









# Investing in the present to raise the future.

Brown Advisory is proud to support the global equine community and its beneficiaries.



WWW.BROWNADVISORY.COM



Dom Napolitano/NYRA Photo

Turn & Burn. Eventual winner Smokin' T (second from left) charges into contention among a crowd at the top of the stretch in Saturday's Lure Stakes.

# Here&There...in Saratoga

# **Shout Outs**

To Lucca Cristiano. One of the original paperboys of The Special (although he ate more donuts than delivered papers), Cristiano heads off to RIce University this week. We're proud of you. Go conquer the world, kid.

To Barry John Foley. The steeplechase jockey, who won the A.P. Smithwick on Belfast Banter July 19, suffered multiple spinal fractures, broken ribs and a punctured lung in a schooling fall last week. Tied with Harrison Beswick at the top of the standings this year, Foley underwent surgery to fuse his T3-T9 vertebrae Aug. 3. He should make a full recovery but it's a long road. Stay strong, brother.

# **License Plate of the Day**

40DAYS, Saratoga.

# By The Numbers

**1,998:** Career wins for trainers John Servis and Joe Orseno.

**1:** Bicycle stolen (OK, maybe just taken) from The Special's office Saturday night. Older Trek, weird frame and suspension, red-ish color, Henry Street Taproom and Saratoga Special stickers on the frame. We'd love to have it back. No questions asked. Thank you.

**18,730:** Thoroughbred races in the United States this year through July, according to Equibase statistics. That's a decrease of 3.48 percent over 2022.

**\$316,169:** Average purses available per race day in the United States this year through July, via Equibase. That's a 9.53 percent increase over 2022.

# Names of the Day

Now it's our turn. A few suggestions for names that might make Names of the Day in a year or two.

**Hip 119:** Tonight's first yearling to sell is by Into Mischief out of Not In Jest. We'd try, Serious Fun for the gray filly. Or maybe, Trouble Maker (though that one's been used a few times).



**Hip 127:** The bay filly is by Not This Time out of Philanthropic. Her name could be Igaveattheoffice (no spaces to get by the character limit).

**Hip 156:** The bay colt is by Into Mischief out of Separationof-powers. Since Clarence Thomas is probably out of the question, we'd call the horse Impeached.

# 

259 East Avenue, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. 12866.

ST Publishing. 364 Fair Hill Drive, Ste. F, Elkton, Md. 21921. (410) 392-5867.

2023 publication dates: Wednesdays and Saturdays July 13-Sept 4.
Plus Opening Day July 13 & Sales Week Daily Aug. 4-9.

All editions in print and online. See thisishorseracing.com for more.

#### **Editors/Publishers/Owners:**

**Sean Clancy:** (302) 545-7713. sean@thisishorseracing.com ◆ **Joe Clancy:** (302) 545-4424. joe@thisishorseracing.com

Managing Editor: Tom Law: (859) 396-9407. tom@thisishorseracing.com

Writers: Paul Halloran, Terry Hill, Mary Rufo, Alec DiConza, Nolan Clancy. Photographers: Tod Marks, Dave Harmon, Susie Raisher. Designer: Ruthie Bowen.

Distribution, etc.: Rob Whitlock, Craig Healy. Marketing: Samantha Loud. Social Media: Melissa Bauer-Herzog.

Handicappers: Charles Bedard, Jessica Paquette, John Shapazian, Rob Whitlock.

The Saratoga Special, thisishorseracing.com, Thoroughbred Racing Calendar, The Best of The Saratoga Special, New York Thoroughbred Breeders, Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred, The Horsemen's Journal and a whole lot more.

Call us about your editorial needs.

# Here&There...in Saratoga

# **Worth Repeating**

"You look like a man who just walked out of a sweatshop."

Four Star Sales' Kerry Cauthen to The Special's Sean Clancy as he stepped out of the office Sunday evening

"Now find us a couple buyers."

ELITE's Brad Weisbord, selling three yearlings at the Saratoga Sale

"You had four years of school, now you're getting four weeks of Law."

The Special's Tom Law to Nolan Clancy

"Can't slip one past the veteran editor."

Former Special intern Ryan Jones when telling veteran editor Tom Law that he would cover Monday's card

"Be careful what you promise in April."

The Special's Tom Law as he set off to give a golf cart tour in the rain Monday morning

"This is depressing."

Blair Wyatt on a rainy Monday morning in Saratoga

"This can't be for Lent."

Reader Mark Phillips when seeing the license plate "40DAYS" on the front of a Honda after mass on Sunday

"Better than snow."

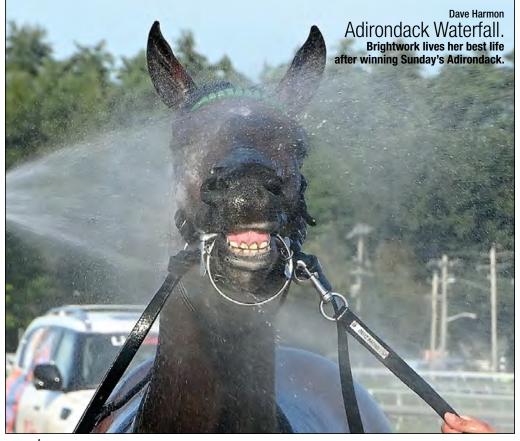
Trainer Jim Bond after training a set on Clare Court in the rain Monday morning

#### The Chief

The Special enjoyed a long, fun, fruitful relationship with Hall of Fame trainer Allen "The Chief" Jerkens. He filled notebooks, recorders and brains with wisdom, advice, quips, opinions, history, perspective and more for 15 seasons of this newspaper even if he wasn't sure what to make of us at the beginning. For years, we ran a daily quote. We'll try to bring one back — like this one about upsetting Secretariat in the 1973 Whitney, as often as we can.

"I'll never forget, when I ducked under the rail with Onion, my foot went down, it looked like the track was pretty dry, but underneath it would jiggle before it got to the bottom so I said to Vasquez, 'What do you think of the rail?' He said, 'No good,' and that's why he kept him three or four wide most of the way. He enticed him to go in there, when Turcotte decided maybe he should get out, somebody was lapped on him. It was phenomenal how Vasquez figured it, he rode him as close as you can ride someone without touching him, it was amazing, you wouldn't think you could be as big an artist. There's no room between the two horses but he's not bumping him."

- Trainer Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015



# **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"It was a little more serious work. I usually hold him together. Today, I let him stretch out a little bit. I like the way he did it today – good fractions and a good move. The best thing for him is galloping out. He reaches out longer."

Jockey Javier Castellano after Belmont Stakes

winner Arcangelo breezed Sunday morning (via NYRA press notes)

o)

BROOK LEDGE, INC.
HORSE TRANSPORTATION
800-523-8143









The all-time leading sire of Black Type winners at Saratoga is **Medaglia d'Oro**. And the all-time leading sire of G1 winners at Del Mar? That's him too. **Have a great, golden summer**. Just imagine...



# STABLE TOUR

Meet the people & horses who make Saratoga special!

SARATOGA SALE

AUGUST 7-8 • 6:30PM



# With Ian Wilkes

Always a favorite. Find Ian Wilkes training a set on the main track, usually watching somewhere near the Morning Line Kitchen, check on the possibility of a visit and head down to one of the best spots on the grounds.

Wilkes brought enough runners to a small barn at the far end of Clare Court he's called home for several summers. Quiet and out of the way, the small barn housed runners trained by the legendary John Nerud way back and Wilkes' mentor and former boss Carl Nafzger in the 1990s and 2000s. Now it's home to a collection of promising maidens, turf-marathon prospects, proven runners and a legendary pony.

Most days you'll find the great Webster, a Golden Doodle with Grade 1 ball-catching skills, lingering near the patio furniture looking for some fun.

Wilkes and his wife and assistant Tracey are hoping for some fun from their runners, a group that was supposed to include a couple bound for early graded stakes only to be derailed by injury.

"It hurts a little this year because I was supposed to be running in the Adirondack with Into Champagne, but she chipped a knee and is on the shelf," Wilkes said of the impressive Ellis Park debut maiden winner by Into Mischief. "And we were supposed to run (last) Thursday with Miss Yearwood, but she also had an injury. A couple of my better horses got hurt. But that happens and it's racing. You need to put them back together and try again."

Wilkes, based most of the year at Skylight Training Center in Goshen, Ky., and Churchill Downs, walked the shedrow, stall by stall, with The Special's Tom Law after morning training on Whitney Day to talk about the Saratoga string.

**Kekionga:** Franz Morsches' 3-year-old Speightster filly breezed 5 furlongs on the main track in 1:03 the day after the tour, inching closer to her first start since an 11th in a Gulfstream Park maiden Jan. 22.

"She's a maiden filly, half-sister to Gentle Ruler (a two-time Grade 3 stakes winner for Wilkes). I'll run her on the grass up here. She's run once, in Florida. Had a little setback, then got up here and got a temp on me which put her behind. She'll work and we'll look for a maiden on the grass."

**Elle Est Forte:** GBW Racing 5-year-old Flintshire mare has racked up \$197,694 in earnings in 16 starts. She finished fifth in a



1 3/8-mile turf allowance July 26.

"She's honest. Only won one race, but a lot of seconds. Made a lot of money. That may be her best friend. She's a mile-and-a-half mare, a mile-and-three-eighths. If I can get a race to go, she'll run. If not, we can take her to Kentucky Downs."

**No Surrender:** Unraced 3-year-old son of Hard Spun out of the unraced Bodemeister mare Triple Blessed cost \$200,000 as a yearling. He breezed 3 furlongs in :37.11 Saturday on the main track. He's splayed out in his stall during the tour.

"I brought him up here last year, didn't make a race. I had him ready to run in Kentucky, then he entrapped and missed a race. Now we're back and trying again looking to get him started. He's not the easiest to train. Just his action. Doesn't put a lot into it. Choppy action. That's the way some of them go. He's always been like that. So, it takes a lot of training. He trained hard today, galloped. Look at him, he's resting."

**Nursekringledances:** That's Amore Stable's 3-year-old Klimt filly makes a second appearance in the Stable Tour. She made her debut here late in last year's meet and finished ninth in maiden claimer July 28.

"She was here last year. Ran the other day. The thing about it, she ran last and got beat about 2 1/2 lengths. What I've found out is a mile is too far for her. She wants to be a sprinter, 5 1/2 or 6 furlongs will be her go. Hopefully we can find the right spot for her. I'd like to run her back again."

**Modern Love:** CHP Racing's 3-year-old filly by Curlin out of the Grade 3-winning Medaglia d'Oro mare Devil By Design. A winner at Tampa Bay Downs in mid-January, she finished second in allowance-optional the second day of the meet July 14.

"She ran once off the turf. I wanted to try her on the grass. Ran a good second but I'm going to run her back and I want it to be a marathon distance. I think she'll love it. Want to give her a shot at that. Her race was a mile on the dirt, ran good. Stretching out, you don't know until you try it."

**Nota Bene:** Owned by Valley Partners, 5-year-old Declaration Of War mare hasn't raced since fourth in allowance-optional at Churchill Downs May 27. She won a \$115,000 allowance here last July going 5 1/2 furlongs on the grass.

"Same with her, got up here and she got a temp on me. I missed her last race. I really wanted to run her in the Caress. I'll point for the Smart And Fancy (Aug. 25). We'll point for that. Hopefully we can get there. She's been very solid for us. Maybe we'll avoid Caravel, who is running against the boys. Good for me."

**Arella Star:** Wilkes and That's Amore Stable claimed 3-year-old daughter of Nyquist for \$35,000 out of a second July 27. Fourth in two stakes and a competitor in two other graded stakes, she's 2-for-9 with \$75,238 in earnings.

"Just got claimed the other day. She had a little bit of back

**Continued On Page 8** 



# NY-BRED

2023 Top Ten NY-Bred Money Earners Previously Sold at Yearling Auctions:

**Average Sale Price:** 

\$159,800

**Average Career Earnings:** 

\$442,097

(EQUIBASE.COM career earnings through 7/28/23)

# **BUY NOW...BE READY!**

- MORE THAN 800 RESTRICTED RACES, INCLUDING 60+ RESTRICTED STAKES
- 2YO'S RUN FOR NEARLY \$3 MILLION IN PURSES IN 16 STAKES
- NY STALLION STAKES SERIES WITH \$2.3 MILLION IN PURSES
- NYRA PURSES REACH ALL-TIME HIGHS, INCLUDING \$88,000 NY-BRED MSW RACES

# **NYRA PURSES NOW 30% HIGHER FOR NY-BREDS IN OPEN COMPANY**

PURCHASE A REGISTERED NY-BRED AT UPCOMING AUCTIONS
AND GET WITH THE \$60 MILLION PROGRAM



NYBREDS.COM<sup>5</sup>

NEW YORK THOROUGHBRED BREEDING & DEVELOPMENT FUND

Visit our website or call 518.388.0174

# GRADE 1 CCCCSS STARTS AT SARATOGA



#### **BLAZING SEVENS**

2022 Champagne S. (G1) 2nd 2023 Preakness S. (G1)

#### EXAULTED

Undefeated on Turf 2023 Shoemaker Mile S. (G1)

SARATOGA
SALE

Selected Yearlings

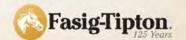
AUGUST 7-8, 2023 SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK



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

CATALOGUE NOW AVAILABLE

8



# Stable Tour —

# **■** Continued from page 6

class. For \$35,000, we thought she'd be a fun filly. We got her on a two-way shake, 50-50."

**Southampton Dock:** Fourth in a July 29 maiden, 3-year-old daughter of English Channel is winless in six tries for owners Deborah Wilson and Six Column Stable.

"Another one that came off the grass. She was in the mile-and-three-eighths but it went to a mile-and-a-quarter on the dirt. She's an English Channel, marathon distance. She's solid, always runs hard and she ran fourth. Needs to run on the turf though. She handles the dirt fine but it's not her best surface. She picked up a check, paid her way up. A little bit unlucky though with the way things have gone."

Our Dream Rye'd: A maiden winner here last summer who finished sixth in the Grade 3 With Anticipation Stakes late in the meet for owners Bourbon Lane Stable and Circle N Thoroughbreds. Three-year-old son of More Than Ready finished seventh in Churchill allowance May 14 in his most recent start.

"He won here last year. Hopefully run this week. Just recently gelded. Got him gelded and maybe that will make the difference. I'd like to run him here and then stretch him out to the marathon distance. Maybe run here and point to the Dueling Grounds Derby."

**Joe Bananas:** The star of the stable, and maybe the grounds. The stable pony and Tracey's regular morning ride, the chestnut pony with the white face chills out in his corner stall, barely moving a muscle to meet visitors in the shedrow.

"My wife takes better care of him than me. He wants a day off every once in a while. When he wants it, he closes one eye. The old eye trick. That's what he does, look at him. But if you put a carrot up, that eye becomes wide open."

**Dr Kringle:** That's Amore's 4-year-old Creative Cause gelding finished second in maiden claimer here the first Sunday of the meet. He's made five starts, with a second and a third.

"First year up here. He ran second here, a



Tod Marks

#### Trainer Ian Wilkes.

race that came off the turf. Ran good. We'll come back in the same spot. The race helped him, to get a race over the track. It's a deep, tiring track."

**Mackillop:** CHP Racing's 4-year-old Into Mischief gelding won his debut in March 2022 at Tampa Bay Downs and finished second in an allowance-optional here last summer. He finished fourth in a 5 1/2-furlong turf allowance July 27, beaten 3 1/2 lengths. He's curious with his head out of the stall, checking out late trainees on Clare Court and off in the distance at Godolphin's Greentree.

"I ran him in a race that doesn't suit him, but I wanted to use it as a work, a race to get him where I want him. I didn't want to run him because he's fresh at a mile, and he's fighting the jock in the race. I didn't want that. So, I just let him go the 5 1/2 and he finished fourth, came flying at the end. So we'll stretch him out to a mile next time and I think he'll really like that. He's a pleasure to be around. He's watching Charlie Appleby over there. He says, 'I can kick their butt.'

**Uno Mas Bourbon:** Bourbon Lane Stable's and Six Column Stable's 2-year-old by Macho Uno out of the unraced Harlan's Holiday mare Camielee cost \$75,000 last year. He's winless in two tries, including an eighth in Saturday's second race.

"He's a colt that's going to run further. The further they go the better. He made a lot of mistakes in his first race. He missed the break. He had been breaking real sharp, then he goes to the race and just balls up and misses it. I put blinkers on him just to get him a little more focused. I treated it like it was his first race."



# Time to buy a Maryland-Bred

# Don't miss your chance at Saratoga!

# Be part of the Maryland success story

Like no other state, Maryland's racing is supported by a working cooperative agreement between the racetracks, horsemen and breeders— All backed by pro-breeding and racing legislation and offers

# **Competitive purses**

15% owner bonuses in all overnight races

15% developer bonuses in all overnight races

Lucrative Md-Bred stakes program

Premier year-round racing

# Maryland-breds selling August 7 & 8

**Hip 18** 

C. Maclean's Music-Chosen Venture

**Hip 72** 

F. More Than Ready-Hurryupandcomeback

**Hip 125** 

C. Nyquist-Peach Of A Gal

**Hip 174** 

F. Gun Runner-Starr Of Quality

**Hip 190** 

F. Authentic-Tapit For Free

**Hip 201** 

Violence-Tough Irma

**Hip 206** 

C. Street Sense-Victory Rally



Learn more at MarylandThoroughbred.com

# Pair of Aces

# Quality Road colt, Curlin filly top Night 1

The rain paused and the bids flowed.

The 102nd Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Sale kicked off Monday night amidst cloudy and mostly threatening skies – which didn't open until the last yearling made her way to the back walking ring – and showed plenty of bounce on the heels of a record-breaking stand in 2022.

Fasig-Tipton reported sales on 74 of the 103 yearlings through the ring Monday for \$30,785,000, an increase of 6.4 percent from last year's \$28,930,000 for 69 yearlings sold. The session's average price was \$416,014, down less than 1 percent from the \$419,275 recorded during the opener last year. Median held firm at \$350,000.

The results gave Boyd Browning Jr., Fasig-Tipton's president and chief executive officer, reason

**Continued On Page 12** 



Tod Marks

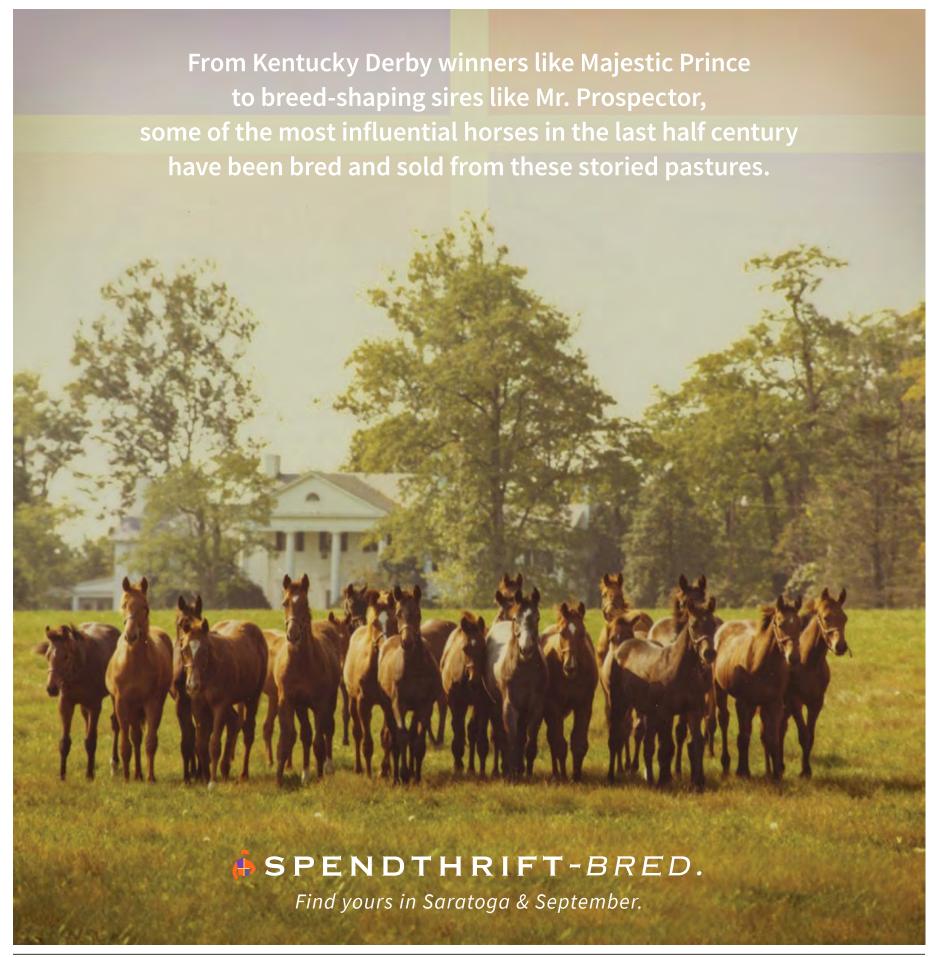
Sold by Gainesway Farm, Hip 77 showed the way Monday night at \$1.1 million.

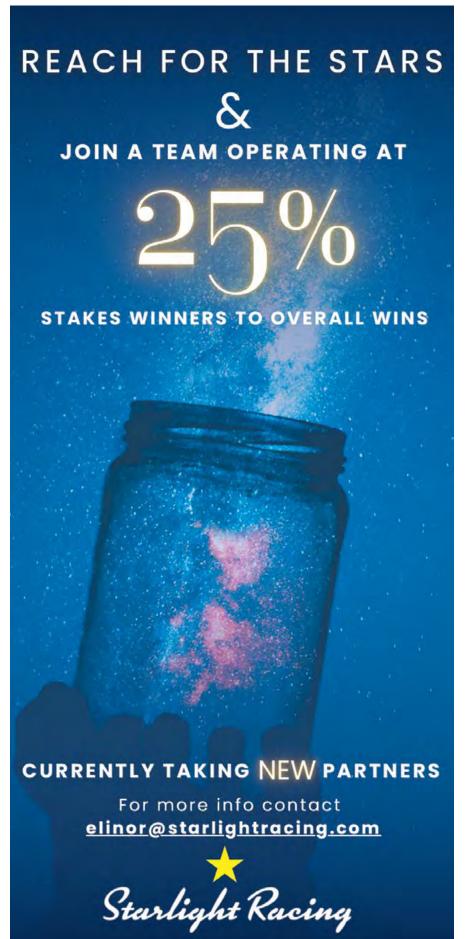


# AWARD WINNING CRAFT BEER DETROIT STYLE PIZZA COFFEE + BREAKFAST

**COME ENJOY** 

WALTANDWHITMANBREWING.COM | 20 LAKE AVE, SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY





# **Sale** —

# **■** Continued from page 10

to exhale. He wore the look of relief when he made his way to the second floor of the pavilion to debrief the press.

"Half that bear's off my back," Browning said before delivering his more official remarks.

The number of seven-figure yearlings dropped from four on opening night in 2022 to just two this year, but the number of buyers on the results sheet told the story.

"Great diversity of buyers, very, very good mix of buyers tonight and very good mix of bidders," Browning said. "Spread around tonight. They bid \$30 million tonight and that money was really spread across the board amongst a whole lot of horses. That's really good for this marketplace, for breeding stock sales and so forth.

"We're excited. Any time you start off at Saratoga you always have a little trepidation; there's a little bit of anxiety to say, 'are we going to be able to

# **Fasig-Tipton Yearling Sale**

Monday and Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Humphrey S. Finney Sales Pavilion East Avenue, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

2023 Opening Night Numbers Sold: 74. Gross: \$30,785,000. Average: \$416,014. Not Sold: 29. Median: \$350,000.

2022 Opening Night Numbers Sold: 69. Gross: \$28,930,000. Average: \$419,275. Not Sold: 17. Median: \$350,000.

sustain the market? Are we going to be able to improve on an unbelievable year in 2022, which had massive increases over 2021. Deep breath. Sense of relief tonight."

The top 11 yearlings, including a pair that sold for seven figures, went to 11 buyers or buying groups. And those 11 yearlings were sold for \$700,000 or more.

**Continued On Page 14** 



Tod Marks

Hip 103, a Justify colt consigned by Bluewater Sales, sold for \$850,000 to West Bloodstock.







Hip 118, a Constitution filly, sold for \$900,000.

Fasig-Tipton

# **Sale** —

# **■** Continued from page 12

Top honors for Night 1 went to Hip 77, a colt by Quality Road out of the Grade 3-winning Henny Hughes mare I'm A Looker, on a bid of \$1.1 million from agents Alex Elliott and Ben McElroy, bidding on behalf of Amo Racing.

The colt is the fourth foal out of I'm A Looker, who won the Grade 3 Winning Colors Stakes in 2016 at Churchill Downs and the West Virginia Secretary of State Stakes at Mountaineer the same season. She's the dam of Alpha Brooke, a 4-year-old filly by Curlin who won two of three starts for breeder Stonestreet Stables in 2022.

"They're looking for Derby horses in the states and he's got size, scope, he's by the right sire, he's got the right pedigree," Elliott said. "Obviously there were a lot of people on him to bring what he brought. We're happy to have him."

Amo Racing enjoyed success in recent years buying American-bred yearlings and racing overseas. The owner bought Valiant Force for \$100,000 last year and he won the Group 2 Norfolk Stakes at the Royal Ascot meeting.

Amo purchased King Of Steel for

\$200,000 in 2021 and he finished second in this year's Epsom Derby and won the Group 2 King Edward VI at Royal Ascot.

"They've been really lucky buying horses out of America recently," Elliott said. "This horse will go back to Ireland to be broken and then he'll come back to America. That's the program for Amo. We'll cross our fingers."

Stonestreet bred the session topper, along with her 2-year-old full-sister Eliminate who sold for \$525,000 at last year's Keeneland September sale and the 3-year-old Pioneerof The Nile ridgling who sold for \$250,000 at last year's OBS June sale. Gainesway consigned the colt for Stonestreet.

"It's always good to get a million dollars for a horse, but it's no surprise," Gainesway's Brian Graves said. "Stonestreet just keeps turning out the high-caliber, high-quality beautifully raised horses and the customers love them."

Buyers also loved the night's other seven-figure yearling – Hip 87, a daughter of Curlin who sold for \$1.05 million to David Lanigan, agent for Heider Family Stables. Bred by Scott and Evan Dilworth and out of the Grade 3-winning Justin Philip mare Lady T N T, the filly was consigned by Denali Stud, agent.

**Continued On Page 16** 

# Look for NY Bred Yearlings by Claiborne Stallions at Fasig-Tipton!



Arch - Liable, by Seeking the Gold

# HIP 435 C. o/o Stonefactor

Out of a half sister to two stakes horses.

Consigned by Turning Point Bloodstock

# HIP 565 C. o/o Crack Your Whip

Out of a half sister to Blame's **G1W** MARLEY'S FREEDOM.

Consigned by Summerfield (Francis & Barbara Vanlangendonck)



War Front - Visions of Clarity (IRE), by Sadler's Wells

# HIP 318 C. o/o Maid On A Mission

**UPDATE:** half brother was runner-up in 2YO debut at Saratoga.

Consigned by Straight Line Equine Sales

# HIP 414 C. o/o Sheboygan

Half sister was stakes-placed and producer of two stakes horses. Family of **G2Ws** PRIVATE EMBLEM, GANTRY, CENTRAL BANKER, CROSS BORDER. **UPDATE:** His 3yo half-sister is now a winner. Consigned by Paramount Sales

# HIP 504 F. o/o Annie Go Lightly

Out of a half sister to a G3W. Family of OUT OF PLACE (G1P/Sire), & G1Ws GOLD FEVER, BOISTEROUS, BELLAMY ROAD.

Consigned by Sequel New York

# **EB** CATHOLIC BOY

More Than Ready - Song of Bernadette, by Bernardini

# HIP 402 F. o/o Salonsun (GER)

Half-brother is graded stakes-placed. Dam is full or half to six stakes winners and/or stakes producers.

Consigned by Denali Stud, agent for Edition Farm

# HIP 423 F. o/o Smoke Signals

Dam is a graded Stakes-placed, stakes producer. 2nd dam is **G1**-placed and half to **G2W/MG1P** EMOTIONAL KITTEN.

Consigned by Eaton Sales, agent for Longford Farm

# HIP 514 F. o/o Bajan Beach

Family of PIRATE'S REVENGE (G1W), TIDAL POOL (G1P),
SWEET LIFE (G1P & Broodmare of the Year), SWEET
CATOMINE (Champion Filly), LIFE IS SWEET (BC champion), etc.

Consigned by Hunter Valley Farm

Selling Aug. 13-14 at Fasig-Tipton NY



ClaiborneFarm.com 859-987-2330 (Bernie Sams)

Hip 24, from the Indian Creek consignment, sold for \$750,000 to Live Oak Plantation.

# **Sale** —

**Tod Marks** 

# ■ Continued from page 14

Scott Dilworth said he had an over-under bet going with Evan, and "lost, with pleasure" on how much the chestnut filly would bring.

"She's class, class, class," Dilworth said.
"Her momma is a beautiful mare who had a super amount of speed. We're hoping this filly will carry that speed on. Being bred to Curlin, when I bred her the first time I said we're going to the best. Nothing is better than a Curlin filly."

Lanigan said the filly would go to Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen, who trained Curlin to a pair of Horse of the Year titles and also trains the leading Curlin mare Clairiere.

"We thought she was the nicest filly in the sale," Lanigan said. "We picked out three for Scott to look at, and Steve had a look at this filly and thought this filly was the nicest filly in the whole sale, which I'd agree with. She showed herself really well through the whole week. Great big wide chest and great big back end on her. Hopefully she's lucky."

Denali Stud's Conrad Bandoroff said the filly, the first foal out of the Grade 3 Charles Town Oaks winner, was the most popular

**Continued On Page 18** 



# Celebrating Celebrating Of Equine Excellence

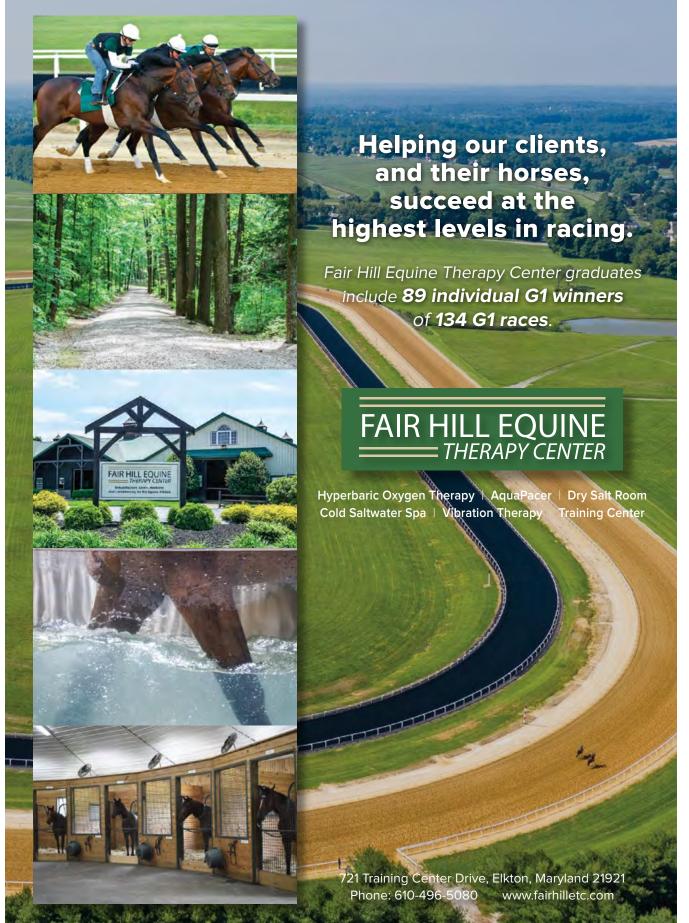
# **NEW YORK-BREDS**

Selling at Fasig-Tipton Saratoga August 13-14, Barn 7C

- 313 STREET SENSE-LIZA LU. F
- 319 MCKINZIE-MAJESTIQUE, C
- 325 INSTAGRAND-MARSHTINI, F
- 337 OUTWORK-MISS BODINE, F
- 375 SOLOMINI-PICTURE DAY, C
- 448 ECHO TOWN-TALL TIMBERCOWGIRL, F
- 454 GHOSTZAPPER-THE GREAT JOHANNA, C
- 458 MITOLE-TIZJET, F
- 483 SOLOMINI-VIVACITAS, C
- 493 CENTRAL BANKER-YOUMAKEMEBLUSH, F
- 495 TIZ THE LAW-ADRIATIC DREAM, C
- 517 MO TOWN-BARREL OF JOY, F
- 546 MITOLE-CATALINA ISLAND, C
- 571 SOLOMINI-DANCING ONTHEMOON, C
- 609 SOLOMINI-FLASH ACT, C
- 639 AUDIBLE-HEAVEN'S HUMOR, F
- 651 GLOBAL CAMPAIGN-IT'S TIMELESS, F



McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds, LLC 180 Fitch Rd Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 Ph: 518-587-3426 | F: 518-587-4393 | www.mcmahonthoroughbreds.com Inquiries to: john@mcmahonthoroughbreds.com | John 518-376-2924 or Jane 518-693-2218 McMAHON of Saratoga THOROUGHBRES



18

# **Sale** —

#### **■** Continued from page 16

horse in the barn this past weekend and Monday.

"She had a lot of interest from some of the best judges in the world," Bandoroff said. "She came up here and just showed herself like a queen.

"It was a terrific result for a first foal and a homebred for Scott and Evan Dilworth, raised at their farm in Midway, Ky. Couldn't be more thrilled for them. She came up here, and under the bright lights she knew it was her time to shine. She took it all in stride. She was a queen up here. Never turned a hair."

The two seven-figure yearlings were down from four on opening night last year. Overall, 14 yearlings landed bids of \$1 million or more in 2022.

The session nearly saw another seven-figure sale with the final yearling through the ring, Hip 118, a filly by Constitution who commanded a \$900,000 bid from bloodstock agent Mick Wallace bidding behind the pavilion on behalf of Rocket Ship Racing and Kuldeep Singh Rajput's Gandharvi Racing.

Bred by Newstead Corp., and consigned by Hunter Valley Farm, the filly is out of the stakes-placed Borrego mare Nina Fever.

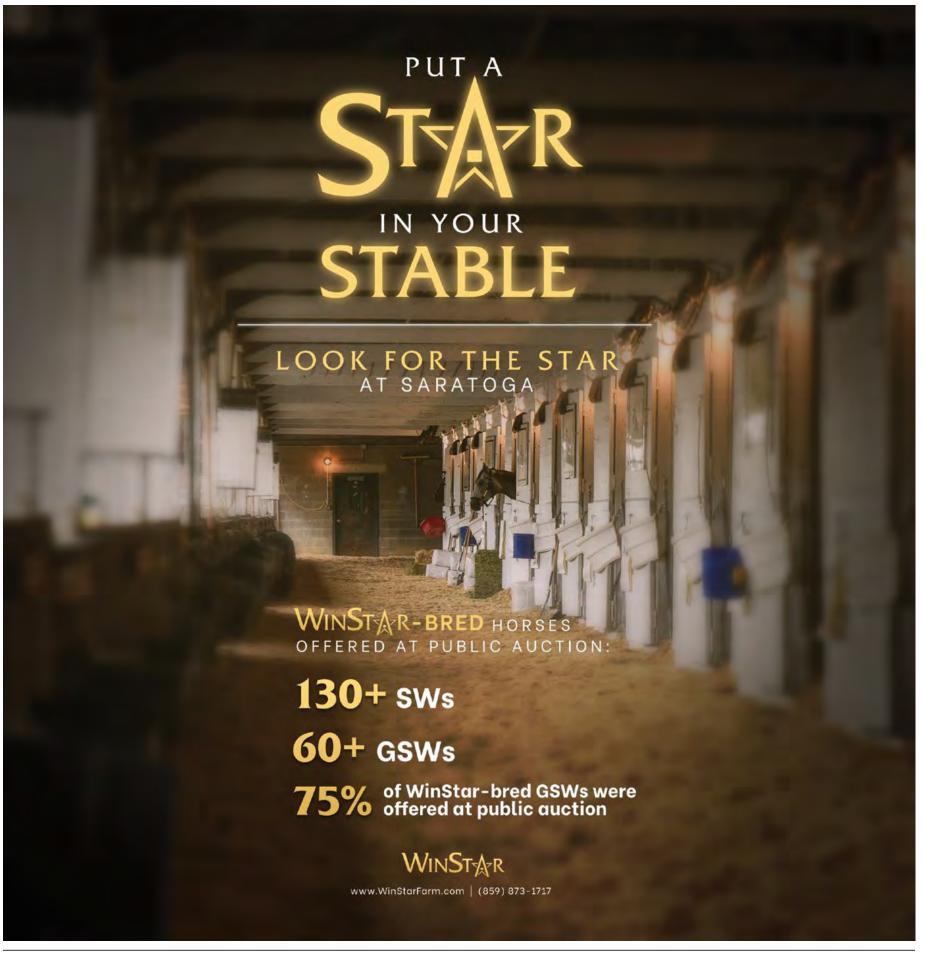
A half-sister to Grade 1 winner Nickname and stakes-placed winner Hey Mike, the filly is also a half-sister to Citational, a daughter of Into Mischief who sold last year for \$1.35 million at the Keeneland September yearling sale.

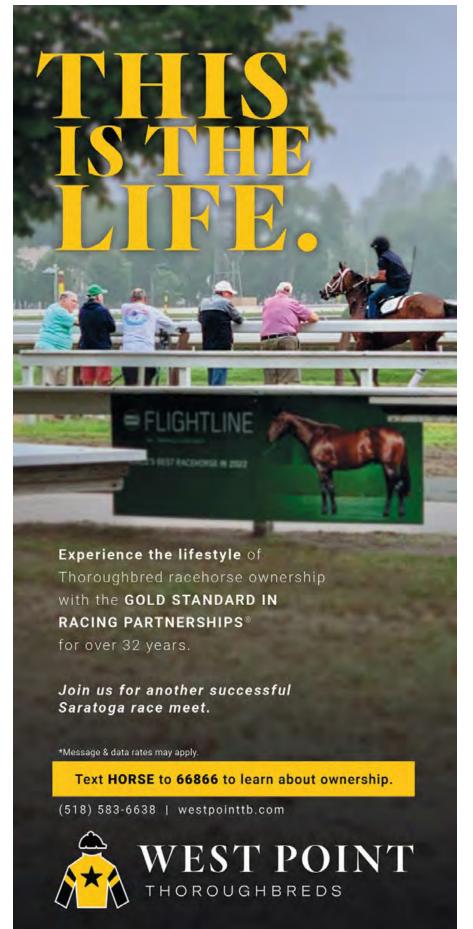
The final yearling through the ring already featured pretty strong ties to Fasig-Tipton, with her dam selling in foal to Constitution for \$500,000 at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky November mixed sale. The \$900,000 filly was born the following May.

"It's nice when the last horse in the ring brings \$900,000," Browning said. "It shows you that the people stayed throughout the sale. We're also very grateful to the National Weather Service. It looked like most of the day was going to be awful. The weather was not terrible tonight. It doesn't really affect the sale but it kind of affects the overall mood. And at least my suit is dry."

The opening session picked up speed as the night went on. It started solid if

**Continued On Page 20** 





# Sale —

# **■** Continued from page 18

not spectacular, with 29 of the first 42 yearlings through the ring selling for an average of \$350,517.

Things picked up when Hip 56, a chestnut colt from the first crop of 2020 Kentucky Derby and Breeders' Cup Classic winner and Horse of the Year Authentic strolled into the ring.

Bidding for the third foal out of the Grade 3-placed Quality Road mare Golden Domer rose fast to \$500,000 and continued at \$50,000 increments until Tom Ryan and Donato Lanni, bidding for SF Racing, Starlight Racing and Madaket Stable from the second floor of the sales pavilion not far from the buyers' balcony, stayed strong. They landed the colt for the night's fourth most expensive price and second highest for a colt on a final bid of \$875,000.

Four Star Sales sold the colt for breeder Spendthrift Farm, which cataloged eight yearlings to the Saratoga sale through various consignors. Spendthrift sent the yearlings to Saratoga because they fit the select nature of the sale more than most years.

Spendthrift's Ned Toffey said the decision to sell that many yearlings was part of a plan to "continue to operate as a business" and with a lot of potential top horses in the program "it was best in the long run to offer

these horses for sale."

Four Star's Kerry Cauthen was more than pleased to bring the colt to Saratoga and sell for a price significantly higher than he thought walking onto the sales grounds Monday night.

"That was a very strong number," he said. "You're always a little bit barn blind. You have your own horses, you fall in love with one, but you don't know what everybody else has. You don't have time to go see everything. But several people had said this was the best Authentic in the sale, physically, and that he was going to be expensive.

"This horse just walked and walked. Spendthrift does such a straight-up job. The reserve was like, sub-\$350,000, a very honest reserve. I did see the horse moving on to the \$500,000 range. That's what you get when you bring one like that. You bring one to Saratoga hoping for a battle like that."

Browning and Fasig-Tipton will ake it.

"Great first night," Browning said.
"I'll never get too carried away because it's halftime. We've seen some
very good second-half performances
by teams in the sporting world and
we've seen not so good performances
in second halves, but I feel confident
we'll have a strong second half. Very
positive and very upbeat after the first
night."

Additional reporting by Nolan Clancy



Fasig-Tipton

Hip 56, an Authentic colt from Four Star Sales, sold for \$875,000.

# Rocket (RAC) NG Ship

The future of ownership is coming www.rocketshipracing.com

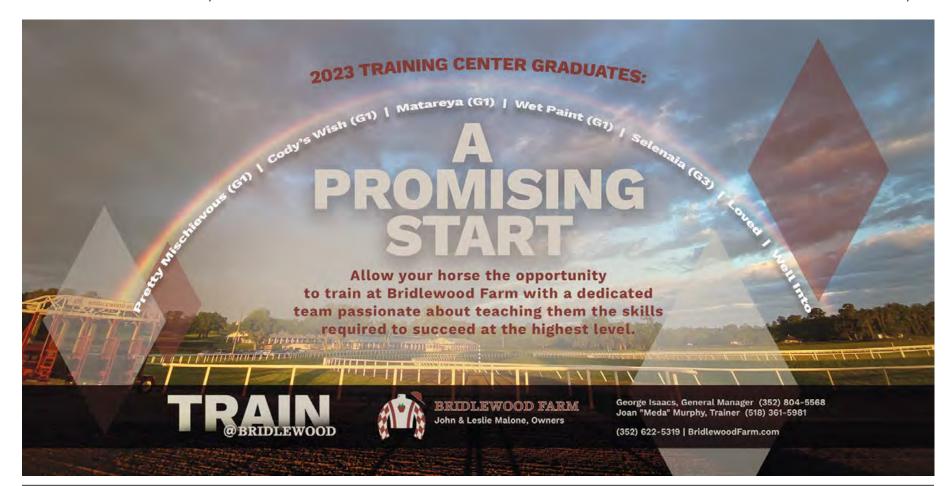






# **Monday's Top Sellers**

Hip	Pedigree	Seller	Buyer	Price
77	QUALITY ROAD-I'M A LOOKER, C	GAINESWAY AGENT FOR STONESTREET BRED & RAISED	ELLÍOTT/MCELROY, AGENT FOR AMO RACING	
87	CURLIN-LADY T N T, F	DENALI STUD AGENT II	DAVID LANIGAN, AGT	1,050,000
			FOR CINDY HEIDER (HEIDER FAMILY STABLES)	
118	CONSTITUTION-NINA FEVER, F	HUNTER VALLEY FARM AGENT	MICK WALLACE FOR ROCKET SHIP RACING/GANDHARVI	900,000
56	AUTHENTIC-GOLDEN DOMER, C	Four Star Sales agent for spendthrift farm	DONATO LANNI, AGENT FOR SF/STARLIGHT/MADAKET	875,000
106	INTO MISCHIEF-MEAL TICKET, C	MULHOLLAND SPRINGS AGENT I	BC STABLES	850,000
103	JUSTIFY-MARKETPLACE, C	BLUEWATER SALES LLC AGENT	WEST BLDSTK, AGT FOR ROBERT & LAWANA LOW	850,000
33	GUN RUNNER-DIVINE DAWN, F	GAINESWAY AGENT VIII	LAUREN CARLISLE, AGT	850,000
110	CURLIN-MOPOTISM, C	DENALI STUD AGENT V	ECLIPSE THOROUGHBRED PARTNERS	825,000
57	MUNNINGS-GOLD MEDAL DANCER, F	BEDOUIN BLOODSTOCK AGENT II	TOM MCCROCKLIN, AGENT FOR CHAMPION EQUINE	775,000
24	OMAHA BEACH-COMPLICATED, F	INDIAN CREEK AGENT	LIVE OAK PLANTATION	750,000



# **US TURF SUCCESS: MADE IN IRELAND**





**OCEAN ROAD (IRE)** G1 Gamely Stakes winner



**NATIONS PRIDE (IRE)** G1 Saratoga Derby winner







**GOLD PHOENIX (IRE)** G1 Frank E Kilroe Mile Stakes winner



ASPEN GROVE (IRE) G2 Belmont Oaks winner



G2 Sheepshead BayStakes winner

# Find your Irish Champion at the Irish yearling sales 2023:

COMPANY	SALE	DATES
TATTERSALLS IRELAND	September Yearling Sale	19-21 September
GOFFS	Orby Sale Book One	26-27 September
GOFFS	Orby Sale Book Two	28-29 September



Irish horses continue to prove themselves on US soil and the Irish yearling sales 2023 present major opportunities for US buyers. Myself and the ITM are here to help with flights, hotels, transfers, travel incentives, and more. See you in Ireland soon!

Charles O'Neill, CEO Irish Thoroughbred Marketing | coneill@itm.ie | +353 (0)87 253 5253





IRELAND: Home of the thoroughbred info@itm.ie|www.itm.ie









# Alphabet Soup

# Hip number process produces order from chaos at the sale

# **BY NOLAN CLANCY**

Hip numbers are organized at each Fasig-Tipton sale in alphabetical order based on broodmare's name. Before the sale, a random drawing of a letter in the alphabet picks the starting point.

The 102nd Fasig-Tipton Selected Yearling sale kicked off with the Bs last night with Hip 1: a dark bay or brown filly out of The Brazilian-bred mare Baby Go Far by Gun Runner. Consigned by Taylor Made, she brought \$375,000 on a bid by Fergus Galvin. The first night of the auction proceeded through 12 Bs, 14 Cs and eight Ds all the way to Hip 118, a filly out of Nina Fever. Opening Night's final horse through the ring brought \$900,000.

The only yearling that seems to be batting out of order is Hip 165, the needs-no-introduction chestnut son of two-time champion Curlin and four-time champion Beholder. The reshuffling, in this case, seems justified.

FASIG-TIPTON

In a sales pavilion where money talks, the order of the horses through the ring matters to

the consignors who fill the sales barns with some of the highest quality yearlings in the world.

"Everybody bitched about hip numbers. I mean nobody wanted to be the first three or the last three," said Terence Collier, the retired voice

**Continued On Page 26** 



Fasig-Tipton Photo

The sales, organized by broodmare name, extend through tonight.





Saturday, August 26



# SARATOGA SAVE \$5 ON TICKETS

**GENERAL ADMISSION:** \$25 Advance Purchase | \$30 Day of Event

Tickets On Sale at NYRA.com/Travers



#### IN THE FIRST FOUR BBN CROPS

18 UNIQUE WINNERS **12** STAKES WINS **5** GRADED STAKES WINS

**6** UNIQUE STAKES WINNERS 2 BREEDERS' CUP RUNNERS 1 KENTUCKY DERBY RUNNER

**22%** STAKES WINNERS

For more information contact: BRAXTON LYNCH at 859.351.7034

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY WWW.BBNRACING.COM BBNRACINGTEAM@GMAIL.COM







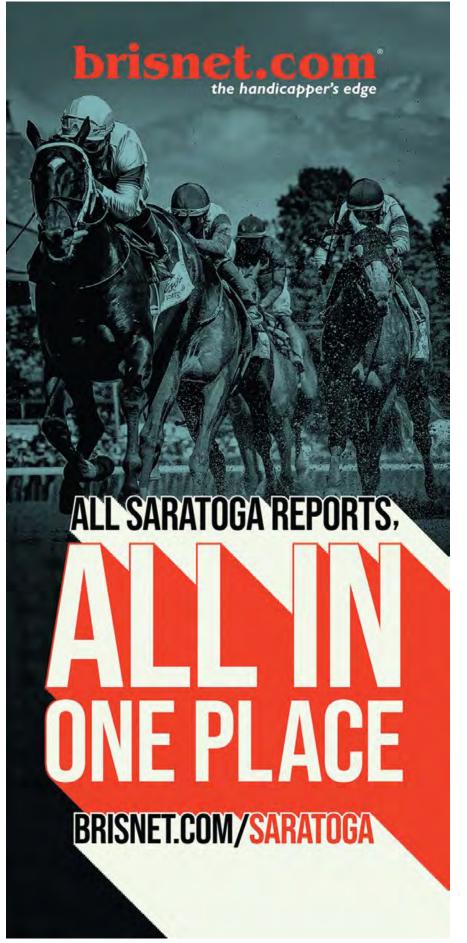
# **BBN VI**

RACING PARTNERSHIP

MINIMIZE THE RISK. **MAXIMIZE THE EXPERIENCE.** 

# **OUR** MISSION

ur mission for BBN VI stays the same of providing a world class racing experience with a single one time investment without capital calls/ bills. As with BBN I, II, III, IV, & V you are participating in a stable of 6 to 8 horses which allows for diversification and more opportunities to find that special horse.



# Numbers —

# **■** Continued from page 24

of Fasig-Tipton for 43 years.

Shortly after the late John Hettinger and his family became the largest shareholders of Fasig-Tipton in 1991, Collier recalled Hettinger being assigned a few early hip numbers at the 1992 Saratoga New York-bred sale.

"Look at this, the owner of the company gets [early hip numbers]. How much fairer can it be than that?" Collier said.

All four yearlings – ultimately named Basic Changes, Direct Satellite, Total Recovery and Personaltestimony – sold. Personaltestimony went on to win 10 races.

Horses out of 'A' mares will be the last yearlings to hit the ring this year, presenting its own set of pros and cons for consignors.

"By that time, I think there's more urgency for those that haven't gotten a horse bought," said Fasig-Tipton's Max Hodge. "If it's a strong sale and those buyers have been pushed back, pushed back, pushed back and that horse is still on a list, and if they want a horse they have to dig a little deeper to secure one of those last few."

One of those last few this year is Hip 233, an Ontario-bred filly by Medaglia d'Oro brought to the sale by Cara Bloodstock.

"I wouldn't worry about any post position other than maybe the first 10 hips can be a little bit of a negative to warm the sale up, but the sale-topper can come from anywhere," said Bernard McCormack of Cara Bloodstock.

Hip 233 is out of Ausus, winner of the 2013 Grade 3 Modesty Handicap at Arlington Park for Shadwell Stable and Danny Peitz. The Invasor mare finished third in the 2013 Beverly D. Stakes, and McCormack thinks two-turn turf races could be in this filly's wheelhouse.

One of only eight Ontario-breds at the sale, McCormack thinks the tag can be a positive, especially considering the Canadian Triple Crown for 3-year-old males and Triple Tiara for 3-year-old fillies, both restricted to Canadian-bred horses.

"If they're Canadian-breds that compare with New York, Kentucky-breds, whatever, you might get a little bit more consideration being a Canadian-bred because they don't have to win the Kentucky Derby to run for a million-dollar race." Mc-Cormack said. "There's an advantage in that."

Cara Bloodstock brought four yearlings, all Ontario-bred, to the select sale. Hip 31 failed to sell and Hip 55 brought \$400,000 the first night.

Following Hip 233 late into Tuesday night is a filly by McKinzie consigned by Bluegrass Thoroughbred Services.

Hip 234 was bred in Kentucky by Marylander Caroline Stautberg's Willow Oaks Farm. The bay filly's dam, Awesome Marchesa, has produced two horses that made the races – both winners – and a 2022 Saratoga yearling also sold by Willow Oaks and Bluegrass.

"I sold a horse out of this mare last year to Mike McCarthy. Call Sign Seven," said John Stuart of Bluegrass Thoroughbred. "Bought him out of the back ring because it reminded him of the best horse he ever trained, and that horse is training really well out at Del Mar."

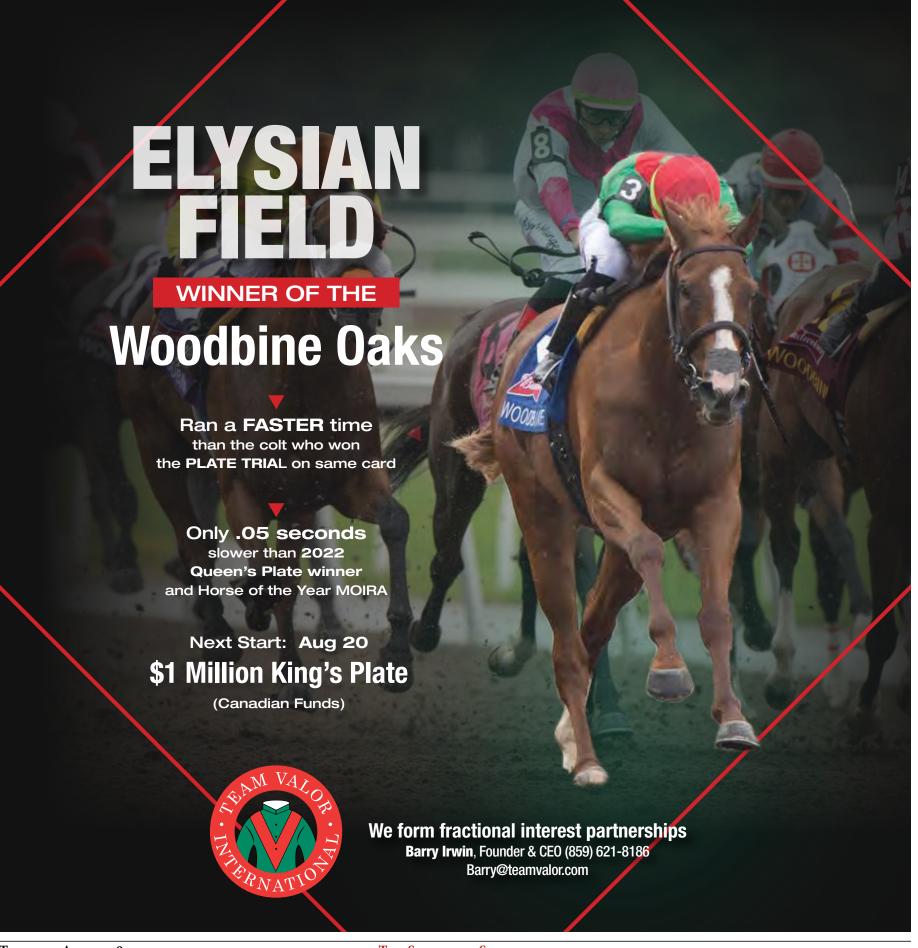
A Speightstown colt, Call Sign Seven sold for \$315,000 to McCarthy and Cannon Thoroughbreds at this sale last year, and has yet to debut at the races.

Bluegrass brings six yearlings to Saratoga this year.

"We're worried to death that we've got people that I think are going to buy the first five, but when you're next to last in the sale and everybody's getting sleepy and there'll be about six people in there," Stuart said. "I'm frightened to death that she's going to be the bargain of the sale. Bargain of the sale because she's selling so late."

Meanwhile, Hip 234 was doing her part to actually be somebody's bargain – staying busy with showings for prospective buyers (who have plenty of time). In addition to Call Sign Seven, she's also a half-sister to Awesome Man, a recent Laurel Park allowance winner for trainer Todd Wyatt.

The ultimate anchor leg of the select sale is Hip 235, a dark bay or brown colt by Improbable out of Azalea Belle consigned by Warrendale Sales. Azalea Belle was unraced, but has produced four winners led by the graded-stakes placed Aurelia Garland (a \$185,000 Saratoga sales graduate in 2018).



# Wayne's World

# The fast life with Dash For Cash, Landaluce and others in stacked barn

As promised...stories with D. Wayne Lukas.

The Special's Sean Clancy sat down with the Hall of Fame trainer last week for a Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour. The tour began with Lukas' Saratoga string this summer (see Friday's edition) before rolling all the way back when Lukas was training Quarter Horses. Enjoy.

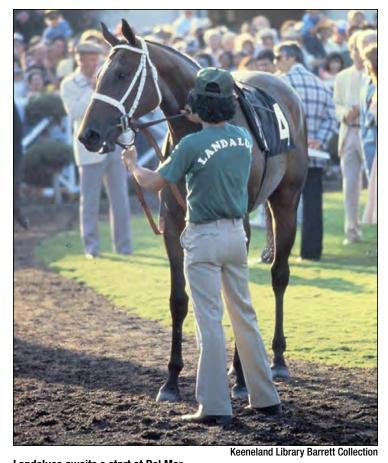
# Who was the fastest horse you trained?

"The fastest horse was Dash For Cash. The Quarter Horse. He would have won the Hopeful, anything up to a mile. He was out of a straight Thoroughbred mare. He stood 16.2 maybe. He wasn't a chunk, wasn't muscled up. He looked like a good-looking Thoroughbred. If I led him out here and you looked at him and anything in the barn, you'd say, 'Boy, I like that chestnut horse.' He had a beautiful mind, a great mind.

"He was a good 2-year-old. Bubba Cascio had him as a 2-year-old and they shipped him to me when he was turning 3 at Los Alamitos (in 1976). He was the only horse I've ever trained that I could say I never thought he would get beat. I'd drop him in the entry box, and I'd just tell the guys, 'Buckle your seatbelts because you're in trouble here.' He was something else.

"At Los Alamitos the one hole became the kiss of death. They couldn't win from the one hole. Everybody had all kinds of theories, the tractor didn't run over it, the harrow was wider and everything else. In the Champion of Champions, where the 10 best horses in the world are invited. They draw the race and right out of the box, Dash For Cash, num-

**Continued On Page 29** 



Landaluce awaits a start at Del Mar.



#### ■ Continued from page 28

ber one. They started clapping and whooping and hollering. They said, 'We've got his ass now.' The gate opens, he broke and set a new world's record for 440 yards. If you see the picture, he wins by 3 1/2, 4 lengths. He went right down the one hole like he owned it.

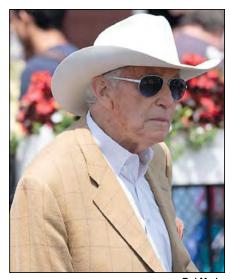
"He was really a good horse. Unbelievable to train, quiet, easy to saddle, good gate horse, obviously. If I took him over to Hollywood Park, any five-eighths race, six-furlong race, I would have bet on him. They couldn't beat him. There was talk of matching him and the owners didn't want to do it. He was one of a kind. He changed the breeding. Unreal."

# The fastest Thoroughbred?

"I'd say Landaluce (1982 champion 2-year-old filly) was the fastest Thoroughbred. Angel Cordero and I flew into L.A. from a stake in New York. I told Cordero, 'I've got a filly that I'm really high on and I'm going to work her. I think she's really special. I'll hold her until 8 or 9 o'clock.' We check into the hotel; he comes around about 8 o'clock. I said, 'Now, look, I know you think you're God's gift to the racing world, but be careful here. This is her first half-mile. I don't want her to go too fast. Don't be shaking the trees.'

"He said, 'I got it. I got it. How fast?' I said, 'Hit it around :48 to :49. I'll give you a little leeway.' He warms her up, turns her and breezes her a half-mile. I pick him up with the pony, she's not even taking a deep breath. I said, 'How fast did you go?' He said, 'Hmmmm. Maybe, I might have shaded :49, might have been around :48 and change.' I said, 'It looked faster than that to me.' We go by the clocker's tower there and I said, 'What'd this filly go in?' They say, ':44 and 3.' I said, 'Whoa.' It was unreal the way she could do things.

"That Lassie race of hers is still one of the more spectacular races. All those horses come off the turn, there's four stakes winners across the track at the quarter pole and all of a sudden she's 21 lengths in front. They all run down there to the scales and Laffit comes back. They said, 'Laffit, Laffit,



Hall of Famer D. Wayne Lukas is still winning races at Saratoga.

what did you think of that?' He looks out at the toteboard and says, 'I think the clock malfunctioned.' He couldn't believe it.

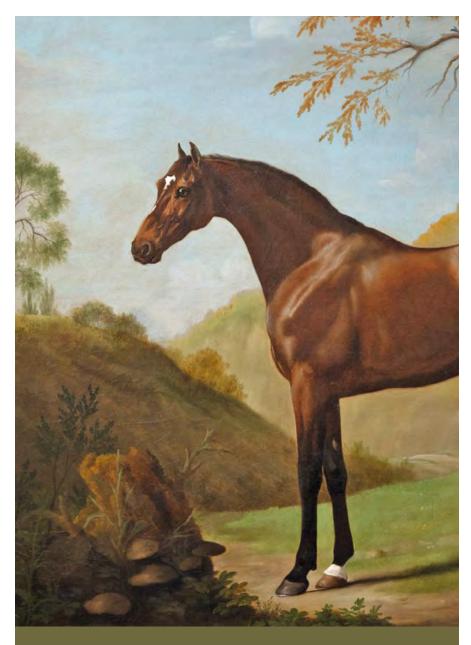
"To lose her was something else. She got a blood disorder that attacks the vital organs. She lasted five days. After winning every race. She was on the NBC Nightly News when she died. She caught the imagination of the people. She was just one of those that everybody was like, 'Wow, wait until you see this.' That kind of horse.

"I had a little trouble with it. I vowed not to get too caught up with it. She died right in my lap, right in my arms. The barn suffered. We were leading the standings at Santa Anita, we went into a slump. It took a while for everybody to get back after losing her. Her groom had a nervous breakdown. We found him two or three mornings, he was in her stall, just in the corner, sobbing. We tried to get him some help and he just quit and went back to Mexico. It really affected him. We got everybody up and got going again, I think we won the national title that year. That was a shock. To lose her. That quick. She was buried in the infield in Hollywood. When they disbanded Hollywood, Spendthrift moved the casket to the farm and reburied her there. Her ashes were in a small casket."

# What was your best training performance?

"I can tell you the worst one a lot quicker. The worst one was Capote. I

**Continued On Page 30** 



# RED FOX FINE ART

SPORTING PAINTINGS & SCULPTURE MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

> - Contact www.RedFoxFineArt.com 540-687-5780

- Gallery -1 North Madison Street, Middleburg, Virginia 20117

Above: George Stubbs (British, 1724-1806) A Dark Bay Horse belonging to the Duke of Marlborough, c. 1764 (detail)

# **■** Continued from page 29

misread him terribly. He was 2-year-old champion, beat everybody in the Breeders' Cup. He got really sick over the winter. By spring, his hair coat started to look good, he started feeling good. I said, 'Hell, he's 2-year-old champion, he's going to be a Derby horse.' He had no stamina and I misread him all the way. I did a really poor job with him. I made him 2-year-old champion, but I really didn't do a good job with him."

### OK, how about the best?

"Maybe the best I did was Tabasco Cat. Believe it or not, the one who ran over Jeff. Here's a horse that cost my son longevity and a great life. Yet, he got a little ratty in the gate in the (1994) Derby and finished sixth, wins the Preakness and wins the Belmont.

"In light of the way he was, the way he acted, how high strung he was, that might have been our best job right there to get him there. We almost had the Hollywood ending.

He injures my son and then wins the Triple Crown. It wasn't meant to be. Mack Miller at the time, the Hall of Famer, wrote me a letter and said I watched you train him at Belmont and it's probably the best training job I've ever seen on a horse that's that high-strung.

"I put him in the round pen the day of the race or I couldn't hardly saddle him. He would jump and flop down on his side, roll over and slide. Everybody would watch and say, 'Oh my God, he's going to kill himself.' We'd let him do that for 40 minutes, hose him off, put the bridle on him and take him to the races. He had to get that all out of his system in order to run a good race. It was a sight. He would jump in the air and flop on his side, you'd think he'd break every rib in his body.

"It was for Overbrook. My dearest friend. Bill Young. To win two legs for him. That one set the barn back, too. The help were extremely happy with Jeff. The barn got bitter. The grooms got bitter about it, 'This son of a bitch hurt our boss.' So, I had a meeting and called them all together.

**Continued On Page 31** 



Photo courtesy Rick Samuels

Lukas grazes Capote, subject of what he called his "worst" training job.

Join The Readers Club thisishorseracing.com/readersclub



# **■** Continued from page 30

I said, 'We are going to do it the other way. We are going to make this horse the best horse we can. We are going to pull together and make him the best horse, not the worst horse.' At that point, Jeff was still in a coma. We did get close. Pretty close.

"Pat Day was riding him. That in itself was something. He was a perfect fit. Nobody was more laid back than Pat. And he had to be. That's for sure. Tabasco Cat didn't even know he was on him."

# What others do you consider the best training jobs?

"Charismatic would come close to the best training job. I couldn't get him to break :50 as a 2-year-old (1998). Bob Lewis told me to run him for 25 [thousand]. I ran him for 62.5 and he won. Then I rolled through with winners for 62.5 again. When he won that, I was going down the steps with Jeff and I said, 'You better hope nobody claimed this horse because he's a little bit different.'

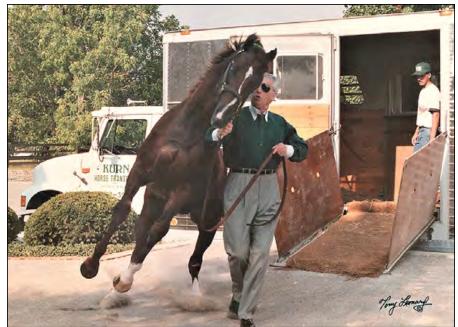
"Big grand-looking chestnut horse. I thought he was a dead plodder. He just started coming around. I ran him in the El Camino Real Derby at Bay Meadows and he was second. Then

we ran him in the Santa Anita Derby and he was fourth. I told Bob Lewis that he was a Derby horse. He said, 'Wayne, don't start drinking your bathwater.'

"We decided I'd run him in the Lexington because he had no points. I got Jerry Bailey to ride him. He won pretty impressive. The next morning, I was in my office at Churchill and Jerry came in and he said, 'Wayne, I really like that horse I rode yesterday.' If he hadn't taken the cash to ride Wordly Manner, he said he would have liked to ride my horse. I got pretty pumped up. About an hour later, Pat Day is standing outside my barn and I go to my car, he goes like this, he motions to me. He said, 'That big, red horse went by us so easy, so fast, I think you've got a chance in the Derby.' We started getting pumped up.

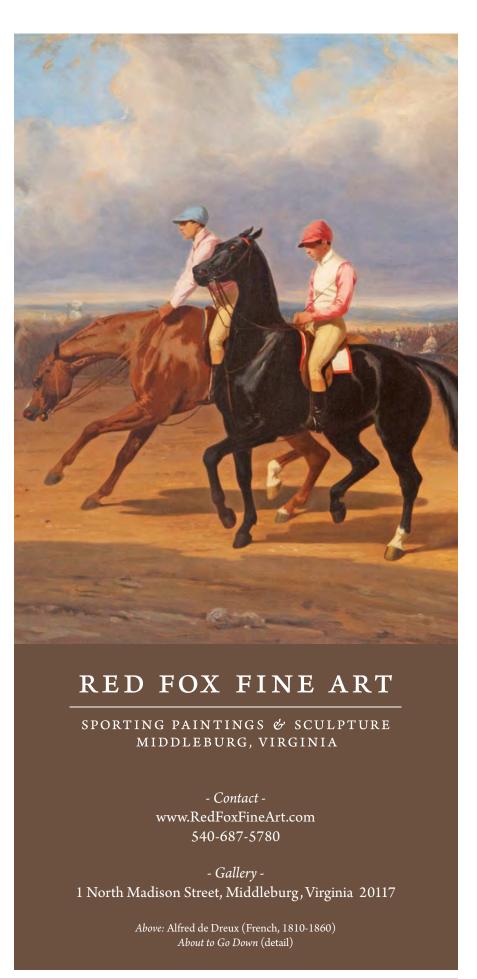
"Bo Schembechler, the Michigan coach, we went over late and we're on the way into valet parking and I said, 'I think we could win this thing today, Bo. We're a little tougher than they think.' He said, 'Yeah, you're 5-2.' I said, 'No, that's Cat Thief, I'm talking about the other horse.' He said, 'You're 35-1.' I said, 'I know it, out of the two horses, I think Charismatic is the better horse.' Sure enough, he was the best horse. Cat Thief ran third in there."

**Continued On Page 32** 



Tony Leonard Collection

Lukas leads Tabasco Cat off the van.



# **■** Continued from page 31

# Who was the biggest overachiever?

"Maybe Serena's Song. She was so consistent and so solid every time. I bought her in the sale for 150 and I turned to Bob Lewis and said 'This will be your first stakes winner.' We were buying horses for the first time. She was tremendous. She won a lot of money, she was worth a lot of money and she produced 20-some million dollars' worth of foals. She was a little ATM machine.

"The interesting thing there. Gary Stevens tells this on himself. She won a stake when she was 2. Gary rode her. Ron Anderson was his agent, he's waiting in the parking lot and Ron says that filly was impressive. Gary says, 'Draw a line through it, she'll never win another race.' Ron said, 'Where's that from?' Gary says, 'She can't breathe.'

"She was making a lot of noise. I designed a bit what is now called a Serena's Song bit, you can buy them anywhere. I should have patented it. I designed this bit for her, to keep her from displacing. It worked. She wore it her whole life and ran out \$3 million. You can go to a store right now and ask for a Serena's Song and they'll say, 'Yeah, that's this one here.' I should have patented it. I don't know if there's any money selling bits. She wore that bit and



Photos By 7

**Continued On Page 33** 

Grindstone returns after winning the 1996 Kentucky Derby.

# Your Virginia-Bred earns you money when it runs anywhere in North America



# **■** Continued from page 32

won 11 Grade 1s. I think Lady's Secret won 11. Those two horses would make a trainer's career. That's 22 Grade 1 stakes. Now, we're all struggling to get one. The benchmark for trainers is to win a Grade 1 sometime in their career."

#### Favorite race you ever won?

"When Grindstone won the (1996) Kentucky Derby. It was such an emotional thing because I had such a relationship with Bill Young. He was such a special person. It was an inch. We stood together and looked at each other, I said 'I don't know if we won or not.' Grindstone was way out in the 10 hole and Cavonnier was way down on the rail. I said I'd go down. I'm going through the crowd and it's about 50/50. 'Oh, jeez, you lost a heartbreaker, Lukas.' The other guy's like, 'Man, what a great win.' I'm walking down the hall to the stairs in that 319 section and I hear this bang. Here comes Baffert's crew, they're hollering and screaming and hugging. I'm thinking, 'Oh, crap, they must have put the number up.' I get to the tunnel, and I look out and there's no number yet. Then all of a sudden, boom, up goes his number.

"I go out and I'm on the turf course and I think I better wait for Bill. He gets there eventually, we embraced, he says some very personal and positive things that I'll never forget. We both got very emotional. He went up to the winner's stand and I went and got the horse. It was such a moment. Winning Colors winning the first one and all that but that one day, to pull that off for him...

"With a horse that they didn't want to train. He had an operation in both knees, one front ankle and one hind ankle when he was 2. Bob Copelan said he would never train. I asked Bill if I could train him. Bill said sure. Copelan said you're wasting your time. A world-renowned vet and the

next thing you know I win the Derby with him.

"They're breeding all these mares to the best horses, including Storm Cat, in the world and they get the Derby winner on a charity season that Bill Young bought at the Derby Museum to help them out. They got an Unbridled season and it had to bring \$50,000. Bill Young said, 'You can buy it on the street for 15.' Carl Pollard said it didn't matter. Bill gives \$50,000 for it. He comes back and tells the stallion manager, 'I gave too much for it, find a mare, use it up, don't just flush it.' They pick one of their lesser mares, after breeding to all the best horses, and they get a Derby winner. That shows you there is a racing God that looks out for people that do charitable things.

"I'll tell you one last story. I go to have an interview with Bill Young. They decide they're going to build their race stable, and I was going to be the guy. They fly me in from California. They had the accountant there, the general manager, the stud manager, the yearling manager, the pedigree man, the secretary. They're all in this meeting. I can see everybody's got a part in this deal. I'm sitting there thinking, 'Damn, I'm not used to this kind of a deal.' I've been working on my own my whole life, I've never had anybody to answer to.

"We get done with the meeting and Bill Young says to me, 'Get in the car, I want to show you the farm.' Such a gentleman. He wanted to be like the boys, but he couldn't, he was too stoic.

"We get in the car and we're driving along, and I said, 'Bill, I'm a little concerned. I've never worked by committee before. I usually just work alone. I'm a little concerned about all these people being involved. I don't know just where I fit.' He's driving and he looks at me and says, 'Wayne, the committee is driving the -----car.' I thought, 'Good enough.' That was the start of our relationship."

Special thanks to Roda Ferraro of the Keeneland Library for the photos.

# **Join The Readers Club**

thisishorseracing.com/readersclub

# Churchill Downs

# **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

#### 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

# 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)



Powered by Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund

Ben Huffman, Vice President of Racing, Racing Secretary: 502.638.3820 • ben.huffman@kyderby.com

Dan Bork, Stakes Coordinator: 502.638.3806 • dan.bork@kyderby.com

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE KHRO

# On Course

# Derby, Belmont riding wins boost Castellano's year, career

# **BY JOE CLANCY**

July 11 seems like a long time ago, now. It was two days before Opening Day and Javier Castellano and his son Brady sat in a golf cart on the road just beyond the outside rail from the half-mile pole of the Saratoga Race Course main track.

Brady wanted to drive. Javier wanted to watch Arcangelo train. The Hall of Fame jockey followed the Belmont Stakes winner around the turn and toward the stretch.

Like any athlete, the 3-year-old colt was putting in work – grinding as the marathon runners say – on a relatively routine day. Train, do the job, maintain, get back to the barn and maybe have a protein shake – er, pick some grass.

Castellano liked what he saw, filed it away. Four weeks ago, he was contemplating a decision on whether he would ride Kentucky Derby winner Mage or Arcangelo in a prep for the Travers Stakes. Then, there were at least some rumblings about the 3-year-olds meeting in the Haskell at Monmouth Park or the Jim Dandy at Saratoga.

As it turned out, Mage and Castellano finished second in the Haskell while Arcangelo kept on grinding and will train into the Travers Stakes at Saratoga Aug. 26.

Castellano still has a decision to make, but whatever, let it come. The race is in 18 days.

That morning by the track, he

**Continued On Page 36** 



Javier Castellano and Arcangelo won the Belmont Stakes in June.







Delaware Certified Thoroughbred Program



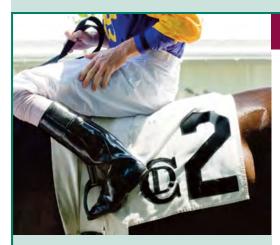
# It PAY\$ to Race **Delaware Certified!**

# SHOWCASE RACES

# Restricted Delaware Bred or Certified

# **PURSES \$100,000 EACH**

Eligibility Requests Close September 13, 2023 Contact Delaware Park racing office at 302-994-2521 ext 1212



Owners Day Showcase Races, The DTHA Governors Day Handicap and The George Rosenberger Memorial to be run Saturday, September 9, 2023. Eligibility requests close August 26, 2023. A \$50,000 purse bonus will be added to each race for Delaware Certified eligible horses that run and finish 1st, 2nd or 3rd. Purse total will be \$150,000 for DCTP horses.

# **SCHEDULE FOR 2023**

The Small Wonder Wednesday September 27, 2023

Fillies Two Year Olds • Six Furlongs

The First State Dash Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Two Year Olds • Six Furlongs

The Tax Free Shopping Distaff Thursday, September 28, 2023

Fillies & Mares Three Year Olds & Upward • Six Furlongs

The New Castle Thursday, September 28, 2023

Three Year Olds & Upward • Six Furlongs



To find out if your horse is DCTP eligible, go to dtha.com and click on the DCTP link.



# DELAWARE CERTIFIED THOROUGHBRED PROGRAM

777 Delaware Park Blvd. Wilmington, DE 19804 302-994-2398 tel • 302-994-3392 fax

email: dctp@dtha.com • website: wwwdtha.com





# Castellano —

# **■** Continued from page 34

locked the brake on the cart and talked about what's been something of a magical year. At 45, he won his first Kentucky Derby and three weeks later his first Belmont Stakes to add two more milestones to his career.

First the Derby.

"It was awesome, that's a dream come true for any jockey," he said. "I've been waiting all my career and been chasing the Kentucky Derby. You're on top of the game, you want to ride the best horses, you want to win the Kentucky Derby and you fail and you fail. You don't make it and you're a little disappointed."

Castellano earned four consecutive Eclipse Awards as the nation's outstanding jockey of 2013-16. He led the country in earnings in each of those seasons and topped the wins category in three. He won the Preakness Stakes twice, captured a dozen Breeders' Cup races. The Hall of Fame called in 2017. This year, in a vote of his peers, he won the George Woolf Award in recognition of career excellence and personal character.

Yet in 15 Derby rides, the best he could do was third with Audible in 2018. People noticed. Well, non-racing people noticed.

"That's the first question when you go out of town or you meet up with somebody," he said. "You go to some place, the people in the airport ask you. . . 'Are you a jockey?' . . . 'Did you ride in the Derby?' . . . 'Did you win the Derby?' "

Yes . . . Yes . . . No. "Oh."

Castellano used to try to change the subject.

"I've won almost 6,000 races," he told questioners. "I won the Eclipse Award four times. I won the Breeders' Cup."

The reply was a predictable, "How can you win almost 6,000 races and never win the Derby? That doesn't make sense."

Now, it does.

"The Derby, that's a gift," Castellano said. "You've got to be a good jockey and be lucky and in the right place at the right time to win the Derby and now I have. It's a dream come true."

Three weeks after the Derby, Cas-

**Continued On Page 37** 



**Eclipse Sportswire** 

Castellano and Mage won the Kentucky Derby in May.

THE SARATOGA SPECIAL

#### Castellano —

#### **■** Continued from page 36

tellano received another gift as Arcangelo knocked off 2-vear-old champion Forte and seven others in the 1 1/2mile classic June 10. It's not the Derby, but a Belmont win matters to a jockey. Especially a jockey who identifies with New York racing the way Castellano does.

"I've been riding in New York for 22



Tod Marks

Javier Castellano.

vears and had three seconds in the Belmont Stakes," he said. "It's home. My kids grew up in New York. I got married in New York. We live in New York."

With a nod toward the cart, Castellano rattled off more questions from people who know what Brady's father does for a living.

"People ask him, 'Your daddy ever win the Belmont?' and he'd have to say, 'No, he never won the Belmont.' Now he can say it. I'm very fortunate, very blessed."

Castellano began his riding career in his native Venezuela in 1996, moved to the United States the following year and was a regular in Florida until joining the NYRA circuit in 2001. He won more than 300 races for five consecutive years, topped \$22 million in purse earnings for eight, rode at least 1,000 races for 21. The statistics haven't gone that high the last several years as Castellano got derailed by injuries, a Covid illness, hip surgery late in 2020 and a new cast of jockeys in the always-tough New York colony.

"Look, 2020 was tough for anybody in the world, it slowed down," he said. "I was one of the first to test positive for Covid. You had to be in quarantine, I lost a month. Then at Park and cracking the top six at Gulfthe end of the year I had hip surgery. It took me three months to recover. In our business, one or two months is like half a year. You lose the horses. it's hard to get them back and regroup your business. It's hard to do that."

As he put it, "little by little" he and agent P.J. Campo turned it around. Last year, Castellano boosted his mounts to 969 (the most since 2018) and wins to 163 (the most since 2019). This year, the Derby and Belmont stand out along with a Grade 1 win aboard Therapist at Monmouth

stream Park's championship meet and Belmont's spring meet. He's not winning 300 races a year anymore, but he will pass 2022's purse total this week.

"This game is about opportunity and you have to take advantage when you get it," he said. "It's a competitive game and when you start out you have to challenge the top riders, you have to face them. When you're at the top. there's a new generation going to challenge you. That's life, too. When you get to that point, you have to be consistent, and dedicated and try to deliver."



Enjoy locally owned, One With Life Organic Tequila!

Now available at Siro's.



One With Life is the official tequila of Hudson River Farms LLC.



## Unmatched Success!

55
Stakes Winners
73 Stakes Placings
for
EQUIX Clients
at Saratoga!

Buying and Breeding Recommendations

#### Offering our Clients a Crucial Edge

Yearling Selection

2YO ProStride Data

OptiMatchPro Matings

Biomechanical Analysis Cardio Capacity

Per Hip Reports Available



**Contact Us for Auction Services** 





equixbio.com

Sarah Thompson Analyst (859) 583-4028 sarah@ equixbio.com

www.EQUIXBio.com

#### Aftercare day scheduled for Aug. 17 at track

**NYRA RACING NOTES** 

care professionals, and other industry

The New York Racing Association, New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and New York Thoroughbred Breeders will host the third annual New York Thoroughbred Aftercare Day on Thursday, Aug. 17 at Saratoga Race Course.

Free with paid track admission, the celebration will include a variety of events and demonstrations to highlight the work of the New York State aftercare community.

The featured race on the day's card will be the \$125,000 Rick Violette, a 1 1/16-mile turf test for New Yorkbred sophomores named for the late trainer and NYTHA President who spearheaded the creation of the Take2 Second Career Thoroughbred Program and Take The Lead Retirement Program.

Violette was a founding member of the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, the non-profit organization that accredits, inspects, and awards grants to approved aftercare organizations to retire, retrain, and rehome Thoroughbreds. Based in Lexington, Ky., the TAA is supported by owners,

trainers, breeders, racetracks, after-

members.

Representatives from TAA-accredited organizations will be onsite at Saratoga Aug. 17 to educate racing fans about the importance of responsible aftercare efforts, including Akindale Thoroughbred Rescue, ACTT Naturally, Equine Advocates, Lollipop Farm, Lucky Orphans, New Vocations, Old Friends at Cabin Creek, ReRun, Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, and Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga.

Fans can visit the Community Booth behind the jockeys' quarters to learn more about the participating organizations.

"Thoroughbred Aftercare Day reflects our ongoing commitment to protecting and re-training equine athletes when their racing days are done," said Dave O'Rourke, NYRA President and CEO. "New York is the national leader when it comes to sup-

porting and investing in meaningful aftercare efforts, and we are thrilled to host the third annual New York Thoroughbred Aftercare Day at Saratoga Race Course on Aug. 17."

New York Thoroughbred Aftercare Day will begin with an on-track demonstration of retired racehorses showcasing the skills learned in their second careers. New Vocations will be the first to demonstrate the Thoroughbred's athleticism with a jumping display prior to the day's races, and ReRun will follow after the second race with flatwork/dressage exhibition.

The Horse Sense stall, just outside the Saratoga grandstand, will feature retired racehorses from Old Friends at Cabin Creek between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and from the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation between 1:45 p.m. and 3:45 p.m.

"We are so excited to present our third annual NY Aftercare Day," said Rick Schosberg, the New York-based retired trainer who serves as Vice President of NYTHA and President of Take2/Take The Lead. "It is so important to be able to provide safe and purposeful retirements and second careers for these wonderful equine athletes, and to showcase all of the fine work to the public is so gratifying and rewarding. It's a massive combined effort of the horsemen, NYTHA, the TAA and the many accredited aftercare organizations, the NYTB, and the New York Racing Association."

NYRA, NYTHA, NYTB, and New York owners contribute more than \$1.2 million per year to aftercare support. New York's racing community contributes more financial support to Thoroughbred aftercare than any state in the country.

In 2019, NYRA and NYTHA launched an aftercare assessment program that requires owners claiming a horse subject to contribute a 1.5 percent aftercare assessment on top of the claiming price of the horse with funding allocated to the TAA and TTL. For example, an owner claiming a horse for \$50,000 will contribute an additional \$750 toward aftercare. This program generated more than \$245,000 in 2022, and over \$100,000 this year through June 30.





#### NYRA Notes —

#### Continued from page 38

Racing fans will be able to donate to Take The Lead by texting AFTERCARE2023 to 44321 to make a contribution, or by opting to make a donation to the TAA when cashing a winning ticket on an AmTote International self-service betting terminal. All donations are tax deductible. See take2tbreds.com for more.

#### **Hall of Fame Stakes** re-carded for Friday

National Museum of Racing turns in Friday's Evan Shipman.. Hall of Fame, Stakes, one of

four races canceled on Friday's card due to severe thunderstorms, redrew for this Friday (Aug. 11) with mostly the same entrants.

The lone defection from the field is the Graham Motion-trained Nagirroc, who drew into the original field but scratched Friday morning in favor of running in the Grade 2 Secretariat at Colonial Downs.

The redrawn field will see More Than Looks [post 1, John Velazquez], Carl Spackler [post 2, Tyler Gaffalione], Behind Emeny Lines [post 3, Joel Rosario], Ocean Vision [post 4, Trevor McCarthy], Appraise [post 5, Flavien Prat], Mysterious Night [post 6, Junior Alvarado], Mischievous Angel [post 7, Manny Franco], General Jim [post 8, Luis Saez] and Bat Flip [post 9, Javier Castellano] go postward in the one-mile inner turf test for sophomores.

The 1-mile race will be run as Friday's eighth at 5:08 p.m. and shares featured status with the Evan Shipman. The \$125,000 New York-bred dirt stakes (race nine) drew millionaire Grade 1 winner Americanrevolution, who makes his first start since last year's Jockey Club Gold Cup at Saratoga Sept. 22.

#### Wednesday jump race moved back a week

Due to weather and an already saturated turf course, Wednesday's steeplechase race at Saratoga Race Course has been canceled. Originally



Tod Marks

The Grade 2, \$500,000 Grade 1-winner New York-bred Americanrevolution re-

carded as the first race at 1:10 p.m., the allowance hurdle will be brought back Wednesday, Aug. 16.

That change shifted the Grade 1 Jonathan Sheppard to Wednesday, Aug. 23 from its original Aug. 16 date and canceled the Michael G. Walsh novice hurdle stakes.





**NEW RACE SCHEDULE - THURS, FRI & SAT AT 1:30 PM** 





### Broker's Tip

#### BY RICK ABBOTT

If you follow my columns in Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred you know that, since December, I have been writing a month-by-month chronicle of life on a Thoroughbred breeding and sales-preparation farm. The magazine is taking a month off so some of the principals can concentrate on their side hustle and here's what I think, "Screw the farm, we're going to Saratoga."

Full confession - after 40-plus years of annual Spa visits - Dixie and I haven't been in 10 years. Four of those years were spent trying to sell our farm, Charlton, and six years have been spent in retirement on two acres in Unionville, Pa. with a lawn service. In case you're wondering, a properly executed exit strategy is a thing of beauty and I recommend it for anyone with a farm and no children waiting to take it over.

Our first exposure to Saratoga was in the summer of 1971 shortly after our wedding in June. I was in law school and we were employed by Cortie and Tootie Wetherill to teach their son Peter and take him to horse shows. The Wetherills had rented a gigantic pile of bricks on Broadway and since Peter was going to be in Saratoga for the month there would be no showing. "Come up to Saratoga for a week" was how Tootie phrased it. We didn't need to be asked twice.

Prior to that summer our only experience with horse sales had been attending Belmont Park racing-age sales to scout show prospects. These were held in the infield of the training track or under the grandstand. They were pretty grim affairs although I did see Wistful sell for \$1 million under the grandstand. Our first glimpse of Saratoga was like walking out of the tunnel to view Yankee Stadium for the first time.

U.S. Pony Club as youngsters and had a solid background in "fitting and showing" and a large part of

## Why Saratoga?



in-hand classes at shows such as Devon and Upperville. Even in 1971 we saw how our skills could benefit us if we wanted to get involved in the yearling sales. Having determined that a yearling sale was iust a horse show where vou arrived with horses and left with money, we looked at each other and said, "How long has this been going on?"

I spent the next few years hustling showman jobs with Marshall and Bettina Jenney's Derry Meeting Dixie and I had been "A-rated" members of the Farm and with Albert Yank, a well-remembered flamboyant agent from California. If you remember Marshall and Albert you'll wonder what part our business involved preparing young horses for of their approach to sales rubbed off on me. While

still doing the horse shows, we began taking consignments to Timonium, Md. In 1974 we bought a short yearling by Sky Clipper for \$1,200 and sold her three months later at Timonium for \$6,700. Our first pinhook – easy game this.

But while building the business, selling at Saratoga was always in the back of our minds. In 1992, twenty years after I watched Secretariat trounce Linda's Chief in the Sanford Stakes, the right opportunity arose. Fasig-Tipton had been through an ownership upheaval and had lost some of the credibility it had enjoyed under the leadership of John M. S. Finney; the Tax Relief Act of 1986 had kicked the horse business to the curb with its "passive loss" provisions; and, frankly the sales company was having trouble attracting horses for its flagship sale.

At the same time, Audley Farm in Berryville, Va. was being managed by Dixie's old Pony Club friend Jill Gordon-Moore and her German bosses wanted to upgrade the program and the bloodstock. They had a lovely Java Gold filly. Also, Dixie and I, along with a partner, had a beautiful, New York-bred, Fit To Fight colt we had purchased for \$20,000 at Keeneland November. While pondering the future of these two horses and whether to plight our troth to a company in trouble, the stars, somehow,

A client with a farm in New Jersey, Larry Littman, raced around the Mid-Atlantic under the name Lil Stables. His farm was run by Mary Deppa, a fine horsewoman, and the horses were trained by Goose Heimer. In March 1992, Mary showed me a nice yearling filly by Imperial Falcon out of the For The Moment mare Eileen's Moment. Imperial Falcon (1983, Northern Dancer-Ballade, Herbager) was a beautifully bred \$8.25 million Windfields Farmbred yearling who had not lived up to his billing and had come back to stand at Windfields in Mary-

**Continued On Page 41** 





#### Broker's —

#### **■** Continued from page 40

land for a modest fee. That year his oldest foals were 3-year-olds and the jury was still out on his prowess as a sire. However, the jurors were coming back in and they were not smiling.

So, what happens on the first Saturday in May 1992? Pat Day, aboard the Pennsylvania-bred Lil E. Tee passes Arazi, the brilliant 2-year-old champion, and wins the Kentucky Derby. Did I mention he was out of Eileen's Moment and bred by Larry Littman? A flurry of phone calls ensued; me to Mary, Mary to Larry, Larry to me, me to anyone at Fasig-Tipton not at the Derby. Finally, I caught up with Walt Robertson and secured a spot in the Saratoga sale. Walt said, "Oh and we'll take the Java Gold filly and the Fit To Fight colt also." We were taking our first consignment to Saratoga and it included a half-sister to that year's Kentucky Derby winner. As Adam Sandler would say, "Not too shabby."

At that time, Saratoga was a threenight sale and each consignment sold its horses on one night. We sold on Wednesday, the last night. The horses were required to be on the grounds on the Saturday before the sale started on Monday.

I knew the drill. Muck the stalls and have the muck sacks ready to be picked up by 4 a.m.; try to bathe the horses while dodging the pig farmer on his huge loader as he went around the grounds, heedless of horses and people, picking up the sacks. The public was never to see manure on the grounds. Starting at 8 a.m., there was a constant flow of lookers until the races started and then almost nothing the rest of the day.

The main lesson of Saratoga is, with only 165 horses on the grounds,

and four days to shop, potential buyers, their trainers, farm managers, agents, wives, veterinarians, house guests, and even sisters-in-law would all be brought around to have a look at yearlings on "the list."

Lil E. Tee's half-sister got a lot of attention. She was a nice filly but not a "killer" and many of the "big" buyers did not find Imperial Falcon a sire to their taste. Our Fit to Fight was a "killer" and he drew a lot of attention. The Java Gold was "just a horse." Being "just a horse" is the death knell at a boutique sale like Saratoga.

The sale would have a median price of only \$71,000 due to the depressed market and the credibility issues mentioned. Lil E. Tee's sister was gone over with a fine-toothed comb. The eventual buyer inspected her a dozen times. On each visit he was accompanied by one or more of his American trainer, his English trainer, his veterinarian, his bloodstock advisor, his wife and his sister-in-law.

The Fit To Fight was inspected by his eventual buyer 10 times, accompanied by (at various times) his New York trainer, his bloodstock agent and her boyfriend, his Maryland trainer, his Virginia vet, his New York vet and a few others I was unable to identify.

The filly brought \$95,000 and became stakes-placed. Our \$20,000 pinhook sold for \$100,000, a home run for the home team. The Java Gold sold privately for \$65,000 after failing to meet her reserve.

The moral is do not come to Saratoga with horses who won't withstand four days of intense scrutiny and don't think getting in assures a successful outcome. Over the following 10 years we would get burned every time we let our enthusiasm or client pressure impair our critical judgment.

The question is "Why Saratoga?" And the answer is that if you bring the right horse, to run or sell, you can ring a bell like nowhere else.

#### Courtyard Bricks

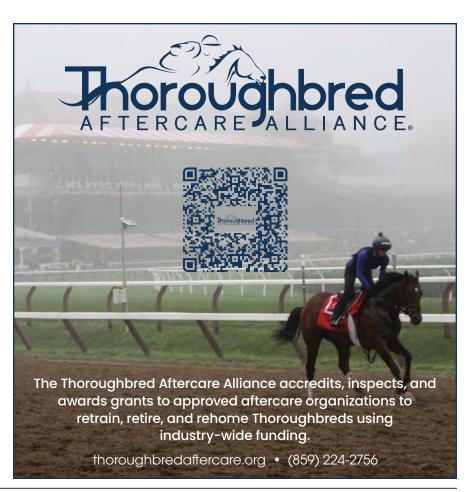


Claim your spot among the legends of thoroughbred racing with a custom brick that will forever be a part of the Museum's Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Courtyard. Bricks are the perfect gift for birthdays, holidays, anniversaries, or a tribute to a loved one. They are also a great way to honor your business, farm, favorite horse, trainer, or jockey. Your brick purchase is fully tax deductible. There is limited availability, so buy your brick today and reserve your space in thoroughbred racing's history!



Please scan qr code for more information or to buy a brick today!

Visit racingmuseum.org for more details 191 Union Ave. Saratoga Springs, NY



#### **Join The Readers Club**

thisishorseracing.com/readersclub

## 79&Sunny

#### **BY TERRY HILL**

## Sales for Dummies

Each day going to the track I walk the block of Madison Avenue between Ludlow and East Avenue. On that single street, which runs between two solid blocks of the Fasig-Tipton barns, I look at and count license plates. Well, you can imagine how much I'm in demand as a conversationalist at cocktail parties with this material in my pocket.

I look at these plates because they forewarn me that my editors are about to put me out to pasture. It'll only be for a week, but it hurts nonetheless.

For the bulk of the meet – over 90 percent of the Madison Avenue plates I count are from New York. But this week New York tin shrinks to less than 10 percent. Right now, more than half the plates are from Kentucky, plus there's a nice sprinkling from Florida, South Carolina and Virginia.

The reason for this out-of-state invasion is obviously the Saratoga Yearling Sale.

So why do the sales have my editors looking at me like they look at their old cassette tape players or skis in August? Because I, like those items, am of no use to them this week. All I want to do is write for the paper; I cannot tell you how much I love seeing a piece of mine in The Special.

It's almost embarrassing.

42

The problem with sales week is that I know next to nothing about what goes on at yearling sales.

I mean, I've several times been to the Saratoga Yearling Sale and find them fascinating, but for me to write anything meaningful about what's going on is not going to happen.

I've always felt useless. This year I decided to fight it. I refused to disappear like I have the last four years during sales week. All I needed was someone to teach me what the sales are all about.

Introducing Kip Elser. He had volunteered to be my tutor. I couldn't have had a better one. Not only is the man a bottomless barrel of equine knowledge, he is also tolerant of stupid questions, of which I might have been guilty.



Kip Elser has been looking at Saratoga yearlings for decades.

Elser advises potential buyers on the yearlings available at the sale. He operates out of South Carolina and Kentucky mainly, but during July and August he's in Saratoga, for business of course, but also "because I'm a racing fan," he admits with kind of a kid-playing-hooky guilty look.

"We're scouts for the draft," he said. "And like a football or a baseball scout, we're in the business of predicting the future. We're looking at a 15-monthold colt and trying to foresee what he'll look and be like at 2 1/2 years, or 3 or 4."

Elser's whole process for this sale started several weeks ago when the sales catalog arrived. At that point he hadn't yet seen the horses, but he now had a page chockfull of information on each of the 235 yearlings in the sale. He goes through it page by page, pen in hand making notes on their pedigrees and family histories.

From this run-through he makes his short list. Elser drew my attention to the cover of the catalog.

He pointed to the phrase "Selected Yearlings," and then put his finger under the word "Selected.'

"Fasig-Tipton has made my short-list for me," he said. "They know what they're doing. If a yearling is here, it's because he belongs. And if they belong here, I want to see them, so I'll see all of them."

Sire preference is really tailored to the individual buyer, Elser said.

"Some buyers are looking for sprinters, some for fillies, some for colts, and so on. Stallions have tendencies," said Elser, who then ran down the sire list and gave me a blurb review of each:

"Sprint stallion."

"Grass sire"

"Has produced good fillies."

"New sire. Wait and see."

When he got to Into Mischief, the current leading sire in the country, his blurb was: "Easier to find than to pay for."

So far we'd only looked at yearlings on paper but now we moved out to the barns and started seeing them in the flesh. Elser had a filly brought out.

"First look at how she presents herself. And then look for propulsion and shock absorption," he said. These are two words I understand in terms of airplanes or automobiles, but I must have looked blank staring at the filly.

Elser elucidates: "The propulsion comes from the hind quarters and the shock absorption largely from the front." He points out her muscles and the angle of the hoof and a half dozen other physical characteristics I never would have seen.

Then he has the horse walk. Past him. Toward him. Away from him.

"You see how close his knees are together?" he said of one colt. "We'd like it to be wider. But he's a May foal. That's late. The knees will probably open up in the next little bit.

**Continued On Page 43** 

Enter Now OBS October Yearlings October 10 - 11 obssales.com



#### Sunny —

#### **■** Continued from page 42

"You may not think a three-month foaling difference would be noticeable. But realize that a lot of growing goes on then. And my job is to predict what this horse will be like down the line."

It's like the difference between a 10-year-old kid and a 14-year-old.

I watched Elser look at a half-dozen yearlings, making notes in his catalog all the time. Flaws?

"No, maybe imperfections" he said. "You can never buy the perfect horse because it doesn't exist. Instead, we're looking for the athlete that will perform at the highest level with whatever imperfections. We're evaluating the future."

In his book Blink, the writer Malcolm Gladwell studied snap judgments, the kind of thinking that happens in the blink of an eye. These judgments, he suggests, are often better than one made after a total analysis evaluating all the facts and figures. It is the subconscious making these quick decisions without our even knowing why. Gladwell calls it thin slicing.

But he points out that the subconscious is not acting without reason. What's in the subconscious is the sum of everything we've absorbed throughout our lives.

Elser looks at each yearling for a few minutes and makes a judgment. That would be thin slicing. He can tell me rationally what he looks for. But what he can't tell me are the things his subconscious tells him from having looked at thousands and thousands of horses over decades.

I had never met Elser before, but walking around the sales barns I got the impression that I was the only person in the world who hadn't. During the hour and a half I spent with him, we were greeted by at least 15 people who called him Kip.

One of them was a veterinarian who Kip (I feel I can call him that now) asked to brief me on a vet's role in the sales. It was all very scientific and involved X-rays and sonograms, but in the end the vet said, "If I were asked whether someone should make a decision on a horse based on the scientific charts and measurements, or whether they should just talk to Kip, I'd go with Kip 10 times out of 10."

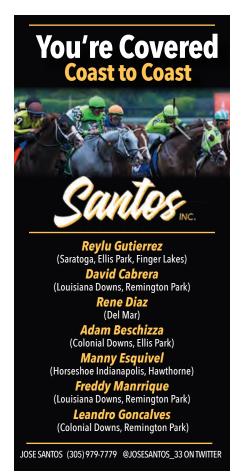
Kip taught me everything I now know about evaluating yearlings, but he only taught me a sliver of what he knows. He should have written this column.



#### Join the Readers Club

and get cool swag, special content (podcast!), discounts, etc.

thisishorseracing.com/readersclub







#### Coffee —

#### **■** Continued from page 46

a drink on the patio, vodka or beer, the West Coast IPA never quite as satisfying as a cold Milwaukee's Best Light. Yeah, we didn't agree on everything.

Hell, Keys didn't agree with anybody about everything. He was a straightshooter, about horses or hay, politics or pedanticism, racing or romance.

When Annie, long before we got married, showed up at a party with a date he didn't like, Keys barely said hello.

"Anne, this has got to stop," Keys said, his southern, farmer drawl making a point that stuck.

They didn't make it through the night.

Thanks, Gordie, you helped plow that drive, too.

Ninety years ago today, Gordon Chandler Keys was born.

Raise a glass or a can of Milwaukee's Best Light, wink to the sky and launch into your best rendition of his favorite song. Pick a singer...Mort Dixon...Ella Fitzgerald... Paul McCartney...Joe Cocker...Gordie Keys:

Pack up all my care and woe, here I go, singing low Bye, bye, blackbird

Somewhere somebody waits for me. Sugar is sweet and so is she. Bye, bye, blackbird



Tod Mark

#### Gordie Keys.

No one here can love and understand me Oh, what hard luck stories they all hand me

Make my bed and light the light, I'll arrive late tonight Blackbird, bye, bye

Bye, bye, Gordie. Gordie, bye, bye.

## Saratoga Bulletin Board



1205 Franklin Ave., Garden City, NY 11530 (516) 528-1311 cell • (516) 280-3182 office jdmol@aol.com





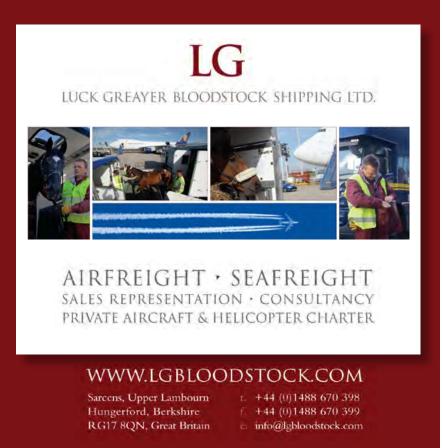


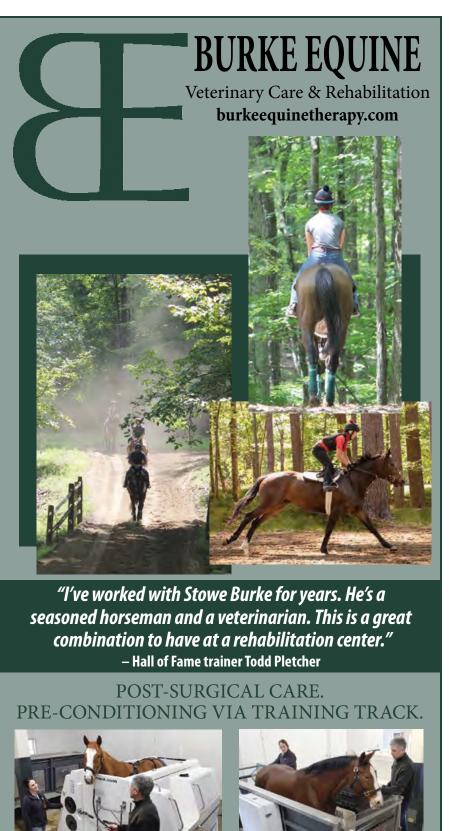




YOUR AD HERE ALL SEASON. \$1,000 EMAIL JOE@THISISHORSERACING.COM







STOWE BURKE, DVM

stowe.burke@gmail.com | (518) 210-4322

Burke Equine is located 4 miles from Saratoga Race Course

AOUAPACER

ECB COLD SALTWATER SPA

# Master Keys

The snow reached the bottom of the truck door. Horses boarded 5 miles away, needing to be fed. Driveway to gravel road to paved road, I made it to the barn. Horses fed, watered, mucked and hayed, all in a silent cocoon of an overzealous snowstorm.

Now to make it back. The snow rose to the door handle. As the roads narrowed, like pushing through an hourglass, the snow got deeper. There wasn't a plow in sight. I white-knuckled it back to our farm, one of those drives when you turn off the radio and stow your phone, needing all the concentration you can muster.

Turning right onto Snake Hill Road, there was a path. One single lane, one-way traffic. It cut a wedge down the middle of the road, straight as a Nolan Ryan fastball, past Banneker Elementary, past the farm where Alphabet Soup was raised and made a left. Into our farm.

I followed it to the front door.

A John Deere tractor the size of an Army Tank idled under a sagging apple tree.

I trudged through the snow, yet to be shoveled, and fell through the door.

There was my wife Annie, my son Miles and our neighbor Gordie Keys.

Annie had coffee. Miles had milk. Gordie had whiskey.

"I asked Gordie if he wanted coffee, water, orange juice..." Annie said.

there."

I'm not sure how long he had been there, how much whiskey he had and can't remember how long he stayed; I was just glad he was there.

Welcome to the neighborhood. I knew we would be all right in our new home in Middleburg, Va.

Keys was a good neighbor, a good friend from that day until his last day.



By Sean Clancy

A farmer, a cattleman, a horseman, a father, a grandfather, a husband, a mentor, a friend, a racing fan, a Saratoga loyalist, Keys died at his Beaver sat idling, halfway through a project, somewhere on

Born in Laytonsville, Md., Keys lost his father, his namesake, before he was born. I guess that's where the mentoring seed was sowed. Keys' mother, Henrietta remarried. Robert Hallowell Chichester became Keys' stepfather. Keys graduated from Sherwood High in Sandy Spring, Md., in 1951 and was drafted into the U.S. Army.

Following his service, he attended the University of Maryland (and was proud of it), earning a degree in agriculture. Keys married his college sweetheart, "I'll take a whiskey," Keys said. "It's cold out Janice Oxley in 1959. They had four children, Chandler, Chrissy, Susan and Anne. He put his education to good use, joining his stepfather in farming their ancestral home Oatland. Keys divorced, moved to Middleburg and married Robin, his rock for the next 25 years, and settled into Virginia.

> Along the way, Keys raised and sold cattle, raised and sold horses, fox hunted every day he could. He loved making a deal as much as he liked making

the hay. He bred, raced and sold timber champion Ironfist. He bought (for \$1,200), raced and sold Maryland Hunt Cup winner Solo Lord. He bred and raised Maryland stakes winner Grateful Bred.

"My God did he have an eye for a horse. He would take chances on things nobody else would. He was proud of his horses. He loved being at the races, just a fan of the sport," grandson Sam Cockburn said. "So honest, he never lied to you. He never hesitated to help you out. He was always optimistic; he was supportive but straight. He'd tell you, 'Your horse jumped terribly.' And then it was over.'

Keys threw crab feasts in his hay barn. Hosted tailgates - oh, his smoked ham - at the hunt meets. An eclectic mix of old-school Virginians, farm hands, kids he was mentoring.

"Sean, just because you live in Virginia, doesn't Dam Farm July 8. I'm sure that John Deere tractor mean you're a Virginian," Keys said to me one day. I wasn't quick enough to ask if he considered himself a Virginian or a Marylander. And it didn't matter, Keys' home was everywhere.

And certainly Saratoga.

Keys rolled into Saratoga each summer. A pocket full of money, a list of old friends and new friends to banter and barter with as they went racing, hit the sales, partied well into the night. Ten years ago, he threw himself an 80th birthday party in Saratoga. Again, an eclectic group who represented every facet of his far-reaching life. Keys closed the night with his deep acapella voice, we all sang along.

"Oh, he loved Saratoga. That was his social scene, his to-do for the year. Ride his bike around, stay up all night, go to the sales, go to the barns in the morning," Cockburn said. "He loved it, loved every bit of it."

When Covid hit, about once a month or so, we'd hear a knock on the door. Keys would be standing there, his Gator sitting in the driveway. We'd share

**Continued On Page 44** 







# QUALITY ROAD

Elusive Quality - Kobla, by Strawberry Road (AUS)

# SARATOGA \$1,100,000

HIP 77 at Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Colt out of I'm a Looker, by Henny Hughes

Buyer: Elliott/McElroy, agt. for Amo Racing Breeder: Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC



