

Year 23 • No. 9

Saturday, August 5, 2023

The *Saratoga*

# Special

Saratoga's Racing Newspaper since 2000



## Magic Man

**Cody's Wish tries to add Whitney to growing legend**

Tod Marks

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Dave Harmon  
**Bog Racing.** The field for the Saratoga Oaks storms down the stretch – and through the rain – Friday.

## Here&There...in Saratoga

### By The Numbers

**86:** Lifetime starts for No More Talk, 9-2 on the morning line for today's third. The Maryland-bred has won 14 races, at least one a year since he started his career in 2017.

**7:** Reading Room guests to slip through the iron fence onto Union Avenue Friday afternoon

**13:** Returning Hall of Famers at the Hall of Fame ceremony Friday morning. Mark Casse, Jack Fisher, Gary Stevens, Jose Santos, Ramon Dominguez, Sandy Hawley, Javier Castellano, Nick Zito, Roger Attfield, Angel Cordero Jr., John Velazquez, Braulio Baeza and D. Wayne Lukas

### License Plate of the Day

CHROMIE, California (of course).

### Worth Repeating

"Not like those days when I was shipping in and people wondered why I was here. Now I ship out and I feel guilty."

**Trainer Brad Cox, on his early days with just a small string compared to a full barn the last three seasons**

"Man, he's on fire."

**Dream Maker Racing's Tom Gallo, celebrating Bill Mott's third win Thursday with l'mhavingamoment**

"I said I wouldn't cry."

**Jockey Corey Nakatani, early in his Hall of Fame acceptance speech**

"Everybody in here, we're all family."

**Nakatani**

### Names of the Day

**Innate, first race.** The 2-year-old Irish-bred colt is out of Le Naturel.

**Walley World, first race.** Bob LaPenta and eFive Racing's 2-year-old colt is by More Than Ready out of Forced Family Fun. Everybody in the family truckster, we're going to Walley World.

**Caravel, sixth race.** Breeder and former trainer Lizzie Merryman found the name for a small, agile 15th century sailing ship use by the Portuguese for her daughter of Mizen Mast. It suits the 15-time winner and 3-5 favorite for today's Troy.

**Shutters, 12th race.** The 5-year-old gelding is by Get Stormy.



## The Saratoga Special

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# Here&There...in Saratoga

## Worth Repeating

"Thank you fans, thank you."

**Owner/breeder Steve Coburn, accepting the Hall of Fame award for California Chrome**

"Mr. Lukas, he told me the secret to winning the Kentucky Derby and by God, the horse won."

**Coburn, about Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas**

"It's been awe inspiring."

**Dr. John Chandler accepting the Hall of Fame award for Arrogate**

"It is to your benefit that I find myself at a loss for words."

**Ed Bowen, accepting the Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Award at the Hall of Fame Friday**

"You've made some great contributions to The Special but that loaf of sourdough might be the best."

**The Special's Tom Law to Sean Clancy, who purchased a fresh loaf of sourdough bread from 9 Miles East**

"When my father was riding Tingle Creek, he met Tom Jones at York Racecourse and he said, 'I think I'll win the Gimcrack (a 6-furlong 2-year-old stakes). He said, 'Why do you say that?' He said, 'He beat Tingle Creek over 3 furlongs.' That shows you the pace those 2-miles chasers could have."

**Fozzy Stack about his father, Tommy, and the 2-mile chasing legend Tingle Creek**

"The key is knowing horses and knowing how good they are."

**Hall of Fame jockey Corey Nakatani**

"Hopefully Mother Nature cooperates."

**Trainer Cherie DeVaux, rained out of Friday's Hall of Fame Stakes, on the race being rescheduled next week**

"You did a pretty good job but you were doomed from the beginning having to follow that gal."

**Rich Cristiano to Tom Bellhouse who followed Katie Davis on Capital OTB's Racing Across America with Seth Merrow**

"He doesn't like to lose, I know that much."

**Juddmonte's Garrett O'Rourke on champion sprinter Elite Power**

"For my career, I was never a Group 1 winner until her, and for her to come along last year and win three Group 1s, it took my career to a new level."

**Jockey Jason Hart after Highfield Princess won the Group 2 King George Qatar Stakes at Goodwood Friday**



Tod Marks

**Hall Monitors.** As is tradition each year, racing's Hall of Fame welcomed returning members at Friday's induction ceremony.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Class. The first morning I was here it was like goosebumps. Goosebumps."

**French-based trainer Tim Donworth, about Saratoga**



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## With Brad Cox

Brad Cox and his team are full-fledged Saratoga regulars.

The two-time Eclipse Award-winning conditioner brought a full string to upstate New York in 2021 and has followed suit the last two seasons. He won 13 races in 2021 – including the Jim Dandy and Travers with eventual two-time champion Essential Quality – and came away with 11 last year. The barn is clicking this season, too, with four wins from 17 starts, including Wet Paint's gutsy win in the Grade 1 Coaching Club American Oaks.

"Look, this is a meet that I don't ever know how to look at it," Cox said last Saturday morning, before sending out Saudi Crown and Angel Of Empire to a 2-3 finish in the Grade 2 Jim Dandy. "A month ago I was thinking, 'I hope I win a race?' You don't know how it's going to go. Saratoga is its own thing.

"I came into the first book thinking I might not have that many to run but it's been really good. We've won four races, most of the horses are running respectable, hitting the board. We'll see if we can keep it going. It is tough to do because it is Saratoga and the most competitive meet there is."

Cox escaped last weekend's high heat in his Horse Haven barn's office to talk about the 2023 Saratoga string and a few other stars with The Special's Tom Law.

**Slip Mahoney:** Owned by Al Gold's Gold Square, 3-year-old son of Arrogate spent time on the Triple Crown trail, finishing second in the Grade 3 Gotham and sixth in the Grade 2 Wood Memorial. Gelded after a fourth in the May 13 Long Branch Stakes, he returned from two-month break to win July 23 allowance here. "Winner at the meet so he's off the duck. Hopefully we can get the others off the duck, too. He came out of that in good order and we'll probably look at spotting him around something like Parx for the Smarty Jones. Maybe even St. Louis Derby at FanDuel. Those are a couple options moving forward. He got back in the win column after trying to get to the Kentucky Derby and a setback at Monmouth in a race that didn't work out well. And he's been castrated, which has helped. He's doing great."

**Deputy Connect:** Owned by Steve Landers and a \$33,000 purchase at the 2020 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale, 4-year-old Connect colt is 1-3-2 in eight starts. "He's been with us a couple years. Ran a decent race in a starter 50 here at the meet (July 22). We'll get another opportunity and hopefully we can win that race before we leave town."

**Crypto Mo:** Daughter of Mohaymen won the Grade 3 Iowa Oaks July 8 at Prairie Meadows then sold for \$500,000 to Hunter Valley



Tod Marks  
The Brad Cox barn produces  
contenders at Saratoga and beyond.

Farm at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July horses of racing age sale. She's won four of eight and earned \$210,870. "We had our first half-mile with her (:50.55 July 29 on the Oklahoma). A nice little half and she went great. Really no plans for what we're going to do with her moving forward. Just trying to get into the program and then hopefully tackle a graded stake. She won the Iowa Oaks two days before the sale."

**Timberlake:** Sixth in his debut, 2-year-old colt rebounded in his second start to win by 9 1/4 lengths at Ellis Park to earn trip to upstate New York for Siena Farm and WinStar Farm. "Nice colt, by Into Mischief. Received some good figures. We're going to point for the Hopeful. We think he's that type. He's a good colt, big, looks the part, good mind and we added blinkers last time. That didn't hurt. He seemed to move forward with a little more ground. His first race he kind of got outrun early, he broke from the outside and didn't quite break as sharp as expected. I'm trying to make a million excuses for him but inside speed was really good at Ellis that day."

**Wet Paint:** Godolphin homebred daughter of Blame showed grit winning the Grade 1 Coaching Club American Oaks July 22. She's won five of nine with \$1,057,175 in the bank. "Doing great. Point for the Alabama, back in four weeks. I'm happy with how she's doing and she'll have a couple maintenance works between now and then. We're pretty excited about possibly winning two Grade 1s in one meet at Saratoga. That's huge."

**Saudi Crown:** Runner-up in last weekend's Grade 2 Jim Dandy Stakes, son of Always Dreaming did all the work on the front and lost to champion Forte by a nose. Owned by FMQ Stables, he's 2-2-0 in four starts, including a runner-up in the Grade 3 Dwyer. "Good colt. Ran a big race in the Dwyer. ... He came out of (the Jim Dandy) great. I'll probably look at the Pennsylvania Derby with him. Back in four weeks again would be asking a lot of him. He ran huge, we're very proud of the effort. He ran a great race and it should propel him forward with eight weeks between. ... He's a smart horse, stays on in his works. He's a good horse, he really is."

**Matareya:** Godolphin's multiple Grade 1-winning homebred 4-year-old daughter of Pioneerof The Nile has a win, a second and a third in three starts this year. She won the Grade 1 Derby City Distaff on Kentucky Derby Day, and is 6-for-12 with \$1,539,517 in earnings. "She's back this summer. Third in the Test last year and she's a dual Grade 1 winner. She's pointing to the Ballerina. Really doing well. She's enjoying the cool Saratoga mornings because physically she couldn't be doing any better."

**Tapit Shoes:** Owned by a partnership led by Spendthrift Farm, 3-year-old Tapit colt cost \$300,000 at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale. Second in the Bath House Row Stakes at Oaklawn Park in late April, he finished ninth in the Grade 1 Belmont Stakes in his most recent start. "Pointing for a first-level

**Continued On Page 8**

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## Stable Tour —

Continued from page 6

allowance. Hasn't run since the Belmont. Obviously that water was a little deep for him there, but he can get back in the win column, two-turn allowance race here in the near future. His run in the Bath House Row race at Oaklawn was good. Hopefully he can be competitive here in an allowance race."

**Alpine Princess:** Two-year-old daughter of Classic Empire finished third in debut here July 23 for Full of Fun Racing Two and Madaket Stables. "Really good third the second weekend here. Didn't quite break and get as involved as we thought she would going short so we'll hopefully get another run in her this meet, and a little more ground. She's a filly based off pedigree should improve with more ground. Talented filly."

**Caravel:** The big mare. Six-year-old daughter of Mizzen Mast takes on the boys again in today's Grade 3 Troy. She's beaten them already in last year's Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint and this year's Grade 2 Shakertown, both at Keeneland. "She's doing well, three works here on the turf course. I really love what we see from her. She's continuing to thrive. She'll take on the boys and we're excited about that."

**Angel Of Empire:** Albaugh Family Stable's 3-year-old Classic Empire colt has danced the dances, winning the Grade 2 Risen Star and Grade 1 Arkansas Derby this spring before a third in the Kentucky Derby and a dead-heat fourth with stablemate Hit Show in the Belmont Stakes. He finished third in last weekend's Jim Dandy despite a rough trip. "He's a possible for the Travers. We need to breeze him back a time or two between. Hopefully next weekend and if all is well, we can look at the Travers with him."

**Hit Show:** Gary and Mary West's homebred son of Candy Ride also battled through the Triple Crown, finishing fifth in the Kentucky Derby and in a dead-heat for fourth in the Belmont. He won the Grade 3 Withers and finished second in the Grade 2 Wood Memorial this winter and spring at Aqueduct. Fifth in last weekend's Grade 2 Jim Dandy. "Similar campaign to Angel Of Empire. Same thing with those two and it took a mile and a half (in the Belmont) and they couldn't separate from each other. ... He was a little compromised at the start of the Jim Dandy. We're probably going to back up to some Grade 2s, Grade 3s. Not sure where that will be. But we're super happy with how he came out of it physically, but we'll take a pass on the Travers."

**West Will Power:** The Wests' homebred 6-year-old by Bernardini missed the chance to run in today's Grade 1 Whitney when he was retired this week. He won seven of 17 starts with seven seconds, and earned \$1,745,390. The victories included a memorable score in the Grade 1 Stephen Foster Stakes last time and the Grade 2 New Orleans Classic in March at Fair Grounds.

"We kind of knew Sunday morning, just needed some confirmation from Dr. (Larry) Bramlage; getting the scans look at for a second opinion, but we knew it wasn't looking good. He was sound, just had some filling in a pastern and the scan wasn't what we needed it to look like. ... He got his Grade 1 win at Ellis, the first and only Grade 1 winner ever at Ellis. To this point at least. We'll see."

**Everso Mischievous:** Qatar Racing's son of Into Mischief has a win and two seconds in three starts. "Lightly raced 3-year-old colt. Going to look at an allowance race here with him. We're going to add blinkers. Had a really good work this morning. We're hoping he can take that next step, win that first level allowance. He's always run big figures. He won that maiden race on Kentucky Derby Day at Churchill. Big, good-looking horse, looks the part and nice little race record that we can hopefully keep going in the right way and get some stakes down the road."

**Drum Roll Please:** Joe Hardoon purchased 2-year-old Pennsylvania-bred Hard Spun colt for \$250,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October sale for Gold Square. He finished sixth in debut here July 29. "Probably meant to go a little further. Doesn't mean he can't be effective. He's a good-sized horse, good physical."

**Fighting Back:** Wests' homebred 3-year-old colt by Lookin At Lucky finished second in his second start, a maiden claiming event July 9 at Ellis Park. "At some point he'll run in a maiden tag race here. Hopefully he can get in the winner's circle."

**Dive Bomber:** Boardshorts Breeding and Racing's 2-year-old Omaha Beach colt finished fifth in debut here July 22. "Thought he broke well, maybe lost some momentum going into the far turn but did stay on well. Probably meant to run a little further. We'll give him that opportunity with more real estate next time here in the last book at the end of the meet. He's a nice colt."

**Dazzling Blue:** Juddmonte's stakes-winning daughter of Into Mischief finished second to Maple Leaf Mel in the Grade 3 Victory Ride July 8 at Belmont Park. "She started her career 3-for-3 then ran a good second in the Victory Ride last time out. Just had her first half-mile this morning, easy half in (:50.55). We'll point to the Prioress."

**Ever So Sweet:** Irish-bred 2-year-old filly by Calyx cost Clay Sherer \$144,137 last year. She finished second in debut here July 20. "She's a Euro that was a good second here going 5 1/2 on the turf. Hopefully we'll get her in the last book here and get her maiden broke."

**Idiomatic:** Juddmonte homebred overcame trouble to defeat a determined Classy Edition in the Grade 2 Delaware Handicap July 8. Four-year-old daughter of Curlin won the Grade 2 Shawnee Stakes June 3 at Churchill Downs and finished second in the Grade 2 Ruffian Stakes

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## Stable Tour —

### ■ Continued from page 8

May 6 at Belmont. “Really good filly and we think a lot of her. She had her first work here (July 29), easy maintenance half in (:50), out in 1:02. Moving really well. She’s a big, huge Curlin filly, covers a lot of ground. We’re stepping up and going for the Personal Ensign. She had a disastrous trip at Delaware. I’m shocked the jock stayed on. She stumbled, she buckled over and we thought we were going to be on the lead but we were last.”

**Salute The Stars:** Winner of the Pegasus Stakes June 17 at Monmouth, 3-year-old son of Candy Ride returned to finish seventh in the Grade 1 Haskell. Homebred for the Wests, he’s won three of five and earned \$223,460. “Came back in the Haskell and didn’t quite fare as well. He’s one we could look at the Smarty Jones at Parx, or something later in the meet. He’s doing well, came out the Haskell in good order.”

**Air Of Defiance:** A \$400,000 purchase by Haroon for Gold Square last fall, son of Quality Road breezed a half in :49.50 July 25 at Keeneland then shipped to Saratoga. “He’d been working at Keeneland, doing really well and just shipped up. Hopefully we’ll get him on the work tab soon. If all goes well, he should make a start here at some point.”

**Verifying:** Another veteran of the Triple Crown trail, he finished 16th in the Kentucky Derby before rebounding with a second in the Grade 3 Matt Winn and a victory in the Grade 3 Indiana Derby July 8. “He set a hot pace in the Kentucky Derby. Looking at cutting him back and running in the Allen Jerkens. He’s a very consistent horse. We just kind of feel like to get him over the top, to get to that Grade 1 level, something like cutting him back will make sense.”



Tod Marks

**Saudi Crown finished a tough-beat second in the Jim Dandy.**

**Here U Come Again:** Clearsky Farm’s homebred Liam’s Map filly won her debut July 7 at Ellis Park to earn the trip north. “She broke her maiden impressively going five-eighths. We received some pretty good figures coming out of that race and we’re going to (Sunday’s) Adirondack with her. She stamped herself as a fast filly from the beginning. We liked her first time out and she ran really well in what appeared to be a good maiden race, too.”

**Saline River:** Shortleaf Stable’s homebred 3-year-old Liam’s Map colt hasn’t been out since a ninth in May 6 maiden race at

Oaklawn Park. “He’ll probably run here at the meet for maiden tag. He’s doing good.”

**It Wasn’t Me:** Martin Schwartz’s 3-year-old Blame filly is entered in Sunday’s seventh race, a \$40,000 maiden claimer on the turf. “She was second in maiden special weight last time out in an off-the-turf at Horseshoe Indianapolis. Hopefully we have her in a spot where she can win.”

**Heavenly Sunday:** Winner of the Grade 2 Edgewood on Kentucky Oaks Day and second last time in the Tepin Stakes, Miacomet Farm’s daughter of Candy Ride is headed to the Grade 2 Lake Placid on Alabama Day, Aug. 19. “Her last few works have been on the turf course here at the Oklahoma. She’s a Candy Ride filly that won the Edgewood at Churchill. Then was second to a really good filly. Hopefully she does well in the Lake Placid. It’s a really strong group of fillies up here in that division on the grass.”

**Caldwell Luvs Gold:** Another winner of the barn, filly by Goldcents came from well back to win state-bred 2-year-old filly maiden race going 6 furlongs July 27. “She’d been training down at Belmont, and did really well. We liked her. She didn’t show a tremendous amount of gate speed. Broke fine in her race, they just kind of got away from her. Then she made this long, sustained run. It was a real big run for a 2-year-old first time out. We’ll look at the Seeking The Ante.”

**Henson:** Three-year-old New York-bred gelding by Verrazano finished third in state-bred off-the-turf maiden special weight here July 14. “He’s a recent private purchase for Madaket. Just picked him up about a week ago.”

**Charging:** Bred by Peter Blum and owned by Robert LaPenta, e Five Racing and Madaket, 3-year-old Candy Ride colt won in late

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## Stable Tour —

### ■ Continued from page 10

April at Keeneland then finished seventh in Paradise Creek Stakes a month later at Belmont. He finished ninth in allowance here July 27. "He broke his maiden then didn't fare very well at Belmont going seven-eighths on the turf in a monsoon. We brought him back the other day and he kind of struggled on the turf. Going to freshen him up. I'm not sure if he'll run back at the meet."

**Bubble Rock:** Shortleaf's homebred multiple stakes winner finished third in the Grade 3 Caress Stakes here July 22. She's won five of 14 with six placings and earned \$682,943. "She went back to Belmont. We train her a lot on the pony track there. It's smaller and she's a tough filly to train. She really likes training on that synthetic track there. It's possible she could make another start here. She just likes it at Belmont, a little quieter place this time of year."

**A Mo Reay:** One of the stars of the barn, 4-year-old Uncle Mo filly didn't make the trip north after winning the Grade 1 Beholder at Santa Anita in March, finishing fourth in the Grade 1 La Troienne in May and second in the Grade 2 Fleur de Lis, the latter two at Churchill Downs. "She's back at Churchill. Had her first work back (July 28, a half in :49.40). I'm not sure where

she's going to land in regards to a race but she's doing well. She probably won't come up here and we'll run her at Churchill in the fall."

**Set Piece:** Juddmonte's veteran 7-year-old millionaire also didn't make the trip to Saratoga, where he's run the last three meets. He's won 12 of 28, including the four graded stakes, and exits a third in the Grade 2 Wise Dan July 1 at Ellis. "He's doing fantastic. Keeps plugging away. We're looking at the Arlington Million. The distance might be a little bit of a question mark but he's a 7-year-old gelding, he owes us nothing, he's been good to us and Juddmonte. As long as he's doing well we'll give him a shot in that race."

**Wadsworth:** Godolphin's smartly named 3-year-old gelding by Quality Road out of Dickinson made an appearance in last year's Stable Tour, just before his debut. He needed four tries to win before getting it together this winter and spring. Second in the Caesars Handicap at Horseshoe Indianapolis, he won the American Derby last time out at Ellis. Entered in today's KY Downs Preview Duelling Grounds Derby at Ellis. "He ran here once last year, then a few times down in Kentucky and was castrated. Got going this winter on synthetic, we added some blinkers. He's been good. Fourth in the Jeff Ruby, ran a really good race at Indiana to end up second, beaten like a nose in a pacesetter race. Then he came back and won last time. We're pointing him for the \$200,000 at Ellis, using that as a prep for the Duelling Grounds Derby going a mile and five-sixteenths. Nice horse. Like I said, he was gelded in November and it seemed to help him. We have his full brother, Pure Poetry, who ran at Ellis (July 31, finishing eighth).

**Blue:** We can't forget one of the stars of the stable. "The pony. We've had him three years. Really, really good pony. Loves his job, he looks amazing right now, put on weight and he's happy. He's spent the last three summers here."

*What about the goat we see on social media, Mr. Man?*

"The goat? We leave him at Churchill. He's got his own little following. He's cool. Been with us, wow, I don't know how long. He's a durable guy."

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The Test Stakes was one of her eight stakes wins from nine starts as a 3-year-old. Her only loss that year was a second in the Breeders' Cup Sprint when she was caught at the wire by Dancing Spree.

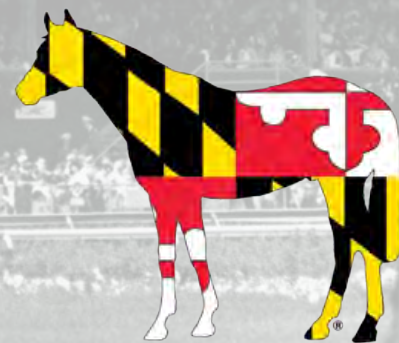
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was the first sprinter to have ever earned more than two million dollars. She is the leading all-time Maryland-bred distaff earner of \$2,194,206 and was inducted into the National Racing Hall of Fame in 2011

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# Big Year

## Cody's Wish returns to Saratoga as favorite in two-turn Grade 1

BY PAUL HALLORAN

Cody's Wish entered the 2022 Forego Stakes as an 8-1 longshot, the second choice among bettors but in reality simply considered as having the best chance to be the runner-up to Saratoga Race Course phenom Jackie's Warrior.

And that would have been fine with his jockey.

"Heading into the race, I would have been happy to run second or third," Junior Alvarado said. "Jackie's Warrior was unbeatable up here."

Alvarado, all smiles after winning Friday's opener aboard Ludwig, was asked if he could have imagined less than a year later getting ready to ride the 1-2 morning line favorite in the

### WHITNEY STAKES PREVIEW

96th running of the Whitney Stakes.

"I actually thought about it," Alvarado said. "It was just unbelievable being an underdog last year, and then this year, we're the heavy favorite. I just think we knew the talent was there it was just a matter of time to put it all together and develop into where he is right now."

Cody's Wish resides at the top of the list of United States horses heading into today's Whitney, where he will be out to record his seventh consecutive win and prolong racing's most heart-warming story in recent memory.

Continued On Page 16



Tod Marks

Whitney favorite Cody's Wish takes some down time in a round pen this week.

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'90 Unbridled

'92 A.P. Indy

'07 Curlin

'15 American Pharoah

**'20 Authentic**



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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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**Dan Bork, Stakes Coordinator:** 502.638.3806 • [dan.bork@kyderby.com](mailto:dan.bork@kyderby.com)

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE KHRC

## Whitney —

■ Continued from page 14

The connection between Cody's Wish and his namesake, Cody Dorman, a 17-year-old from Kentucky who suffers from a rare genetic disease and met the horse when he was a 5-month-old weanling, is inexplicable, yet undeniable. It's what drew a crowd of more than three dozen to Bill Mott's barn on the Oklahoma side Friday morning.

Cody is in town and he wanted to see his best friend.

Kelly and Leslie Dorman stationed their son's wheelchair in front of the window of Cody's Wish's stall and, for several minutes, the two friends — one an equine superstar and the other the embodiment of courage and resilience — simply looked at each other. Cody's little sister Kylie cozied up to the screened window and made sure the horse knew she is here to root him on as well.

"Perfect," Kelly Dorman would say later at the track about their first trip to Saratoga. "We've been wanting to come here and we are so excited to be here for this race."

After running down Jackie's Warrior in the Forego, Cody's Wish was trained up to the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile by Hall of Famer Mott. There

were questions as to whether he was a one-turn specialist, answered resoundingly when he closed from last to nail Cyberknife by a head at Keeneland.

Godolphin opted to bring Cody's Wish back for a 5-year-old campaign and that decision is looking more prescient by the minute. Mott chose the Churchill Downs Stakes on the Kentucky Derby undercard for the 2023 debut and the son of Curlin delivered another last-to-first performance to win by 4 3/4 lengths.

Next was the Met Mile, a race Mott had never won. Cody's Wish was again away slowly from the rail, leaving some serious work to do. Last after 4 furlongs, he made a move on the turn and was in the lead after 6 furlongs on the way to a 3 1/4-length win.

Mott and Godolphin decided to target the Whitney, run at 9 furlongs, a distance at which Cody's Wish is 0-for-1.

"Look, we've watched him run. There's a good indication he can do it. But you never know until they do it," Mott said, after watching his star gallop a mile and three-eighths under Eddie Davis on a muddy Oklahoma track Friday morning.

Cody's Wish will break from the far outside in the six-horse field, limit-

Continued On Page 18



Cody's Wish heads to the track Friday morning.

Sean Clancy



# FASIG-TIPTON SARATOGA | BARN 8

## Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup>

HIP 93



### 93. TIZ THE LAW colt - Life Starts, by Into Mischief

- First crop of a Belmont S.-G1 winner;
- family of Hall of Fame/G1 producer
- SERENA'S SONG

## Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>

HIP 150

HIP 190

HIP 193

HIP 206

HIP 220



### 150. GOOD MAGIC colt - Sassy Miss Sue, by Tiznow

- By sire of 2022 Kentucky Derby-G1
- winner; o/o sister to TIZ MISS SUE
- (G1, \$1,129,709)



### 190. AUTHENTIC filly - Tapit for Free, by Tapit

- By #1 Freshman weanling sire of
- 2022; o/o sister to RING WEEKEND
- (G1, \$1,571,576)



### 193. SPEIGHTSTOWN colt - Tempers Rising, by Bayern

- By the sire of 24 G1SWs, six
- champions; first foal o/o Fair
- Grounds Oaks-G2 runner-up



### 206. STREET SENSE colt - Victory Rally, by Jump Start

- By the sire of G1SWs MCKINZIE and
- MAXFIELD; second foal o/o SW, first
- three dams are SWs



### 220. GUN RUNNER colt - Willa, by Will Take Charge

- By phenomenal young sire; first foal
- o/o half-sister to three GSHs, four
- Graded stakes producers

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# Whitney —

■ Continued from page 16

ing the amount of time he is the starting gate, which can be seen as a positive development after he acted up before the Forego and Dirt Mile.

“I don’t think I want to do anything different,” Alvarado said. “I mean, he’s been amazing the way he’s been running, so I wouldn’t change anything. Hopefully he’ll run the same way he’s been running.”

The main competition figures to come from the inside, with the ultra-consistent Zandon breaking from the rail and Suburban winner Charge It to his immediate right. Both of their trainers know everything will have to fall into place if they are to add to Saratoga’s legacy of beaten favorites in marquee races.

“Well, Cody’s Wish is going to have to not be quite at his best at this mile-and-an-eighth, two-turn trip, and we’re going to have to step up and run as good as we did, I’d say, in the Derby last year. I think that’s what it will take,” said Chad Brown, who saddled Zandon to a third in last year’s Kentucky Derby and a second behind Cody’s Wish in the Met Mile.

Todd Pletcher, who trains Charge It, offered a similar prognosis. “Tall order. Very, very good horse,” he said of the favorite. “So we’ll need everything to go our way.”



Tod Marks

Zandon looks to upset Cody’s Wish.

got over 24 hours to the race, so now it’s just like driving defensively on the turnpike, you know what I mean?” Mott said. “You just have to be careful.”

Alvarado, who felt extreme pressure to win the Dirt Mile, especially with Cody in attendance at Keeneland, will be navigating the Saratoga oval with the highest level of confidence.

“I think I’m riding the best horse,” he said. “I cannot try chasing the race or doing anything different. I’m just going to ride my horse. I think I have the best horse, so I just have to ride him that way.”

Alvarado, who signed prints of Cody’s Wish at the Secretariat stand outside the jockey silks room – and was thrilled to have Cody sign one for him – is genuinely pleased to be along for this ride with the Dormans.

That may or may not be enough the way Cody’s Wish has run and the way he looks. But, there’s a reason they run the races and this is, after all, Saratoga.

“We’ve

“I’m excited for everything that’s happening with the horse and Cody Dorman,” he said. “Hopefully we’ll get this race done and win the race and we can keep celebrating with them. That’s what I want to do.”

That would be just fine with Cody, who, his parents said, started laughing when they passed a sign for Saratoga on the way down from Niagara Falls Thursday. He had a front-row seat on the Oklahoma rail as his favorite horse galloped.

Mott was fully aware that this was far from an ordinary gallop, but he was happy to oblige, bringing Cody’s Wish over to Cody’s wheelchair as the horse cooled out.

“It’s not your normal day, but it’s not a normal horse and it’s not a normal situation,” he said. “It’s special. It’s extra special, and everybody’s anxious, and I think there’s a lot of people that are rooting for a good outcome. We have to remember it’s still a horse race, and they’ve got to go around there. The race isn’t over yet. It’s a great lead-up to the race. Things have gone well, but the race is not won. They’ve got to load them in the gate, and that part of it has to go well.”

One statistic you won’t find in the Daily Racing Form, on Thoro-Graph or anywhere else: Cody has seen Cody’s Wish run in person five times. Cody’s Wish has won every time.

Giant Game, Last Samurai and White Abarrio complete the field for the Whitney, which goes as Race 10 at 5:42 p.m. and will be televised live nationally on Fox.

**2023 TRAINING CENTER GRADUATES:**

Pretty Mischievous (G1) | Cody’s Wish (G1) | Matareya (G1) | Wet Paint (G1) | Selenaiia (G3) | Loved | Well Into

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#102	C. MAPIT	TAYLOR MADE
#134	F. QUEENS EMBRACE	GAINESWAY
#141	F. RENDA	GAINESWAY
#162	F. SKY COPPER	PARAMOUNT
#187	C. TAKE CHARGE ANGEL	GAINESWAY
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Tod Marks

Maple Leaf Mel brings her perfect 5-for-5 record into today's Test.

# Mel & Mel

## Giddings, undefeated filly tangle with Pretty Mishievous in Gr. 1

BY MARY RUFO

### TEST STAKES PREVIEW

On a crispy, bright morning in the Oklahoma stable area, trainer Melanie Giddings rode her pony back to the barn and was greeted by her namesake.

Maple Leaf Mel, a 3-year-old filly with a deep gray body and a light gray and white face, poked her head out of the stall as Giddings walked a few feet away, dismounting her pony. There's a special bond between the two.

Maple Leaf Mel was previously in Jeremiah Englehart's barn. Owner Bill Parcells of August Dawn Farm transferred the New York-bred filly to Giddings, Englehart's assistant, after she went out on her own. Giddings couldn't imagine her barn without her namesake.

"Well, even as an assistant, we probably spend the most time with the horses than anybody other than the grooms, you know?" Giddings said. "So for me to see her every day,

if I didn't have her, it would be kind of weird."

The undefeated daughter of Cross Traffic is the second choice in the Grade 1 Test, the eighth race and third of five stakes on today's Whitney card. The Grade 1 stakes for 3-year-old fillies going 7 furlongs runs at 4:26. Looking for her sixth victory, Maple Leaf Mel takes a step up in class after Grade 3 victories in the Miss Preakness at Pimlico and Victory Ride at Belmont Park. Giddings is happy with the filly.

"Very good," she said. "I'm very excited for Saturday."

A win would be Giddings' first in a Grade 1. She grew up in a town about an hour east of Toronto called Cobourg and her passion for horses came through the show ring.

Continued On Page 22

# TD

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## Test —

■ Continued from page 20

"I used to do show horses and you know like anything that's an expensive sport," Giddings said. "It's ribbons, not purse money."

When she was a teenager, she had an opportunity to get involved at the racetrack.

"Actually the farm I was riding at, they were a little involved with horse racing as far as Quarter Horses and some Thoroughbreds," Giddings said. "They had gotten me a job at Woodbine Racetrack when I was 16 and I never looked back."

One hour. Each way. Early mornings. Every day. At 16 years old. Giddings was dedicated.

"I never missed a day," she said. "I used to think when I was younger I would never make it at the racetrack because that was tough, you know, when you're young, 3 a.m. and make sure I hit the road because it's a good hour every single day but you kind of get addicted to this place."

This lifestyle might not always be the most glamorous, but it's rewarding.

"It's just the horses and the pride you take. When I used to gallop I used to just feel like you know them doing a good job was my responsibility. I take pride in watching them run and be successful," Giddings said. "If you don't love 'em, you can't make it here seven days a week."

Parcells, the legendary former NFL coach, has a close relationship with Giddings.

"It's probably more like a father figure than a client," Giddings said. "He really cares that I'm happy doing what I'm doing. I'll be forever grateful for him giving me an opportunity like this."

Favoritism in the Test swings to Pretty Mischievous. The Godolphin homebred has won her last two, securing photo-finish decisions in the Grade 1 Kentucky Oaks and the Grade 1 Acorn. Trained by Brendan Walsh and ridden by Tyler Gaffalione, the daughter of Into Mischief drops back to 7 furlongs for the first time since winning a first-level allowance at Churchill Downs in October.

"The seven-eighths is almost like a one-turn mile. She's got bags of natural speed," Walsh said. "The last day in the Acorn, she kind of inherited

the lead a little earlier than we wanted and she was there to get shot at, she was the same way in the Oaks, she just cruises up there. Her cruising speed is her biggest asset."

Pretty Mischievous won her debut at Churchill Downs in September, won her next start against allowance rivals at Churchill and it's been stakes ever after. She finished second in the Grade 2 Golden Rod at Churchill.

"I did like her from the very start but I didn't think she was this good," Walsh said. "She's gotten a lot better, we ran her two times at Churchill and then she got beat in the Golden Rod, but she had an inside draw and we were wondering then but she really advanced from there."

Pretty Mischievous won the Untapable at Fair Grounds to close her juvenile campaign, added the Grade 2 Rachel Alexandra before finishing second in the Grade 2 Fair Grounds Oaks. Walsh added blinkers for the Kentucky Oaks.

"They just help her concentrate, she just idles a little bit, I think it's all about timing," Walsh said. "You have to ride her like a turf horse and produce her on time."

Pretty Mischievous has posted four breezes since the Acorn, all with her typical aplomb.

"She gives herself every chance, she eats, she sleeps," Walsh said. "I came in the other day, after she worked, she worked five-eighths on the main track (July 22), worked great. I came back 20 minutes after she had been fed, the whole lot is gone, not fazed at all. They're just a different breed."

Munnys Gold returns to 7 furlongs after fading to fourth in the Acorn. Owned by Robert and Lawana Low, the daughter of Munnings won her first three starts by 38 lengths before finishing second in the Grade 2 Eight Belles before the Acorn. Irad Ortiz Jr. rides for Todd Pletcher.

Dorth Vader makes her second start for trainer George Weaver. Owned by John Ropes, the Florida-bred daughter of Girvin finished fifth in the Oaks and second in the Acorn. John Velazquez takes the return call. California invader Clearly Unhinged, Pennsylvania-bred Tappin Josie, Kentucky shipper Jersey Pearl and Ruthless winner Interpolate complete the field.

*Additional writing  
and reporting by Sean Clancy*

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WINSTAR



Sean Clancy

Aspen Grove splashes back to the barn after training Friday.

# In the Grove

## Irish-bred, American-owned filly takes on boys in turf Gr. 1

BY SEAN CLANCY

SARATOGA DERBY PREVIEW

James “Fozzy” Stack sighed and took a drag of his cigarette on a wet Friday morning in Saratoga.

“It’s why you get up in the morning, isn’t it?” Stack said. “It’s why you get up in the morning.”

The question was a simple one. What does it mean to have Aspen Grove in your barn?

The Irish-bred daughter of Justify upset the Grade 1 Belmont Oaks Invitational at Belmont Park July 8 and returns for today’s Grade 1 Saratoga Derby Invitational.

Owned by Craig Bernick’s Glen Hill Farm and Mrs. John Magnier, she takes on five colts, two geldings and a ridgling in the \$600,000 stakes, run as the ninth race at 5:01.

Stack entered Aspen Grove against fillies in the Grade 3 Saratoga Oaks Friday but opted to try the boys in search of her second Grade 1 stakes score. The G1 was the only factor.

“Obviously, it’s a different story taking on the colts but it’s a Group 1. She’s a Group 1 winner already, she’s won her Group 3 at home, placed in a Group 3 at home. When you wind it all up, we said we’ll just roll the dice and go in the Derby,” Stack said. “She’s a filly, she’s owned by an owner/breeder, nothing to lose and all to gain. Fillies take on the colts the whole time at home. I know there’s

Continued On Page 26

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**QUIET GIANT** (c. by Quiet Storm, type winner, above

**CONGRESSIO ALHONCO** (c. by Congressio, Meadows Derby [G3] (B, \$5,000). S

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**American Dancer** (c. by American Pharoah). 2 wins, \$10,395, in N.A. U.S. 3rd Bomsen S. [G2] (AQU, \$10,000). Winner in 1 start, \$5 in Trinidad

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2 winners

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# Saratoga Derby —

■ Continued from page 24

a bit of a stigma here, but we do it the whole time at home. We do it in maidens. Getting three pounds, I wish it was five, but such is life.”

Aspen Grove was 8-1 on the morning line Friday and 12-1 Saturday. She breaks from post three in the 1 3/16-mile stakes and attains Hall of Fame jockey John Velazquez.

The bay filly traveled to Saratoga a few days after winning at Belmont and settled into Jack Sisterson's stable at the northeastern end of Nick Zito's barn on the Oklahoma side. She breezed 4 furlongs in :49.90 over the Oklahoma track July 23 and 3 furlongs over the same track in :39.59 July 29. Friday, she galloped once around the muddy Oklahoma and jiggled all the way home.

“Seems well, seems in good form, looks well,” Stack said. “She settled in here well with Jack and his team, everyone's been a great help. She's been cantering away. She's done a couple of workouts, she's going well, she seems to be in good order, she's



Tod Marks

Aspen Grove sprints down the stretch in her Belmont Oaks win.

fresh. We'll see what happens.”

Bred by Glen Hill Farm, Aspen Grove finished fifth in her debut at the Curragh last summer. She came back a month later and finished 12th at the Curragh. Two months later, Stack threw her into the Group 3 Irish EBF Stakes at the Curragh and she won at 66-1.

“She always showed a bit of talent from the minute we started breezing her, knew she was a nice filly,” Stack said. “Always felt like she was a filly who wanted to be going further than a mile at home, but you can't go further than a mile as a 2-year-old.”

Aspen Grove finished seventh in the Group 1 Prix Marcel Boussac at

Longchamp to finish her juvenile season. She returned in May with a third in the Group 3 Cornelscourt before fading to 10th in the Group 1 Irish One Thousand Guineas.

“She's only run two bad races in her life,” Stack said. “The second time at the Curragh, for whatever reason she ran bad, and the Irish Guineas, she was in season. Take those two races out of her form and it's fairly solid.”

By an American Triple Crown winner out of the More Than Ready mare Data Dependent, Aspen Grove relished the firm turf at Belmont but has handled soft turf in Ireland. The turf course was listed as yielding before the races were canceled late Friday afternoon.

“She's run on soft ground. I'm not too worried about that. I don't mind,” Stack said. “Do you think they'll take it off the turf? That would be my worry.”

Doubtful. Of course, canceling the Hall of Fame would have been squarely in that category, too.

Favorite Far Bridge roars into the Saratoga Derby. The 2-1 favorite won

Continued On Page 28

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# Saratoga Derby —

■ Continued from page 26

the Grade 1 Belmont Derby in his most recent start. Bred by Calumet, the son of English Channel won his first two starts for his breeder and trainer Christophe Clement. LSU Stables purchased the bay colt and transferred him to Todd Pletcher. Far Bridge finished second in the Grade 2 American Turf and the Grade 2 Pennine Ridge before his score in the Belmont Derby. Jose Ortiz rides for the second time.

Second choice Program Trading makes his third career start and first stakes start for Klaravich Stable and trainer Chad Brown. The Irish-bred son of Lope De Vega won a maiden at Monmouth Park and an allowance at Belmont. Flavien Prat takes the return call.

Third choice Webslinger finished fourth in the Belmont Derby. Trained by Mark Casse for D J Stable, the son of Constitution makes his 11th career start and sixth consecutive stakes start. The bay gelding owns stakes wins in the Nownownow, Grade 2 American Turf and Audubon. Javier Castellano rides.

Fourth choice Mondego chased Far Bridge in the Belmont Derby, finishing third, beaten a length. Owned by Cheyenne Stable and trained by Clement, the British-bred son of Lope de Vega breaks from the rail for Joel Rosario.

## Hey Fozzy Stack, what have you learned in your trips to America?

“You need a fairly good one. You need a horse with a good mind. They have to settle in. The training tracks in the rain, you have to be careful. The one thing I don’t understand is why you go left-handed every day. In the Pony Club, you’re taught at a young age to trot both ways. I don’t know, Monday you go left, Tuesday you go right. That’s the bit that baffles me.”

Irish raider The Franchise and British raider Lion Of War should handle the soft ground. The Franchise won his most recent start for Joseph O’Brien while Lion Of War finished second in the Golden Gate Stakes at Ascot in his most recent start for Charlie Johnston.

Kentucky-breds Battle Of Normandy and Truly Quality complete the field.



Tod Marks

Far Bridge is the Saratoga Derby favorite off a win in the Belmont Derby.



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*Above: Algernon M. Talmage (British, 1871-1939)  
The Epsom Derby, 1931 (detail)*



Maryland Jockey Club

Doctor Davis exits a 4-length Laurel Park allowance win.

# Country Boys

## Two Fair Hill shippers head north for restricted turf stakes

BY NOLAN CLANCY

Two horses based at Fair Hill Training Center in Maryland headed north on I-87 Friday to contest today's Fasig Tipton Lure.

Both contenders in the \$135,000 stakes at 1 1/16 on Saratoga's inner turf have found something to like about their more laid-back stomping grounds in Elkton, Md.

For Doctor Davis, a 4-year-old gelding by Tourist, the environment makes it a little easier for him to relax in the mornings.

"He's in a good routine here, where he can be turned out," said trainer Arnaud Delacour Thursday morning, following a mile-and-a-half gallop. "He's a horse that can be very strong in the morning and very much on his toes, so keeping him in a quiet environment probably helps a lot."

Team Hanley's bay gelding has won his last two starts, the first at Pimlico on Black-Eyed Susan Day and the second at Laurel Park June 17, both allowance races on turf at the same distance as today's Lure.

### LURE STAKES PREVIEW

"We just had to choose a stakes that looks on paper like it could fit him," Delacour said. "I kind of like the restriction [non-winners of a graded stakes in 2023] in that race, the Lure."

Doctor Davis has four wins in eight starts for Delacour, who picked up training after three starts with Bill Mott. The gelding out of Social Butterfly made his debut at Saratoga with two starts in 2021, finishing seventh and eighth.

Laurel-based jockey Feargal Lynch makes the trip to ride today.

"It's kind of important to put a jockey that knows him on him because he can be a little bit tricky in the post parade," Delacour said. "He was pretty excited about the horse, he's the one that suggested that he'd go anywhere to ride him. With a horse like him who's not going to be favorite or anything, it's nice to have

Continued On Page 32



**St George SALES**

26 | *Filly* | **NOT THIS TIME** – Count to Three

63 | *Filly* | **MCKINZIE** – Harlan's Honor

84 | *Colt* | **GIRVIN** – K J Warrior

133 | *Filly* | **WAR OF WILL** – Queen of Roses

182 | *Filly* | **JUSTIFY** – Super Saks

208 | *Colt* | **INTO MISCHIEF** – Viginia Key

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# Lure —

■ Continued from page 30

a jockey that knows him because he really believes in the horse.”

Doctor Davis is 20-1 on the morning line, and will break from post eight.

The other Fair Hill shipper is Graham Motion-trained Speaking Scout, winner of the Grade 1 Hollywood Derby at Del Mar in December.

For the 4-year-old by Mr Speaker, Fair Hill offers a similar comfortable setting, with a long grass gallop built into his routine. Like a lot of horses in Fair Hill, Speaking Scout completes a warm-up along the treeline, heads down the hill, takes a few turns in the open field, and gallops home up a steady hill, rounding out to a GPS-watch-estimated mile-and-a-half.

“The field is great especially for a horse like Scout, I think being at Fair Hill has definitely made the difference for this horse,” said assistant trainer Cat McGee. “It’s made a huge difference in his confidence. When he was younger he was kind of an anxious type, especially being on the track. You take him out in the field, he’s a different horse and he’s happy out there, and I do think it gives him an edge.”



Tod Marks

Dakota Gold is favored in the Lure.

Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners bought Speaking Scout privately after his debut at Colonial Downs, and the bay gelding has been exceeding expectations since, culminating in the Hollywood Derby win.

“We always liked him, we always thought he was talented ... really, it was almost like overnight he transformed into a Grade 1 horse, and he’s just been like that ever since,” McGee said. “He kind of just got this level of confidence that I didn’t expect.”

Speaking Scout finished third in the Pegasus World Cup Turf and Monmouth Stakes this year, and was beaten three-quarter of a length when fourth in Pimlico’s Dinner Party, but has yet to return to the winner’s circle since his 3-year-old campaign. He’s 9-2 on the morning line, and will be ridden by Flavien Prat from post five.

Danny Gargan’s Freud colt Dakota Gold is the morning line favorite at 5-2, coming off a victory in the Hudson Valley Stakes for New York-breds at Belmont in July. Last summer at Saratoga, he finished second in the Rick Violette Stakes and won the Cab Calloway Division of the New York Stallion Series Stakes going a mile on the turf.

“I’m not so much worried about the distance as all the rain we’re getting. He doesn’t like a soft

turf,” said Carol Fisher, Gargan’s assistant trainer. “I think that’s what got him beat last year (in the Rick Violette). He was second and it had rained a little bit. Yeah, he doesn’t like any cut in the ground whatsoever.”

Rain Thursday night sent several races off the turf Friday, and rain fell through much of Friday’s card as well. Owned by Reeves Thoroughbred Racing, Dakota Gold breaks from post three under Irad Ortiz Jr.

Portfolio Company breaks from the inside with Joel Rosario up, and has won two in a row for Chad Brown. Smokin’ T, a son of War Front, slots into post two with John Velasquez for Shug McGaughey. Ocean Atlantique breaks from post four for a slight drop in class after two Grade 1 tries for Michael Maker.

Irish invader Chazzesmee, a winner on heavy ground in March, looks for a strong debut on American soil under Oisin Murphy for owner and trainer James “Fozzy” Stack. The 5-year-old slots into post six. Kentucky Derby starter and Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Turf runner-up Tiz The Bomb looks to get back on track for Ken McPeck and Julien Leparoux out of post seven. Mid Day Image rounds out the field for David Jacobson and Jose Ortiz in post nine.

One of five stakes on the card, the Lure goes as race seven at 3:51 p.m.

*Additional reporting by Mary Rufo.*

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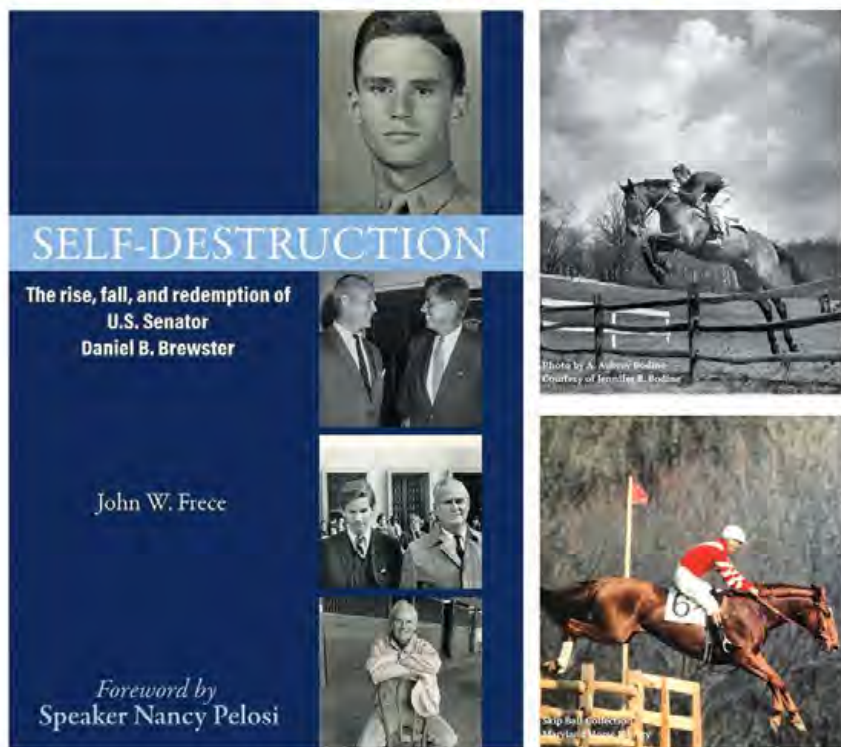
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Tod Marks

Caravel takes on the boys, again, in the Troy Stakes.

# Star Power

## Breeders' Cup winner Caravel rides 5-race win streak into Gr. 3

BY TOM LAW

TROY STAKES PREVIEW

Brad Cox gets asked about Caravel quite a bit. Like, a lot.

How's she doing? Where's she running next? Why take on males and not stick with the females? The two-time Eclipse Award-winning trainer has an answer for those fairly basic queries. And another — sort of — for a question that came this week in advance of today's Grade 3 Troy Stakes at Saratoga Race Course.

"Somebody asked me if she's getting better," Cox said of the 6-year-old Mizzen Mast mare. "I don't know if she needs to get better, she just needs to maintain where she's been over the last eight months."

While it's more like 11 months, the span has been a renaissance for Caravel, about as close to a throwback as modern racing gets. She's run 23 times and won 15 — eight of those wins have come out of Cox's star-studded stable — and earned more than \$1.8 million.

Since back-to-back disappointing runs at Saratoga and Presque Isle Downs last summer, she's unbeaten in six starts from mid-October through today's 5 1/2-furlong Troy. The wins have come at the expense of fellow females and males, including victories over the latter in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint and Grade 3 Franklin Stakes last fall at Keeneland and last time out in the Grade 1 Jai-pur Stakes at Belmont Park.

"She's been on it," Cox said. "I'm very happy and obviously she knows her job. We're all very happy with how she's training right now."

Caravel, who races for Qatar Racing, Marc Detampel and Madaket Stable after selling for \$500,000 at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky November mixed sale, showed her read-

Continued On Page 35

# Troy —

■ Continued from page 34

iness for the Troy with a trio of breezes on the Oklahoma Training Track turf course the last three weeks.

Breezing a half-mile each time, Caravel went :48.88 July 15, :48.22 July 22 and :48.85 July 28.

“She’s doing great,” Cox said last week. “We really love what we see from her. She’s continuing to thrive. She’ll take on the boys and we’re excited about that, too.”

Caravel, the 3-5 favorite on the morning line with regular rider Tyler Gaffalione aboard, brings a five-race win streak into the Troy. She’s won two of three at Saratoga, dating to the Grade 3 Caress for Lizzie Merryman, who bred, trained and owned the gray daughter of the Congrats mare Zeezee Zoomzoom for the early part of her career.

Celebrity chef Bobby Flay bought an interest in Caravel before the Caress and she was amicably transferred to Graham Motion after that victory. Three losses followed, including a nightmarish 12th in the 2021 Breeders’ Cup Turf Sprint at Del Mar, before she went through the ring at Fasig-Tipton. Fergus Galvin bought the then 4-year-old for a partnership headed by Qatar Racing, sent her to Cox and she’s back to or better than that 2020 and 2021 form.

The only blemishes came in last year’s Caress, where Caravel endured a troubled trip inside and finished ninth. She came back to win the Smart And Fancy at the meet then lost again, finishing fourth in the Grade 2 Presque Isle Masters on synthetic. That was her lone loss on synthetic in four starts.

“Right after last year at Saratoga, Presque Isle didn’t go as well,” Cox said. “They said speed was no good that night and she was on the lead. I loved her in that race that night, she just didn’t have it. Whatever.”

Caravel stands out in the Troy, which attracted seven others and figures to be run on a Mellon Turf Course saturated by rain this week.

Caravel has one win in four starts in turf races on courses rated less than firm, in last year’s Grade 2 Shakertown at Keeneland on good ground. She finished third on yielding ground going 1 mile in the 2020 Hilltop Stakes at Pimlico, third on good ground in the 2021 License Fee going 6 furlongs at Belmont Park and sixth on good ground in the Grade 3 Turf Monster at Parx Racing going 5 furlongs.

The probable speed in the race, Nobals, drew post seven to the outside of Caravel. Trainer Larry Rivelli ships the 4-year-old Noble Mission gelding in from Hawthorne Race Course off back-to-back wins in the Grade 2 Twin Spires Turf Sprint Stakes and the William Garrett Handicap at Horseshoe Indianapolis. Nobals is 7-2 on the morning line with E. T. Baird also in from Chicago for the mount.

Cogburn, winner of his last two since switching to turf sprints for trainer Steve Asmussen; and Grooms All Business, who ships in from Colts Neck Stable in New Jersey for trainer Jorge Duarte, are co-third choices at 8-1. The others are double-digit odds, the 4-for-6 Godolphin homebred Remuda at 10-1 for Eoin Harty, New York-bred Lucky Coin Stakes winner Thin White Duke at 20-1 for David Donk, and back-to-back Monmouth winner Iki-gai for Michelle Giangiulio.

The Troy leads off the five stakes on Whitney Day as the sixth race at 3:17 p.m.

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# SARATOGA ENTRIES

Saturday, August 5.

## 1ST (12:35PM). \$136,500, MSW, 2 YO, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5

1	.....1	Aspenite	.....D. Davis	.....S. Asmussen	.....8-1
2	.....2	Le Gris	.....J. Leparoux	.....A. Stall, Jr.	.....8-1
3	.....3	Innate (IRE)	.....J. Ortiz	.....J. O'Brien	.....2-1
4	.....4	Agate Road	.....L. Saez	.....T. Pletcher	.....12-1
5	.....5	Allied Attack	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....M. Maker	.....5-1
6	.....6	Drilling for Gold	.....T. Gaffalione	.....H. Motion	.....6-1
7	.....7	Walley World	.....M. Franco	.....C. Brown	.....6-1
8	.....8	Falfurrias	.....F. Prat	.....T. Pletcher	.....4-1
9	.....9	AE-MTO Trade Imbalance	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....C. Brown	.....8-5

## 2ND (1:07PM). \$136,500, MSW, 2 YO, 6F

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

1	.....1	Be You	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....T. Pletcher	.....2-1
2	.....2	Hamilton's Way	.....D. Davis	.....R. Handal	.....15-1
3	.....3	Pentathlon	.....M. Franco	.....C. McGaughey III	.....10-1
4	.....4	Locked	.....J. Ortiz	.....T. Pletcher	.....8-1
5	.....5	Domestic Product	.....F. Prat	.....C. Brown	.....3-1
6	.....6	Centz	.....J. Torres	.....C. Martin	.....30-1
7	.....7	Ozone	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....S. Asmussen	.....5-1
8	.....8	Badlands Ruler	.....L. Saez	.....B. Brown	.....20-1
9	.....9	Creek	.....J. Alvarado	.....W. Mott	.....15-1
10	.....10	Uno Mas Bourbon	.....T. Gaffalione	.....I. Wilkes	.....8-1
11	.....AE	Just Steel	.....J. Rosario	.....D. Lukas	.....4-1

## 3RD (1:39PM). \$52,000, CLM \$20,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	Ragtime Blues	.....T. Gaffalione	.....P. Walder	.....8-1
2	.....2	Winning Drive	.....L. Saez	.....M. Kantarmaci	.....20-1
3	.....3	Beachwalker	.....J. Torres	.....J. Guerrero	.....6-1
4	.....4	In Sky We Trust	.....K. Carmouche	.....S. Lake	.....10-1
5	.....5	No More Talk	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....A. Chichakly	.....9-2
6	.....6	Glory Road	.....J. Lezcano	.....R. Rodriguez	.....3-1
7	.....7	Dontbelate	.....A. Castillo	.....R. Persaud	.....8-1
8	.....8	Victorious Wave	.....M. Franco	.....C. Englehart	.....2-1

## 4TH (2:11PM). \$95,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....1	Bricco	.....L. Saez	.....H. Bond	.....15-1
2	.....2	Sonic Speed	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....T. Morley	.....5-1
3	.....3	Noble Huntsman	.....D. Davis	.....M. Friedman	.....8-1
4	.....4	Sell Something	.....M. Franco	.....G. Sciacca	.....15-1
5	.....5	Gimmedamoney	.....J. Davis	.....M. LeCesse	.....30-1
6	.....6	Be of Courage	.....J. Castellano	.....J. Pregman, Jr.	.....6-1
7	.....7	Shared Success	.....J. Alvarado	.....J. Acquilano	.....12-1
8	.....8	Born Dancer	.....K. Carmouche	.....M. Nevin	.....6-1
9	.....9	Ortus	.....J. Rosario	.....C. Clement	.....5-2
10	.....10	Whistler's Honor	.....F. Prat	.....J. Abreu	.....4-1
11	.....AE-MTO	Zeebear	.....J. Lezcano	.....L. Rice	.....8-5

## 5TH (2:44PM). \$95,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	Quick to Accuse	.....M. Franco	.....H. De Paz	.....8-1
2	.....2	Asymmetric	.....J. Castellano	.....C. Brown	.....7-2
3	.....3	Two for Charging	.....F. Prat	.....J. Abreu	.....5-1
4	.....4	Golden Arm	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....H. De Paz	.....6-1
5	.....5	Safalow's Mission	.....J. Ortiz	.....L. Rice	.....4-1
6	.....6	Thank You Jon	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....C. Summers	.....9-2
7	.....7	Be the Boss	.....T. Gaffalione	.....M. Maker	.....8-1
8	.....8	Kaz Sugar Bank	.....D. Davis	.....D. Synnefias	.....20-1
9	.....9	Asap Restoration	.....J. Ventura	.....A. Ronen	.....50-1
10	.....10	Straight Arrow	.....J. Lezcano	.....M. Dini	.....15-1

## 6TH (3:17PM). \$300,000, STK - THE TROY, 4 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	.....1	Thin White Duke	.....J. Velazquez	.....D. Donk	.....20-1
2	.....2	Ikigai	.....J. Vargas, Jr.	.....M. Giangiulio	.....30-1
3	.....3	Cogburn	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....S. Asmussen	.....8-1
4	.....4	Caravel	.....T. Gaffalione	.....B. Cox	.....3-5
5	.....5	Grooms All Bizness	.....D. Davis	.....J. Duarte, Jr.	.....8-1
6	.....6	Mister Mmmmm	.....L. Saez	.....J. Barkley	.....20-1
7	.....7	Nobals	.....E. Baird	.....L. Rivelli	.....7-2
8	.....8	Remuda	.....F. Prat	.....E. Harty	.....10-1

## 7TH (3:51PM). \$135,000, STK - FASIG-TIPTON LURE (LISTED), 4 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....1	Portfolio Company	.....J. Rosario	.....C. Brown	.....7-2
2	.....2	Smokin' T	.....J. Velazquez	.....C. McGaughey III	.....7-2
3	.....3	Dakota Gold	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....D. Gargan	.....5-2
4	.....4	Ocean Atlantique	.....L. Saez	.....M. Maker	.....12-1
5	.....5	Speaking Scout	.....F. Prat	.....H. Motion	.....9-2
6	.....6	Chazzesmee (IRE)	.....O. Murphy	.....J. Stack	.....12-1
7	.....7	Tiz the Bomb	.....J. Leparoux	.....K. McPeck	.....10-1
8	.....8	Doctor Davis	.....F. Lynch	.....A. Delacour	.....20-1
9	.....9	Mid Day Image	.....J. Ortiz	.....D. Jacobson	.....15-1

## 8TH (4:26PM). \$500,000, STK - THE TEST, 3 YO, F, 7F

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

1	.....1	Pretty Mischievous	.....T. Gaffalione	.....B. Walsh	.....9-5
2	.....2	Clearly Unhinged	.....J. Castellano	.....M. McCarthy	.....12-1
3	.....3	Tappin Josie	.....K. Gomez	.....H. De Paz	.....50-1
4	.....4	Jersey Pearl	.....L. Saez	.....D. Miller	.....15-1
5	.....5	Interpolate	.....F. Prat	.....C. Brown	.....15-1
6	.....6	Dorth Vader	.....J. Velazquez	.....G. Weaver	.....6-1
7	.....7	Munnys Gold	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....T. Pletcher	.....7-2
8	.....8	Maple Leaf Mel	.....J. Rosario	.....M. Giddings	.....2-1

## 9TH (5:01PM). \$600,000, STK - THE SARATOGA DERBY INVITATIONAL, 3 YO, 1 3/16M (TURF)

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

1	.....1	Mondego (GB)	.....J. Rosario	.....C. Clement	.....5-1
2	.....2	Program Trading (GB)	.....F. Prat	.....C. Brown	.....7-2
3	.....3	Aspen Grove (IRE)	.....J. Velazquez	.....J. Stack	.....12-1
4	.....4	The Franchise (IRE)	.....L. Saez	.....J. O'Brien	.....30-1
5	.....5	Far Bridge	.....J. Ortiz	.....T. Pletcher	.....2-1
6	.....6	Weblinger	.....J. Castellano	.....M. Casse	.....4-1
7	.....7	Battle of Normandy	.....T. Gaffalione	.....C. McGaughey III	.....20-1
8	.....8	Lion of War (GB)	.....O. Murphy	.....C. Johnston	.....8-1
9	.....9	Truly Quality	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....J. Thomas	.....12-1

## 10TH (5:42PM). \$1,000,000, STK - THE WHITNEY, 4 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	Zandon	.....J. Rosario	.....C. Brown	.....9-2
2	.....2	Charge It	.....J. Velazquez	.....T. Pletcher	.....5-1
3	.....3	Giant Game	.....L. Saez	.....D. Romans	.....20-1
4	.....4	Last Samurai	.....F. Prat	.....D. Lukas	.....15-1
5	.....5	White Abarrio	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....R. Dutrow, Jr.	.....6-1
6	.....6	Cody's Wish	.....J. Alvarado	.....W. Mott	.....1-2

## 11TH (6:16PM). \$149,500, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	.....1	Cape Trafalgar	.....D. Davis	.....S. Joseph, Jr.	.....10-1
2	.....2	Signator	.....J. Castellano	.....C. McGaughey III	.....6-1
3	.....3	Brew Pub	.....J. Alvarado	.....R. Rodriguez	.....8-1
4	.....4	Bad to the Bones	.....J. Velazquez	.....W. Mott	.....15-1
5	.....5	Frat Pack	.....F. Prat	.....C. Brown	.....9-2
6	.....6	Twelfth Man	.....M. Franco	.....M. Nevin	.....30-1
7	.....7	Everso Mischievous	.....T. Gaffalione	.....B. Cox	.....2-1
8	.....8	Bourbon Bash	.....J. Rosario	.....D. Lukas	.....20-1
9	.....9	Capture the Flag	.....L. Saez	.....C. McGaughey III	.....15-1
10	.....10	Caramel Chip	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....J. D'Angelo	.....7-2

## SARATOGA ENTRIES

12TH (6:48PM). \$149,500, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	.....1	.....Shutters.....	J. Velazquez.....	M. Hennig.....	3-1
2	.....2	.....Danzigwiththestars.....	L. Saez.....	D. Schettino.....	10-1
3	.....3	.....Ruse.....	D. Davis.....	T. Hills.....	8-1
4	.....4	.....My Sea Cottage (IRE).....	J. Ortiz.....	M. Casse.....	8-1
5	.....5	.....What Say Thee.....	T. Gaffalione.....	J. Sinsterson.....	15-1
6	.....6	.....Fair Dinkum.....	J. Rosario.....	J. Sharp.....	20-1
7	.....7	.....Drakon.....	K. Carmouche.....	R. Diodoro.....	15-1
8	.....8	.....Hilliard.....	J. Castellano.....	M. Maker.....	20-1
9	.....9	.....Alfio.....	J. Alvarado.....	A. Quartarolo.....	50-1
10	.....10	.....Al's Rocket.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	T. Pletcher.....	4-1
11	.....11	.....Fighter in the Win.....	M. Franco.....	M. Maker.....	15-1
12	.....12	.....Beuys (IRE).....	O. Murphy.....	B. Walsh.....	7-2
13	.....AE-MTO..	.....Winters Lion.....	Rider TBA.....	J. Sharp.....	8-1
14	.....AE-MTO..	.....Whittington Park.....	Rider TBA.....	J. Englehart.....	9-5
15	.....AE-MTO..	.....Sundaeswithsandy.....	K. Carmouche.....	M. Nevin.....	2-1
16	.....AE-MTO..	.....Crupi.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	T. Pletcher.....	6-1

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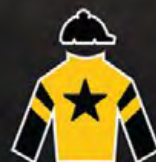
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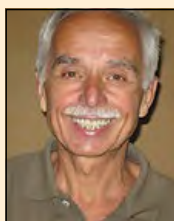
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**John Shapazian**



**Tom Law**



**Rob Whitlock**



**Charles Bedard**



**Jessica Paquette**

Race	John Shapazian	Tom Law	Rob Whitlock	Charles Bedard	Jessica Paquette
<b>1</b>	Trade Imbalance Innate Agate Road	Trade Imbalance Walley World Allied Attack	Trade Imbalance Le Gris Aspenite	Trade Imbalance Aspenite Allied Attack	Innate Drilling For Gold Walley World
<b>2</b>	Be You Ozone Domestic Product	Be You Just Steel Creek	Ozone Be You Badlands Ruler	Just Steel Be You Domestic Product	Pentathlon Be You Locked
<b>3</b>	Victorious Wave Beachwalker No More Talk	Victorious Wave Glory Road In Sky We Trust	Victorious Wave Glory Road Beachwalker	Victorious Wave No More Talk Beachwalker	Beachwalker Glory Road In Sky We Trust
<b>4</b>	Zeebear Whistler's Honor Sonic Speed	Zeebear Sonic Speed Whistler's Honor	Zeebear Ortus Sonic Speed	Zeebear Ortus Sonic Speed	Sonic Speed Ortus Gimmedamoney
<b>5</b>	Thank You Jon Two For Charging Safalow's Mission	Safalow's Mission Thank You Jon Quick To Accuse	Kaz Sugar Bank Be The Boss Golden Arm	Safalow's Mission Golden Arm Asymmetric	Asymmetric Be The Boss Straight Arrow
<b>6</b>	Caravel Nobals Remuda	Caravel Cogburn Thin White Duke	Caravel Nobals Thin White Duke	Caravel Nobals Grooms All Bizness	Caravel Remuda Nobals
<b>7</b>	Portfolio Company Dakota Gold Smokin' T	Smokin' T Porfolio Company Dakota Gold	Chazzesmee Speaking Scout Dakota Gold	Dakota Gold Smokin' T Chazzesmee	Speaking Scout Portfolio Company Smokin' T
<b>8</b>	Maple Leaf Mel Munnys Gold Jersey Pearl	Pretty Mischievous Maple Leaf Mel Dorth Vader	Maple Leaf Mel Dorth Vader Pretty Mischievous	Munnys Gold Maple Leaf Mel Pretty Mischievous	Munnys Gold Pretty Mischievous Dorth Vader
<b>9</b>	Lion Of War Far Bridge Program Trading	Far Bridge Webslinger Program Trading	Aspen Grove Lion Of War The Franchise	Far Bridge Program Trading Lion Of War	Aspen Grove Truly Quality Program Trading
<b>10</b>	Cody's Wish Zandon Charge It	Cody's Wish Charge It Zandon	Charge It White Abarrio Cody's Wish	Cody's Wish Charge It Zandon	Cody's Wish Zandon Last Samurai
<b>11</b>	Everso Mischievous Frat Pack Caramel Chip	Everso Mischievous Capture The Flag Frat Pack	Signator Everso Mischievous Brew Pub	Caramel Chip Everso Mischievous Brew Pub	Capture The Flag Frat Pack Bad To The Bones
<b>12</b>	Whittington Park Shutters Ruse	Al's Rocket Shutters Ruse	Sundayswithsandy Whittington Park Al's Rocket	Whittington Park Beuys Shutters	Ruse My Sea Cottage Shutters
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SCAN ME

# French Flavor

Elusive Princess savors soft turf, runs away with Grade 3 stakes

BY PAUL HALLORAN

The skies opened, the rains came and the Euros ran 1-2-4 in the Saratoga Oaks. Sometimes, it is that simple.

Elusive Princess shipped in from France and delivered the type of performance her connections had in mind when they bought her last spring, closing down the far outside of a yielding Mellon Turf Course to easily win the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Oaks Friday.

French native Flavien Prat provided a professional ride, riding the rail from the start of the 1 3/16 mile Grade 3 race until the far turn, when he swung his filly eight wide for a powerful run down the stretch that resulted in a 3¼-length win.

Selenaia had led for the first 6 furlongs, carving out fractions of

## SARATOGA OAKS RECAP

:23.55, :48.57 and 1:13.56. The Joseph O'Brien-trained American Sonja, coming from Ireland, completed the exacta, with Papilio, a transplanted Euro making her sixth start in the U.S. third, ahead of O'Brien's other filly, Caroline Street, another French shipper.

"I thought I was in a good position," Prat said. "She actually jumped better than I thought and she was traveling well. Really handy and when I had a chance I thought not taking any risk then the two horses in front of me came really shifting out, but I ended up fine. I was actually on the good ground so I was OK with it.

Continued On Page 41



Tod Marks

Elusive Princess splashes to victory in Friday's Saratoga Oaks.

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2023 Preakness Winner



# Saratoga Oaks —

■ Continued from page 40

I was going to go outside, but I ended up being a lot wider than I thought.”

Bloodstock agent Hubert Guy arranged the sale of the filly to a group led by LNJ Foxwoods and figured Saratoga made sense for an American debut.

“We thought it was a good spot to start on,” said Guy. “A beautiful venue here, Saratoga. It’s magic to win at Saratoga. So it worked out really good. She’s very good on the soft, she’s very good on the firm. She’s a very special filly.”

Jaime Roth of LNJ Foxwoods was watching the weather forecast with some level of trepidation.

“We knew she’d like it (the wet turf), but it got a little iffy because the weather forecast said it wasn’t good and I was wondering if they were going to take it off the turf,” said Roth. “They’re not going to take any chances, especially with horses, which is the right thing to do, but it cleared for the time being and it just worked out for her.”

Guy said he has a good colt in France that Elusive Princess — by Martinborough out of Elusive Action — beat easily. He called Alex Solis II, a bloodstock agent for LNJ Foxwoods along with Jason Litt, and suggested they buy her. Solis called Roth and the rest is history.

“I remember exactly when I heard about her, I was watching the Kentucky Oaks,” Roth said. “It was, I don’t know, maybe four races before Botanical was running in the Oaks and Alex said, ‘Man, I have the filly.’ I got her. She’s great. Let’s hope this deal goes through. And man, he’s usually right. But he was very right here.”

Guy was not surprised at Friday’s result.

“I thought she was really a filly that would fit really well here in this country. (Trainer) Jean-Philippe (Dubois) owns her, bred her, and really didn’t want to part with her. And then after she was second in a Grade 3 where she got into a lot of trouble, she should have won easy, he decided to sell off. So I contacted Alex and Jason from LNJ Foxwoods. (Dubois) agreed on a deal that he would train the filly until the French Oaks, maybe a little later. But when she finished

fifth in the French Oaks, we decided to come a little earlier.”

Elusive Princess will ship to Fair Hill and remain in the U.S. under the care of Arnaud Delacour.

“We decided to run in this race with the LNJ Foxwoods team and to have Mr. Dubois train her, because he did a really good job training her. It’s the first time he’s running in America,” Guy said.

The jockey part of the French connection was happy to deliver the win.

“I’m really pleased to win for Mr. Dubois who’s probably known me since I was a little kid, so it’s great to ride for him and get a winner for him,” Prat said. “She’s won on soft before. But saying that, she’s [had] some great performances on good ground before as well. It might have tipped in her favor saying that maybe most of the field didn’t like it and she did.”

It was quite a U.S. debut for the trainer, the filly and the connections.

“It’s a lot of different with new owners together for the first time,” Roth said. “Everyone gets along. It’s fun and it’s going to be a good dinner tonight.”

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# Called Off

## Rain scraps Hall of Fame Stakes, three other races late in program

BY TOM LAW

FRIDAY RACING RECAP

Cherie DeVaux stood with her colleagues, owners and others under cover and out of the rain during the severe weather delay that turned into a severe weather cancellation Friday at Saratoga Race Course and took the glass half-full approach to the situation.

“I was laughing with Todd Pletcher during the delay that they all got a good paddock schooling,” DeVaux said, walking from the paddock to the clubhouse after the Grade 2 Hall of Fame Stakes and three other races on Friday’s card were called off because of the weather. “Everybody behaved themselves. There are a lot of classy horses in there, and they behaved. Now they’ll be ready for the next one.”

DeVaux thought she had More Than Looks ready for the \$500,000 Hall of Fame, and the paid crowd of 26,425 and others wagering offsite agreed. The 3-year-old son of More Than Ready hovered between 8-5 and 5-2 favorite as the minutes ticked down to the sped-up post time of 5 p.m. eventually past that mark and ultimately to when NYRA announced the remaining four races were canceled at 5:14.

The Hall of Fame will be brought back next Friday, with entries drawn Sunday.

“It’s OK; what are you going to do? Safety comes first for the horses



Susie Raisher/NYRA Photo  
The Hall of Fame runners exit the paddock after the cancellation.

and riders,” DeVaux said. “And the track, it’s an unknown if he’s going to like the boggy turf. It’s probably the best outcome with what we’re given. It’s not ideal and I’m sure there are going to be some frustrated people, but it is what it is and we can’t do anything about it.”

Heavy rain overnight and into the early morning left the turf courses yielding and four of the six turf races carded for Friday were moved to the main track. The Grade 3 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Oaks was run – 10 minutes earlier than the scheduled 4:35 p.m.

Continued On Page 43



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# Friday —

■ Continued from page 42

post time – over the soft ground with European imports Elusive Princess and American Sonja finishing 1-2.

Horseplayers were also affected by the cancellation, as the pick six that started two races before, a two-day pick six slated to start with the Hall of Fame and the pick five that started with the Saratoga Oaks were all refunded. Gamblers alive in other multi-race wagers were given an all-win payout after the cancellation.

• Trainer Phil Bauer enjoyed an electric Saratoga meeting last year. He won with six of 13 starters and he had the highest strike rate – 46 percent – of any trainer with 10 or more starts at the Spa. He's won two so far this season, last Sunday with Little Prankster and Friday in the opener with Ludwig.

Owned by Rigney Racing, Ludwig broke fast and never looked back winning the 6-furlong maiden special weight by 2 1/2 lengths under Junior Alvarado in his sixth start. The 3-year-old son of Mastery raced as a gelding and with blinkers for the first time.

"We put the blinkers on hoping to kind of get him involved early," Bauer said. "That's what I told Junior in the paddock. I said 'Send him, I think we're good enough to win.' He broke just a hair slow, but was able to rally on the inside to get the lead and it was over from there."

Ludwig finished on the board in three of his previous five starts. He showed a rebellious side in the mornings that led Bauer to believe that gelding was necessary.



Tod Marks  
Ludwig (right) pulls away to win Friday's first.

"The horse wasn't necessarily a rogue horse, but he was just a bad actor," Bauer said. "We'd like him to train with good rhythm and good energy at the same time. He was fighting the rider and wasn't going out there and enjoying himself. Once he had kind of settled into being a new gelding, he kind of came around for us and it's always nice when you do the ultimate equipment change for a real lightbulb moment to go on. We felt he was going to run well today. Saratoga, you never expect to win, but we certainly were excited to try."

The last 365 days have been kind to Bauer. He got his first Grade 1 victory with Played Hard in the La Troienne Stakes in May. Bauer appreciates each and every success.

"It's special," he said. "It's, to me, the best place in horse racing and to come up here and enter the winner's circle just once is a big deal. We're fortunate this year to get our second win and last year was a storybook for us. We don't take anything for granted, but certainly appreciate everything we're given."

— Alec DiConza

Continued On Page 44



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## Friday —

■ Continued from page 43

• A surface switch and a drop in class was just what Sky And Sand needed in order to earn a win in the fifth, a \$50,000 claiming event at 7 furlongs. The 4-year-old Midshipman gelding disputed the early pace, opened up on the field turning for home and won by 5 3/4 lengths under Luis Saez over the muddy and sealed main track.

“When we got Luis Saez riding, that’s kind of his plan,” winning trainer Jack Siston said. “He came out and said ‘I think I’m going to try to be forwardly placed.’”

Owned by Reeves Thoroughbred Racing and Magnifico Stable, Sky And Sand had run nine consecutive races on the grass before entering Friday’s race on the dirt. His last race on the dirt was an allowance during Keeneland’s 2022 spring meeting, where he lost to eventual stakes winner Conagher. Since Siston picked up the training duties from Steve Asmussen this spring, a plan to bring Sky And Sand back to the main track was set in motion.

“He trains well on the dirt every day; he gallops on it, he works well on it,” Siston said. “Ultimately the drop in class helped him get his confidence back. He won well, I appreciate the owners for the opportunity.”

Running in many allowance-optional races and not having hit the

## Saratoga Leaders

JOCKEYS.....	1ST
Irad Ortiz Jr.....	28
Luis Saez.....	20
Jose Ortiz.....	17
Tyler Gaffalione.....	11
Jose Lezcano.....	11
Flavien Prat.....	11
Joel Rosario.....	11
Javier Castellano.....	10
Dylan Davis.....	9
Manny Franco.....	7

TRAINERS.....	1ST
Linda Rice.....	17
Chad Brown.....	15
Todd Pletcher.....	12
Bill Mott.....	9
Rudy Rodriguez.....	7
Christophe Clement.....	5
Brad Cox.....	4
Wesley Ward.....	4

Through Friday

board since May 2022, Siston also decided it was time for the gray gelding to get some class relief.

“His recent form, he just wasn’t quite getting it done,” said Siston, winning his first race of the meet. “When that happens, you kind of have to be realistic and put them in spots where you think they’re going to be competitive to win.”

“It’s always great to have a presence in Saratoga. This staff puts so much hard work into it, so it’s well deserved for them.”

— Alec DiConza

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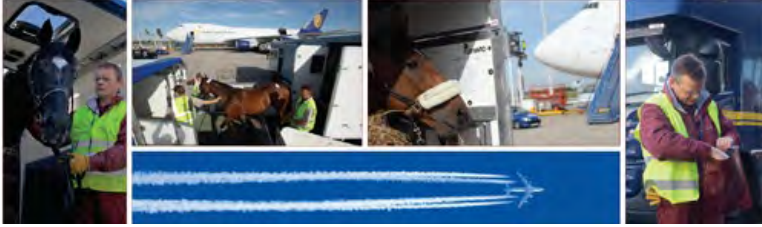


Sky And Sand makes it look easy in Friday’s fifth race.

Dave Harmon

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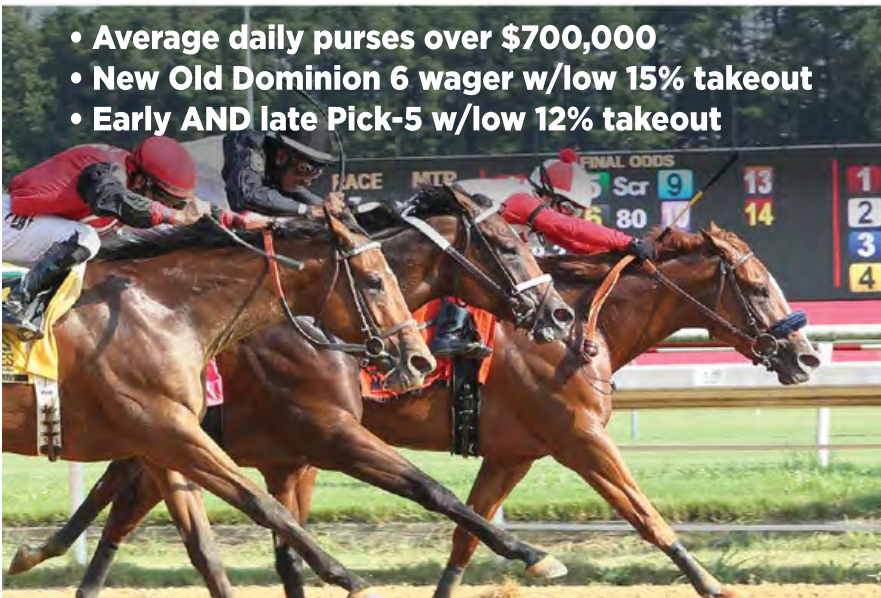


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## Industry Employee Award finalists announced

The finalists and runners-up for the 2023 Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards were announced Thursday, including three finalists in six of the seven categories.

The winner and runner-up of the seventh category, the Dr. J. David "Doc" Richardson Community Award, have already been decided with Linda Doane of the The Healing Place in Louisville, Kentucky awarded the top prize, and Francisco Torres, with the Backstretch Employee Service Team, placing second.

This year's awards ceremony will be hosted by Keeneland Tuesday, Oct. 17. Finalists and their guest will be provided with travel and accommodations for out-of-town finalists, a tour of a local horse farm, and the ceremony dinner with an afternoon of racing the following day at Keeneland.

The shortlist judging panel, the first of two judging panels and chaired by The Saratoga Special's Tom Law, met Tuesday to determine the finalists and runners-up in each category as well as the Community Award winner and finalist. The meeting was hosted by the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame. The second and final stage of judging will take place October 17, when finalists will meet with the judges for in-person interviews.

"It's hard to put into words what it means to be involved with these awards," Law said. "Everyone in our industry knows someone that works tirelessly, day-in and day-out, to take care of our magnificent two-legged and four-legged friends because they love what they do.

The nominees, year-on-year, are a tremendous group, and while we wish we could reward them all, I do hope they feel honored that someone thought enough about them to submit a nomination.

"I also thank the National HBPA, TOBA, The Jockey Club, Breeders' Cup, and Godolphin, without whose underwriting and support these awards would not be possible to implement. Lastly, a heartfelt thanks to our media partners – The Thoroughbred Daily News, Blood-Horse Publications, Daily Racing Form, FanDuel, Paulick Report and America's Day at the Races – for helping to spread the reach of the awards."

TIEA was pleased to welcome back category sponsors Hallway Feeds, NTRA, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, Keeneland, NYRA, and Churchill Downs, and welcomes first-time sponsor 1/ST Racing.

The winners of the Katherine McKee Administration, Dedication to Breeding, Dedication to Racing, Leadership and Support Services Awards will receive a prize of \$7,500, with an additional \$1,000 to their farm, stable or organization, with two finalists receiving \$2,500 each and \$1,000 to their farm, stable or organization as well. For the first time in 2023, separate from the winners and two finalists, two runners-up will receive \$2,000 each.

The winner of the Newcomer Award will receive \$5,000 with \$1,000 going to their farm, stable, or organization. Two finalists will receive \$2,500 each, and separate from

**Continued On Page 47**

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*\*Upon approval by the Virginia Racing Commission*



See [VaBred.org](http://VaBred.org) for program details  
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# Awards —

## ■ Continued from page 46

the winners and two finalists, two runners-up receive \$1,000 each.

As the winner of the Dr. J. David “Doc” Richardson Community Award, Linda Doane will receive a prize of \$7,500 and an additional prize of \$2,500 will be donated to the charity of her choice. Francisco Torres will receive \$2,500 as the other finalist in this category, and separate from the winners and finalist, two runners-up receive \$1,500 each.

The 2023 Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards finalists are:

**Katherine McKee Administration Award sponsored by Keeneland.** Kelly Danner – Churchill Downs, Samantha McGreevy – Taylor Made Sales Agency, Jamie Bradley – Asmussen Racing. Runners-up: Gwenn Pierce – WB Payson Park, Eleanor Poppe – NY Race Track Chaplaincy.

**Support Services Award sponsored by 1/ST Racing.** Bill Vest – Churchill Downs, Tracy Attfield – Tlore, Rita Cutler – NYRA. Runners-up: Raul Gutierrez – Santa Anita Park, Julie Adair – Self.

**Dedication to Breeding Award sponsored by Hallway Feeds.** Jimmy Tate – WinStar Farm, Phillip Hampton – Godolphin, Rafael Zambrano – War Horse Place. Runners-up: Harmon Sullivan – New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program, Abel Garibay – Four Pillars Holdings.

**Dedication to Racing Award sponsored by National Thoroughbred Racing Association.** Laura Tilbury – Todd Pletcher, Kathy Sanchez – Tom Amoss Racing Stable, Moises Morales – Gustavo Delgado. Runners-up: Myra Hall – Herringswell Stables, Carlos Davila – Craig Wheeler.

**Leadership Award sponsored by Hagyard Equine Medical Institute.** Lorretta Lusteg – John Kimmel, Gene Guy – Glencrest Farm, Manuel Hernandez – Walmac Farm. Runners-up: Juan Aguilar – Indian Creek, Christine Jones – Pleasant Acres Stallions.

**Newcomer Award sponsored by New York Racing Association.** Deja Robinson – Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital, Sara Gordon – Thoroughbred Daily News, Dominick Merrit – Todd Pletcher. Runners-up: Adrienne Devaux – Cherie Devaux Racing Stable, Susan Kemper – Coolmore America, Ashford Stud.

**Dr. J. David “Doc” Richardson Community Award sponsored by Churchill Downs.** Winner: Linda Doane, The Healing Place. Runner-up: Francisco Torres, Backstretch Employee Service Team. Runners-up: Merlin Cano – Backside Learning Center, Diana Varon – Keeneland.



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# Power House

Alys Beach delivers in Saratoga debut for Amoss, Tramontin

BY JOE CLANCY

Hidden Brook Farm's Sergio de Sousa thought back to a little more than a year ago, when recent Saratoga Race Course debut winner Alys Beach was part of the farm's Keeneland September consignment.

"She was always a very powerful filly, kind of Quarter Horse looking," he said, with a small laugh. "She was not very tall and leggy, but she looked like who she was bred to be. It's interesting because sometimes people say a horse is a little short or something, but that's just the way she was built as a yearling."

Trainer Tom Amoss, shopping for client Greg Tramontin, saw plenty in the daughter of first-crop sire Omaha Beach and the Bernardini mare Pray For Leslie.

And Quarter Horse or not, she's a Saratoga winner and most likely headed to a stakes in her next start.

Bred by Jeff Kerber, the filly (Hip 773 in the catalog) was the first registered foal for her dam – who won twice in three starts – and from the family of stakes horses Hidden Connection, Capo Bastone and others. Nobody knew then that Omaha Beach would have five 2-year-old winners by August (two at Saratoga), but Amoss was looking at the horse first, the catalog second.

"I really liked her," Amoss said. "She was a medium-sized horse. The thing that really captured me was her hind end, her engine. I said she was going to have to have an awful lot wrong up front for me to not be interested. I was interested."

She cost \$120,000, and has done nothing but reward Amoss and Tramontin since.



NYRA Photo

Keeneland September graduate Alys Beach (inside) scores for owner Greg Tramontin and trainer Tom Amoss July 30.

"She developed into a beautiful filly and I'm really proud of the way she ran," Amoss said of a July 30 win in a \$136,500 maiden special weight.

Alys Beach did plenty to make her people proud. She broke with the field from post six, allowed three horses to pass her and settled into a stalking spot in fourth for Tyler Gaffalione.

She advanced to third on the turn, angled to the rail in the stretch and fought through along the inside to pass Mugen late and then won an even later battle with fellow Keeneland September graduate Life Talk to prevail by a head after 6 1/2 furlongs in 1:18.58.

Tramontin was on hand for the win, his first in Saratoga.

"She had to go through horses and on the rail and do a lot of things you don't always think they'll do the first time they run," he said. "I was so excited to see her do well. Tyler jumped off and said she did everything he asked her to do."

Tramontin credited Amoss with finding the filly at the sale, and – perhaps as importantly – with convincing the owner to make the trip to Saratoga from Louisiana.

"You have to come up," the trainer told Tramontin beforehand.

"You think she's going to win?" Tramontin asked.

Amoss played diplomat. "I can't say she's going to win, but I can tell you she's a fighter and that's the kind of horse you want to have."

Named for a community on Florida's gulf coast, Alys Beach did the rest. Tramontin connected with Amoss in the 1990s after buying a horse at a Fair Grounds sale.

In need of a trainer, Tramontin asked around and a friend suggested Amoss. They've had horses together, off and on, since. Tramontin owned part

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# Alys Beach —

■ Continued from page 48

of Grade 1 winner No Parole among others, and has recently increased his activity at the sales.

“Tom has a terrific eye for picking out horses,” Tramountin said. “He’s just very knowledgeable and we’d love to buy the best pedigree and all that, but sometimes you get priced out of it. He’s very good at picking out horses in a modest range that have the ability to go on and be athletes.”

Amoss said the volume of horses at Keeneland September offers a chance to find prospects at a variety of levels.

“They’re selling so many horses that sometimes horses get lost,” he said. “She was selling in the 700s, probably the third or fourth day. There are always some high-powered pedigrees and high-powered lookers at that point in the sale and I think a lot of people felt like she wasn’t the kind of horse they were looking for.”

Amoss was looking at her in September, but also thinking about the future. And nobody’s going to call her tall and leggy, but Alys Beach changed plenty since her early days. After the sale, she went to Woodford Thoroughbreds in Florida where Amoss caught up to her in March.

“The one thing you’re doing at these yearling sales is making educated guesses on what they’re going to look like,” Amoss said. “There’s a great deal of development that goes on between September of their yearling year and July of their 2-year-old year. She was a horse that had



Keeneland photo

Alys Beach as a yearling before the September Sale.

really matured and looked like the kind you wanted — athletic, she didn’t lose that big, powerful back end, she grew up. She’s still medium-sized, but extremely well put together and there are a lot of good horses who are medium-sized.”

NOTES: On the same July 30 card as Alys Beach’s win, Repole Stable and St. Elias won a maiden special weight with Miz Sense, a \$500,000 September purchase from consignor Stonehaven Steadings.

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Tod Marks

Cate Masterson presents Arrogate's plaque to Juddmonte's Dr. John Chandler.

# Day in the Sun

## California stars lead the way at 2023 Hall of Fame ceremony

BY JENNIFER KELLY

Not even the rainy Saratoga day could stop the California sunshine that filled Fasig-Tipton's Humphrey S. Finney sales pavilion Friday morning. As the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame welcomed its 2023 class, three California-based stars, Arrogate, California Chrome and Songbird, joined the long roll of equine greats, as their connections turned out to celebrate this ultimate recognition.

The human side of the sport was honored as well, with California-based jockeys Corey Nakatani and Fernando Toro entering the Hall alongside Pillars of the Turf John W. Hanes II, Leonard W. Jerome, and Stella Thayer.

### Arrogate

Arrogate's seven-race winning streak, where he won Grade 1s and Group 1s the Travers Stakes, the

Breeders' Cup Classic, and the Dubai World Cup in 2016 and 2017 was a display of sheer brilliance.

Foaled on April 11, 2013, the son of Unbridled's Song and the Distorted Humor mare Bubbler was bred by Clearsky Farms, trained by Bob Baffert, and owned by Juddmonte. Dr. John Chandler, president of Juddmonte's American operations, touched on the late Prince Khalid Abdullah and what this shift to dirt racing brought the stable.

"For many years, Juddmonte had a lot of turf horses because our racing base had started in England," Chandler said. "We were going through a bad spell after trainer Bobby Frankel passed away (in 2009). The Prince had been looking through the results and said, 'This man in California (Bob Baffert) is doing very well training a lot of horses, a lot of winners.' Prince Khalid talked with racing man-

Continued On Page 51

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SCAN TO GIVE

# Hall of Fame —

■ Continued from page 50

ager Garrett O'Rourke about the fact that Bob mostly trained dirt horses and our horses were mostly grass, and so, he said, 'You'll buy some dirt horses.' We went right to the sales and we bought some horses. One of them turned out to be Arrogate."

Purchased at Keeneland September for \$560,000, Arrogate would go on to become the all-time earnings leader with \$17,422,600 in 11 starts. Unraced at 2, he finished third in his debut at Los Alamitos in April and then ran through a list with few peers – a maiden win and an allowance win at Santa Anita in June, a Del Mar allowance in August, the Grade 1 Travers in track-record time, the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Classic in a showdown with California Chrome, the Grade 1 Pegasus World Cup to start 2017 and the Group 1 Dubai World Cup against the world's best in March.

He lost the final three starts of his career, and was retired to stud at Juddmonte's Kentucky farm, where he sired three crops before his death in 2020. He has produced a Belmont Stakes winner in Arcangelo and a Kentucky Oaks winner in Secret Oath. Graded stakes winners Fun To Dream and Cave Rock also represent the late stallion.

"It's obviously a little bittersweet because we wish we had him here still, but it's obviously a huge honor," O'Rourke said of Arrogate's induction three years after his early death. "He was the best dirt horse and the best American horse that we've had."

## California Chrome

Co-breeder and former co-owner Steve Coburn was on hand to represent California Chrome, dual classic winner and two-time Horse of the Year. Bred by Coburn and former partner Perry Martin, Chrome was the result of an \$8,000 mare named Love the Chase and Lucky Pulpit, a California stallion standing for \$1,500. Coburn and Martin sent the colt to trainer Art Sherman.

Together, they shared a classic rags-to-riches story as California Chrome went from California-bred stakes winner as a 2-year-old in 2013 to the top of the game as a 3-year-



Tod Marks

California Chrome's owner Steve Coburn makes a point at his acceptance speech.

old in 2014. The chestnut won his first five starts in his sophomore season – the California Cup Derby, San Felipe, Santa Anita Derby, Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes. Chasing the Triple Crown, he finished fourth in the Belmont after getting stepped on at the start. His first Horse of the Year season ended with a third in the Breeders' Cup Classic and a Grade 1 turf win in the Hollywood Derby.

California Chrome started just twice in 2015 – finishing second in the San Antonio at Santa Anita and the Dubai World Cup – but returned with a vengeance in 2016. The 5-year-old won his first six starts, led by two wins in Dubai (including the World Cup), and Grade 1 triumphs in the

Pacific Classic and Awesome Again. He and Arrogate met in the Breeders' Cup Classic, and California Chrome settled for second (beaten a half-length while conceding four pounds to his younger rival) while 10 3/4 lengths clear of the third finisher.

Coburn sold his share of California Chrome to Taylor Made in 2015. Though Chrome was initially set to retire to stud that year, Taylor Made and Martin brought him back in 2016 and then sent him to Taylor Made's Kentucky breeding farm to stand. He stood there from 2017 to 2019 and then was sold to Japan's Arrow Stud in late 2019. He has been at Arrow

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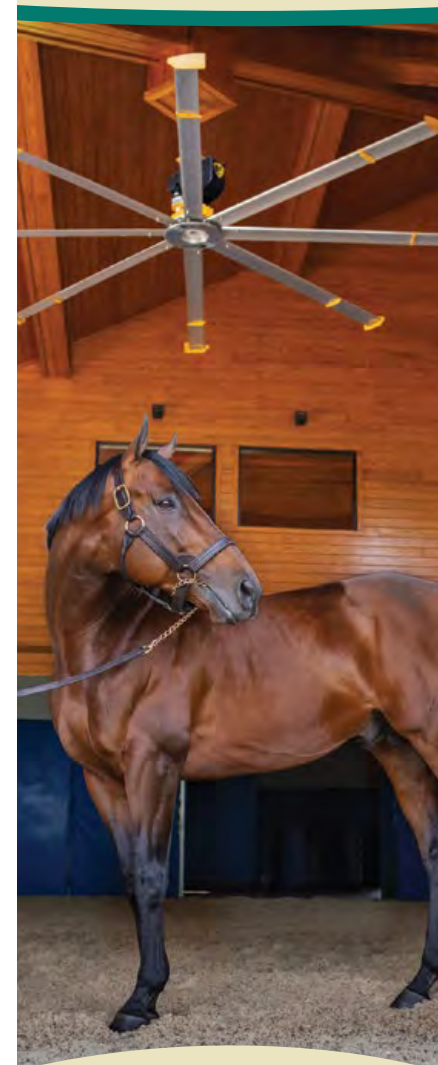
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# Hall of Fame —

■ Continued from page 51

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"He took my wife and I on an amazing journey with our friends and family," Coburn said Friday. "And for him to accomplish what he did, it's just indescribable. We were blessed to have him."

In his remarks, Coburn also acknowledged the "Chromies," devoted fans of the dual classic winner who became a big part of the horse's time on the racetrack and off. Fans from across the country traveled to Saratoga to be there for the ceremony. When asked about California Chrome's appeal to his legion of fans, Coburn said, "a big horse from small-time people. It's like, if these guys can do it, we can do it too, you know?"

## Songbird

The final equine inductee was dual champion Songbird. The daughter of Medgalia d'Oro raced from 2015-17, winning 13 of her 15 starts and

losing her other two by a nose and a neck. Bred by John Antonelli, the filly was purchased by Rick Porter's Fox Hill Farms for \$400,000 at the 2014 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga yearling sale. Racing in Porter's red and white colors, the filly made her debut at Del Mar for trainer Jerry Hollendorfer. She went undefeated in four starts at 2, capping off that 2015 season with the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies at Keeneland.

At 3, Songbird collected seven wins in eight starts, going from Santa Anita to Saratoga to Parx and winning the Santa Anita Oaks, Coaching Club American Oaks, Alabama and Cotillion.

Her signature performance may have been a loss in the 2016 Breeders' Cup Distaff at Santa Anita, where she battled fellow Hall of Famer Beholder head-to-head down the stretch to lose by a nose. At 4 in 2017, she started three times, winning the Ogden Phipps and the Delaware Handicap. She lost the Personal Ensign at Saratoga by a neck to Forever Unbridled, and came out of that race with an injury that forced her retirement. Porter entered Songbird in the 2017 Fasig-Tipton November sale, where she sold for \$9.5



Tod Marks

**New Hall of Famer Corey Nakatani says thank you.**

million to Mandy Pope. Songbird's 3-year-old daughter Magical Song (by Tapit) is training at Saratoga.

Accepting the plaque on behalf of the champion was Betsy Porter, widow of Rick Porter, and Victoria Keith, vice president of the Porters' Fox Hill Farm. Both spoke of the once-in-a-lifetime filly who gave Porter some wonderful days at his favorite place to be, the races.

"She was a sweet and loving and gentle horse," said Keith. "Songbird was an immensely talented filly."

"I'm just so sorry my husband couldn't be here because this would be the highlight of his life," Porter said afterward. "I'm glad I'm still here to be here in his place."

## Corey Nakatani

The final modern inductee was jockey Corey Nakatani, who thanked his wife and family as he reflected on his time in the saddle. Nakatani spent 30 years riding mostly in California where he competed in a colony that included Chris McCarron, Laffit Pincay Jr., Gary Stevens and Kent Desormeaux among other standouts. He retired in 2019 after an accident at Del Mar.

Nakatani won 10 Breeders' Cup races and a long list of Grade 1 races, including the Kentucky Oaks, the Santa Anita Handicap, and the Frittelle Stakes. He retired with 3,909

**Continued On Page 53**



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# Hall of Fame —

■ Continued from page 52

wins and his horses earned more than \$234 million. Among standout mounts were Lava Man, Sandpit, My Miss Aurelia, Sarafan, Thor's Echo, Itsallgreek-tome and Serena's Song.

## Fernando Toro

Fernando Toro was unable to make the cross-country trip to the Hall of Fame ceremony but will receive his plaque and jacket at a ceremony at Del Mar Aug. 19. Born in 1941, Toro started his career in his native Chile, winning races such as the Clasico St. Leger, the second jewel of the Chilean Triple Crown, in 1964, before shifting his tack to the United States in search of more opportunities. He found those in California, winning nearly every major race in Southern California over the 34 years he rode that circuit.

Riding in the ultra-competitive California circuit, Toro consistently finished in top 10 all time at tracks like Del Mar, Santa Anita, and Hollywood Park. He also branched out to ride on the East Coast and Canada, adding the Apple Blossom at Oaklawn, the Arlington Million at Arlington Park, and Seagram Cup at Woodbine to his resume. Toro retired in 1990 at age 49.

Inducted by the Historic Review Committee, he won 3,555 races in North America and his horses earned more than \$56 million. He rode the great

Royal Heroine to victory in the 1984 Breeders' Cup Mile and other stakes and partnered with Estrapade to win the 1986 Arlington Million.

## Pillars of the Turf

**John W. Hanes II** was a businessman, Navy veteran, and one-time Under Secretary of the Treasury under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He was not born into racing, but instead became involved thanks to his second wife Hope, who had owned horses since the 1930s. The rising fortunes of racing in New Jersey and Chicago prompted the New York Racing Commission to seek solutions for the declining status of the state's racing industry.

Hanes was appointed as one of the industry leaders and horsemen who helped revive New York racing in the 1950s. Together with Christopher Chenery and Harry Guggenheim, Hanes sought to revitalize the flailing New York racing scene through the closure of two racetracks, Empire City and Jamaica, consolidating racing to Aqueduct and Belmont Park, and then oversaw the remodeling of both racetracks. Hanes became the first chairman of the New York Racing Association among his many roles in the sport over five decades.

• The so-called "King of Wall Street" parlayed his fortune into his interests in the arts and racing, enabling **Leonard W. Jerome** to become a pivotal figure in the sport during the late 19th century. His financial interests brought him into contact with William R. Travers, with whom Jerome formed a partnership and shared an interest in racing. When

Travers became the first president of the newly established Saratoga Race Course, Jerome served as his vice president. Not satisfied with just being vice president of a racetrack, he moved to create his own, buying a Westchester County, N.Y. estate and building Jerome Park in 1866. He inaugurated the Belmont Stakes there in 1867.

As part of the Coney Island Jockey Club, Jerome was also instrumental in the construction of Sheepshead Bay Race Track and then Morris Park, which hosted the Belmont Stakes and the Preakness Stakes during its 14-year history. When he died in Mary 1891, Jerome was serving as president of both Morris Park and Sheepshead Bay, leaving behind a long list of contributions to racing in New York.

• **Stella Thayer** has worn many hats in her decades of involvement in Thoroughbred racing. She has been a lifelong horsewoman, past president of the Thoroughbred Racing Associations, past president of the National Museum of Racing, and co-owner and president of Tampa Bay Downs in Tampa, Fla. An attorney by trade, Thayer graduated from Columbia Law School in 1965 and is a partner in the Tampa-based law firm of Macfarlane, Ferguson and McMullen.

Throughout her time at Tampa Bay Downs, the racetrack's profile has risen thanks to visits by top horses such as Street Sense, Super Saver and Tepin. Thayer has remained dedicated to making the track among the safest in the country and building the track's reputation as a destination on the path to the Kentucky Derby.

# Saratoga Bulletin Board

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# Rock Solid

Corey Nakatani “shot in.” The 83-pounder (with his gear) attacked his 98-pound weight class opponent in the early-morning match at the Five Counties Wrestling Tournament in southern California.

Low, quick and decisive, a 14-year-old on a mission, a takedown, a pin, end it right here.

“I was mean. I didn’t go out to wrestle you. I went out to hurt you,” Nakatani said. “When you’re that big and you’re told you can’t do anything...make it happen. Make it happen.”

Straight into his opponent’s knee. His nose broke on contact and smeared across his face.

The tournament was over. And a career was born. A Hall of Fame career.

Roy Nakatani drove his son to Arcadia Methodist Hospital. Doctors straightened his nose, packed it with gauze and sent them on their way.

Straight to Santa Anita.

With nine kids at home and a job as a bus driver for the Southern California Rapid Transit District during the week, Roy Nakatani wasn’t about to squander a day off, especially when he was across the street from Santa Anita.

“My dad went to bet the horses, that’s how it all started,” Nakatani said. “It was a blessing.”

A horse and jockey walked past and Nakatani fired questions as fast as he tried to take down his opponent just hours earlier.

“Do those guys make any money doing that stuff?” Nakatani asked the first guy he could find.

It was Jack Van Berg. The Hall of Famer pointed to a jockey riding past.

“Well, that guy right there makes over a million dollars a year,” Van Berg said.

It was Hall of Fame jockey Bill Shoemaker.

“I’m talking to myself, ‘If I can’t beat that guy at anything, I’m going to quit,’” Nakatani said. “I’m a really good athlete, literally, I can do anything. I was like a monkey. And I’d do anything to make



By Sean Clancy

a buck. Pitch quarters. Climb a light pole. Go in a corner and climb a building. Anything, I said, ‘How do I do this?’ ”

Van Berg, from the oldest school, suggested going to a farm, learning about horses.

“My dad and I went up to Monty Roberts’ farm and he tells me I need to go to a place and learn how to ride,” Nakatani said. “I went to the World Jockey Association, and I learned how to groom horses and take care of them, in Cascade. I started riding the horses and working the horses and grooming the horses, you could feel the little issues that they had.”

The oval was quickly replacing the circle.

“I was working with the horses and then went back to school, and I got a D on my report card, and they wouldn’t let me wrestle,” he said. “I got in an argument with the dean and said I was out of here. I went back to riding horses.”

For 30 years, 3,990 wins and \$234 million in earnings. Friday in Saratoga, Nakatani joined the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame.

Nakatani won his first race at Agua Caliente in Tijuana in 1988 and was back at Santa Anita in January 1989. He never left. And neither did the make-it-happen attitude.

“When I rode, I was very fierce,” Nakatani said. “At the end of the day, this award you get for being

in the Hall of Fame is what I call the three D’s. Desire. Determination. Don’t take no for an answer.”

Nakatani mastered those tenets while carving a niche in the tough southern California jockey colony. Pincay. McCarron. Stevens. Delahoussaye. Desormeaux. Toro. Solis. Smith.

“I had 10 Hall of Famers in front of me,” Nakatani said. Nakatani won 10 riding titles, 10 Breeders’ Cup races, 341 stakes. He partnered Hall of Famers Lava Man and Serena’s Song and champions Itsallgreekto me, Jewel Princess, Lit de Justice, My Miss Aurelia, Shared Belief, Sweet Catomine, Thor’s Echo and Wandesta.

And still Nakatani remembers the slight for Eclipse Award-winning apprentice, the trainer who told him his career was over after losing his bug, the trainer who told him to he needed to go somewhere else, the day D. Wayne Lukas took him off Serena’s Song.

“Those are the things that make you strive that much harder. The hardships are what determines your personality, who you are and what you are,” Nakatani said. “If you’re not a go getter, you’re not someone who is going to go above and beyond to break the mold, what are we going to be left with? You’ve got to have that fire, that desire to be the best. In order to get there, you have to put in the work and dedication to be the best. That’s what I tell kids. So, they can have their dreams, love it, enjoy it, embrace it, you only get one opportunity to do it.”

Nakatani took his opportunity all the way to his last day when he broke his neck and back in a fall at Del Mar. He rode his final winner that day. He rode his final race that day. August 4, 2018.

Five years to the day, Nakatani was in Saratoga, accepting his induction into the Hall of Fame, with nothing left to prove, no score to settle.

Nakatani held up his plaque.

“This does,” Nakatani said. “The Hall of Fame does that now.”

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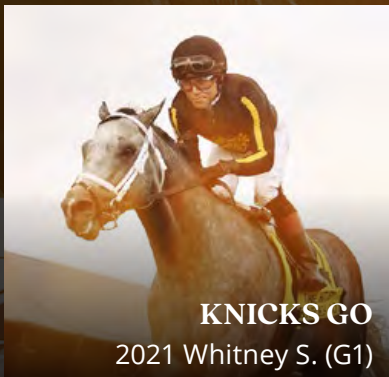
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