

Year 23 • No. 7

The Saratoga

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

# Special

Saratoga's Racing Newspaper since 2001



## Fully Charged

Sprint champ Elite Power nips Gunite in Vanderbilt



Forte prevails in Jim Dandy

Tod Marks

CHERIE DEVAUX STABLE TOUR ♦ CHANNEL MAKER UPSETS BOWLING GREEN ♦ ENTRIES & HANDICAPPING





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Dom Napolitano/NYRA Photo

Curve Hugger. Channel Maker (right) exits the final turn with a slim lead in Sunday's Bowling Green.

## Here & There...in Saratoga

### By The Numbers

**0:** Horses with more than 18 prior lifetime starts – other than 53-timer (and winner) Channel Maker – in Saturday's Bowling Green.

**0:** Starts on the dirt for Channel Maker.

**10:** Starts at Saratoga for Channel Maker, two each in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, once in 2022 and once (so far) in 2023.

**6:** Starts at the Breeders' Cup World Championships for Channel Maker, in the 2016 Juvenile Turf and five editions of the Turf. He can make it seven if he gets to Santa Anita this fall. The half-dozen Breeders' Cup tries are already a record.

**5:** Past champions to win at the meet so far – Nest, Echo Zulu, Elite Power, Forte, Channel Maker. What's your over/under?

### License Plate of the Day

NY FILLY, Florida (thanks Brooklyn Cowboy).

### Name of the Day (Rewind Edition)

Saturday allowance winner Tough Street gets her name from a book of the same name about Lehigh University wrestling coach Gerald "Germ" Leeman. Published in 2019, the book chronicles Leeman's life from growing up with nine siblings in Osage, Iowa to three state high-school wrestling championships, the Navy, an NCAA championship, an Olympic silver medal and a long coaching career at Lehigh.

A New York-bred daughter of Speightster, Tough Street is co-owned by Leeman's former pupil Mike Caruso and won for the fifth time in a dozen starts Saturday.

As a wrestler at Lehigh, Caruso went 141-1 and won three NCAA championships.

### Names of the Day

**Awakened, first race.** Bred by Phipps Stable, the 6-year-old steeplechaser is out of Daydreaming.

**Realist, first race.** The English-bred steeplechaser is by Camelot out of Silver Mirage.

**Stir Crazy, sixth race.** The 5-year-old mare is out of Mentally Unstable.

**Postnup, sixth race.** The 5-year-old mare is by Declaration Of War out of I'm Engaged, who is of course by Broken Vow.

**Goats On A Tree, sixth race Thursday.** We just want to know the story.

**Ripe For Mischief, 10th race Thursday.** The 4-year-old gelding is by More Than Ready out of Elusive Rumour.



## The Saratoga Special

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# Here&There...in Saratoga

## Worth Repeating

"Own this track. Own it."

**Fan to jockey Flavien Prat before the Jim Dandy; Prat and Angel Of Empire were third (beaten a half-length)**

"We're trying to start an advertising campaign for Curlin."

**Trainer Bill Mott talking about Cody's Wish and Elite Power, both sons of Curlin**

"Magical."

**Owner Vinnie Viola, about the journey with 2-year-old champion Forte**

"He's a great trainer. You trust him."

**Jockey Manny Franco, about riding 9-year-old Channel Maker for Bill Mott**

"He's one of the happiest horses going to the track. He doesn't hesitate. He goes, he trains, he's got his ears up, he's dappled from one end to the other. If there's something wrong with them, they don't look like that."

**Trainer Bill Mott, about Channel Maker**

"He's a grouchy, old ----- sometimes. He'll take a bite out of you. Not overly mean about it, but that's just him."

**Mott, also about Channel Maker**

"One of my favorite parts of Saratoga, reading Worth Repeating in The Saratoga Special . . . One day I'll make it in!"

**Reader Susan Van Metre; today is that day**

**Horse Face. Blue, trainer Brad Cox's stable pony, cracks himself up at the barn Saturday morning.**

Tod Marks



## Jockeys, trainers clash in basketball game

The 13th annual jockeys/horsemen charity basketball game, which benefits the programs of the New York Race Track Chaplaincy, will be played at the Saratoga Jockeys, trainers meet in basketball at the Saratoga Springs Recreation Center (15 Vanderbilt Ave.) at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

The game routinely attracts more than 300 fans. Admission is free. The jockeys will be coached by Hall of Fame jockey Angel Cordero Jr., with trainer Todd Pletcher and agent Kiaran McLaughlin coaching the horsemen.

Mitch Levites of the NYRA TV department will once again serve as the announcer. John Wallace, a first-round draft pick by the New York Knicks in the 1996 NBA draft who spent seven years in the league, will be a special guest and will play with the jockeys. As a collegian, he led Syracuse University to the 1996 NCAA championship game.

The New York Race Track Chaplaincy serves the New York backstretch and farming community with children's enrichment, teen mentoring, women's programming, social service, recreational and educational programming as well as non-denominational religious services. Additional information about the chaplaincy and game sponsorship is available at [rtcany.org](http://rtcany.org).

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Winning here means everything. I've been coming here 50 years now, since I'm 11. To win a race with a horse like this at this racetrack means the world."

**Co-owner Adam Wachtel,  
after Channel Maker won Sunday's Bowling Green**



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**Darley**



# Here&There...in Saratoga

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Dave Harmon

Colonel Bowman is one of six winners at the meet for Curlin.

## Saratoga Stallion Board

Leading stallions at the 2023 Saratoga Race Course season with wins, stakes wins and first-place earnings:

Stallion	Wins	Stakes Wins	1st Place Earnings
Curlin.....	6.....	2.....	\$459,800
Gun Runner .....	5.....	1.....	328,350
Liam's Map.....	4.....	1.....	309,375
Maclean's Music.....	4.....		210,650
Mendelssohn .....	4.....		209,550
Practical Joke.....	4.....	1.....	265,650
American Pharoah .....	3.....		167,750
Bustin Stones .....	3.....		153,725
Into Mischief.....	3.....		132,000
Justify .....	3.....		159,500
Kantharos.....	3.....		141,350

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Speightster .....	3.....	157,025
Street Sense .....	3.....	158,400
Arrogate .....	2.....	121,000
Central Banker.....	2.....	109,450
Connect.....	2.....	52,250
Cupid.....	2.....	143,550
English Channel.....	2..... 1.....	165,000
Freud.....	2..... 1.....	137,500
Ghostzapper .....	2.....	106,150
Goldencents.....	2.....	106,150
Laoban .....	2.....	100,650
Lookin At Lucky .....	2.....	82,500
More Than Ready.....	2.....	67,100
Munnings .....	2.....	96,250
Nyquist .....	2..... 2.....	184,250
Omaha Beach.....	2.....	115,500
Speightstown.....	2.....	121,000
Temple City.....	2.....	63,250
Tonalist.....	2.....	143,550
Twirling Candy.....	2.....	121,000
Uncaptured.....	2..... 1.....	140,250
Uncle Mo .....	2.....	129,250
Weekend Hideaway .....	2..... 1.....	101,750

Through Tuesday, Aug. 1

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## Saratoga Leaders

JOCKEYS.....	1ST
Irado Ortiz Jr.....	24
Luis Saez.....	17
Jose Ortiz .....	15
Tyler Gaffalione.....	11
Javier Castellano .....	10
Joel Rosario.....	10
Dylan Davis .....	8
Flavien Prat .....	8
Jose Lezcano.....	6
Kendrick Carmouche .....	5
Manny Franco.....	5

TRAINERS.....	1ST
Linda Rice .....	15
Chad Brown.....	13
Todd Pletcher.....	12
Bill Mott.....	6
Rudy Rodriguez .....	6
Christophe Clement .....	5
Brad Cox.....	4
Tom Amoss.....	3
Mark Hennig.....	3
Tom Morley.....	3
Brendan Walsh.....	3
Wesley Ward.....	3

Through Tuesday



Tod Marks

Linda Rice leads the trainers' race.



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## With Cherie DeVaux

Four wins from 11 starts in 2021. Four more from 18 in 2022. Stakes wins both years. Saratoga Race Course success can be a challenge to repeat for a trainer, but Cherie DeVaux will give it a go.

Her Saratoga string goes 19 deep in a barn two back from the main track between Phil Serpe and Rob Atras, and gets fueled by 65 horses at the Kentucky base. DeVaux 2-year-olds typically earn their spots in Saratoga with success at Ellis Park or elsewhere, so keep an eye on that form cycle and on a group of quality 3-year-old turf horses looking for a step up to stakes company.

“I just want to have a good meet for each horse and try not to get too wrapped up in stats,” she said about Saratoga goals. “We’ve had two really good years previously here. I’ve brought a higher caliber of horse this time, but it’s harder to win races with stakes horses and allowance horses as opposed to maidens and claimers. We’ve got a lot of stakes horses this year. We’ll just try to do the best we can for each horse.”

DeVaux – who needs two wins to surpass her career high of 35 last year – won a turf allowance with Taking Candy July 22 to get on the board, and she’ll be active the rest of the way. Sunday, she took a half-hour out of her morning and checked on the Spa string with The Special’s Joe Clancy.

**Purlion:** Her stall nametag says Purlion, which draws a laugh from anyone who tries to read it. The 2-year-old Arrogate filly cost \$400,000 this spring and looks to start her career at the meet after breezing regularly at Keeneland. She went a half-mile in :48.33 on the main track here July 30. “She looks like she’s getting better as she gets older, maybe a later August start for her. She’s coming around, better each week and getting stronger. She’s a big filly, her better days will be down the road for sure.”

**Sands Of War:** Belladonna Racing’s War Front 2-year-old filly was supposed to make her debut July 30, but was scratched when the race came off the turf. She’s out of Egyptian Storm, a half-sister to Triple Crown winner Justify. “We were looking forward to getting her started because she’s doing really well. But she’s not a dirt horse.”

**Shotgun Hottie:** Moved to DeVaux this year by Omar Aldabbagh and Jeff Ganje, 4-year-old Gun Runner filly has won three of five. Her last three starts came at Monmouth Park – a third in the Serena’s Song and wins in the Lady’s Secret and Grade 3 Molly Pitcher. The earner of \$770,607 would fit in the Grade 1 Personal Ensign here Aug. 25, but DeVaux was cautious. “She might need a little time out of that race. We’ll have to see when she gets back to



Chelsea Durand/NYRA Photo

### Manila winner More Than Looks eyes a second New York stakes score in Friday’s Hall of Fame Stakes.

breezing. We kept her at Monmouth so we didn’t have to move her around. We were going to target the first two and if she ran well, then the Molly Pitcher. It worked out and I really appreciate the help I got from [trainer Dan Ward] and his team. When I was going to run her in the next race, I just asked him to keep her. She liked the track, we didn’t have to ship her and train her over a different track. One of the things you have to be mindful of when you’re shipping around and training on a bunch of different tracks is it can get them sore, just the different surfaces. That she got to stay there was a big help to her.”

Can she run with the best in the division?

“Her numbers put her there. She’s run a 98 Beyer, she had a 7 Ragozin number, which is really fast and they’re all big jumps forward. That’s indicative that she probably needs some time between that race and her next start. The Breeders’ Cup is the main goal. When we get her back breezing, we’ll try to make a plan.”

**Vahva:** Three-year-old Gun Runner filly has won two of eight for a partnership of Belladonna Racing, Edward Hudson Jr., West Point Thoroughbreds, LBD Stable, Nice Guys Stable, Manganaro Bloodstock, Runnels Racing, Steve Hornstock and Twin Brook Stables. Third behind the undefeated Maple Leaf Mel in the Grade 3 Victory Ride in July, she has breezed twice at Saratoga – a strong half-mile in :47.47 July 22 and not-as-strong :49.33 July 29. “We were pointing her toward the Test [Saturday], but she just had a bit of a disappointing breeze. Nothing seems to be amiss. We’ll just try to regroup and maybe take her to the Prioress [Sept. 2]. If she’s going

to run in a Grade 1 against those horses she needs to be doing as best as she could and she wasn’t. That’s not what she showed yesterday and we’ve got to be honest with ourselves that it might not have been in her best interests. She’s always been really precocious in her training. As a 2-year-old we really thought a lot of her and she seems to do better with some time between races. She looks good but I just think she needs a little bit more time. They’re allowed to. I’d like to talk with them sometimes, but I can’t.”

**Sanctimonious:** Three-year-old American Pharoah filly, a \$500,000 purchase at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic’s 2022 sale of 2-year-olds, has yet to race. Breezed a bullet half-mile in :47.20 July 30 for a potential debut. “She’s a promising filly who hasn’t made it to the races yet. She’s just taking a little while to get there. That was a really nice breeze.”

**Gam’s Mission:** DeVaux called the 5-year-old mare a barn favorite, which comes with the territory when you win five races, earn \$568,423 and give the trainer her first graded stakes win. Lazy F Ranch homebred won a Grade 3 in 2021 and 2022 and was third in the Grade 3 Matchmaker at Monmouth July 22. Saratoga’s Ballston Spa Aug. 24 could be next. “She always tries and runs her race. She’s really sweet and loves to be spoiled. She just runs a couple races a year, but she puts a lot into them. She’s had a couple hiccups, nothing major, just things that keep her from running more.”

Continued On Page 10



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\*Among major North American yearling sales, per *The BloodHorse*  
May 2023 (Horses offered, sales years 2018-2020)

CATALOGUE  
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## Stable Tour —

Continued from page 8

**Candy Lover:** Martin Schwartz's 2-year-old daughter of Twirling Candy finished fifth going 6 furlongs on the dirt here July 23, a month after placing third at Ellis Park. "We might try her on the turf. She trains really well, we just think she might be better on the turf."

**Northern Invader:** Three-year-old Collected colt, a \$160,000 yearling at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky, joined the barn as a 2-year-old purchase last year. Owned by West Point Thoroughbreds and DeVaux's husband David Ingordo, the chestnut won at Belmont Park July 1 after finishing second twice at Churchill Downs. The Secretariat Stakes at Colonial Downs could be next Aug. 12. With a wide blaze, he is easy to spot. DeVaux saw "a big, handsome horse" breezing at de Meric Stable in Florida as a 2-year-old. He was also a fairly instant recall for DeVaux's sister and assistant Adrienne last year. "When he first came in the barn, Adrienne was looking at him and goes, 'I think I played with him when he was a foal.' She looks him up and during Covid, just for something to do, she had gone over to [co-breeder] Peter Berglar's Stonereath Farm. She was bored, like all of us, and it was him. And here he is. I guess he was meant to be in our barn. The Hall of Fame [Friday] is just coming up a little tough. This will give him a little more time between races. He's always been pretty straightforward and easy to train, but he's nicer to kids than he is to me. He will not bite kids. He tries to bite me."

**Taking Candy:** Three-year-old Twirling Candy colt won a turf allowance here July 22 and was still resting up the day of the stable tour as he settled into the straw for a nap. The Fasig-Tipton Kentucky yearling graduate was purchased by Lael Stable as a 2-year-old. After one start last year, the bay is 2-for-3 this year. "He has some improving to do, which is well within him. He's only run four times. We're looking at a little overnight stakes at Laurel for him, the Bald Eagle Derby Aug. 13. It's back in three weeks, but it fits. He's not ready to take on Grade 2 company [in the Hall of Fame Stakes] and if he goes up into the [allowance] against older horses that's going to be tough too."

**More Than Looks:** Another 3-year-old turf horse, Victory Racing Partners' More Than Ready colt has won three of five (all this year) and won the Grade 3 Manila Stakes at Belmont July 7. He'll stay local and try the Hall of Fame Friday. "He's got a little bit more cheekiness to him [than Northern Invader] and he's still putting things together. He improves every time, has a lot of ability. That's going to be a tough race, but he's doing really well and he's had a couple of nice breezes. He kind of had to do everything right to give him a chance in a stakes because I didn't want to blow his mind. He won, just got up, the first time (Gulfstream Park March 31), then he just missed at Keeneland. Then he just got up at Ellis. His last race, he finally kicked clear of the field and kept

running. It would be hard to justify running him in the Hall of Fame without him improving like that in the Manila."

**Reagan's Version:** Purchased in England as a yearling, 2-year-old Oasis Dream filly is being pointed for a debut Aug. 9 and prepped with three half-mile breezes at Oklahoma in July. "She seems to be a quick, precocious 2-year-old. She's really quick. She was a lot smaller and really developed over the last couple months."

**Pisciotta:** Another English purchase, the 2-year-old Wootton Bassett filly is — like her neighbor — nearing a race. "She's named after my grandparents so we're going to have a lot of Italian people at the races if she gets in. That's their last name, a lot of vowels. She's never had a bad week training, never had a bad breeze. She's ready to run, broke from the gate this morning and likes it. She likes to kick everybody too."

**Bourbon And Honey:** You want a horse to root for? Here you go. In 2020, Joe Trawitzki contacted DeVaux about becoming an owner. He had pancreatic cancer and wanted his wife Alyssa to have something to enjoy. In 2020, they bought Mayo Miracle. The next year, Bourbon And Honey joined the squad. Named for the Mayo Clinic (and hopes for Joe's recovery), Mayo Miracle never made the races. Joe, 46, died in February 2022. Bourbon And Honey started once last year and came to Saratoga full of potential only to develop a leg infection. She had surgery, went through a lengthy recovery at Rood and Riddle and Burke Equine in Saratoga and is training away as if tragedy didn't exist. The 3-year-old Street Boss filly has breezed five times on the Oklahoma training track this summer. "She was tough and go to even be here let alone run again. She's destined to be OK, just because she survived. Rood and Riddle and Stowe Burke did a really good job of saving her life and getting her back. She spent the winter here. Joe was great. He read an article about me and reached out. He said, 'I want my wife to have fun.' He was a really great person."

**She Feels Pretty:** Lael Stable's 2-year-old Karakontie filly earned her way to Saratoga with a debut win at Ellis Park July 16. The chestnut sprinted on the turf that day, but aims for the two-turn P.G. Johnson Stakes Aug. 30. "I wouldn't have brought her here for her first race, mainly because the objective was getting her started. She showed enough in the morning, but looked like she wanted to run a route of ground. I didn't know what to expect because she's very quick when you breeze her on the dirt even though she's bred for turf. She's really sweet. You forget that she's even in the barn because she's so nice and quiet."

**Zivo and Briefcase Bully:** The stable ponies pack punches. New York-bred Zivo, 14, won nine times and topped \$1 million in earnings. Two-time winner Briefcase Bully put up \$206,067 and earned retirement at age 6 because DeVaux "didn't want to put him in for the tag and now he's a barn pony because he's fun to ride."





JIM MCKAY

# Maryland Million Day 2023

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# Throwdown

## Champion Elite Power edges Gunite in sprint

BY TOM LAW

Garrett O'Rourke hit the last step down from the clubhouse box seats, took a deep breath and summed up the slugfest he and the rain-soaked Saratoga Saturday crowd just witnessed.

"I'd like to say it was comfortable, but it wasn't, but he always gets it done," O'Rourke said, minutes after Elite Power did just that with his narrowest-of-escapes victory over Gunite in the Grade 1 Alfred G. Vanderbilt Stakes at Saratoga Race Course.

Juddmonte's champion male sprinter stretched his win streak to eight in the Vanderbilt and needed every inch of the race's 6 furlongs to do it. The 5-year-old son of Curlin edged Gunite by a head in a race that shaped up as a potential thriller the moment the overnight came out three days before.



NYRA Photo

Elite Power fights past Gunite near the finish of Saturday's Vanderbilt.

Continued On Page 14

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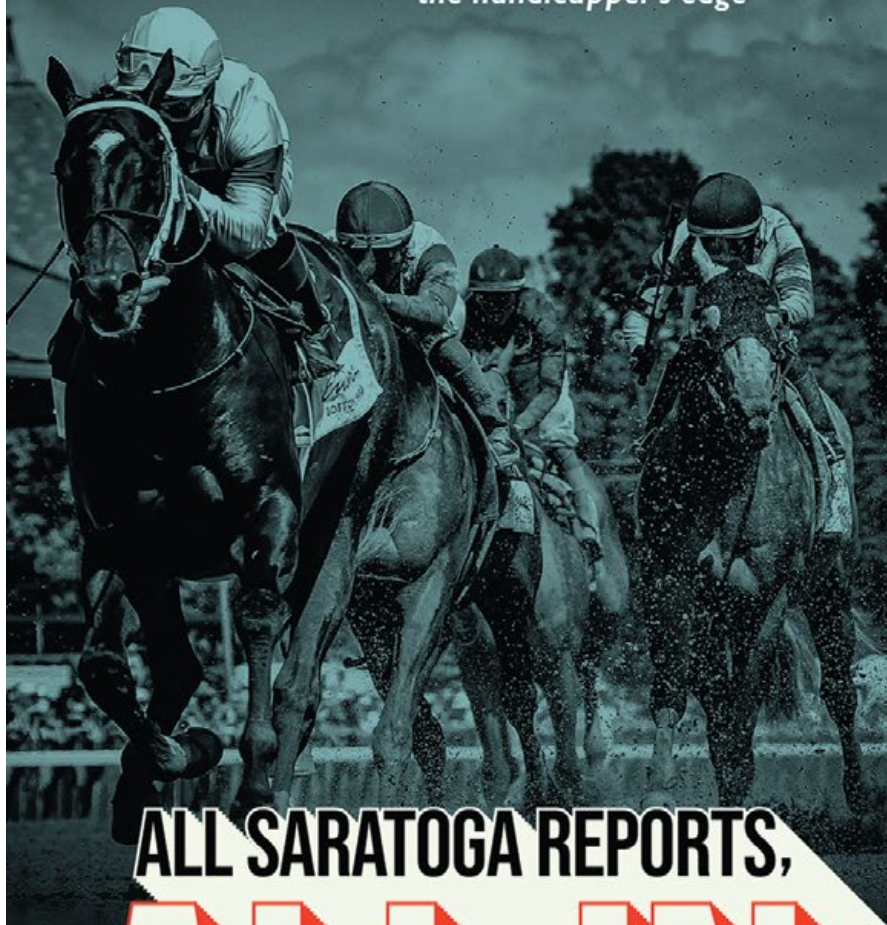
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## Vanderbilt —

■ Continued from page 12

Elite Power got up for his second Grade 1, fifth consecutive graded stakes victory and eighth overall win in a row in the last strides under Irad Ortiz Jr. Trained by Bill Mott, the 6-5 favorite won in 1:09.22 over the sloppy and sealed surface that took on rain throughout the card.

“We were joking on the way down here whether it was the horse or Irad that knew exactly where the line was,” said O’Rourke, Juddmonte’s American manager. “As a partnership they really know how to get there right on time. He’s a horse that just guns it down the stretch. He’s tough as nails. He’s a tough horse to handle, always was since we bought him as a yearling and came with that reputation, but he puts his toughness into that stretch run every time.”

Purchased for \$900,000 at the 2019 Keeneland September sale as a potential classics contender for the late Prince Khalid Abdullah’s Juddmonte, Elite Power hasn’t run past 1 mile and improved to 4-for-6 at 6 furlongs in the Vanderbilt. He won last year’s Breeders’ Cup Sprint at Keeneland and this year’s Grade 3, \$1.5 million Riyadh Dirt Sprint in Saudi Arabia at the distance, along with an allowance-optional on closing weekend at Saratoga last summer in the early parts of the win streak.

“Prince Khalid was the one that wanted to win the Kentucky Derby,” O’Rourke said of the Saudi prince who passed away in early 2021 and before Elite Power made the races. “We bought this guy by Curlin out of a mare that was second in the (Kentucky) Oaks. That was our dream. But this is a very, very good consolation prize. That was Prince Khalid’s idea and dream at the time, and now we’ve moved on to his sons who are taking a tremendous interest and they’re the ones carrying this forward. I’m thanking them for the point of view of Juddmonte and I think it’s great for the whole legacy of Juddmonte that they’re carrying it through.”

Trained by Todd Pletcher, Elite Power’s dam Broadway’s Alibi finished second to Believe You Can in the 2012 Oaks. Elite Power is the only starter among the daughter of Vindication’s five foals.



Tod Marks

Juddmonte’s Garrett O’Rourke.

With a combined 15 wins and almost \$4.2 million in earnings, Elite Power and Gunite were clear standouts in the seven-member Vanderbilt field.

The moment the two walked into the paddock it was clear the on-paper showdown would turn into an on-track throwdown every bit as good as Leonard-Hearns, Mayweather-De La Hoya or dare say Ali-Frazier.

Trainer Steve Asmussen kept Winchell Thoroughbreds’ homebred Gunite, winner of the Grade 1 Hopeful and Grade 2 Amsterdam the last two summers at Saratoga, outside and not under cover of the light rain. Mott went to his usual spot at the corner of the paddock near The Post Bar and Shake Shack. The others were ready for their roles as bit players in the marquee matchup to this point in the meet.

Horseplayers followed the morning-line maker for the most part, hammering Elite Power down to even money from his 4-5 early price, while cutting Gunite’s odds from 8-5 in the program to 6-5 as the horses made their way to the gate straight from the paddock with a few minutes to post.

Gunite and Tyler Gaffalione chased the early speed of Grade 3 Smile Sprint winner Dean Delivers, the 9-1 third choice, after the break and to the opening quarter-mile in :22.64, just a length back as Elite Power raced 2 1/2 lengths behind in sixth.

Gunite, coming off a win in the Aristides Stakes June 3 at Churchill Downs and second to Elite Power in the Riyadh Dirt Sprint in late February, took on Dean Delivers midway around the far turn as Awesome Aar-

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# Vanderbilt —

■ Continued from page 14

on tried to keep pace in third with Elite Power moving up to fourth. Past the half in :45.59, Gunite put away a stubborn Dean Delivers into the lane and opened a 1 1/2-length advantage over Elite Power past the eighth pole.

Gaffalione thought that short burst in the stretch might be enough to get Gunite to the finish first.

“Coming into the stretch I called on my horse and he gave me everything he had. He laid it down,” he said. “I peeked back a couple of times down the stretch, and I felt like we were holding him at bay.”

The feeling changed three of four strides from the wire, with Elite Power barreling down. Ortiz didn't take anything for granted, but trusted Elite Power knew the score.

“He knows where the wire is. He does everything right,” Ortiz said. “I ask him to go, he just goes. He goes for it. When we turned for home, [Gunite] had the jump on me. I know he's a nice horse and he's a fighter. I knew it wasn't going to be easy, but I always trust my horse and every time I asked him, he responded.”

Mott, who added another stakes victory Sunday when Channel Maker turned back the clock to win the Grade 2 Bowling Green as a 9-year-old, wasn't



Tod Marks

Decked in Alfred Vanderbilt's Sagamore Farm colors, Elite Power exits the winner's circle after his eighth consecutive win.

sure Elite Power could get up in time. He also wasn't sure how he'd handle an off surface, without experience on anything but a fast track compared to Gunite's 2-for-3 record on a wet track.

“I thought when they turned for home, Gunite's got the jump on us,” Mott said. “He turned for

home in front, he opened up and it's hard to catch a horse on this kind of racetrack. When they open up on you turning for home, speed always carries on this kind of racetrack. Our horse deserves a lot of credit making a big run from off the pace on this kind of surface.

“I didn't know that he couldn't do it, but I didn't know that he could either. I guess you figure those things out in the race. (Now) I know it's possible.”

Elite Power earned another \$192,500 for the Vanderbilt victory, boosting his bankroll to \$2,635,711. He's now won eight of 11, after starting his career with three losses in maiden special weight events at Churchill Downs.

Elite Power shares a barn with another Mott superstar on a winning streak – Cody's Wish, who takes a run of six in a row into Saturday's Grade 1 Whitney. Neither are close to the 16 straight Mott trained Hall of Famer and two-time Horse of the Year Cigar to win from late 1994 to mid-1996, and nobody's really trying to compare any of them.

“Seventeen is hard to win,” Mott quipped after watching the Vanderbilt replay. “Talking about Cigar's streak, it's tough to win 17. But believe me, it's tough to win two in a row. I'm trying to be amusing . . . This horse is just incredible to put together a streak like this against top competition. It really boils down to, he's a really good horse. They don't do it by accident.”

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# Minding the Forte

Two-year-old champ wins five-horse thriller

BY SEAN CLANCY

Todd Pletcher walked through the clubhouse on a dark, wet Saturday evening and summed up a five-horse, three-way scrum in the Jim Dandy.

“Never a dull moment, right?”

Not when it comes to Forte and certainly not when it comes to jockey Irad Ortiz Jr.

A nose decision, an inquiry, a trail of questions and still, perhaps, a path to greatness.

Sent off favorite, Forte bulled between pace-setter Saudi Crown and stalker Angel Of Empire,

Continued On Page 17



Tod Marks

Forte (center) battles Saudi Crown (right) and Angel Of Empire late in Saturday's Jim Dandy.

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# Jim Dandy —

■ Continued from page 16

both trained by Brad Cox, to earn a nose decision in the \$500,000 stakes at Saratoga Race Course Saturday. Second choice Saudi Crown led every step but the last to finish second. Fourth choice Angel Of Empire finished third, beaten a half-length. Third choice Disarm made up ground late to finish fourth, beaten 2 1/4 lengths. Longshot Hit Show trailed in last. Owned by Repole Stable and St. Elias Stable, Forte finished 1 1/8 miles over a sloppy, sealed track in 1:49.61. The 2-year-old champion from last year withstood a stewards' inquiry into the stretch run.

It was difficult to know which part of the rodeo they were watching.

Pick a moment. At the top of the stretch when Forte muscled into a slot and Ortiz leaned into jockey Flavien Prat on Angel Of Empire on the outside. Midway down the stretch when Saudi Crown came out, instigating a five-horse drift. Near the wire when Forte and Saudi Crown angled left, brushing and bumping. And, sure, everything in between.

"There was a lot going on there," Pletcher said.

Ortiz tried to explain it.

"It was a tough spot. I'm waiting. I see if I have a horse on the outside, he's there, the horse in front of me made the turn so I worked my way out. I'm already in the clear, so I asked my horse to go to that spot, he did, he responded really well," Ortiz said. "The first thing I saw is the other horse start drifting out, my horse looked at him and drift a little bit. I corrected him. I have my stick in the left hand already, now I change it, he keeps going out. I couldn't even ride my horse. I don't hit him behind, just on the shoulder. It was very uncomfortable to ride him. Finally getting close to the wire, my horse got beside the other horse and the other horse started going straight, that was more comfortable for everybody."

Stewards listened to some version of that and let the result stand.

Hours before all that, Pletcher met with Ortiz to discuss the Jim Dandy.

"I usually try to talk to a jockey on



Tod Marks

**Forte's people (from left) Irad Ortiz Jr., Todd Pletcher and Mike Repole wait out the inquiry.**

a big race in the middle of the day, just to see what they're thinking, because sometimes you get in the paddock and things happen quickly," Pletcher said. "Talking to Irad, he's so confident in this horse. He said he was going to try to come away, establish some forward position, if we're laying second, fine. If Flavien gets outside and tries to hold him in there, he wasn't worried. I got a little worried."

Ortiz, as always, rode confidently. Forte, as always, obliged.

"I can't think of anyone quite as aggressive. Angel (Cordero), I know was aggressive, and that's probably who people compare him the most to, always aware of what's going around them. You know he's going to go out there and give you what he has," Pletcher said. "He kind of pushed his way out at the top, then the horse on the lead kind of herded him out. Good horses find a way to win."

Forte found a way to win for the third time this year and seventh time overall.

With a set of black short cup blinkers on for the first time, the \$110,000 yearling broke sharply from post two and Ortiz followed the playbook, allowing Saudi Crown and jockey Florent Geroux to clear from post four. Ortiz angled out, easing into second and Prat, playing the same playbook, lapped onto Forte's outside with Angel Of Empire. Disarm settled into fourth after a tepid break and Hit Show set up outside him.

Saudi Crown, head up and cocked to the left, pulled through the first quarter-mile in :23.93. Angel Of Empire and Forte followed, cat, mouse, tit, tat. Hit Show ranged up wide in

Continued On Page 18

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## 2023 September Meet Stakes Schedule

SEPTEMBER 14 – OCTOBER 1

### IROQUOIS (GIII)

"Breeders' Cup Dirt Dozen"

Runs Saturday, September 16  
Closes August 30  
\$300,000  
Includes \$75,000 from KTDF  
Two-Year-Olds  
1 Mile

### LOCUST GROVE (GIII)

Runs Saturday, September 16  
Closes August 30  
\$400,000  
Includes \$100,000 from KTDF  
Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Up  
1 1/16 Miles

### POCAHONTAS (GIII)

"Breeders' Cup Dirt Dozen"

Runs Saturday, September 16  
Closes August 30  
\$300,000  
Includes \$75,000 from KTDF  
Fillies, Two-Year-Olds  
1 Mile

### LOUISVILLE THOROUGHBRED SOCIETY

Runs Saturday, September 16  
Closes August 30  
\$300,000  
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF  
Three-Year-Olds & Up  
6 Furlongs

### OPEN MIND (Listed)

Runs Saturday, September 16  
Closes August 30  
\$300,000  
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF  
Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Up  
6 Furlongs

### SENECA OVERNIGHT STAKES

Runs Saturday, September 23  
Closes September 6  
\$175,000  
Includes \$65,000 from KTDF  
Fillies, Three-Year-Olds  
1 1/16 Miles

### BOURBON TRAIL

Runs Saturday, September 23  
Closes September 6  
\$300,000  
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF  
Three-Year-Olds  
1 3/16 Miles

### HARRODS CREEK

Runs Saturday, September 23  
Closes September 6  
\$300,000  
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF  
Three-Year-Olds  
7 Furlongs

### DOGWOOD (GIII)

Runs Saturday, September 23  
Closes September 6  
\$300,000  
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF  
Fillies, Three-Year-Olds  
7 Furlongs

### ACK ACK (GIII)

"Win and You're In Dirt Mile Division"

Runs Saturday, September 30  
Closes September 13  
\$400,000  
Includes \$100,000 from KTDF  
Three-Year-Olds & Up  
1 Mile

### LUKAS CLASSIC (GII)

Runs Saturday, September 30  
Closes September 13  
\$500,000  
Includes \$100,000 from KTDF  
Three-Year-Olds & Up  
1 1/8 Mile

### JEFFERSON CUP

Runs Saturday, September 30  
Closes September 13  
\$200,000  
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF  
Three-Year-Olds  
1 Mile (Turf)



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SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE KHRC



Tod Marks

The Jim Dandy field leaves the gate Saturday, winner Forte front and center.

## Jim Dandy —

Continued from page 17

fourth and Disarm trailed, 3 lengths separating the field through a half-mile in :48.10.

Midway on the turn through three-quarters of a mile in 1:12.30, Geroux began to nudge on Saudi Crown as Prat pumped on Angel Of Empire. Ortiz raised his shoulders, braced his hands, high in the saddle, and waited with Forte.

At the top of the stretch, Ortiz slid Forte across the heels of Saudi Crown, barging into Angel Of Empire, trying to hold his ground. The horses' jaws touched, their shoulders ricocheted, the jockeys' elbows bumped, their shoulders abutted as Forte won the land grab. As for the race, it was far from over.

Ortiz leaned right, switched his whip to his left hand, waved and slapped Forte's shoulder once before switching back to his right hand inside the eighth pole. Strides after the first collision, Saudi Crown drifted out, eventually crossing over five lanes and forcing Forte, Angel Of Empire, Disarm and Hit Show well into the center of the racetrack. That trajectory lasted until inside the sixteenth pole before the foursome (Hit Show finished on an island) drifted back to the inside. Forte and Saudi Crown brushed strides before the wire and the duo finished where they had start-

ed in lanes two and three.

Forte won the head bob in a race that had more contact than an eight-ball tournament.

Forte improved his record to seven wins from nine starts and returned to the top of the 3-year-old division. It's crowded at the top with Kentucky Derby winner Mage, Preakness winner National Treasure and Belmont Stakes winner Arcangelo still on the dance floor.

Forte has been on and off the dance floor all year.

A three-time Grade 1 winner as a 2-year-old, the son of Violence returned to dominate the Grade 2 Fountain of Youth in March and rally late to overhaul Mage in the Grade 1 Florida Derby in April. Forte rolled into Churchill Downs as the morning-line favorite for the Kentucky Derby. The wheels began to wobble Wednesday morning when Forte jogged slightly off in his right front during Pletcher's daily jog up.

"He was a tick off right front. We put the hoof testers on him, got some sensitivity. We took him to the track, it was subtle, but you could see something wasn't 100 percent. We went to work, Epsom salts, foot tub, Animalintex, all that stuff," Pletcher said. "Unfortunately, because of the timing of it, showing up on Wednesday, that eliminated any diagnostics we could do. It didn't present itself as a classic foot. We were confident it was the

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# Jim Dandy —

■ Continued from page 18

foot, but it didn't show every symptom that a foot shows so now you're starting to worry, you're in a high-profile situation, the environment could not have been worse."

Forte trained each morning, improved slightly each morning. The Pletcher camp held out hope, but the clock was ticking. And it was ticking louder than ever with the spate of fatalities at Churchill Downs leading up to the Derby.

"From Wednesday to Saturday, the Derby was three of the worst days you can have as a trainer. Knowing you have a horse who has the ability to win, knowing you're dealing with a little issue that could come right in time, might not come right in time," Pletcher said. "Very frustrating. Very disappointing. Mainly for the connections, that's what you feel bad about. Knowing what it means to Mike Repole, the Viola family. With a horse that up until Wednesday . . . Tuesday morning he actually put in a buck in his gallop, like he was saying he was on top of his game."

Ultimately, state veterinarians determined that Forte wasn't on top of his game and scratched him the morning of the Derby. He was the highest profile of five scratches leading up to the race.

"He wasn't 100 percent. He wasn't 100 percent," Pletcher said. "We were under the microscope because the vets were checking him every day. In fairness, they were fair. They gave us time. Mike was upset on Derby Day, not because they wanted to scratch him, but he felt like he didn't need to be scratched at 8:30 or 9:30 in the morning when the race wasn't until almost 7 o'clock at night because he was getting a little bit better. But is he going to get better in five or six hours? I think the correct decision under the circumstances was made."

Because Forte was scratched by the state vets, he was placed on a 14-day vet's list, eliminating the Preakness as an option.

"I wanted to scratch the horse myself. Mike didn't want that. By the vets scratching him, he went on a 14-day list," Pletcher said. "I wanted to keep the Preakness as an option, that



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# Jim Dandy —

■ Continued from page 19

eliminated it. I don't think we could have comfortably made the Preakness. I wasn't comfortable breezing him until Preakness weekend."

Pletcher had run 62 horses in the Kentucky Derby before this year's edition. Asked where his confidence level with Forte ranked before the Wednesday morning jog up, the Hall of Famer didn't hesitate.

"As high as any we've had," Pletcher said. "Especially when Mage won...but it's the game we play."

Forte returned to the game with a 4-furlong breeze on the training track at Belmont Park May 21, a day after the Preakness and set his sights on the Belmont Stakes. He breezed twice more, including a bullet 5 furlongs in :59.67 a week before the Belmont.

"I felt like I had a comfortable schedule," Pletcher said. "I was just worried about the 10 weeks and the mile and a half."

Brushing off those obstacles, Forte settled off the pace, rallied wide and missed by 1 1/2 lengths to upstart Arcangelo and Javier Castellano.

"Ironically, he ran out of ground late. He need-



Forte fights past Saudi Crown late in the Jim Dandy.

Tod Marks

ed further," Pletcher said. "But Javier got a tremendous trip, snuck through on the rail and we went five wide and that was kind of the difference in the race. To me, he gained a lot of respect to do what he did to run that well off a 10-week layoff going that far."

Forte bounced out of the Belmont Stakes,

## Hey Todd Pletcher, what did you think of the blinkers?

"I don't think they hurt. I don't think they hurt. He broke sharply, it's probably the best he's broke. Got to a position we wanted. I don't think they made him rank. Like I said, he was a really good horse before we put blinkers on him. We're just trying to cover every base, much ado about nothing in my opinion."

breezed twice over the training track at Belmont, once over the Oklahoma and once on the main track here.

Seven weeks after the Belmont, Forte continued to gain respect (despite the rough-and-tumble stretch run) winning the Jim Dandy.

"You can't look back now. You've got to just focus on moving forward, happy to have the horse back healthy and being able to show what he can do," Pletcher said. "I don't think we've seen his best yet. I think if we get in a truly run race with an honest pace. That's a nice horse and they were pretty comfortable fractions, when we get in a race and they go in :46 and he can settle, that's when he'll be at his best."

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Dave Harmon

Seize The Grey prevails in Saturday’s seventh, a 2-year-old maiden.

## Hopeful Bound?

### Hall of Famer Lukas thinks big after Seize The Grey wins maiden

BY ALEC DICONZA

D. Wayne Lukas could be headed back to the Grade 1 Hopeful – a race he’s won eight times in his Hall of Fame career – with Seize The Grey.

Seize The Grey upset Saturday’s seventh race at Saratoga Race Course, toppling a field that featured several first-time starters from high-profile connections at 16-1 on the sloppy and sealed surface.

“I wasn’t worried about that,” Lukas said of the sloppy track. “This horse has got some turn of foot. I wasn’t worried about that. I was more worried about getting away from the gate. I thought if we got away from the gate, we had a great chance.”

Jaime Torres, who rode his first Saratoga winner Friday, guided the son of Arrogate for Lukas and owner MyRacehorse. Seize The Grey,

#### SATURDAY RACING RECAP

a \$300,000 purchase at last year’s Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Sale, finished eighth in his debut at Ellis Park July 1.

Lukas said the experience made the difference Saturday.

“We were one of the only horses in the race that had experience,” he said. “The rest of them were still learning. But, Saratoga, you don’t know who you’re going to catch. You might have the next world champion, you never know. You always are in a gray area there, so you take them over and hope for the best.”

Seize The Grey, who won by 1 3/4 lengths over Kentucky Derby winner Mage’s full-brother Dornoch in 1:17.95 for 6 1/2 furlongs, could give

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# Saturday —

■ Continued from page 22

Lukas another Hopeful win on Closing Day, September 4.

“The Hopeful has been really good to me,” he said. “We’ve had great luck with it. I’ve got a couple other colts that I think can run a little bit. We’re still about a month away. That’s ambitious but not impossible.”

• Carson’s Run, named for a boy suffering from the same disease as Cody Dorman of Cody’s Wish fame, delivered in his debut in the opener going 1 1/16 miles on the turf. The 2-year-old son of Cupid, who races for West Point Thoroughbreds and Steven Bouchey, won by a neck under Dylan Davis.

“I have a classmate – Wade Jost – he was in the Gulf War,” said West Point Thoroughbreds’ Terry Finley. “He came home and Carson [Jost’s son] was conceived quickly after he got back from deployment and from the war. His unit, they had an incredible number of kids that were born with serious defects, and they could never get to the bottom of it. They ended up just saying it was bad luck.”

Carson was born with Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome.

“Carson has been in a challenging spot,” Finley



Dave Harmon

Two-year-old Carson's Run digs in to win Saturday's opener for West Point Thoroughbreds.

said. “He’s never taken a step and he’s had a real challenge in life, but he’s been an inspiration. So, my classmate has really stuck by him every step of the way as has his family.”

Finley said the Jost family watched Saturday’s race at home in Washington.

“This is the first horse and the first start that they’ve ever had,” Finley said. “He has the exact

same condition as Cody from Cody’s Wish, so that really kind of spurred their interest. A lot of this goes back to Cody and to that whole situation, so we’re all very grateful.”

Trained by Christophe Clement, Carson’s Run was a \$170,000 purchase at this year’s Ocala Breeders’ Sales Co.’s April sale. He defeated a field that included five other first-time starters and one third-time starter.

“We all know this is the toughest place in the country, in the world, to win,” Finley said. “Also, first-time starters, you have all the brand names in, so we’re very happy and delighted. We’ve been running OK. We’ve been knocking at the door. This is our fifth start. We’ve been second three times and third, so we were ready for a win and we got it.”

Carson’s Run could give his connections reason to cheer on another win later in the meet, possibly in the Grade 3 With Anticipation Aug. 31.

“We try our best to leave that to the trainers,” Finley said. “I know that’s an auto response from the owners, but it will depend. I know Christophe has quite a few really good turf horses, so we’ll let him earn his pay and figure out where to go next.”

• Mark Anderson’s Sterling Silver found no issues with the sealed main track in Saturday’s fifth

Continued On Page 24

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# Saturday —

■ Continued from page 23

race at Saratoga Race Course, winning for the first time in three tries on a wet track.

“Going into the race I wasn’t quite sure how she would handle the sealed track, but I guess she did very well over it,” winning trainer Tom Albertrani said. “First time she ran on a sealed track like this, so it was just good to see her finish up and win.”

The 4-year-old stakes-winning New York-bred daughter of Cupid won by a length over Good Sam in the 7-furlong allowance-optional reduced to a field of four after three scratches. Sterling Silver, winner of the Bouwerie Stakes and a starter in the Breeders’ Cup Filly and Mare Sprint last year, gave Albertrani his first win of the meet.

“It’s always good to get the first win out of the way,” Albertrani said. “We only ran three horses so far during the meet, so it’s always good to get that win out of the way.”

Sterling Silver put her hat in the ring in several major races last year, such as the Grade 1 Test, Grade 2 Gallant Bloom and Filly and Mare Sprint. She won an open-company allowance at Aqueduct in April before placing in two New York-bred stakes.

“There’s never an easy allowance at Saratoga, that’s for sure, but she did win open company in a couple of starts back and she was able to come



Tod Marks

**Sterling Silver leads Good Sam home in Saturday's fifth for trainer Tom Albertrani.**

back and win the next level open company again,” Albertrani said. “She’s a classy filly and hopefully we’ll try to find a stake later.”

- Trainer Rudy Rodriguez continued his strong meet with a win from Scocciatore in Saturday’s second, an optional claimer for New York-breds. Rodriguez finished the weekend with six wins at the meet, tied for fourth . . . Volkert got up in time to win the third, a \$35,000 claimer for non-winners of two going 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf. Mark Hen-

nig trained the winner for Windylea Farm. Dylan Davis did the riding at 25-1 . . . Klaravich Stable, Chad Brown and Javier Castellano teamed for an 8-1 win by first-time starter Overacting in the sixth, a New York-bred maiden on the turf. The 3-year-old daughter of Mendelssohn won by a length over favorite Starts Now . . . Trainer and co-owner/co-breeder Linda Dixon won the 11th with Queens Dancer in a 13-1 upset. Katie Davis rode the winner, a 4-year-old War Dancer filly.

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Dave Harmon

Channel Maker charges down the stretch in Sunday's Bowling Green.

# Hit Show

## Nine-year-old Channel Maker extends run of excellence in G2

BY JOE CLANCY

By now, Channel Maker fits in the Bill Mott barn like the green saddle towels, the white diamond and those little rope loops on the halters.

The 9-year-old arrived in 2017, and never left – piling up graded-stakes wins, an Eclipse Award as male turf champion in 2020 and appreciation at pretty much every stop.

The English Channel gelding added another chapter Saturday, winning the Grade 2 Bowling Green Stakes at Saratoga Race Course for owners Wachtel Stable, Gary Barber, Reeves Thoroughbred Racing and R.A. Hill Stable. In his 54th start, Channel Maker won for the 10th time, pushed his lifetime earnings to \$3,890,358

**BOWLING GREEN STAKES RECAP**

and made an “I-still-got-it” statement while ousting eight foes.

“Man, he’s a cool horse,” said Manny Franco, aboard for the first time since October 2021. “Nine years old and he still loves what he’s doing. I’m just happy to be on board today. He loves what he’s doing.”

Mott agreed with the assessment, and paid credit to the horse.

“If you take care of them, they’ll take care of you,” the Hall of Famer said of producing a long career from a racehorse. “We’ve had nickel, dime issues with him training but nothing

**Continued On Page 27**

Maryland Steeplechase Association congratulates James Wyatt and Jaidyn Shore, our 2022 and 2023 Jonathan Kiser Memorial Scholarship winners, who will make today’s trophy presentation in the Jonathan Kiser Novice Hurdle race.



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SARAH LIBBEY GREENHALGH PHOTOS



# Bowling Green —

■ Continued from page 26

serious, nothing that he had to go on long layoffs over. He didn't have the bone bruising and have to go home for 90 days or be turned out for six months or eight months for anything. He's just a solid horse."

Channel Maker — head high, front feet flying — bounded to the front early from post eight. Franco let it happen and they set up a half-length in front of Tawny Port through fractions of :25.40, :50.85 and 1:16.15 in the 1 3/8-mile race on a good inner turf course. Things got much faster from there as Channel Maker came home in :59.06 for the final 5 furlongs while winning by 2 lengths in 2:15.21. Verstappen finished second with Never Explain third. Favorite Rebel's Romance, the 2022 Breeders' Cup Turf winner, clipped heels, stumbled and lost jockey Richie Mullen on the final turn.

He was going to have to work to catch Channel Maker, who made his fifth start in the Bowling Green. He won in a dead heat in 2018, finished fourth in 2019, third in 2020 and sev-

enth in 2021. As pretty much always with Channel Maker, pace played a big part Saturday.

"I liked the situation we were in when he made the lead and was galloping in front," Mott said. "We haven't been able to do that in a while. If there's one speed horse that backs up early, it really doesn't matter but if you get a couple speed horses and they're all going together it becomes a long trip."

Other than the 2-mile Belmont Gold Cup in his most recent race, the half-mile splits of Channel Maker's last 13 races were faster than Saturday's. He managed to win two of those, Belmont Park's Grand Couturier (in front after a half in :50.47) last summer and Keeneland's Elkhorn (second after a half in :49.53) last spring.

"The pace that I set, that was a key — :25, :50 — it felt like that," Franco said. "I was comfortable up there and I knew he was going to give me something at the end because he always tries. I thought he was going to give me something and he did."

Mott put it even more simply.



Tod Marks

Continued On Page 28

Channel Maker hits the finish line with his 10th victory in 54 lifetime starts.

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## Bowling Green —

■ Continued from page 27

“We got a good pace scenario, and the old man came through.”

Bred in Canada by Tall Oaks Farm, Channel Maker made his first starts at Woodbine for trainer Danny Vella and Joey Gee Thoroughbreds as a 2-year-old in 2016 – finishing third against maidens, winning the 6 1/2-furlong Vandal Stakes and placing third in the Grade 3 Summer. Wachtel and Barber bought in before the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Turf, where Channel Maker finished seventh behind Oscar Performance (whose first foals are 3-year-olds). Channel Maker made his first start for Mott in April 2017. That season included a fourth in the Queen’s Plate, a win in the Breeders’ Stakes and a second in the Grade 1 Hollywood Derby. He won a Grade 1 in 2018, added another in 2019 and landed two (Saratoga’s Sword Dancer and Belmont’s Joe Hirsch Turf Classic) in his championship season the next year when beaten a length by foreign rivals Tarnawa and Magical at the Breeders’ Cup.

Channel Maker weathered a winless 2021, but won twice last year and never blinked while facing top company. To go with 10 starts at Saratoga, he has made six Breeders’ Cup appearances, raced at 11 racetracks and competed twice in the Middle East in 2021. He started four times as a 2-year-old, at least six every year since and five so far this year while still managing to find a winter vacation.

“We take him to Payson Park in the winter and we turn him out down there, but he’s never left us or had to go home or be away from the track,” Mott said. “It’s just become a routine. In the wintertime, we turn him out, let him up for a few hours, then bring him in and train him.”

Not much has changed over eight seasons of racing and training.



Tod Marks

Trainer Bill Mott has won four stakes at the 2023 meet.

“He loves it, he’s ready to go, it’s not like he’s going to the track and you’ve got to kick him to make him go,” said Mott. “He goes out, he trains, he goes around, does his thing, head up in the air all the time. He still has his speed. Well, at that distance he still has his speed. A lot of times they’ll lose that as they get older and drop back and you’re trying to make them do something they can’t do.”

Mott and Wachtel contemplated skipping the Bowling Green in favor of the John’s Call Aug. 23, thinking ungraded company might help stop a losing streak at seven races (and more than a year). Over that span, Channel Maker started in nothing but graded stakes, finished fourth twice and was beaten 1 3/4 lengths in The Grade 1 Man o’ War in May. Another graded try got a boost when fellow frontrunner Strong Quality, co-owned by Barber, scratched.

“The partners said let’s give him one more chance at this kind of distance,” Wachtel said. “Maybe he won’t have to go :48 and change like he’s had to do recently. He’s something special. Maybe I’ve had some more talented horses, but this is the best horse I’ve ever owned . . . It’s a special win for all of us, it means a lot – couldn’t be more proud to own a horse like this guy.”

### Hey Bill Mott, what’s with the way Channel Maker raises his head when he runs?

“That’s one thing you can’t really change. It’s probably a conformation trait. I tell the riders that he doesn’t want you to pull on him too hard and he doesn’t want you to push on him too hard – you know what I mean? If you pull on him, his head goes up and if you go to over-riding that doesn’t work either. Go with him, help him a little bit but don’t overdo it either way.”

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Dave Harmon

Vintage coasts to victory in Sunday's second race.

# Fine Wine

## Vintage wins for Englehart, as part of riding double for Davis

BY MARY RUFO

Vintage, a 3-year-old filly took them gate to wire in Sunday's second race, a \$16,000 claimer for non-winners of two, at Saratoga Race Course.

With Dylan Davis in the irons, Vintage broke sharply out of the Wilson Chute to start the 1-mile trek to the finish. For most of the way, Vintage was pressed by Our Rosie Diamonds but Davis guided his filly to save ground on the rail. At the top of the stretch, the duo simply took off, winning by 5 1/2 lengths at 14-1. Her conditioner, Jeffrey Englehart, was ecstatic.

"I was really happy with the way she was training and everything going into this race. You know we took a shot, we're really happy with the way

### SUNDAY RACING RECAP

it played out," he said. "Dylan got her out of the gate great. We saw she was very versatile in all of her races on all three surfaces and you know the timing was right with this race. We're very happy."

Vintage, who races for Englehart and Photos Finish LLC, started her career at California's Golden Gate Fields in January. She won her second start, then lost her next five before Englehart bought her for \$17,000 at Fasig-Tipton's horses of racing age sale in July.

- Davis came back the next race

Continued On Page 30

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Commentator by Rick Capone

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Dave Harmon

Leftembehind gives Sackatoga Stable a Saratoga win in Sunday's eighth.

## Sunday —

■ Continued from page 29

hungry for more as he and Certified Loverboy won an off-the-turf maiden for trainer Ray Handal and West Paces Racing, Twin Sports Racing, Brown Road Racing, Ken Russell and Adelphi Racing Club. The Mendelssohn colt handled the 1-mile distance out of the Wilson Chute and won by 2 3/4 lengths at 9-1.

Davis won five on the weekend, and attributes the success to the connections for giving him opportunity.

"I'm always riding hard and you've got to be aggressive out here and you've got to have the horse to get it done," he said. "I'm very fortunate. I had a lot of success through the winter and spring so I have some good, loyal horsemen behind me to back me up and we're getting the job done for them."

• Hometown owner Sackatoga Stable found the winner's circle in the eighth, a 1-mile maiden claimer for new York-breds as Leftembehind did just that in the day's eighth race.

Ridden by Katie Davis, Dylan's sister, the 3-year-old Accelerate gelding rolled to the front in the stretch and won by 4 lengths for trainer Barclay Tagg. The winner broke a step slow and caught plenty of mud as you could hardly recognize the maroon and silver diamond silks of Sackatoga, the partnership headed by Jack Knowlton and known best for New York-bred stars Funny Cide and Tiz The Law.

"It's been very nice, Jack and I got together about 25 years ago," said Tagg. "He's a great guy."

• Little Prankster is a maiden no more after Sunday's finale. The 3-year-old daughter of Practical Joke broke toward the back, but quickly moved up on the outside in this 5 1/2-furlong sprint. By the time Tyler Gaffione asked the filly on the far turn, she was ready to set sail and coasted to a victory without any threats in sight. The final margin was 7 3/4 lengths for the Rigney Racing filly.

This win came as somewhat of a relief to trainer Phil Bauer since Little Prankster began her career with three

Continued On Page 31

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SCAN TO GIVE



# Sunday —

■ Continued from page 30

consecutive seconds in Kentucky. Apparently, the fourth time's the charm.

"She ran super. She was one early on we felt had a lot of talent so, we were surprised when we kept running second," Bauer said. "I think some of it is me being a little impatient. We cut her back and added some blinkers because we knew she had speed."

• Repole Stable and Todd Pletcher won two on the card, the first (an off-the-turf maiden for 2-year-old fillies) with Miz Sense and the seventh (an on-the-turf allowance) with Jerry The Nipper. The latter got up to win by a neck over Kuramata going 1 1/16 miles. Jose Ortiz rode both winners. Ortiz also picked up a win with Obrigada in the fourth for trainer Linda Rice. The 3-year-old Alternation filly took over after a half-mile and the starter allowance by 7 3/4 lengths . . . Trainer Al Stall won his first of the meet when Fannie And Freddie went wire-to-wire in the fifth, an optional claimer going 1 1/4 miles on the dirt (after being carded for the turf). The Columbine Stable runner won at Fair Grounds in February . . . Two-year-old filly Alys Beach won the sixth, a maiden special going 6 1/2 furlongs, for

trainer Tom Amoss. In her debut for owner Greg Tramontin, the daughter of Omaha Beach won by a head over Life Talk with Mugen third.

• Richard Mullen, unseated from Godolphin's Rebel's Romance during Sunday's Grade 2 Bowling Green, reportedly suffered a broken collarbone, thumb, ribs and three fractured vertebrae. Godolphin released a statement Monday that said Mullen received "immediate medical attention at the course and was assessed to be conscious with movement in all four limbs. He was transferred to the Albany Medical Center, where he remains under medical care."

Rebel's Romance, who was uninjured in the incident, is expected to run next in the Aug. 12 Arlington Million at Colonial Downs. He will join stablemates Silver Knott and Master Of The Seas in the Million.



Dave Harmon

Little Prankster runs away with Sunday's 10th race.



Dave Harmon

Fannie And Freddie stretches for the finish of Sunday's fifth.

# Saturday Morning Socials



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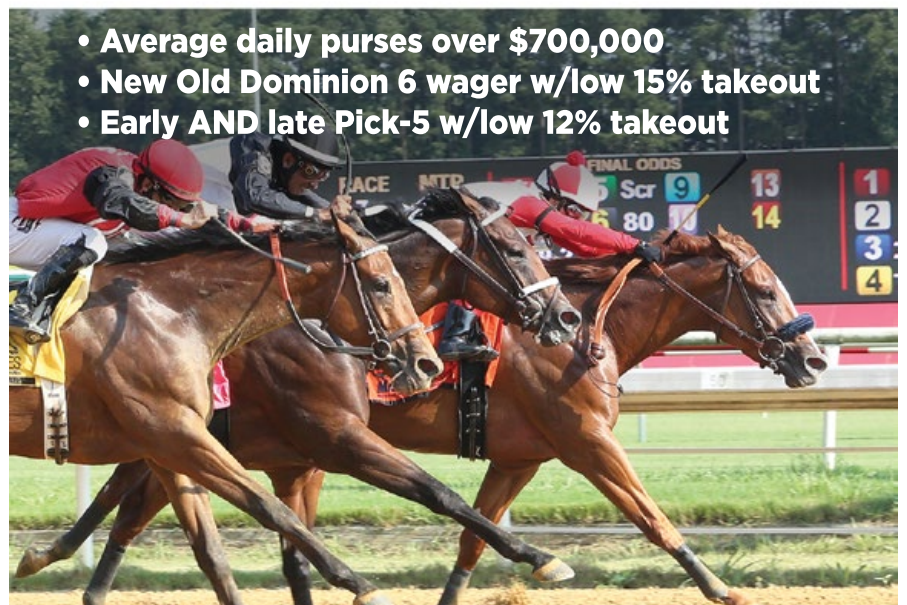


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# Duplicate Search

## Against familiar foes, Evvie Jets bids for Wednesday turf stakes

BY MARY RUFO

Blue skies and sunshine. Saratoga flushed out the dreary, humid, thunderstorm-prone weather and replaced it with mild air and radiant daylight. Most bask in this refreshing stretch of weather.

But perhaps the sun isn't Evvie Jets' cup of tea.

The New York-bred Twirling Candy mare calls a stall in Mertkan Kantarmaci's barn on the Oklahoma side her summer getaway. Instead of poking her head out of her stall to see the bees and flies swarming outside the shedrow, she prefers to spend her off-the-clock times out of the UV rays and safely away in her shady dwelling. Looking out her back window seems much more comfortable.

Evvie Jets will have to start liking the sun, at least for a little bit today when she battles six others in the featured \$135,000 De La Rose Stakes going a mile on the inner turf at Saratoga Race Course.

Three of those formidable foes hail from the Chad Brown barn – Technical Analysis, Eminent Victor and Haughty. They met Evvie Jets last time

### DE LA ROSE STAKES PREVIEW

out in the July 2 Perfect Sting Stakes at Belmont Park, where she wired the field of five. Sent off at 2-5 in the Perfect Sting, Technical Analysis couldn't get Evvie Jets in deep stretch and lost by a half-length. Haughty was another 2 1/4 back in third.

Kantarmaci isn't worried about meeting those two again.

"I think she's strong enough to make it happen again, you know?" he said. "It's kind of same race as last time. Same distance. Good post. And she's feeling great since she's been here."

Kantarmaci said the De La Rose is the best-case scenario spot for Evvie Jets, who is 5-for-11 at a mile on turf.

"That's her distance," he said. "She can be on the lead or off the lead and just give everything on the stretch."

Evvie Jets didn't start her career in Kantarmaci's barn. She made her debut in 2020 for Tony Dutrow and almost a year later, she was claimed for \$80,000 out of an allowance-optional at Belmont by Kantarmaci and Robert Amendola. Amendola passed



Chelsea Durand/NYRA Photo

Evvie Jets looks for her third stakes win of 2023 in today's De La Rose.

away last November at age 79. Evvie Jets is still owned by his estate.

Kantarmaci has seen a transformation in the mare in the almost two years she's spent in his care.

"Big change, big change," he said. "Age helped her. Time also helped her. Running more races help her. You know, and now she's 100 percent on duty."

Evvie Jets has earned \$531,655 and brings a record of 6-6-2 in 20 starts into the De La Rose. She'll look to add more to the bank and to the win column from post 2 under Javier Castellano.

Fairly laid back and mellow in her stall, Evvie Jets is for the most part friendly.

"You know she's nice and friendly but sometimes when she's in her mood, she doesn't even let us get in the stall or do things with her," Kantarmaci said. "She turns away and she may be a bit tough when the groom is working on her."

The De La Rose features another multiple stakes-winning New York-bred in Runaway Rumour, who lives in Horacio De Paz's barn inside Clare Court. The small and curious 5-year-old daughter of Flintshire, like many of the runners in De Paz's string, poked her head outside her stall to check out the activity around the barn Tuesday morning.

Continued On Page 33



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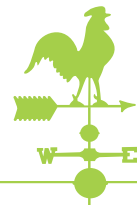
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# Preview —

■ Continued from page 32

“Ella es curiosa,” one of De Paz’s grooms said as Runaway Rumour sniffed out a visitor possibly in search of some peppermints. After her groom ducked into her stall, Runaway Rumour threw her tail around, pricked her ears and got a little vocal.

De Paz is pleased with the mare’s training coming into today.

“She’s a pretty straightforward filly,” he said. “Jorge (Abreu) did a good job with her and she has some back class here. She ran in some good spots. She’s smart, she puts in good efforts. Last out, that rain came through and I don’t think she really took a liking to that soft turf.”

Coming off a third in the Port Washington Stakes for New York-breds July 4 at Belmont, Runaway Rumour is 12-1 on the morning line under Manny Franco.

“This spot, it’s very deep as far as competition,” De Paz said. “Some of those fillies have some nice back class, too. If she can come back to her form that she was before, she might be OK.”

Lawrence Goichman’s homebred mare finished second, beaten a nose by Marvelous Maude, in the Mount Vernon Stakes two back at Belmont in her first start for De Paz. He took over Runaway Rumour’s training this spring from Abreu, who sent her out to wins in the 2021 Wild Applause Stakes and 2022 Ticonderoga Stakes along with placings in two graded stakes.

Whether the distance will suit Runaway Rumour remains a question for her trainer.

“Possibly a little bit longer, but the race kind of came up and it seemed like a good spot for her,” De Paz said. “We’re just taking it race by race to see how she does.”

In addition to Technical Analysis and Haughty, Brown entered long-shot Eminent Victor. Bill Mott sends out 3-1 second choice White Frost, third three back in the Grade 1 Jenny Wiley and runner-up in back-to-back stakes. Regal Realm, winner of the Lady Canterbury last time out for Jonathan Thomas, completes the body of the field. Chi Town Lady, Movie Moxy and Sunset Louise are entered for the main track.

The De La Rose shares Wednesday with the Jonathan Kiser novice hurdle stakes, which starts the card at 1:10 p.m. The 2 1/16-mile hurdle race attracted a field of eight.

Barbados is the slight favorite for trainer Arch Kingsley, who won last week’s jump race with L’Imperator. The 7-year-old Irish-bred won over jumps in May, and was eighth in the 2-mile Belmont Gold Cup flat stakes June 9. L’Imperator and Sunday’s Bowling Green winner Channel Maker finished behind Barbados there.

Kingsley also entered Merry Maker, an allowance winner in May. The field’s only American-bred, Awakened, is a half-brother to Grade 1 turf winner Imagining and has won two of seven over jumps including a May handicap hurdle score. The 6-year-old is 7-2 on the morning line for trainer Jack Fisher.

American stakes winners Caramelised and Realist are also signed on along with French winner McTigue and recent import Restitution plus English winner Solomoon.

## War Like Goddess returns in Thursday’s Glens Falls

George Krikorian’s War Like Goddess seeks her third straight victory the Grade 2 Glens Falls Stakes, the feature on Thursday’s 10-race card.

Off since her sixth as the odds-on favorite in the Grade 1 New York Stakes June 9 at Belmont, War Like Goddess takes on six others in the 1 1/2-mile turf test for trainer Bill Mott.

The 6-year-old daughter of English Channel is 3-for-4 on the turf at Saratoga with victories in the 2021 and 2022 Glens Falls and the 2021 Flower Bowl. Joel Rosario takes the return call.

War Like Goddess takes on a pair of runners for trainer Graham Motion in Grade 3 Robert G. Dick Memorial winner Sopran Basilea and multiple stakes winner Vergara, and two for Chad Brown in Grade 1 winner McKulick and last year’s Flower Bowl winner Virginia Joy.

Amazing Grace, fourth in the Grade 2 Belmont Gold Cup against males; and Elegant Taste, claimed for \$10,000 last time out at Penn National, complete the field.

The Glens Falls goes as the ninth race with post time at 5:44 p.m. Thursday.



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# SARATOGA ENTRIES

Wednesday, August 2.

## 1ST (1:10PM). \$75,000, STK - THE JONATHAN KISER NOVICE STAKES, 4 & UP, 2 1/16M (HURDLE)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....Awakened.....	T. Garner.....	J. Fisher.....	7-2
2	.....2	.....Merry Maker (IRE).....	G. Watters.....	A. Kingsley, Jr.....	6-1
3	.....3	.....Caramelised (GB).....	R. Dunne.....	L. Young.....	7-2
4	.....4	.....Realist (GB).....	H. Beswick.....	R. Hendriks.....	8-1
5	.....5	.....Barbados (IRE).....	S. Mulqueen.....	A. Kingsley, Jr.....	3-1
6	.....6	.....Solomoon (GB).....	C. McGivern.....	L. Young.....	15-1
7	.....7	.....McTigue (IRE).....	B. Foley.....	C. Murphy.....	8-1
8	.....8	.....Restitution (FR).....	P. Hendriks.....	K. Brion.....	6-1

## 2ND (1:46PM). \$88,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....Chalky Cat.....	L. Saez.....	H. Bond.....	6-1
2	.....2	.....Nobilis.....	D. Davis.....	M. Hennig.....	7-2
3	.....3	.....Bustino Santino.....	J. Ortiz.....	B. Levine.....	5-1
4	.....4	.....Friday I'm in Love.....	J. Castellano.....	H. Bond.....	12-1
5	.....5	.....Fast Buck Freddy.....	F. Prat.....	J. Abreu.....	7-2
6	.....6	.....Stavros.....	M. Franco.....	B. Russell.....	9-2
7	.....7	.....Flying in Style.....	J. Rosario.....	C. Baker.....	3-1

## 3RD (2:19PM). \$64,000, CLM \$32,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double, Quinella

1	.....2	.....Chuck Willis (IRE).....	J. Ortiz.....	D. Jacobson.....	4-1
1a	.....AE-MTO	.....Senor Jobim.....	Rider TBA.....	D. Jacobson.....	4-1
2	.....1	.....Chess Master.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	M. Maker.....	6-5
3	.....3	.....Brazillionaire.....	J. Castellano.....	J. Englehart.....	12-1
4	.....4	.....Seven Scents.....	L. Saez.....	T. Morley.....	8-1
5	.....5	.....Me 'n Sap.....	J. Gomez.....	D. Donk.....	15-1
6	.....6	.....Lyrical Poet.....	T. Gaffalione.....	W. Ward.....	3-1
7	.....7	.....After Five.....	T. McCarthy.....	P. Quick.....	8-1
8	.....AE-MTO	.....Catchyasoon.....	Rider TBA.....	T. Morley.....	9-5
9	.....AE-MTO	.....Bronx Bomber.....	M. Franco.....	M. Kantarmaci.....	6-1

## 4TH (2:52PM). \$100,000, AOC \$45,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....Shadow Dragon.....	J. Ortiz.....	W. Mott.....	9-5
2	.....2	.....Un Ojo.....	F. Prat.....	W. Walden.....	5-1
3	.....3	.....Olympic Dreams.....	T. McCarthy.....	P. Quick.....	2-1
4	.....4	.....Bossmakinbossmoves.....	J. Castellano.....	D. Duggan.....	20-1
5	.....5	.....Wild Banker.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	O. Noda.....	6-1
6	.....6	.....Mason Mania.....	L. Saez.....	J. Englehart.....	6-1
7	.....7	.....El Hermano.....	J. Gomez.....	S. Ramirez.....	12-1

## 5TH (3:26PM). \$88,000, MSW, 2 YO, F, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 6, Daily Double

1	.....2	.....Alotta Jays.....	K. Davis.....	D. Schettino.....	8-1
1a	.....5	.....Bernietakescharge.....	D. Davis.....	D. Schettino.....	8-1

2	.....1	.....Once an Eagle.....	F. Prat.....	C. Clement.....	4-1
3	.....3	.....Brocknardini.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	G. Weaver.....	7-2
4	.....4	.....Coach Sessa.....	M. Franco.....	B. Russell.....	6-1
5	.....6	.....Run for Your Honey.....	T. Gaffalione.....	M. Maker.....	6-1
6	.....7	.....Belvoir.....	J. Rosario.....	C. Clement.....	5-2
7	.....8	.....Find Your Joy.....	J. Castellano.....	T. Morley.....	12-1
8	.....9	.....Charity First.....	L. Saez.....	R. Rodriguez.....	10-1

## 6TH (4:00PM). \$50,000, CLM \$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....Miss M M.....	M. Franco.....	J. Jimenez.....	8-1
2	.....2	.....Kannon Fire.....	D. Davis.....	L. Rice.....	5-1
3	.....3	.....Stir Crazy.....	K. Carmouche.....	B. Perkins, Jr.....	5-2
4	.....4	.....Synonymous.....	I. Castillo.....	J. Pregman, Jr.....	15-1
5	.....5	.....Home for Christmas.....	T. McCarthy.....	G. DiPrima.....	8-1
6	.....6	.....Boca.....	K. Davis.....	J. Falk.....	20-1
7	.....7	.....Postnup.....	J. Ortiz.....	L. Rice.....	8-5
8	.....8	.....More Mango.....	R. Maragh.....	J. Ferraro.....	15-1
9	.....9	.....Redzilla.....	O. Hernandez Moreno.....	J. Paragallo.....	30-1
10	.....AE-MTO	.....T Max.....	J. Ortiz.....	L. Rice.....	7-5

## 7TH (4:34PM). \$50,000, STR \$20,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 1 1/4M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double

1	.....2	.....Centavo.....	A. Castillo.....	N. Chatterpaul.....	15-1
1a	.....8	.....Higher Quality.....	D. Davis.....	N. Chatterpaul.....	15-1
2	.....1	.....Lost in Rome.....	K. Carmouche.....	R. Dutrow, Jr.....	4-1
3	.....3	.....Portos.....	J. Alvarado.....	A. Chichakly.....	10-1
4	.....4	.....King of Hollywood.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	G. Sacco.....	6-1
5	.....5	.....Just Call Ray.....	T. Gaffalione.....	F. Abreu.....	15-1
6	.....6	.....Salto de Tigre.....	M. Franco.....	D. Jacobson.....	6-1
7	.....7	.....Bear Oak.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	N. Casse.....	10-1
8	.....9	.....Hang Tight.....	J. Gomez.....	J. Romero.....	30-1
9	.....10	.....Bobby G.....	T. McCarthy.....	M. Gorham.....	10-1
10	.....11	.....Lord Captain.....	J. Ortiz.....	L. Rice.....	9-5

## 8TH (5:10PM). \$135,000, STK - THE DE LA ROSE (LISTED), 4 YO'S & UP, F & M, 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....White Frost.....	J. Alvarado.....	W. Mott.....	3-1
2	.....2	.....Evvie Jets.....	J. Castellano.....	M. Kantarmaci.....	9-2
3	.....3	.....Eminent Victor.....	F. Prat.....	C. Brown.....	12-1
4	.....4	.....Haughty.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	C. Brown.....	5-1
5	.....5	.....Technical Analysis (IRE).....	J. Ortiz.....	C. Brown.....	9-5
6	.....6	.....Regal Realm.....	F. Geroux.....	J. Thomas.....	5-1
7	.....7	.....Runaway Rumour.....	M. Franco.....	H. De Paz.....	12-1
8	.....AE-MTO	.....Chi Town Lady.....	J. Rosario.....	W. Ward.....	8-5
9	.....AE-MTO	.....Movie Moxy.....	J. Ortiz.....	L. Rice.....	2-1
10	.....AE-MTO	.....Sunset Louise.....	Rider TBA.....	B. Levine.....	3-1

## 9TH (5:44PM). \$162,500, AOC \$80,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....Happy Soul.....	J. Velazquez.....	W. Ward.....	5-2
2	.....2	.....Scottish Star (ARG).....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	T. Pletcher.....	3-1
3	.....3	.....Spun Glass.....	T. Gaffalione.....	M. Trombetta.....	12-1
4	.....4	.....Adaay In Asia (GB).....	F. Prat.....	C. Clement.....	8-1
5	.....5	.....Sarah Harper.....	J. Rosario.....	R. Moquett.....	6-1
6	.....6	.....Mail Order.....	J. Alvarado.....	W. Mott.....	4-1
7	.....7	.....Kaufmaker.....	L. Saez.....	W. Ward.....	4-1
8	.....AE-MTO	.....Headland.....	J. Ortiz.....	L. Rice.....	8-5

## 10TH (6:18PM). \$35,000, CLM \$16,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	.....1	.....Perpetual Praise.....	D. Davis.....	R. Handal.....	8-1
2	.....2	.....Fulgini.....	J. Rosario.....	H. Bond.....	12-1
3	.....3	.....Mo Town Madison.....	L. Saez.....	S. Joseph, Jr.....	8-1
4	.....4	.....Baby Sox.....	M. Franco.....	R. Rodriguez.....	6-1
5	.....5	.....Into Touring.....	T. Gaffalione.....	P. Walder.....	10-1
6	.....6	.....La Aguillilla.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	D. Jacobson.....	7-2
7	.....7	.....Vax.....	J. Ortiz.....	L. Rice.....	7-5
8	.....8	.....Devilly.....	K. Carmouche.....	J. Ferraro.....	15-1
9	.....9	.....Maddie's Surprise.....	O. Hernandez Moreno.....	R. Sells.....	20-1

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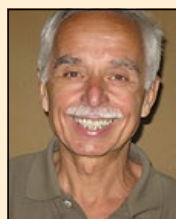
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### The **POWER** Grid



**John Shapazian**



**Tom Law**



**Rob Whitlock**



**Charles Bedard**



**Jessica Paquette**

Race	John Shapazian	Tom Law	Rob Whitlock	Charles Bedard	Jessica Paquette
<b>1</b>	Barbados Merry Maker Awakened	Awakened Barbados Caramelised	Barbados Restitution Realist	McTigue Restitution Merry Maker	Awakened Restitution Merry Maker
<b>2</b>	Flying In Style Fast Buck Freddy Nobilis	Nobilis Flying In Style Fast Buck Freddy	Flying In Style Nobilis Fast Buck Freddy	Flying In Style Fast Buck Freddy Chalky Cat	Nobilis Stavros Chalky Cat
<b>3</b>	Catchysoon Chess Master Jacobson entry	Chess Master Chuck Willis Brazillionaire	Chess Master Lyrical Poet Seven Scents	Catchysoon Jacobson entry Chess Master	Chess Master Seven Scents Lyrical Poet
<b>4</b>	Shadow Dragon Olympic Dreams Mason Mania	Shadow Dragon Olympic Dreams Mason Mania	Un Ojo Shadow Dragon Olympic Dreams	Olympic Dreams Shadow Dragon Wild Banker	Mason Mania Shadow Dragon El Hermano
<b>5</b>	Belvoir Once An Eagle Brocknardini	Brocknardini Belvoir Once An Eagle	Schettino entry Belvoir Brocknardini	Brocknardini Schettino entry Belvoir	Once An Eagle Run For Your Honey Brocknardini
<b>6</b>	T Max Postnup Kannon Fire	Postnup Kannon Fire Stir Crazy	Postnup Stir Crazy Miss M M	T Max Stir Crazy Postnup	Boca Postnup Kannon Fire
<b>7</b>	Lord Captain King Of Hollywood Lost in Rome	Lord Captain Lost In Rome Salto de Tigre	Lost In Rome Lord Captain Portos	Lord Captain Bobby G Lost In Rome	Bobby G Lord Captain Salto de Tigre
<b>8</b>	Movie Moxy Technical Analysis Evvie Jets	Technical Analysis White Frost Evvie Jets	Technical Analysis White Frost Haughty	Sunset Louise Technical Analysis Chi Town Lady	Haughty Technical Analysis White Frost
<b>9</b>	Headland Mail Order Kaufymaker	Scotish Star Happy Soul Kaufymaker	Adaay In Asia Scotish Star Happy Soul	Headland Happy Soul Mail Order	Spun Glass Happy Soul Mail Order
<b>10</b>	Vax Baby Sox La Aguililla	Vax Fuligni La Aguililla	Vax Baby Sox Mo Town Madison	Vax La Aguililla Baby Sox	Vax Perpetual Praise Mo Town Madison
2023 Records	<b>48/144</b>	<b>36/144</b>	<b>38/144</b>	<b>49/144</b>	<b>26/144</b>



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# His Race

## Best of The Special

*Editor's Note: From the July 27, 2012 edition of The Saratoga Special. On the day of the annual Jonathan Kiser novice hurdle stakes at Saratoga, it seemed appropriate to bring it back. If you knew him, remember him today. If you didn't, maybe this will help.*

He'd be 34. Retired? Maybe. A champion many times over? Surely. One of the all time greats? No doubt. A name you'd put there with Aitcheson, Fishback, Adams, Smithwick, Walsh? Most likely.

About this time every year, I think about Jonathan Kiser. He was the best American steeplechase jockey of his generation – a little behind Blythe Miller, a little ahead of the Irish/English brigade that occupies the program now.

Kiser won 90 races and two championships in less than five full seasons. He died in the summer of 2000, from a freak accident that had nothing to do with horses. He was 22 and passed away a few days before the Saratoga Open House meet of 2000. He'd won 16 races at the season's midway point that year, looked loaded for the meet and was assured of his third championship in four years. And then he was gone.

The jockeys honored him by wearing black helmet covers the rest of that season.

Now, Saratoga and the sport honor him with a race, his race. The Jonathan Kiser Memorial became a stakes in 2007 and was run as the first race yesterday. His family came to town. People thought of him again, told a few stories, raised a glass, laughed at a memory, walked around handicapped parking spaces for good luck.

Kiser made you think of him in life, with an attitude equal parts confidence and innocence. OK, maybe not equal. He was young, talented, daring, opinionated. He lived hard, played hard, worked

## THE OUTSIDE RAIL

By Joe Clancy

hard, inspired people.

He rode horses the way the rest of us rode bicycles or walked down the street – naturally and without effort, or so it seemed.

He won races for main employer Tom Voss in great heaps – riding Approaching Squall, Brigade Of Guards, Teb's Bend, Ironfist, Lapseng, Petroski, Soaringoverseattle. When Voss didn't have mounts, Kiser took legs up from Jonathan Sheppard, Bruce Miller, anyone who could get him. Kiser rode a runaway named Sundin for Sheppard and they connected better than Lego pieces. Each was bold, fast, good. They won four times together. At Belmont in 2000, Kiser's last ride, he rode Yellowroad for Miller – upsetting heavy favorite Pompeyo – in another deft, magical, sublime performance.

Kiser sat on a horse better than other jockeys. Just sat there, looking more smooth and better collected than the

others. At rest. In a race, he was even better. He hovered over the saddle, connected to the horse from the stirrups, through his feet, into his legs and up to his brain. Afterward, he'd talk about wins with a mix of calculated calm and "oh-hell-I-don't-know" glee. He was a great interview. For a kid, he worked hard to know the history – he'd talk about Joe Aitcheson (the best, ever) with reverence. At 17, Kiser rode in the Maryland Hunt Cup before he turned professional – getting around on a longshot when nobody thought he would.

As usual, the Kiser winner – in this case trainer Richard Valentine – had a connection to the kid.

"I didn't know him well, but I remember him calling me Mr. Valentine," he said. "I thought it was the funniest thing. I kept thinking I was as much of a young hooligan as he was. He didn't need to call me Mr."

Like anyone in the game, Valentine also recalled Kiser's skill.

"What a beautiful rider, I remember picking up a magazine and he was riding in jodphurs, as a junior in the Green Spring Old Fashioned," he said. "I remember thinking 'Who is this kid?' He was so stylish. It's nice to win a race in honor of an American jockey who could hold his own with the Irish and English boys who are riding now. He'd probably still be doing it at that level. It's nice they keep his memory going. I love running in the race, I love coming up here for it. Hopefully there are many more of these for years to come."



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***The Small Wonder***  
*Wednesday September 27, 2023*

Fillies Two Year Olds • Six Furlongs

***The First State Dash***  
*Wednesday, September 27, 2023*

Two Year Olds • Six Furlongs

***The Tax Free Shopping Distaff***  
*Thursday, September 28, 2023*

Fillies & Mares Three Year Olds & Upward • Six Furlongs

***The New Castle***  
*Thursday, September 28, 2023*

Three Year Olds & Upward • Six Furlongs



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# Riders Up

Bravery. It happens on one side of Union Avenue 10, 11, 12 times a day, five days a week. Inside on the hedge. On the paint. Over the hurdles. Between horses. Through gaps. In tight on the turf. In tight with allies. In tighter with enemies. On heels. Off heels. Heels to the head. Heads to the dirt.

Bravery was on display on the other side of Union Avenue Tuesday afternoon.

HISA and The Jockeys' Guild presented the first Jockeys' Mental Health and Wellness Symposium at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame. A keynote speaker, several other presenters and a panel of jockeys made up the core of the seminar. It was fairly well attended, could have been more people there, should have been more people there.

Trevor McCarthy was brave. The 29-year-old talked about the strain of riding seven days a week last summer. About lessons from his father, Michael, a retired warrior of 17,180 rides. About going to see a sports psychologist, about whether he was going to ride again after breaking his collarbone and pelvis, about how he and his wife, jockey Katie, agreed to leave racing at the track and not bring it home. Too tall to be a jockey, McCarthy is everything you want in a jockey.

Richard Migliore was brave. The retired jockey talked about his anger as a jockey, his temper, about his eating disorder, about losing hundreds of thousands of dollars to the people who were meant to be looking out for him, about losing his identity when he stopped riding. About the day an impaired jockey caused a chain-reaction wreck that broke his neck. A winner of 4,450 races on the tough New York circuit, he said he's learned more in the last 13 years of not being a jockey than he did in the 30 years of being a jockey.

Eurico Rosa Da Silva was brave. The retired jockey made a good living in his native Brazil, then Macau and then Canada, winning 2,286 races. He rode the one and only Pink Lloyd, won the Wood-



By Sean Clancy

bine Mile, the Queen's Plate, but never liked himself. Hated who he saw in the mirror, no matter how many races he won, how much money he made. He struggled with depression, sex and alcohol addictions. Yeah, you read that right. He wrote a book about it. And talked about it.

Ashley Canchari was brave, reading a letter about her brother, Alex, who committed suicide at 29 in March. Young, brave, talented and also pressured, head injured. "I risk my life every day Ashley," he would remind his sister. She helps take care of her other brother, former jockey Patrick Canchari, who suffered a traumatic brain injury in a car accident in 2020. I took the family around in a golf cart Monday morning. Patrick wished everyone a good morning and was as awed by Cody's Wish as any of us. Talk about brave.

Lyman and Salli Whisman were brave. The Kentucky-based couple traveled to Saratoga to listen to the heartache of jockeys, the brutality of the sport, the demands of dieting, the pressure of winning, the derision of losing. Then they walked to the stage and talked about their son, Avery, who committed suicide at 23 in January. A winner of 90 races in just three years of riding, Whisman had the sport at hello. A jockey, a boy, a son. They fought back tears and eventually lost that battle. As did we.

Randy Grimes was brave. The retired Tampa

Bay Buccaneer, Pro Bowl center and NFL Man of the Year laid it out there raw. The machismo of the NFL. The first day on the job, his locker next to the great Lee Roy Selmon. Play hurt, Randy. Play hard, Randy. Don't ever come out of the game, Randy. Be a man, Randy. Addicted to pain pills. He blacked out over the last two seasons of his career and doesn't remember any of it. He squandered money. Lost jobs. Lost his self. His daughter wouldn't let him see his first grandchild because of his volatility. He talked about the right guard who played next to him, who was killed by the same addiction that was killing him. The day he crawled into a Florida rehab hospital, down to his last snap. He stayed 90 days, got a knee replaced, did whatever they told him to do. It stuck. He's now an addiction recovery advocate. I'm not sure he calls himself a motivational speaker, but was he motivational. And brave. He received a standing ovation.

Bravery elicits a lot of emotions. At the end of the presentation, we milled around, made small talk and declared calls to action, the things we are going to do, to help, not just the jockeys, but everyone. We'll be more empathetic. More positive. More present. We'll reach out to our brethren, the ones struggling, the ones hurting, the ones missing. I suggested a sports psychologist, a life coach, a counselor, call it what you will, for every jocks' room at every track in every state. Toss in a nutritionist as well.

The hardest small talk was with the Whismans. I struggled with what to say and was glad when McCarthy came up and introduced himself. It was awkward and agonizing, brutal and beautiful.

We talked about Avery. About his love for riding races, about his love for jumping fences. Then the conversation stalled, a moment or three of silence. We shuffled our feet, looked at the ground.

I squeezed Lyman Whisman's shoulder, a man I had never met.

"He was a good boy," he said. "He was a good boy."

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