode out on the roads and jogging rings. By spring, he was riding races — winning a training flat race in his American debut aboard Air Maggy for Sheppard. He finished second, later elevated to first via disqualification, in his first jump ride — aboard Honour Emblem for Mike Berryman. In what became a fairly regular occurrence, Crowley won his first jump ride for Sheppard — getting Arcadius home first in a Camden allow-

ance. That summer, he won three of the five races at Saratoga (finishing second in the other two) including the New York Turf Writers Cup with Sermon Of Love. Crowley finished 2010 with nine wins, tied for sixth on the list.

He won 15 more in 2011, including three at Saratoga, and checked in second on the leaderboard. During Crowley’s three seasons in the U.S., his 37 wins were second only to Paddy Young.

“It wasn’t easy,” he said. “I took a big step. One of the proudest things I’ve achieved was sticking it out here. Before I came here, I didn’t know if I could do it. For myself, I’m glad I did.”

He singled out McCormack, Berryman, Sheppard and Sheppard’s assistant Jim Bergen for having the most impact on his American career.

This year, Crowley won 13 races to finish third behind Ross Geraghty and Darren Nagle. The season was full of peaks and valleys, including an Iroquois win with Arcadius, who died minutes after crossing the finish line; a double at Penn National; two wins at Saratoga; a fall at the last fence of the Turf Writers with Divine Fortune; the crasher at Belmont; and 16 losses to end the season. Crowley’s family came from Ireland to see his final day in the saddle at the Colonial Cup.

“I don’t want to sound sappy because of what happened, but Arcadius this year at Iroquois was the best race I’ve ridden in America and the best race a horse ran for me,” he said. “I’d done something I very rarely do and that was go to the front such a long way out. I never really do that. That day he carried me to the front.”

Calling on that experience away from jump racing back home in Ireland, Crowley sent his resume off to some breeding farms and hopes to find a job in that part of the American Thoroughbred industry. For now, he’s getting on horses at Sheppard’s and thinking about the next steps.

“Obviously it’s going to be a big change but I’ve mentally prepared myself for it,” he said. “I prefer to be walking away from it now than in a pretty bad way someday. It’ll be fine. I’m feeling very bright about the

future.”

## In The Tack

• Jockey Robbie Walsh, who broke his hip in a fall with Dr. Wheat at Belmont, hopes to be back riding work in January with an eye toward returning to race action for the spring season.

The regular jockey of Demonstrative missed the fall season while recuperating, but is no longer on crutches and was headed to a doctor’s appointment in early December to get an update.

Walsh also dealt with the loss of his father, Paddy, who passed away in October. The Irishman rode for trainer Gordon Richards in the 1960s and ’70s.

“October was not a good month,” said Walsh. “My dad, being hurt and seeing the results where it seemed as if a horse I was meant to ride won every week . . . but it’s racing, that’s the way it goes. I was delighted for Demonstrative at the Colonial Cup, for the connections, for Matt, everything. As somebody told me, I’ve got the best horse in the country to look forward to next year and that’s a good feeling.”


• Carl Rafter, injured at Virginia Fall, continues to progress from the injuries he sustained though there’s no timetable for a full return to action. Rafter goes to physical therapy four days a week to help his neck recover full mobility and to get past short-term memory loss from a concussion.

“I’m up and about, driving, moving, it’s not as bad as it was,” he said. “I’m not going dancing or anything, but I’m a lot better. I’ve gotten a lot of movement back and everything is getting better. I haven’t even asked about riding again.”

Rafter was injured when Twojohnsandajack fell in the maiden hurdle at the Middleburg, Va. meet.

• Two-time champion Matt McCarron announced his retirement (he says he means it this time) late in the season and closed in a big way with a Colonial Cup win. The veteran rode his first race in 1992, and won 206. He’s going to pursue a career as a flat jockey’s agent.

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All-Time Steeplechase Leaders

LEADING HORSES

Top 30 steeplechase earners (North American earnings only; no bonus earnings):

Horse	Earnings
1. McDynamo.....	\$1,310,104
2. Good Night Shirt.....	1,006,493
3. Lonesome Glory.....	965,809
4. Victorian Hill.....	748,370
5. Sur La Tete.....	669,975
6. Mixed Up.....	666,975
7. Rowdy Irishman.....	644,528
8. Flat Top.....	592,306
9. Hirapour.....	583,722
10. Praise The Prince.....	576,488
11. Tres Touche.....	573,670
12. Mistico.....	517,347
13. Ninepins.....	516,179
14. Preemptive Strike.....	491,418
15. Al Skywalker.....	466,841
16. Warm Spell.....	457,964
17. Bubble Economy*.....	443,500
18. Highland Bud.....	437,500
19. All Gong.....	435,989
20. Polar Pleasure.....	433,222
21. Saluter.....	429,489
22. Census.....	426,524
23. Flatterer.....	421,146
24. Double Bill.....	417,548
25. Divine Fortune*.....	399,390
26. Tax Ruling*.....	393,450
27. Steve Canyon.....	388,102
28. Romantic.....	379,102
29. Pierrot Lunaire*.....	373,000
30. Slip Away*.....	365,665

LEADING TRAINERS

Steeplechase trainers with \$1 million or more purses earned in North America:

Trainer	Earnings
1. Jonathan Sheppard*.....	\$20,143,392
2. Jack Fisher*.....	9,429,694
3. Tom Voss*.....	8,525,341
4. Janet Elliot*.....	7,927,754
5. Bruce Miller*.....	7,099,246
6. Sanna Hendriks*.....	6,724,218
7. Burley Cocks.....	4,479,171
8. D.M. Smithwick.....	4,307,037
9. Doug Fout*.....	3,960,370
10. Charlie Fenwick.....	3,879,952
11. Ricky Hendriks*.....	3,176,048
12. Neil Morris*.....	2,493,354
13. Kathy McKenna*.....	2,455,550
14. Mickey Walsh.....	1,993,881
15. John Griggs.....	1,902,285
16. Jimmy Day*.....	1,761,231
17. Sidney Watters Jr.....	1,696,919
18. Bruce Haynes.....	1,592,452
19. George Bostwick.....	1,481,588
20. Richard Valentine*.....	1,297,139
21. Alicia Murphy*.....	1,264,305
22. Lilith Boucher*.....	1,071,486
23. Morris Dixon.....	1,041,229

LEADING OWNERS

Steeplechase owners with \$1 million or more purses earned in North America:

Owner	Earnings
1. Augustin Stable*.....	\$8,940,681
2. Bill Pape*.....	4,056,563
3. Irv Naylor*.....	3,737,169
4. Bill Lickle.....	3,226,421
5. Arcadia Stable*.....	2,814,881
6. Kinross Farm*.....	2,652,119
7. Calvin Houghland.....	2,178,897
8. Timber Bay Farm*.....	2,078,624
9. Lillian Phipps.....	2,016,353
10. John Griggs*.....	2,003,885
11. Gillian Johnston*.....	1,935,168
12. Ann Stern*.....	1,913,896
13. Hudson River Farm*.....	1,705,116
14. Sonny Via*.....	1,531,009
15. Kay Jeffords.....	1,477,669
16. Michael Moran*.....	1,372,604
17. The Fields Stable*.....	1,339,052
18. Rokeby Stable.....	1,326,937
19. Montpelier.....	1,224,225
20. Jonathan Sheppard*.....	1,149,356
21. Joy Valentine.....	1,123,307
22. Virginia Kraft Payson.....	1,087,580

LEADING JOCKEYS

Steeplechase jockeys with 100 wins or more in North America:

Jockey	Wins
1. Joe Aitcheson.....	440
2. Paddy Smithwick.....	398
3. Dooley Adams.....	301
Jerry Fishback.....	301
5. Thomas Walsh.....	253
6. Jeff Teter.....	231
7. Chip Miller*.....	212
8. Matt McCarron*.....	206
9. Blythe Miller Davies.....	204
10. James Murphy.....	185
11. Craig Thornton.....	171
12. Robert McDonald.....	166
13. Sean Clancy.....	152
14. Gregg Ryan.....	150
Doug Small Jr.....	150
16. Albert Foot.....	149
17. Rigan McKinney.....	147
18. Jody Petty*.....	143
19. Robert Crawford.....	139
20. J. Dallet Byers.....	138
21. Leo O'Brien.....	137
22. Thomas Field.....	135
23. Ricky Hendriks.....	130
24. Paddy Young*.....	128
25. Arch Kingsley*.....	127
26. Gus Brown.....	124
27. Danielle Hodsdon*.....	123
28. Chuck Lawrence.....	122
29. John Cushman.....	116
30. Thomas Skiffington.....	115
31. Xavier Aizpuru*.....	108



Tod Marks

Owner Betty Merck (The Fields Stable) gives jockey Paddy Young some instructions at Saratoga.

32. Ronald Armstrong.....	107
33. Flint Schulhofer.....	106
34. Charlie Fenwick.....	105
George Sloan.....	105
36. Gregg Morris.....	103
Jonathan Smart.....	103
38. Scott Riles.....	101

LEADING JOCKEYS

Leading jockeys in North America by earnings (1988-present):

Jockey	Wins
1. Blythe Miller Davies.....	\$5,240,363
2. Chip Miller*.....	4,690,540
3. Matt McCarron*.....	4,398,012
4. Craig Thornton.....	4,224,186
5. Jody Petty*.....	3,740,639
6. Danielle Hodsdon*.....	3,660,140
7. Arch Kingsley*.....	3,417,522
8. Gus Brown.....	3,177,233
9. Xavier Aizpuru*.....	3,163,855
10. Paddy Young*.....	3,139,384
11. Sean Clancy.....	2,904,798
12. Jeff Teter.....	2,828,502
13. Robbie Walsh*.....	2,220,495
14. Rob Massey.....	2,203,951
15. Willie Dowling*.....	2,195,396
16. Gregg Ryan.....	2,133,898
17. Jonathan Kiser.....	1,873,545

\*-Active in 2012

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Contact

George Baker at gbakerracing@gmail.com  
Sean Clancy at sean@st-publishing.com



2013 NSA Spring Schedule

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

March 23.....Aiken Spring  
Aiken, SC. [www.aikensteeplechase.com](http://www.aikensteeplechase.com)

March 30.....Carolina Cup  
Camden, SC. [www.carolina-cup.org](http://www.carolina-cup.org)

April 6.....Dogwood Classic at Colonial Downs  
New Kent, VA. [www.dogwoodclassic.com](http://www.dogwoodclassic.com)

April 6.....Stoneybrook  
Raeford, NC. [www.carolinahorsepark.com](http://www.carolinahorsepark.com)

April 13.....Atlanta  
Kingston, Ga. [www.atlantasteeplechase.org](http://www.atlantasteeplechase.org)

April 13.....My Lady's Manor  
Monkton, Md. [www.marylandsteeplechasing.com](http://www.marylandsteeplechasing.com)

April 20.....Block House  
Tryon, N.C. [www.trhcevents.org](http://www.trhcevents.org)

April 20.....Grand National  
Butler, Md. [www.marylandsteeplechasing.com](http://www.marylandsteeplechasing.com)

April 20.....Middleburg Spring  
Middleburg, Va. [www.middleburgspringraces.com](http://www.middleburgspringraces.com)

April 27.....Foxfield Spring  
Charlottesville, Va. [www.foxfieldraces.com](http://www.foxfieldraces.com)

April 27.....Maryland Hunt Cup  
Glyndon, Md. [www.marylandsteeplechasing.com](http://www.marylandsteeplechasing.com)

April 27.....Queen's Cup  
Mineral Springs, N.C. [www.queenscup.org](http://www.queenscup.org)

May 5.....Virginia Gold Cup  
The Plains, Va. [www.vagoldcup.com](http://www.vagoldcup.com)

May 6.....Winterthur  
Wilmington, Del. [www.winterthur.org](http://www.winterthur.org)

May 11.....Iroquois  
Nashville, Tenn. [www.mysteeplechase.com](http://www.mysteeplechase.com)

May 12.....Tanglewood  
Clemmons, N.C. [www.tanglewoodcup.org](http://www.tanglewoodcup.org)

May 13.....Willowdale  
Kennett Square, Pa. [www.willowdale.org](http://www.willowdale.org)

May 18.....Radnor  
Malvern, Pa. [www.radnorhuntraces.org](http://www.radnorhuntraces.org)

May 25.....Fair Hill  
Fair Hill, Md. [www.fairhillraces.org](http://www.fairhillraces.org)

Subject to change.



# STEEPLECHASE 'Pick Six'

FANTASY STABLE GAME

Presented by The Whip Tavern and Embrace The Race

## And The Winner Is. . .

Like a good horse race, the Pick Six lasted until the final strides this year as Alix Michel's Jumangi Stable (named after a former steeplechase horse) claimed the championship with Demonstrative's win in the Colonial Cup. The \$60,000 payday pushed Michel past the \$400,000 mark, the only player to reach that figure. She nearly wound up in second place as Sam Clancy's My Three Sons Stable finished just \$7,650 behind. If the 1-2 finish of the Cup (Demonstrative over Divine Fortune) had been reversed, Clancy – wife of ST's Joe – wins the crown. October leader Stony Manierre settled for third as Pierrot Lunaire skipped the season-ending Grade 1.

Michel lives in New York City and Long Island and spends time in Saratoga every summer. She owns three ex-racehorses including the aforementioned Jumangi, a veteran of 63 starts. As for her stable, she chose Demonstrative because she thought he could win some spring novice stakes (he didn't) and used Incomplete because he looked good in the 2011 International Gold Cup.

"I was nervous before the Colonial Cup in that it was a do-or-die race," she said. "I had no expectations, per se. It was such a haphazard path to winning the overall contest"

Michel is no stranger to winning – she won a Halloween Night handicapping contest at The Meadowlands a few years ago. Others of note in the top spots: superfan Shannon O'Lear was sixth and former jump jockey, and current assistant to Todd Pletcher, Jonathan Thomas checked in seventh. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks for playing. The top 14 are listed.

Check [www.st-publishing.com](http://www.st-publishing.com) for complete standings.

<b>Jumangi</b> .....	<b>Alix Michel</b>
Demonstrative.....	\$209,000
Incomplete .....	\$84,000
Well Fashioned.....	\$45,500
Black Jack Blues .....	\$30,000
Duc De Savoie.....	\$24,450
Old Timer .....	\$12,700
.....	<b>\$405,650</b>

<b>My Three Sons Stable</b> .....	<b>Sam Clancy</b>
Demonstrative.....	\$209,000
Divine Fortune.....	\$113,500
Well Fashioned.....	\$45,500
Bodie Island .....	\$19,500
Hold Your Fire .....	\$10,500
Nadal.....	\$0
.....	<b>\$398,000</b>

<b>Passport Stable</b> .....	<b>Stony Manierre</b>
Pierrot Lunaire .....	\$253,000
Lake Placid.....	\$42,500
G'day G'day .....	\$29,500
Memorial Maniac .....	\$21,050
Sweet Shani .....	\$13,500
Bundestag .....	\$0
.....	<b>\$359,550</b>

<b>Fancy Clancy Farm</b> .....	<b>Joe Clancy</b>
Demonstrative.....	\$209,000
Incomplete .....	\$84,000
En Fuego .....	\$25,950
Sweet Shani .....	\$13,500
Total Command.....	\$12,000
Tax Ruling .....	\$7,500
.....	<b>\$351,950</b>

<b>Waggs Stable</b> .....	<b>Keegan Shields</b>
Demonstrative.....	\$209,000
Well Fashioned.....	\$45,500
Decoy Daddy .....	\$34,300
Memorial Maniac .....	\$21,050
Guts For Garters.....	\$10,700
Share Out .....	\$0
.....	<b>\$320,550</b>

<b>Shannonigans</b> .....	<b>Shannon O'Lear</b>
Demonstrative.....	\$209,000
Baltic Shore.....	\$55,500
Darkwatch .....	\$26,500
Dance Faster .....	\$18,750
Ptarmigan .....	\$9,000
Cherokee Speed .....	\$0
.....	<b>\$318,750</b>

<b>Gone Away Stable</b> .....	<b>D. Alex Allison</b>
Demonstrative.....	\$209,000
Quiet Flaine .....	\$42,750
Black Jack Blues .....	\$30,000
Memorial Maniac .....	\$21,050
Bon Caddo .....	\$10,500
Artic Cry .....	\$0
.....	<b>\$313,300</b>

<b>JT Stables</b> .....	<b>Jonathan Thomas</b>
Demonstrative.....	\$209,000
Black Jack Blues .....	\$30,000
Darkwatch .....	\$26,500
Duc De Savoie.....	\$24,450
Sweet Shani .....	\$13,500
Bubble Economy.....	\$9,150
.....	<b>\$312,600</b>

<b>Achin' for Aiken Stable</b> .....	<b>Bill Matlack</b>
Demonstrative.....	\$209,000
Well Fashioned.....	\$45,500
Black Quartz .....	\$27,000
Bubble Economy.....	\$9,150
Tropic Sea .....	\$600
Port Morsbey .....	\$0
.....	<b>\$291,250</b>

<b>Cure All Stables</b> .....	<b>Susan E Quigley</b>
Demonstrative.....	\$209,000
Quiet Flaine .....	\$42,750
Bodie Island .....	\$19,500
Bubble Economy.....	\$9,150
Tax Ruling .....	\$7,500
Plattsburgh .....	\$1,250
.....	<b>\$289,150</b>

<b>Diversified Stable</b> .....	<b>Joe Clancy Sr.</b>
Demonstrative.....	\$209,000
Black Jack Blues .....	\$30,000
Memorial Maniac .....	\$21,050
Opera Heroine .....	\$13,700
Bon Caddo .....	\$10,500
Share Out .....	\$0
.....	<b>\$284,250</b>

<b>Lefty Stable</b> .....	<b>Nolan Clancy</b>
Divine Fortune .....	\$113,500
History Boy .....	\$75,100
Cubist.....	\$57,600
G'day G'day.....	\$29,500
Bruno Frigerio .....	\$2,700
Seven In Heaven .....	\$0
.....	<b>\$278,400</b>

<b>War Horse</b> .....	<b>Joe McVey</b>
Demonstrative.....	\$209,000
Black Jack Blues .....	\$30,000
Opera Heroine .....	\$13,700
Bubble Economy.....	\$9,150
Quadrant .....	\$1,500
Seven In Heaven .....	\$0
.....	<b>\$263,350</b>

<b>Running Waters</b> .....	<b>Brenda Waters</b>
Demonstrative.....	\$209,000
G'day G'day.....	\$29,500
Sweet Shani .....	\$13,500
Bon Caddo .....	\$10,500
Paul's Ace .....	\$450
Ice Bear .....	\$0
.....	<b>\$262,950</b>



Tod Marks

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## TIMES EDITORIAL

### Merry Christmas Steeplechasing

Christmas gifts . . .

A solid working relationship between the NSA and the point-to-points.

A barn full of horses for Cyril Murphy and Eddie Graham.

A ticket to Cheltenham for Demonstrative.

An American win at Cheltenham.

A long-term sponsor for High Hope, guaranteeing its future.

Long-term success and security for race meets.

Two apprentice hurdle races, for \$15,000 claimers going 2 1/2 miles, in the spring and fall.

A couple of high-priced maiden claimers.

An open 4-year-old race.

Filters for owners, trainers, jockeys and participants on Facebook.

Khakis and collars for all the jockeys.

A safe job for Brian Crowley.

An inspiring job for Matt McCarron.

Another Crowley and McCarron in the jocks' room.

Speedy recoveries for Carl Rafter and Robbie Walsh – then nothing but health.

An opportunity for apprentice Eric Poretz.

Satellite radio to Dr. Witwer, Brian Hogan, Mike Berryman, Scott Alexander and all the road warriors out there.

A maiden win for Shut Eye and Jackson Roberts.

A demand for customer service by horsemen.

A dedication to customer service from the NSA.

Dependable online video.

Fair going (not firm, not soft) at Far Hills.

Positive resolutions from the NSA Safety Task Force.

Steeplechasing in New York.

Another Warm Spell for Dr. Griggs.

A challenger to Irv Naylor.

A return to form for Slip Away.

Another big win for Divine Fortune.

Big crowds at the races.

A jumper for Todd Pletcher, Allen Jerkens and Chad Brown.

A fair and square showdown between Pierrot Lunaire and Demonstrative.

Another Good Night Shirt.

Another McDynamo.

Another Saluter.

Another Tuscalee.

No deaths.

Fun again.

A year-end bash to celebrate the sport.

A proper steeplechase training center, like Springdale, in the Northeast.

A return of the Cup fences.

Wet Thursdays, sunny Saturdays.

Positive thinking and productivity from the NSA board.

A Maryland Hunt Cup for Conor Hankin.

An owner's license to all those who used to own horses, thought about owning horses or should own horses.

A reduction in entry fees.

Simple, productive changes to the steeplethon courses to eliminate confusion.

Continued support for the steeplethon races.

More purse money.

Retirement for the aching.

Peace on Earth.

Good will to man and horse.



Tod Marks

**Sorry, Champ.** Kingdom (ridden by 2009, 2010 and 2011 champion jockey Paddy Young) skips over 2012 champion Ross Geraghty, who fell with Top Man Michael, in the 3-year-old stakes at Camden. Geraghty escaped injury to accept his trophy from Young.

## Days of our Lives

### Moments defined 2012 steeplechase season

Another roiling season has come to a close. There were enchanting days, deflating days. Good moments, bad moments. Promising developments, tragic developments.

You know about Pierrot Lunaire's return, Demonstrative's rally, Irv Naylor's reign, Jack Fisher's title . . . Here are some of the most entertaining, enlightening and disturbing stories from 2012.

In no particular order . . .

1. Bird in Hand. Won Wild Bird upset the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup for first-time owner Wally Pinkard, trainer Regina Welsh and jockey Roddy Mackenzie. The old, gray mare made everyone think about Bruce Haynes, Rowdy Irishman and the power of sticking with something.

2. Second Retirement. Matt McCarron called it a career – again. The jockey retired with 206 career wins, passing Blythe Miller Davies (at least until she comes

### The Inside Rail

By Sean and Joe Clancy

back again) for eighth on the all-time list. Son of a flat jockey, nephew of another, McCarron rode for 20 years – teaming up with greats Hirapour, McDynamo and Sur La Tete along the way though he'd just as soon talk about old pros Greek Hero, Rainiero and Lord Kenneth.

3. Dark Day. Arcadius won the Iroquois and died moments after posing in the winner's circle. The sport grieved with Ed Swyer, Jonathan Sheppard, Brian Crowley, Mike Benson and nobody left the races the same.

4. Five Down. A full field of novices converged for the Entenmann at Belmont Park in September. Five fell, See **INSIDE** page 37 ►



## ■ Continued from page 36

two died, three jockeys were hurt, one sport is on the edge in New York.

5. Do it Yourself. Kate Dalton took it upon herself to organize the SOTA barn at Saratoga. The accommodations leveled the playing field as Cat Feathers, You The Man, Alajmal and Demonstrative walked from that barn to the paddock to the winner's circle during the meet.

6. Next Stop, Maryland. George Mahoney's Rosbrian Farm, Tara Elmore and jockey Mark Beecher traveled north to take the Genesee Valley Hunt Cup with Mecklenburg. The timber horse's steady progression could mean bigger races – and bigger fences – in 2013.

7. Making Mischief. Veteran Mischief gave Annie Yeager her first sanctioned win, upsetting former stablemate Dynaski, at Montpelier. Counting point-to-point starts, the gray made 15 starts in 2012 and won four times.

8. In the Hat. Cat Feathers rewarded owner/trainer Kate Dalton and jockey Bernie Dalton with a Saratoga stakes win and a filly and mare championship.

9. One and Done. Last year's champion Black Jack Blues won the Carolina Cup in his only start.

10. I Spy. Randleston Farm's veteran Spy In The Sky came back to life with a win in the A.P. Smithwick, a third in the New York Turf Writers Cup and a nose defeat in the Lonesome Glory for trainer Jimmy Day and jockey Danielle Hodsdon. The late-running



To jockey Jacob Roberts and everyone else, thanks for reading.

chestnut finished 2012 with more than \$326,000 in career steeplechase earnings.

11. Easing Pain. Mischief (see above) gave Don Yovanovich an NSA win at Montpelier, a little more than three months after the trainer's wife Robyn died at 58.

12. Family. The aptly named History Boy won Saratoga's Mickey Walsh Novice Stakes – a race named after the grandfather of Tommy Walsh, whose mother-in-law (Tina Entenmann) owns the bay son of Grand Slam.

13. The Bill that Keeps on Billing. The NSA is still paying off the television deal set up for Far Hills and International Gold Cup in 2009. There went the money for the streaming video.

14. The Long Goodbyes. Morven Park is gone. High Hope will be a point-to-point next year. A magazine article asking about the future of Callaway Gardens appeared this fall. Gulp.

15. Don't Bring Me Down. American steeplechasing carded 18 fewer races than it did in 2011.

16. The Final Two. Danielle Hodsdon and Matt McCarron (retired) were the only two American-born jockeys in the top 12.

17. Where have you Gone? J.W. DeLozier won nine races and \$286,450 by Saratoga. He was out of the sport by Shewan Downs.

18. The Longest Yard. Sunshine Numbers' leap at the third-last in the Hobkirk Hill came from waaay back. Stomachs are still floating. The veteran put up the free-wheeling performance of the year for Sue and George Sensor, Arch Kingsley, Hawkeye – and the rest of us.

19. Slip Away. Tom Voss was the leading trainer in 2011 with 16 wins. He won five races in 2012. Champion Slip Away led late, but faded in Colonial Cup.

20. Playing the Percentages. Trainers Ricky Hendriks (50 percent), Todd Wyatt (26), Ann Stewart (100) and Eddie Graham (50) made them count.

See **INSIDE** page 38 ►

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Shania Shane, Treble Tone, Lady Marion, Lonhro, Paris Return, Cat's Account, Diary Entry, Island Jamboree, Policy Issue, Our Fine Lady, Tale Of Tl

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21. Payback. Fog Island gave McCarron a crashing fall at Belmont Park; they dusted themselves off and won the Foxbrook at Far Hills in their next start.

22. Clutch. Amateur James Slater stepped in and up to guide Well Fashioned to a stakes win at Callaway Gardens. It was the first hurdle win for Slater since doing the same thing on Slip Away in the Noel Laing back in 2009.

23. Deserving. Charminster earned \$56,000 in four starts, without winning.

24. Mileage. Cuse and Brave Prospect were the only horses among the top 50 earners to run at least eight times.

25. Discoveries. Janet Elliot bought Alajmal as a 2-year-old at Tattersalls. He's now 4 and novice champion.

26. Attrition. Twenty-three of the top 50 earners finished the year on the shelf because of injuries or surgeries (a conservative, unofficial count).

27. Day Rate. Leading owner Irv Naylor started 42 horses in 2012. Maggie Bryant, with 19, started the second most.

28. Sweet Goodbye. Sweet Shani finished second at Saratoga and retired. Somebody book her a date with Melbourne Cup winner Americain.

29. Dog Years. Kirkwood Stable's Wilbur the Wonder Dog, 11, won the Older Than Dirt Division of the terrier races at the Colonial Cup. He jumped the last like Demonstrative.

30. Dog Years II. The great Otis, sadly, passed away. Given to Tom and Mimi Voss for winning the closest to the pin at the long-lost NSA Golf Tournament at Saratoga, he was a mainstay from the Annex to Atlanta Hall.

31. Sad Goodbyes. The sport lost Paul Rowland, Sarah Thomas, Nina Stewart, Robyn Yovanovich, Sarah Greenhalgh, Mignon Smith . . .

32. Farewell. Veteran jockey Brian Crowley announced his retirement. An affable, likeable professional, he made the most of a short stint. While he was here, he won more races than any jockey other than Paddy Young.

33. Tall Task. The NSA announced a safety task force, due to the numerous fatalities in 2012.

34. Choose Life. Kinross Farm's More Tea Vicar nearly died as a foal. He was crowned champion 3-year-old for trainer Neil Morris and jockey Bernie Dalton.

35. O Brother, Where Art Thou? Ross Geraghty added American Champion to the Brothers Geraghty list of accolades. Barry who?

36. Wind Farm. Champion novice in 2011, All Together missed the fall because of wind surgery.

37. Twill Did. Lucy Goelet's veteran Twill Do and James Stierhoff upset the Maryland Hunt Cup for trainer Billy Meister again.

38. Final Ruling. Longtime NSA steward and racing official Steve Groat announced his retirement from the stand at the Colonial Cup. He received an ovation from the jockeys.

39. No ExCuse. Veteran Cuse continued to log miles and win races, he won twice on the circuit in 2012 for owner/trainer Karen Gray and apprentice Gus Dahl. The gray 11-year-old finished the year with seven wins, 14 seconds, five thirds and more than \$142,000 bankrolled in 58 career steeplechase starts.

40. Move Over. Veteran Incomplete won the timber title but bowed in his final start. Upstart Grinding Speed reserved space on the mantle, winning the International Gold Cup in the fall.

41. Come on Champ. Three-time leader Paddy Young broke his arm early in the season but came back to put pressure on Ross Geraghty in the fall.

42. Extra, Extra. Doug Fout campaigned Clorevia Farm's Extraextraordinary conservatively and was rewarded, winning a tough allowance in the fall and promising big things for next year.

43. Training Camp. Richard and Lilith Boucher continued to make hurdle prospects, this time unveiling Kiss N Run for a debut win at Foxfield. She returned two weeks later to win the Peapack for Clarke Ohrstrom and Richard Valentine.

44. The Man. Todd Wyatt delicately returned You The Man to the races, winning a Saratoga optional claimer in his first start in 27 months.

45. Water Toss. Amy Mullen won her first race aboard Indian Creek Queen for trainer Brianne Slater and owner/jockey's mother Sally Mullen. Mary Motion won her first race, aboard veteran Woodmont for trainer Neil Morris.

46. Even Up. Better Than Even won twice for owner Rusty Cline and Simon Hobson.

47. Old Man River. Veteran cross-country timber specialist Swimming River won twice for Indian Run Farm and trainer Eva Smithwick.

48. Family Ties. Three-year-old hurdler Kingdom followed his dam Distant Drumroll, his sister Guelph and brothers Wanganui and Hold Your Fire to steeplechasing. Kingdom posted a third at Far Hills and a second at Camden.

49. Da Hoss. Classy flat horse Dahoud won twice in the fall, stamping him as the best novice for 2013.

50. Where are the Horses? Just 21 horses met the starter's flag at Callaway Gardens.

51. Big Buck. Timber great Buck Jakes died in January at 24. The two-time Maryland Hunt Cup winner had lived a life of honor in retirement with trainer Charlie Fenwick.

52. We barely knew you. The Saratoga Steeplechase Festival ended before it began, shelved late in the summer despite a September date and much advanced planning.

53. Empty Cup. For the second consecutive year, the Grand National winner did not start in the Colonial Cup. That's not the way to crown a champion.

54. Almost a 10. Trainer Jack Fisher finished 2012 on the verge of the \$10 million mark in career steeplechase purses. He's still only halfway to Jonathan Sheppard.

55. The Vezina Trophy. Apprentice Connor Hankin stayed on Battle Op after a jolting mistake in the Maryland Hunt Cup to finish second. Weeks later, Hankin won his first race, taking the amateur/apprentice timber at Willowdale aboard Eye Said Scat Cat for trainer Lilli Kurtinecz.

56. Fitting Honors. Trainer Janet Elliot's Woodville Award annually showcases the unsung out there, the behind-the-scenes, the workers who make it happen from back at the barn. The 2012 recipients – Sarah Thomas and Dee McLeod – ably fit the description, though there was a little more magic in the honor for Thomas, who died this spring after falling from a horse at trainer Jonathan Sheppard's farm. The first posthumous Woodville winner is still remembered fondly by friends and family on the circuit and beyond.

57. The Bright Side: Purses increased from 2011, topping \$4.6 million for the first time since 2009. Four more horses competed in 2012 than 2011.

58. Mountain Air: You go to Penn National for the jump races this summer? You should have. Great night, decent crowd, fun atmosphere, good racing. Let's all go in 2013.

59. Handicapper of the Year: Sean Clancy won the ST Handicapping Challenge by a pole over defending champion Joe in 2012. The winner selected 58 winners for a strike rate of .32 (though we missed a few races at Saratoga).

60: Rewind Button: Tireless Kentucky horseman Bill Wofford picked up a winner with Bold Adventure at Callaway Gardens – making the oldtimers think of Ozymandias (Wofford's timber champion of 1986) and the former amateur jockey's penchant for dressing up in a gorilla suit at the barn. Now, those were the days.



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