

Year 23 • No. 15

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

The *Saratoga*

Special

Saratoga's Racing Newspaper since 2001



Tom Amoss Stable Tour
Rhyme Schemes wins Special
Stakes Previews
Entries & Handicapping

Two Casa

Turf star repeats in Grade 1 Fourstardave



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Head Game. A yearling peeks over a wall before entering the ring at Fasig-Tipton's New York-bred yearling sale Sunday night. The sale set a record for gross receipts at more than \$20 million. [For more](#) see page 37.



Fasig-Tipton

Here&There...in Saratoga

License Plate of the Day

TOGA 518, New York.

Racetrack Shirt of the Day

Foxy John's Bar and Hardware (it's in Dingle, County Kerry, Ireland and sounds like a great place).

By The Numbers

1: Yearling (Hip 655, a Kitten's Joy colt) getting his picture taken with a Saratoga Springs Police Department officer Monday afternoon.

67: Horses cataloged in the Tattersalls Online Sale. It starts at 7 this morning. Get going.

4,994: Career wins for jockey Corey Lanerie.

2: Consecutive 9 ½-length wins for Rhyme Schemes, who broke his maiden by that margin at Ellis Park in June and ran off with the Saratoga Special by the same Saturday.

2,000: Career wins for trainer Joe Orseno. He accomplished the feat with a win at Gulfstream Park Sunday.

1,999: Career wins for trainer John Servis.

999: Career wins for trainer Brian Koriner.

1: Cat eating turkey cold cuts on the Spring Street Deli stoop Tuesday morning.

16: Horse vans that passed The Special office between 9:30 a.m. and 12:50 p.m. Tuesday.

24: Yearling whinnies heard at The Special office between 9:30 a.m. and 12:50 p.m. Tuesday.

Names of the Day

Graceful, second race. Peter Blum named the 3-year-old filly, now owned by Richard Greeley. She's out of Dancing Alone.

Jarreau, fifth race. The 6-year-old gelding is out of Sweet Tune. Al Jarreau won seven Grammy Awards, sang the theme song to the 1980s television show Moonlighting and sang on the charity hit We Are The World in 1985.

South Street, seventh race. The 4-year-old gelding is by Quality Road. If you're in Philadelphia, you can get pretty much anything you want on South Street. The Special recommends Ishkabibble's for cheesesteaks.

Foliage, Thursday's sixth race. The 5-year-old gelding is out of Greenery.



The **Saratoga**
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Here&There...in Saratoga

Worth Repeating

"I think we're going to be OK."

Fasig-Tipton's Tom Biederman, doubling as a weatherman in the paddock Saturday (he was mostly right)

"Don't forget your cocktail. I have a straw and I know how to use it."

Saratoga Race Course paddock gate attendant (and cocktail guard) as spectators filed out of the paddock Saturday

"It makes me feel like I'm winning in some way."

The Special's Tom Law, about bringing homemade iced coffee to the office

"Well, I really miss my dog now."

The Special's Cc Lerner, who listened to the Zac Brown Band on a drive from Vermont to Saratoga (to get ready for a concert)

"If you could do it over, maybe you wouldn't do it. If I had it to do again, I would do it."

Trainer Bill Mott, on running Cody's Wish in the Whitney

Lisa Bartkowski (many years ago): "Hey Chief, your horse has straw in his tail. Phil [Serpe] would be livid if he saw that on one of our horses."

Allen Jerkens (aka Chief): "That's the only way I know they're my horses."

"There will be a day when you don't want to talk to me. That's what they say, OK?"

Trainer Chad Brown, after winning last week's Evan Shipman with Dr Ardito

"And the paper is part of that scene."

Trainer Tom Amoss about The Special and the Saratoga scene

"Don't you miss this?"

Exercise rider Roger Horgan to The Special's Sean Clancy while jogging a horse Tuesday

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 as often as we can.

"Naturally, to start with, I learned from my father, reading those books, being around, watching Hirsch Jacobs, Fitzsimmons . . . The one thing that surprised me, I had a good idea when the horse was doing good and would run good, I had a pretty good handle of that, I don't know where I got that. My father got mad at me for not running a horse, he said, 'Why haven't you run that horse?' I said to him, 'I'm trying to get him to look good.' He said, 'Stop looking at him and start running him.' He was as good a guy as you could ever meet, he'd say, 'That, Allen, he think he know everything.' "

— Trainer Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015



Tod Marks

Gold Watch. Recently retired millionaire Drafted will be honored before the first race Thursday as part of New York Thoroughbred Aftercare Day at Saratoga. Drafted won 10 of 38 starts, raced in England, Saudi Arabia, Dubai and the United States. He's now part of the New Vocations program via New York's Thoroughbred retirement program Take The Lead.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What can we talk about now? I'm excited."

Bill Mott to a pair of reporters 20 minutes after winning the Fourstardave with Casa Creed



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Plus: no stallion at less than \$100k has more 2023 Black Type winners. Just imagine.



Hard Spun: a yarn well spun.

Darley

Saratoga Stallion Board

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

Stallion	Wins	Stakes Wins	1st Place Earnings
Into Mischief.....	9	2	\$679,800
Curlin.....	7	2	\$528,550
Gun Runner.....	7	1	\$424,600
Liam's Map.....	6	2	\$435,876
Practical Joke.....	6	1	\$371,800
American Pharoah.....	5		\$253,000
Justify.....	5		\$280,500
Maclean's Music.....	5		\$229,900
Central Banker.....	4		\$160,600
Ghostzapper.....	4	1	\$282,150
Kantharos.....	4		\$179,850
Lope de Vega.....	4	2	\$731,500
Mendelssohn.....	4		\$209,550
Army Mule.....	3		\$74,250
Arrogate.....	3		\$173,250
Bustin Stones.....	3		\$153,725
Connect.....	3	1	\$121,000
English Channel.....	3	1	\$250,800
Frosted.....	3		\$163,400
Girvin.....	3	1	\$173,250
Hard Spun.....	3		\$158,400
Jimmy Creed.....	3	2	\$440,000

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Tod Marks
Deterministic is one of six winners at the meet by Liam's Map.

Laoban.....	3	\$149,050
Speighster.....	3	\$157,025
Speightstown.....	3	\$145,750
Street Sense.....	3	\$158,400
Twirling Candy.....	3	\$184,250
Uncle Mo.....	3	\$184,250
Accelerate.....	2	\$75,900

Blame.....	2	1	\$323,400
Bolt d'Oro.....	2		\$86,900
Cairo Prince.....	2		\$110,000
Classic Empire.....	2		\$143,550
Cupid.....	2		\$143,550
Firing Line.....	2	1	\$137,500
Freud.....	2	1	\$137,500
Goldencents.....	2		\$106,150
Good Magic.....	2	1	\$132,000
Kingman.....	2	1	\$137,500
Lookin At Lucky.....	2		\$82,500
Medaglia d'Oro.....	2		\$110,000
More Than Ready.....	2		\$67,100
Mucho Macho Man.....	2		\$91,300
Munnings.....	2		\$96,250
Not This Time.....	2	2	\$247,500
Nyquist.....	2	2	\$184,250
Omaha Beach.....	2		\$115,500
Outwork.....	2	1	\$192,225
Tapiture.....	2		\$74,250
Temple City.....	2		\$63,250
The Factor.....	2		\$56,100
Tonalist.....	2		\$143,550
Uncaptured.....	2	1	\$140,250
Violence.....	2	1	\$320,650
Weekend Hideaway.....	2	1	\$101,750

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3RD LEVEL ALW ...	\$162,500\$125,000



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With Tom Amoss

Tom Amoss remembers the firsts at Saratoga. First as a fan. First as an assistant. First as a trainer.

"My first time to Saratoga was 1983," Amoss said Tuesday morning. "I had graduated college during the summer, and I came up here for a week before I started work at the track. Al Stall came with me. He was still in school; he had another half a semester to go. We spent a week up here going to the races."

Four years later, Amoss had a badge and a job.

"My first year up here was 1987 as an assistant trainer for John Parisella," Amoss said. "Our barn was at the three-eighths pole, and I saw Lady's Secret, it was an early race, an allowance race, she was overwhelming favorite and she bolted right out of the gate. Literally, when she came by me, I could have reached out and touched her she was so close to the outside fence. That was an amazing thing to see."

Thirteen years later, Amoss was here for good.

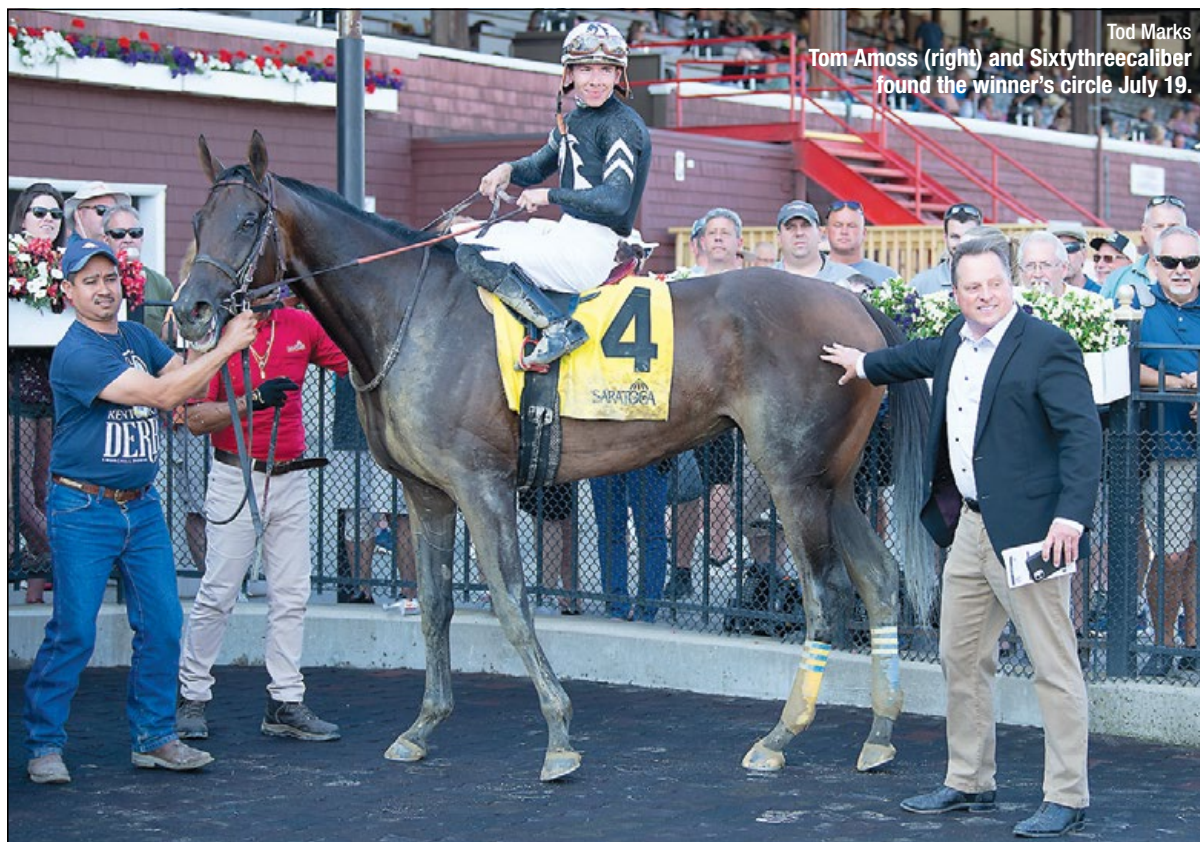
"After that, I guess, the year Heritage Of Gold won my first Grade 1 was my first full-time to be a trainer up here," Amoss said. "It's a special place. You come up here and it's like drinking from the Fountain of Youth, I'm getting ready to be 62 years old and I've been doing this a long time. You come up here and it just rejuvenates you. It's a special place, it's a throwback, the town centers around it, it's fun to feel like you're a part of something."

With 15 horses stabled in Pat (and T.J.) Kelly's old barn deep in the corner of the Yaddo trees, 36 bedded down at Churchill Downs and another 20 at Ellis Park, Amoss is well on his way to another solid year.

"It's unusual for us to be in three spots. Typically, we like to be in two spots. By the standards of what stables are nowadays, I guess, we have a little less horses than usual. If we were considered a large stable, we'd be considered on the very small side of a large stable," Amoss said. "We know what we can handle, we've been bigger, but we don't do as good a job when we get any bigger than that. We like to keep it this size."

Amoss has produced 47 wins and \$2,310,632 this year. He's won four races from 10 starts at Saratoga this summer. And has a strong group of 2-year-olds in Kentucky.

"Back in Kentucky, those horses are just start-



Tod Marks
Tom Amoss (right) and Sixtythreecaliber
found the winner's circle July 19.

ing to gear up," Amoss said. "Our feeling with the young horses is if they're really, really showing they want to do it early, then full steam ahead, but otherwise, September-ish is when we try to start getting it going. That's typically what we did with Hoosier Philly and others like her last year, things really gear up in September and October with the young horses."

Amoss walked his shedrow with The Special's Sean Clancy during the 8:30 break Tuesday morning.

Ba Dee Yah: Ontario-bred daughter of Uncle Mo finished sixth in her debut Aug. 13. "Just ran this past weekend on the grass here, was middle of the pack but it was a get-acquainted race. We think she's got a pretty good future. We bought her at the Fasig-Tipton Sale this past October. We use Lauren Carlisle as our bloodstock agent on some of our horses. She bought this horse for Gold Standard Racing who also has Hoosier Philly, which is one of our best horses in the barn. She was due to run up here in the Coaching Club and came up with a little bruise in her foot. She's back on the track and doing well."

Need Some Money: A \$9,000 yearling, the daughter of Street Sense joined Amoss' barn through a \$50,000 claim in May. "I don't have any peppermints for you, mama. She's in Wednesday, it's a starter race on the turf. She doesn't have any experience on the grass, but she's a quirky kind of horse. She doesn't like dirt in her

face. Her best races are when she can get outside and make a late run. We're going to take a shot on the grass, now it looks like it's going to rain off, if it does, we'll stay in and see if we can get the job done. We can't breeze her on the grass because she's run for a claim, so we're stuck."

Girl Named Charlie: Owned by Jerry Caroom and Jeffrey Lambert, the 3-year-old filly finished sixth in the Searching Stakes at Laurel Saturday. "She's a stakes winner from down at the Fair Grounds. Grass horse for us, will probably run toward the end of the meet in an allowance race."

Higgins Boat: Owned by Ensemble Racing II, the son of Omaha Beach finished seventh in his debut at Churchill Downs June 1. Tuesday morning, the bay colt was stretched out like an afternoon drinker. "It's actually a pretty cool name. In World War II, when they invaded Normandy and hit the beaches, the boats were invented by a guy named Higgins who is from New Orleans. The World War II Museum has one of those boats in it. I like him. I'm looking for a maiden race for him at the end of the meet."

Sixtythreecaliber: Owned by MyRacehorse and Spendthrift Farm, the daughter of Gun Runner sports a stellar 6-for-12 career mark. She won the Grade 3 Comely in November and an allowance here July 19. "She's been very productive for us, we're going to swing for the fences and run in the Personal Ensign (Aug. 25) against the best, Nest, Clairiere, et cetera."

Continued On Page 9

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

Lyrical Pardon: A \$190,000 graduate from the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Mixed Sale in 2021, Late Night Stable's 2-year-old filly finished seventh in her debut at Ellis and fourth here Aug. 9. "Justify filly. We ran her on the dirt, and she disappointed us because she trained so well. We breezed her on the grass and we liked the way she breezed a lot but her race got rained off, so we had to run her on the dirt again. One of the things about Saratoga is if you are scheduled for the grass and it goes to the dirt and you still run, you preserve your (preference) date. The only way we could get another chance to run her was to stay in the race. She was fourth. Look for on the grass Labor Day weekend."

Rally Squirrel: Owned by Larry Law, the 5-year-old son of Mshawish owns four wins and joined Amoss' barn through a \$10,000 claim at Ellis Park June 15. Another one lying down sleeping. "He's in Friday, he's the only New York-bred I have. I claimed him in his last start in Kentucky because he was a New York-bred, he's got both dirt and grass form. If the race were to get rained off, we'd probably go ahead and stay in and run."

Alys Beach: Owned by Greg Tramontin, the daughter of Omaha Beach won her debut here July 30. "The one who you wrote about. She's 1-for-1. She came out of the race and has really gotten a big understanding of what she's supposed to do. She's into her training a little bit more, we often see that with horses who make a start and go to their second start. We're probably going to run in the Spinaway, which is going to be a who's who of impressive maiden winners here at Saratoga. If you look at her hind end, I bought her for that. When she came out of the stall and I looked at her, I said, 'Man oh man, she's going to have to have a lot wrong with her up front for me not to want to buy her.'"

Icy Stare Down. A \$95,000 purchase at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearling Sale in 2020, the Ontario-bred daughter of Frosted sniffed a reporter's notebook Tuesday morning. "This is Icy Stare Down. We claimed this horse here at Saratoga, it's the only claim we have so far. We'll run her back at the end of August. She did not run well the day we claimed her, but I really like the way she's trained for us. She gets around the track well, she's enthusiastic about her workouts. When we first got her, she was mean, mean, mean and now she's a kind girl. We have a real advantage back here, I love this. You come midday; every horse is laying down. A lot of guys want to be up front, close to the track, not me, not me. This is like being on a farm. I love it."

Broughty Ferry: Another one racked out and unbothered by the tour. Owned by Joel Politi, the daughter of Audible has breezed twice on the turf and once on the dirt at Saratoga this summer. "Unstarted 2-year-old filly. We've been practicing on the grass with her. There's a very good chance

that her start here will be a grass start for us. Look, it's the middle of the morning, look at how many horses are laying down, it's such an advantage in my opinion."

Noriskit Nobiscuit: Two-year-old daughter of Omaha Beach finished sixth in her debut here for Politi. "This is a filly we ran last week. She tensed up a lot during the race and didn't have her breathing as good as it could be, we performed a little minor surgery on her, a myectomy. That should help her a lot for her second start. She trains very, very well."

Win For Speight: Owned by Greg Tramontin, the daughter of Speightstown has breezed twice on the dirt and twice on the turf at Saratoga. "She's unstarted, she's a May foal, we're hoping to have her ready to run by the end of the meet here. She's shown grass and dirt to us. Another 2-year-old, I've introduced a lot of the 2-year-olds here, we're heavy in that."

Storm The Court: A graduate of the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky February Mixed Sale, the millionaire son of Court Vision has breezed four times at Saratoga, including a 5-furlong turf move in 1:02.90 Aug. 6. "The horse out walking right now is probably the most interesting horse. He won the (2019) Breeders' Cup Juvenile out in California. He's had a few tries with different guys. I'm the guy who's got him now, off the layoff. He's going to run on Saturday in an allowance race on the grass here. If we were to get rained out, we'd run him on the dirt as well. He's trained well for us; I like him in his comeback. I've had him for probably two and a half months. We'll see what happens there. I'm looking forward to that."

Hoosier Philly: Gold Standard's standard has banked four wins and \$644,510 in her seven-race career. The daughter of Into Mischief owns three stakes wins, including the Grade 2 Golden Rod in November. "We mentioned her a little bit. We missed our race and based on the rules we have with HISA, you can't work back right away when you have to withdraw from a race. The Alabama was a target, but it's a mile and a quarter and we're not going to be able to be ready for that. We're going to run in an alternative race, the West Virginia Oaks that same weekend, it's seven-eighths. It's disappointing because we really wanted to run here at Saratoga with her."

One last question. Pointing to the initials on the back of some of Amoss' webbing. Who is DJV?

"Oh, you're getting too smart. Dwight J. Viator was a friend of mine and he got out of racing. We had the same colors. But he had initials on his webbing, he asked me if I would buy all his stuff, blankets to fans, I bought it all. I just turned the webbing inside out, so you can't see them, they're still blue. You can't see his initials unless the stable guard is open."

Viator, who died in 2020 at age 67, trained 462 winners from 2,895 starts, retiring in 2020. His best horse, Brownsboro, won the Grade 3 Louisiana Downs Handicap in 1989. His webbing are still going strong at Saratoga.

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Aiming High

Antonacci, Thundara take swing at stakes

BY SEAN CLANCY

Nehantic Kat won three times, including the 2009 Yaddo, at Saratoga. Her daughter Thundara is 1-for-1 at the Spa and makes her stakes debut in today's Suzie O'Cain Stakes.

The \$125,000 stakes, restricted to 3-year-old New York-bred fillies, attracted nine starters for its 1 1/16-mile journey on the inner turf. The eighth race on the nine-race card runs at 5:10 p.m.

Owned by Lindy Farms and trained by Philip Antonacci, Thundara spots experience to all her rivals and is 12-1 on the morning line. Hall of Famer Javier Castellano takes the call.

Tuesday morning, assistant Tyler Rosenkranz walked the shedrow of Antonacci's barn deep inside the Horse Haven track and introduced the diminutive chestnut filly.

Continued On Page 12



Dave Harmon

Thundara exits a win on Opening Day and tries stakes company in the Suzie O'Cain.



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Authentic	11	\$510,909
City of Light	7	\$427,857
Bolt d'Oro	10	\$407,000
Frosted	7	\$371,429
Good Magic	7	\$362,857
Gun Runner	7	\$331,429
Nyquist	8	\$320,625

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O'Cain —

■ Continued from page 10

“The first time I saw her on the farm, she did this little dog flutter on my arm. From there, I thought, ‘You’re a little bit smarter than the others,’ ” he said. “I spent more and more time with her, and we ended up becoming really good friends. I was lucky enough to name her. I knew she would run like her mom, and it was very nice to see her break her maiden like her mom.”

Nehantic Kat won her debut going 5 ½ furlongs on the dirt at Saratoga for Statehouse Stable and trainer Barclay Tagg in 2006. She came back the next year and posted two thirds. A year later, she took an allowance race and finished fourth in the Mollie Wilmot Stakes. The following year, she captured the Yaddo Stakes, the traditional New York-bred filly and mare turf stakes at Saratoga. She finished her career with a second in the Grade 2 Sheepshead Bay in 2010.

Antonacci purchased Thundara for \$40,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearling Sale in 2021 and knew he would play a waiting game.

“She’s an English Channel filly, they can be fairly later developing so we took our time, she had a very solid foundation,” Antonacci said. “Racing as a 2-year-old for her wasn’t even in the cards. Just let her come to herself. We always liked her to a level,

but she definitely came to her own on race day.”

Thundara made her debut for a \$40,000 tag against New York-bred fillies and mares here July 13. Equipped with blinkers, a ring bit and a shadow roll, Thundara broke outwardly from the outside post before sliding over to a spot just off the vanguard. From there, she pulled Irad Ortiz Jr. into seventh, stayed wide, circling past rivals to the front. In the stretch, she drifted out, then in and then gone. She won by 1 ½ lengths over Arisaema, 0-for-9 in her career, and Jannie Mae, 0-for-13 in her career.

“She came out of that race really well, put on weight and has been training well,” Antonacci said. “For a New York-bred 3-year-old filly long on the grass this is kind of her only shot the rest of the year to face restricted company. She gave us all the signs to take a shot. Obviously, she has to improve off her last race, hopefully she can step up to that level.”

Antonacci, 28, sent out his first runner in November 2020. The Darley Flying Start graduate produced three wins from 28 starts in 2021 and improved that to seven wins from 62 starts in 2022. This year, he’s sent out three winners from 27 starters. Like all trainers, Saratoga is the goal. Antonacci just missed winning his first stakes in 2021 when Fauci fell a neck short in the Mahony. Last season,

Continued On Page 14



Tod Marks

Orange Freeze eyes her third consecutive win.

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O'Cain —

■ Continued from page 12

he won two races from 12 starts at Saratoga. This year, he's collected two wins from seven starts at Saratoga.

"We have a small stable so for us we have to pick our spots. We go to Florida for the wintertime but we're not very active," Antonacci said. "For us, Saratoga is a very important meet and we kind of save up all year to get these horses primed and peaking toward Saratoga. A lot of our owners and clients, they enjoy Saratoga more than anything else. The horses are running to their form so it's fulfilling to the team. One horse lost by a bob and Fauci had a hard-closing second so we could be at four winners but there's a lot of could bes in this game."

From a long-established family in Standardbred racing, Antonacci has 15 horses at Saratoga and 12 at his family's farm in Somers, Conn., about two hours from Saratoga. They built a 7-furlong wood-chip gallop to leg up and freshen horses. He spends Monday to Wednesday on the farm and the rest of the week in Saratoga.

"I grew up on the farm and worked as assistant for my brother when he trained Standardbreds so it's kind of all I knew growing up," Antonacci said. "Just started spending a few summers in Saratoga, following around Wesley (Ward) and then went

down to Australia and worked for Gai Waterhouse, she pushed me to do the Flying Start program. It's been a snowball of interest; I love horses and love being competitive and winning races."

Silver Skillet attracted favoritism at 2-1 on the morning line. The daughter of Liam's Map won a New York-bred allowance race against older rivals on the turf here July 15 to improve her record to two wins from seven starts. Owned by Reeves Thoroughbreds, Steven Rocco and Tango Uniform Racing, the gray filly switched to the turf and finished second by a neck at Belmont Park June 10. Trained by Christophe Clement and ridden by Joel Rosario, Silver Skillet breaks from post five.

Orange Freeze seeks her second stakes win at the meet after taking the New York Stallion Series Statue of Liberty Stakes July 19. Bella Cavello Stable and trainer Bill Morey claimed the daughter of Freud for \$40,000 in her previous start at Belmont Park June 23. Flavien Prat takes over for Rosario on the 5-1 shot from post seven.

Three fillies earned 6-1 odds on the morning line. Berkshire Stud's homebred Kosuke won her debut in April for trainer Jim Bond. The daughter of Karakontie returned with back-to-back thirds against allowance foes at Belmont and here July 15.

Jose Ortiz takes over from apprentice Jaime Torres. The bay filly breaks from the rail.

Smokie Eyes breaks from stall two for Reeves Thoroughbreds, Darlene Bilinski and Steven Rocco. Trained by Clement, the daughter of Nyquist hasn't won since breaking her maiden at Aqueduct at Belmont in October but posted two sharp stakes tries against open company in the Chelsea Flower and Tepin to close her juvenile season. This year, the dark bay filly faded to fifth in an off-the-turf allowance at Belmont and faded again when seventh in a New York-bred allowance May 29. Irad Ortiz Jr. rides for the first time.

Collaboration aims for her third career win for Barry Schwartz and Linda Rice. The daughter of English Channel and Schwartz's stakes winner Parc Monceau won a New York-bred allowance at Belmont in June and finished seventh in a New York-bred second-level allowance here July 19. Jose Lezcano rides for the first time from post eight.

Two-time winner Im Just Kiddin, Statue of Liberty runner-up Bernt Again and Belmont maiden winner Snowy Evening complete the field.

Linda Rice entered Amanda's Folly and Ichiban for main track only.

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<p>6 SIXTH RACE Purse \$95,000. For Fillies And Mares Three Years Old and Upward foaled in New York State and approved by the New York State-Bred Registry Which Have Never Won \$18,000 Other Than Maiden, Claiming, Or Starter or Which Have Never Won Two Races. Purse \$95,000</p>	<p>ALLOWANCE 125 lbs. ONE MILE</p>
<p>7 SEVENTH RACE Purse \$100,000. For Fillies And Mares Three Years Old and Upward foaled in New York State and approved by the New York State-Bred Registry Which Have Never Won \$18,000 Twice Other Than Maiden, Claiming, Or Starter or Which Have Never Won Three Races or Optional Claiming Price Of \$100,000. Purse \$100,000</p>	<p>ALLOWANCE OPTIONAL CLAIMING 126 lbs.</p>

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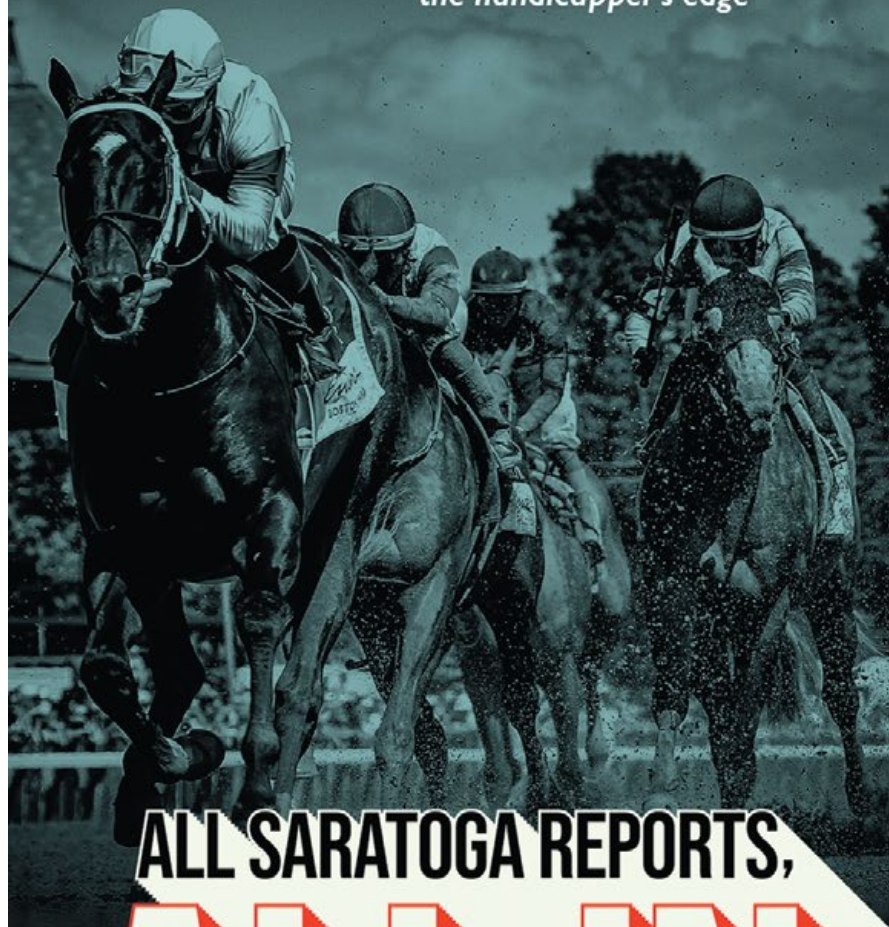


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Dave Harmon

Itsallcomintogetha (right) and Ramblin' Wreck renew acquaintances Thursday.

Rematch

Cab Calloway's top three meet again in Rick Violette Stakes

BY MARY RUFO

THURSDAY STRAKES PREVIEW

What's horse racing if not a family sport? Visit Danny Gargan's barn to find brothers standing in adjacent stalls.

Ramblin' Wreck will attempt to outdo his older half-brother Dakota Gold and win this year's Rick Violette Stakes, the feature on Thursday's card at Saratoga Race Course.

Dakota Gold was the heavy favorite in last year's Violette but came up a head short of Practice Squad. Ramblin' Wreck hasn't finished out of the exacta since last November. He brings in a record of 2-2-0 from seven starts and \$270,710 in earnings. The son of Redesdale breaks from the rail in the 1 1/16-mile turf stakes for New York-breds and is the 9-5 favorite on the morning line.

Ramblin' Wreck finished second, beaten a neck by Itsallcomintogetha, in the Cab Calloway division of the New York Stallion Series Stakes July 20 at Saratoga.

Vacation Dance looks to stretch out and adds blinkers for trainer John Kimmel, who hopes the equipment change will ignite some focus in the 3-year-old son of The Lieutenant. Vacation Dance finished third in the Cab Calloway, 4 3/4 lengths back.

"He didn't really show the kind of speed we were expecting of him," Kimmel said. "He just kind of sat in behind. Looked like he had a perfect trip but didn't really finish that well. We're adding blinkers for this race and hopefully that will kind of help focus him a little more."

Vacation Dance broke his maiden in his debut here going 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf. He's run in 6- and 7-furlong turf races since, along with a try on the dirt and last time out going 1 mile.

"This will be his last shot at going longer distances on the turf and if he, to my expectations, doesn't run a little better with blinkers, he'll go back to sprinting," Kimmel said.

Hilly Fields Stable's homebred Itsallcomintogetha looks for back-to-back stakes wins for trainer Phil Serpe. The son of Weekend Hideaway meets Ramblin' Wreck and Vacation Dance again, along with Willintorisk-ital, who finished fourth in the Cab Calloway.

King Of Comedy, winner of a state-bred allowance at 9 furlongs on the grass July 2 at Belmont Park; and

Continued On Page 17

Saratoga —

■ Continued from page 16

Let's Go Big Blue, a winner in a 1-mile state-bred allowance here Aug. 3, complete the field.

The Violette honors the late trainer who was a key founding member of the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, a non-profit that accredits, inspects and awards grants to approved aftercare organizations to retire, retrain and rehome Thoroughbreds.

New York Aftercare Day

Thursday's card marks the third annual New York Thoroughbred Aftercare Day. The day will feature a variety of demonstrations to highlight the work of the state's aftercare community.

Representatives from TAA-accredited organizations will be on-site to educate fans about the importance of responsible aftercare efforts. 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 will take part. Fans can visit the community booth behind the jockeys' quarters to learn more.

Skidmore Stakes

Ten 2-year-olds were entered for Friday's \$150,000 Skidmore Stakes going 5 1/2 furlongs on the grass.

The group in the body of the race includes No Nay Mets, winner of the Royal Palm Juvenile at Gulfstream Park who finished ninth in the Group 2 Norfolk Stakes at Royal Ascot for trainer George Weaver. The son of No Nay Never comes off a victory in Monmouth Park's Tyro Stakes going 5 furlongs on the grass.

Wesley Ward sends out a member of his 2023 Royal Ascot team in Fandom. He finished 11th in the Group 2 Coventry after winning his debut at Keeneland.

Tyro runner-up Ship Cadet, Hawthorne shipper Five o' Somewhere, Saratoga dirt maiden winners Seize The Grey and Billy The Greek, and other out-of-towners Untroubled, Sebastian Run, Factor U And Me In and Go Otto Go are also part of the body of the race. Jimmythetooth and El Grande O are also eligible, and Antonio Of Venice is main track only.



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JOE HIRSCH TURF CLASSIC (2)

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MANHATTAN (2)
MAN O' WAR (4)
MATRIARCH (2)
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SARATOGA ENTRIES

Wednesday, August 16.

1ST (1:10PM). \$88,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double			
1	.....4	.....Denver's Alley	J. Leparoux.....D. Duggan.....10-1
1a	.....5	.....Speights Dance	K. Carmouche.....D. Duggan.....10-1
2	.....1	.....Bernietakescharge	K. Davis.....D. Schettino.....6-1
3	.....2	.....Downtown Channel	M. Franco.....H. De Paz.....8-1
4	.....3	.....Bossy Jeans	I. Ortiz, Jr.....M. Maker.....6-1
5	.....6	.....Run for Your Honey	D. Davis.....M. Maker.....9-2
6	.....7	.....Once an Eagle	F. Prat.....C. Clement.....3-1
7	.....8	.....Bertrille	T. McCarthy.....B. Brown.....20-1
8	.....9	.....Alittlebitnaughty	L. Saez.....D. Gargan.....6-1
9	.....10	.....Grab the Glory	J. Ortiz.....L. Rice.....5-1

2ND (1:44PM). \$52,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1M

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double			
1	.....1	.....Dark Princess	J. Ortiz.....L. Rice.....2-1
2	.....2	.....Don't Tell Amy	J. Torres.....T. Morley.....3-1
3	.....3	.....Graceful	D. Davis.....M. Friedman.....6-1
4	.....4	.....Tooshay	K. Davis.....G. Contessa.....20-1
5	.....5	.....Tres Chic (ARG)	J. Leparoux.....K. McPeek.....6-1
6	.....6	.....Thestral	J. Rosario.....C. Caramori.....9-5

3RD (2:18PM). \$42,000, CLM \$16,000, 4 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double			
1	.....1	.....Suspended Campaign	J. Ortiz.....L. Rice.....6-5
2	.....2	.....Timed Out	I. Ortiz, Jr.....R. D'Alessandro.....7-2
3	.....3	.....Greatest Love	J. Torres.....O. Barrera, Ill.....12-1
4	.....4	.....Gringotts	T. McCarthy.....W. Youngmans.....20-1
5	.....5	.....Vegas Weekend	J. Lezcano.....C. Baker.....10-1
6	.....6	.....Vitaemi	M. Franco.....D. Jacobson.....9-2
7	.....7	.....Its Cold in Dehere	L. Saez.....J. Toscano, Jr.....4-1

4TH (2:52PM). \$70,000, STR \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 6, Daily Double			
1	.....1	.....Rum Runner Ready	T. McCarthy.....M. Maker.....8-1
2	.....2	.....Now Showing	L. Saez.....J. Terranova, II.....12-1
3	.....3	.....Explosive Exchange	J. Rosario.....M. Dini.....8-1
4	.....4	.....Rosemary Potatoes	J. Hernandez.....M. Arenas.....30-1
5	.....5	.....World Traveler	J. Lezcano.....G. Sacco.....7-2
6	.....6	.....Need Some Money	D. Davis.....T. Amoss.....12-1
7	.....7	.....Maddie's Grace	I. Ortiz, Jr.....J. Kimmel.....4-1
8	.....8	.....Three Girls	R. Santana, Jr.....J. Begg.....6-1
9	.....9	.....Saratoga Gaze	F. Prat.....M. Hennig.....6-1
10	.....10	.....Proud Foot	J. Ortiz.....L. Rice.....5-1
11	.....AE-MTO	.....Will Be Famous	Rider TBA.....J. Toscano, Jr.....6-1
12	.....AE-MTO	.....Shigeko	Rider TBA.....M. Kantarmaci.....10-1

5TH (3:26PM). \$70,000, STR \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double			
1	.....1	.....Splendid Summer	M. Franco.....R. Rodriguez.....10-1
2	.....2	.....Lord Flintshire	J. Castellano.....K. Brion.....8-1
3	.....3	.....Wisecracken	R. Santana, Jr.....M. Nevin.....20-1
4	.....4	.....Shinsun	K. Carmouche.....B. Tagg.....4-1
5	.....5	.....Front Man	J. Alvarado.....M. Kantarmaci.....6-1
6	.....6	.....Buckortwo	J. Gomez.....M. Nevin.....20-1
7	.....7	.....Jarreau	I. Ortiz, Jr.....M. Maker.....7-2
8	.....8	.....Ghostlyprince	F. Prat.....R. Rodriguez.....10-1
9	.....9	.....Kingdom On Paws	D. Davis.....W. Potts.....12-1
10	.....10	.....Unleash the Power	L. Saez.....A. Stall, Jr.....3-1
11	.....AE-MTO	.....Fight Fiercely	Rider TBA.....R. Rodriguez.....7-2
12	.....AE-MTO	.....Chileno	J. Ortiz.....L. Rice.....99-1

6TH (4:00PM). \$149,500, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double			
1	.....5	.....Mongolian Panther	R. Santana, Jr.....D. Jacobson.....10-1
1a	.....6	.....Starship Defiant	J. Ortiz.....D. Jacobson.....10-1
2	.....1	.....Mursal	M. Franco.....R. Dutrow, Jr.....15-1
3	.....2	.....Sa Foradada	I. Ortiz, Jr.....R. Dutrow, Jr.....8-1
4	.....3	.....Cuz Ur Pretty	L. Saez.....C. Progro.....9-2
5	.....4	.....Three Rivers	J. Alvarado.....W. Mott.....4-1
6	.....7	.....Divine Cross	J. Castellano.....J. Kimmel.....20-1
7	.....8	.....Cupid's Heart	F. Prat.....B. Levine.....9-5
8	.....9	.....Portage	J. Lezcano.....L. Rice.....7-2

7TH (4:36PM). \$45,000, CLM \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double			
1	.....1	.....Mama Banned Me	D. Brown.....N. Follett.....30-1
2	.....2	.....Lucky Lucky Luke	I. Ortiz, Jr.....O. Noda.....7-2
3	.....3	.....Freeze Pop	R. Santana, Jr.....R. Diodoro.....4-1
4	.....4	.....Break the Ice	J. Gomez.....M. Hennig.....15-1
5	.....5	.....Strong Light	K. Carmouche.....W. Youngmans.....30-1
6	.....6	.....Boys Code	K. Davis.....L. Dixon.....20-1
7	.....7	.....South Street	J. Ortiz.....L. Rice.....1-1
8	.....8	.....Achilles Heel	J. Torres.....R. Rodriguez.....15-1
9	.....9	.....Happy Bob	F. Prat.....D. Schettino.....8-1

8TH (5:10PM). \$125,000, STK - THE SUZIE O'CAIN, 3 YO, F , 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double			
1	.....1	.....Kosuke	J. Ortiz.....H. Bond.....6-1
2	.....2	.....Smokie Eyes	I. Ortiz, Jr.....C. Clement.....6-1
3	.....3	.....Im Just Kiddin	L. Saez.....J. Kimmel.....8-1
4	.....4	.....Bernt Again	M. Franco.....D. Schettino.....15-1
5	.....5	.....Silver Skillet	J. Rosario.....C. Clement.....2-1
6	.....6	.....Thundara	J. Castellano.....P. Antonacci.....12-1
7	.....7	.....Orange Freeze	F. Prat.....W. Morey.....5-1
8	.....8	.....Collaboration	J. Lezcano.....L. Rice.....6-1
9	.....9	.....Snowy Evening	J. Velazquez.....D. Donk.....10-1
10	.....AE-MTO	.....Amanda's Folly	I. Ortiz, Jr.....L. Rice.....9-5
11	.....AE-MTO	.....Ichiban	J. Ortiz.....L. Rice.....5-2

9TH (5:44PM). \$50,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta			
1	.....9	.....Galatrona	J. Torres.....H. Bond.....5-1
1a	.....AE	.....Pauciloquent	J. Alvarado.....H. Bond.....5-1
2	.....1	.....Showmeyourheels	L. Saez.....D. Gargan.....2-1
3	.....2	.....Purest Performance	J. Castellano.....J. Pregman, Jr.....15-1
4	.....3	.....Red Butterfly	R. Santana, Jr.....H. De Paz.....7-2
5	.....4	.....True Martini	J. Ortiz.....J. D'Angelo.....6-1
6	.....5	.....Mo Damorninggrouch	J. Gomez.....P. Reynolds.....8-1
7	.....6	.....Roxen	D. Brown.....E. Barker.....30-1
8	.....7	.....Army of Thoughts	D. Davis.....J. Begg.....12-1
9	.....8	.....Sonja Knips	K. Davis.....P. Pugh.....10-1
10	.....10	.....Beautifully Wicked	J. Martinez.....L. Gyarmati.....30-1
11AE-MTOMarley's Ghost	J. Lezcano.....M. Trombetta.....2-1
12AE-MTOKnockzcatoffzfence	Rider TBA.....M. Kantarmaci.....6-1

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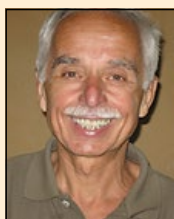
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Charles Bedard



Jessica Paquette

Race	John Shapazian	Tom Law	Rob Whitlock	Charles Bedard	Jessica Paquette
1	Once An Eagle Alittlebitnaughty Grab The Glory Thestral	Alittlebitnaughty Grab The Glory Once An Eagle Dark Princess	Alittlebitnaughty Run For Your Honey Once An Eagle Don't Tell Amy	Grab The Glory Bossy Jeans Duggan entry Tooshay	Bossy Jeans Grab The Glory Once An Eagle Don't Tell Amy
2	Dark Princess Don't Tell Amy Suspended Campaign	Thestral Don't Tell Amy Suspended Campaign	Thestral Tres Chic Suspended Campaign	Dark Princess Thestral Suspended Campaign	Dark Princess Tres Chic Greatest Love
3	Vitaemi Timed Out Will Be Famous	Timed Out Its Cold In Dehere Rum Runner Ready	Vitaemi Timed Out Three Girls	Its Cold In Dehere Timed Out Maddie's Grace	Suspended Campaign Vitaemi Saratoga Gaze
4	Proud Foot World Traveler Fight Fiercely	Proud Foot Proud Foot Unleash The Power	Proud Foot Saratoga Gaze Unleash The Power	Rum Runner Ready World Traveler Unleash The Power	Rum Runner Ready Three Girls Lord Flintshire
5	Lord Flintshire Cupid's Heart Cuz Ur Pretty	Shinsun Three Rivers Cupid's Heart	Lord Flintshire Jarreau Cuz Ur Pretty	Splendid Summer Shinsun Cupid's Heart	Unleash The Power Shinsun Three Rivers
6	Three Rivers Portage South Street	Portage South Street Freeze Pop	Divine Cross Freeze Pop Boys Code	Portage South Street Freeze Pop	Mursal Portage South Street
7	Lucky Lucky Luke Break The Ice Amanda's Folly	Lucky Lucky Luke Amanda's Folly Silver Skillet	Happy Bob Amanda's Folly Silver Skillet	Lucky Lucky Luke Amanda's Folly Kosuke	Happy Bob Break The Ice Snowy Evening
8	Silver Skillet Smokie Eyes Marley's Ghost	Orange Freeze Marley's Ghost Red Butterfly	I'm Just Kiddin Marleys Ghost Army Of Thoughts	Collaboration Marley's Ghost Bond entry	Collaboration Kosuke Army Of Thoughts
9	Showemyourheels Bond entry	Mo Damorninggrouch	Showemyourheels	Purest Performance	Beautifully Wicked Red Butterfly
2023 Records	75/245	64/245	65/245	81/245	45/245



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His House

Casa Creed catches Annapolis in Grade 1

BY SEAN CLANCY

Bill Mott jumped out of his clubhouse box seconds after Casa Creed collared Annapolis in the Grade 1 Fourstardave at Saratoga Saturday.

"That was ----- amazing, huh?"

Uh huh.

Bounding down the steps toward the winner's circle, Mott explained his amazement.

"I knew they were going to try to get first run on us and they did," Mott said. "That was the same kind of effort Elite Power put in, they didn't have to get there. This horse didn't have to get there today. That horse had the jump on him turning for home, which is what they wanted, and he just ran him down."

Four-year-old Annapolis, indeed, got first run. Seven-year-old Casa Creed, decisively, got last run. And, yeah, it looked similar to when the Mott-



Dave Harmon
Casa Creed (left) and Annapolis
battle in deep stretch.

trained Elite Power went after and wore down Gunite to win the Grade 1 Vanderbilt earlier in the meet.

In a rematch from opening weekend's Grade 3 Kelso, when Casa Creed moved first and held off Annapolis, the playbooks flipped with Annapolis kicking to a lead turning for home. Casa Creed lowered down, stretched and ran down his rival.

Owned by LRE Racing and JEH Racing Stable, the son of Jimmy Creed added his ninth victory to a 33-start career and pushed his earnings to \$2,460,308. In a race named after a Saratoga legend who won at least one race (six stakes) eight years in a row here, Casa Creed won for the fifth

Continued On Page 21

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Fourstardave —

■ Continued from page 20

time (fourth stakes), in his sixth season at Saratoga.

“That’s something you can’t pick out. You lead them up on a shank and you don’t know. You just never know,” Mott said. “He’s been very sound. Most horses as they get older, they’ll improve if they’re sound. This horse, he’s sound and he’s kept his desire. He gives it to you, he digs in and gives it to you. He likes the game.”

Loves the game.

Casa Creed broke alertly from post six in the seven-horse field, moved forward four wide, before moving over two wide, just outside Annapolis. The rematch was on. My Sea Cottage led through a quarter-mile in :23.31. So High eased off him in second. Annapolis and Irad Ortiz Jr. settled in third with Casa Creed and Luis Saez lapped onto him from the outside. Emmanuel found a spot in fifth with Full Screen, who blew the first turn, unsettled in sixth and Ice Chocolat well back in last.

My Sea Cottage rolled through a half mile in :46.57 as Ortiz positioned Annapolis outside So High and inside Casa Creed. Into the turn, My Sea Cottage led and Annapolis pulled Ortiz into second while Saez began to nudge on Casa Creed, 2 length be-

hind his main foe. Turning for home Annapolis engaged My Sea Cottage as Ortiz switched his whip to his left hand and Annapolis momentarily drifted out. All the while, Saez was in a full drive and Casa Creed was winding up like Tony Gwynn with two strikes.

“I didn’t know at the quarter pole because those other two got away from him,” Mott said. “It looked like they were going to pull it off but that’s a pretty good horse that was chasing him.”

Annapolis ran past My Sea Cottage nearing the eighth pole and looked home free. With Saez in his poised, perfect rhythm, Casa Creed did his best Elite Power and gradually wore down Annapolis, grudgingly a runner-up.

Making his fourth start in the Fourstardave (two wins, two thirds), Casa Creed collared Annapolis inside the sixteenth pole to win by three-quarters of a length. Casa Creed finished the mile on the inner turf in 1:34.20. Favorite Annapolis was a game second with fourth choice Ice Chocolat, who lost position when Full Screen drifted out into the first turn, closing for third.

“He’s just one of those horses, knock on wood,” Mott said, reaching for a paddock tree. “Some of them get some little aches and pains and it

Continued On Page 22



Tod Marks

Owner Lee Einsidler and groom Ana Urista lead Casa Creed into the winner’s circle.



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Above: William Joseph Shayer (British, 1811-1891)

After the Race, one of a set of 5 (detail)



2023 September Meet Stakes Schedule

SEPTEMBER 14 – OCTOBER 1

IROQUOIS (GIII)

"Breeders' Cup Dirt Dozen"

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

LOCUST GROVE (GIII)

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

POCAHONTAS (GIII)

"Breeders' Cup Dirt Dozen"

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

LOUISVILLE THOROUGHBRED SOCIETY

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

OPEN MIND (Listed)

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

SENECA OVERNIGHT STAKES

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

BOURBON TRAIL

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

HARRODS CREEK

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

DOGWOOD (GIII)

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

ACK ACK (GIII)

"Win and You're In Dirt Mile Division"

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

LUKAS CLASSIC (GII)

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

JEFFERSON CUP

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



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

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE KHRC

Fourstardave —

■ Continued from page 21

holds them up, it hinders their form. But we've been fortunate with him. That's the whole thing with Channel Maker, he's been very sound all his life. Some of them aren't that lucky and we're not that lucky with some of the others."

Channel Maker, 9, won the Grade 3 Bowling Green July 30. Mott has garnered four graded stakes at the meet with three horses whose average age is 7.

Bred by Silver Springs Stud and picked out by Kenny McPeck for Lee Einsidler's LRE Racing at Keeneland September Sales for \$105,000, Casa Creed finished sixth going 6 furlongs on the dirt in his career debut here in 2018. Seven days later, he won going 7 furlongs on the dirt. He followed that with a seventh in the Grade 1 Champagne and a sixth in the Spendthrift Juvenile Stallion Stakes at Churchill Downs. Switched to the turf, he won the Kitten's Joy at Gulfstream Park in his 3-year-old debut and has never looked back.

Casa Creed added the Grade 2 Hall of Fame Stakes here in 2019. In 2020, he was winless but finished third in the Fourstardave. The Kentucky-bred took the Elusive Quality and the Grade 1 Jaipur in 2021. In 2022, he nabbed the Jaipur again and his first Fourstardave. This year, Casa Creed began with a second in the Grade 3



Tod Marks

Twice a graded stakes winner at the meet, Casa Creed heads back to the barn.



Tod Marks

Trainer Bill Mott.

1351 Turf Sprint in Saudi Arabia before finishing third in the Jaipur and winning twice at Saratoga.

After the race, Mott congratulated groom Ana Urista, assistant Neil Poznansky and Einsidler. After the winner's circle photo, the Hall of Fame trainer walked up the stretch where Urista held and Poznansky hosed off the living legend, then Mott watched the trophy presentation outside the winner's circle next to photographers Skip Dickstein and Dave Harmon. Once the formalities were over, Mott shook the hand of Fourstardave's trainer Leo O'Brien, hugged his granddaughter Lerina and his daughter, Leona.

"We give him every chance. We've been lucky not to have any mishaps, it's hard to explain. We've trained him on good racetracks. He's had to go out there and gallop in the mud sometimes, but you just never know. He's a lighter made horse, he's kind of easy on himself. Got a little bit of knee action but he's not a big, heavy horse," Mott said. "He's been well taken care of. The people that I have around him are just terrific. Ana, she's a very good groom. He's always had a good groom. He's easy to ride. We don't always keep the same rider on him, just depends on the set list looks like. Everybody's had a chance to get on him. Neil makes the set sheet out and usually puts himself on him, I don't blame him."

A race after the Fourstardave, Mott legged up Joel Rosario on Forest City and waited under a tree in the paddock. Seven horses later, Ortiz rode past on Ice Road.

"It was a good try," Mott said to the jockey.

He shook his head and didn't utter a word. The silent, painful taste of defeat.

Poetry in Motion

Two-year-old Rhyme Schemes makes it look easy in Gr. 2 score

BY JOE CLANCY

Ask Ricardo Santana Jr. about Rhyme Schemes and be prepared to wait. He'll take a long pause, remove his right glove, shake your hand, tell a young fan that he's not Trevor McCarthy, look you in the eye and say softly, "He's a nice horse. I can't say much more. He's just a nice horse."

Aboard for all three starts and several breezes by the 2-year-old Ghostzapper colt, Santana felt that way before Saturday's Saratoga Special Stakes and was convinced afterward. Racing for Pura Vida Investments, Rhyme Schemes rallied from third early and fourth on the turn to pass Market Street and Woodcourt in the stretch while drawing off to win the Grade 2 stakes by a geared-down

SARATOGA SPECIAL STAKES RECAP

9 1/2 lengths in 1:17.12 for 6 1/2 furlongs. Market Street finished second, three-quarters of a length ahead of Haul.

Trained by Norm Casse, the chestnut duplicated the winning margin of his maiden-breaker at Ellis Park in June and took aim at the Grade 1 Hopeful at Saratoga Race Course Sept. 4.

The win looked easy, felt easier.

"I was just a good passenger," Santana said. "When they're a good horse, you just try to be a good passenger. He's improving more and more and I'm really happy with him."

Continued On Page 24



Tod Marks

Rhyme Schemes and Ricardo Santana Jr. coast home in Saturday's Saratoga Special.

Where do future jockeys and trainers get their start?



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— Trainer Wesley Ward

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AQUAPACER

Special —

■ Continued from page 23

When I worked this horse the first time, I told Norm 'I don't know what type of 2-year-old this is, but he's a runner.' I told him I wanted to ride this one. He promised me I was going to ride him."

So far, so good. Rhyme Schemes finished sixth in his debut at Churchill Downs in May. A disappointed Santana hopped off and suggested blinkers. A month later came the lopsided maiden win, which brought along gaudy speed figures and new targets.

"When he broke his maiden we had options," said Casse, who splits his stable between Churchill and Saratoga this time of year. "We could have run him right back in the Bashford Manor (at Ellis July 2). We could have run him in the Sanford (here July 15). We decided on this. You've got to dream big sometimes and we wanted to win the Hopeful. We felt coming here in this spot and coming back in the Hopeful was the best way to do it."

A \$210,000 Keeneland September purchase by Pura Vida, Rhyme Schemes prepped for Saratoga with four July breezes at Churchill and then a final half-mile (:49.33) tightener at Saratoga a week before the

\$200,000 Special, run in memory of Thoroughbred Charities of America founder Herb Moelis this year.

The race lured six entrants. Haul cost \$260,000 at OBS April and won his debut at Belmont Park July 9. Edified cost \$650,000 as a yearling and won his debut at Ellis July 1. Ellis winners Woodcourt and Market Street joined the field along with Gulfstream Park maiden winner Lasso.

Casse was optimistic about his horse's chances, but knew where he was shipping. The Special dates to 1901, when it was winner-take-all and horses had to be nominated in sets of three for a single fee. Come race day, an owner could only run one horse. Winners include Sysonby, Colin, Roamer, Regret, Top Flight, Whirlaway, Native Dancer, Bold Forbes, Swale, Summer Squall and — far more recently — Jackie's Warrior.

"To me this is one of the most iconic races they run up here," Casse said. "To just be involved was humbling and to win it is just amazing."

The trainer thought Rhyme Schemes deserved his chance.

"From day one, you knew that he was a good horse," Casse said. "One of the things about him is you don't have to work him fast to know he's fast and that is when I think you find out a horse is really talented. He

Continued On Page 25



Tod Marks

Rhyme Schemes takes a moment after his second consecutive 9 1/2-length win.

Special —

■ Continued from page 24

doesn't do anything flashy, he does everything, but you can see he's got plenty of gear under him. But it's Saratoga. I don't expect anything here."

From the outside stall, Rhyme Schemes broke to his left and banged with Edified (who got crunched by Haul from the other side) before straightening and finding a stalking spot in third behind Market Street and Woodcourt through a first quarter-mile in :22.18. Lasso took third along the rail early on the turn, but Santana sat and waited. After a half in :45.71, Rhyme Schemes advanced on the leaders and came off the turn full of run. To his outside, Haul tried to keep pace. Santana looked under his right arm twice at the top of the stretch, once more at the three-sixteenths pole, and checked the infield video board twice while his horse built a daylight advantage. After one more glance at the sixteenth pole, the jockey said enough, put his hands down, stood taller in the stirrups, let his horse coast home and played pas-



Dave Harmon

Rhyme Schemes puts some distance between himself and his Saratoga Special rivals.

senger.

While not quite a mirror-image to the Ellis race, the score confirmed Casse's opinion of his horse.

"That number was so big it was hard to believe it," the trainer said of the speed figure (a 94 on the Beyer scale). "I needed some more affir-

mation and I think we got it today. The only thing I was really concerned about today was if we go and get into a speed duel with somebody and we take away his nice rhythm. He broke slowly, it forced Ricardo to get him into his nice rhythm and he runs much better that way."

Pura Vida's Deuce Greathouse watched it and, like everyone else, left wide-eyed.

"You know I probably watch 50 races a day all year long," he said, "and you see, I don't know, five or 10 of those a year that kind of make the skin on your neck stand up."



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Short Trip

L J's Emma uses late bid to land turf sprint stakes for Kenneally

BY TOM LAW

Eddie Kenneally didn't need directions.

He didn't need anyone from the NYRA horsemen's relations team to show him the way to the Carmen Barrera Room for a well-earned cold bit of refreshment following L J's Emma's victory in Saturday's \$150,000 Galway Stakes at Saratoga Race Course.

"I know where it is, I've been there before," Kenneally joked as he made his way out of the winner's circle and through the crowd spilling from the porch to escape the rain.

Kenneally made his first trip to the spot reserved for the winning connections of the day's stakes in 2015 when Freddie Anne won the Statue of Liberty division of the New York Stal-

GALWAY STAKES RECAP

lion Series Stakes and well before the room was named for the late Barrera. L J's Emma gave Kenneally his fifth Saratoga stakes victory, getting up in the final strides to edge Stone Silent in the 5 ½-furlong turf stakes for 3-year-old fillies.

To say Kenneally expected to be in the hospitality room might be a stretch, but not completely out of line.

"Looking for some black type, guys, with a very well-bred filly," Kenneally said. "We thought she's on the improve, wanted to take a shot and it is a good place to showcase a quality filly like this. We weren't expecting to

Continued On Page 27



Tod Marks

L J's Emma passes Stone Silent late in Saturday's Galway.

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Galway —

■ Continued from page 26

win it, but thought she'd be competitive."

L J's Emma, a daughter of Into Mischief owned by John Gaynor, won by a neck under Luis Saez after a sustained run down the stretch at 17-1. She edged the 10-1 Stone Silent, who led by 1 1/2 lengths at the eighth pole, with 13-1 Isabel Alexandra third in the field of 10. Love Reigns, the 6-5 favorite who hadn't been out since winning the Limestone Stakes in mid-April at Keeneland, finished seventh. L J's Emma won in 1:02.27 over the turf rated good.

Kenneally, a Saratoga regular for several years before the pandemic, shipped L J's Emma in from his main base at Churchill Downs. He did the same last year with Just Cindy, winner of the Grade 3 Schuylerville on Opening Day 2022, and with By Your Side, winner of the Grade 3 Sanford on the third day of the 2019 meet.

L J's Emma won her third straight in the Galway, after taking a maiden special weight at Churchill Downs June 2 – under Saez – and an allowance race at Ellis Park July 16.

"The timing of this race was good from her most recent allowance race in Kentucky," said Kenneally, who also won the 2016 Sanford with Bitumen. "The timing was great and I'm glad we took a shot."

L J's Emma started her career on dirt, finishing



Tod Marks

Eddie Kenneally helps L J's Emma cool off after the win.

well back in a pair of 6-furlong maiden races at Fair Grounds. Kenneally moved her to the grass at the end of the Keeneland spring meet and she finished third behind eventual Lake George Stakes third-place finisher Secret Money. L J's Emma hasn't lost since.

"She's a whole lot different on the grass," Kenneally said. "Early on she showed a lot more speed, but she's matured a lot especially since she came to the grass. She's matured a lot and relaxes good now, that allows her to finish so much better. She's a different kind of horse on the grass, but she's maturing

and growing. Great for John Gaynor and Boxman Stables to get a stakes win at Saratoga, for sure."

Stone Silent took the initiative from the break, opening a 1 1/2-length lead over My Sweet Affair, Beauty Of The Sea and Isabel Alexandra through the opening quarter-mile in :22.26. Saez was content to let L J's Emma track in sixth, just 3 3/4 lengths back, to that point before angling the filly out around the far turn.

L J's Emma was still fifth approaching the stretch around the turn while down inside, until Saez tipped her out about five paths off the temporary rail approaching the top of the lane. Stone Silent put away the chasers turning for home and opened up past the half in :44.78, just as L J's Emma emerged on the scene approaching the eighth pole.

"I know she has a big turn of foot, and at the three-eighths, I felt like I had so much horse," Saez said. "We were very comfortable."

Stone Silent continued on approaching the sixteenth pole, clinging to about a 2-length advantage before L J's Emma made up the deficit under a hand ride from Saez.

"When we got to the last horse to pass, she kind of rebroke, so we had to really work a little there," Saez said.

L J's Emma picked up \$82,500 for the victory, boosting her bankroll to \$203,545.

Kenneally said he might make another trip to Saratoga to run the 2-year-old More Than Ready filly Mya's Halo in the Aug. 20 Bolton Landing Stakes. And he won't need directions.

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1,500

Spinning Colors wins finale to give Hennig milestone victory

In early July, “one of the kids” said something to Mark Hennig about closing in on the 1,500th victory of his training career and that it might be fun to achieve the milestone at Saratoga.

“We can’t win eight races at Saratoga,” the trainer said with a laugh to stepson Brandon Badgett, Brandon’s brother Brian or maybe son-in-law John Cannie.

A few days later, Hennig won a maiden special weight at Belmont Park with Spinning Colors and the topic came up again.

“We can’t win seven races at Saratoga,” Hennig fired back just as quickly.

Apparently, they can.

SATURDAY RACING RECAP

Saturday, Hennig collected his seventh win of the 2023 Saratoga Race Course season when Spinning Colors captured the finale to give the trainer 1,500 for his career.

A former assistant to Hall of Famer D. Wayne Lukas, Hennig started training in 1992 – Arabian Ace came through at Hollywood Park July 16 with Laffit Pincay Jr. in the saddle to get it started – and hadn’t won more than six races at Saratoga since 2004 (when he won eight).

Bred and owned by longtime Hennig clients Bill Parsons and David Howe, Spinning Colors spent much of the 1 1/16-mile trip in traffic after



Dave Harmon

Spinning Colors gives Mark Hennig his 1,500th training win in Saturday’s finale.

breaking with a hop from the inside post. Eighth of 10 around the first turn, she advanced to sixth on the second, slingshot off the rail at the top of the stretch and charged down the center of the course to win the first-level

allowance by 2 lengths. Ridden by Dylan Davis, she finished 1:42.77 on the inner turf course. Stella Mars finished second with Rheume third.

Spinning Colors lost all five starts

Continued On Page 29

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SCAN TO GIVE

Saturday —

■ Continued from page 28

last year as a 2-year-old, but is 2-for-3 this year after a winter break.

Hennig kind of forgot about the milestone, and called it a “participation trophy” at one point, but took a deep breath and thought about it in the winner’s circle afterward.

“Brandon is here with a bunch of people from work, John started yelling about it being fifteen-hundred on the way out here afterward,” Hennig said. “It’s great. I’ll take it. I’m just going to keep saying we can’t win anymore at Saratoga.”

— Joe Clancy

• Deterministic impressed in his debut in Saturday’s fifth, coming from off the pace to hit the wire first for trainer Christophe Clement.

Owned by a partnership of St. Elias Stables, Ken Langone, Steve Duncker and Vicarage Stable, the 2-year-old son of Liam’s Map was a \$625,000 purchase at the 2022 Keeneland September yearling sale.

“The partnership is great,” Duncker said in the winner’s circle as the mid-card rain shower started. “Vinnie [Viola] and Rory [Babich] and his team have just been so incredibly easy to work with, and a lot of the fun in horse racing is, as everyone knows, the camaraderie.”



Tod Marks
Deterministic (left) wears down
Hurricane Nelson late in Saturday's fifth race.

Deterministic broke slowly from the 7-furlong chute under Joel Rosario, settling in sixth (of eight) while the lone leader Informed Patriot stamped out the opening quarter-mile in :22.77.

Deterministic remained in sixth through most of the far turn before angling around competitors to the extreme outside while longshot Hurricane Nelson and Edgard Zayas hit the lead at the top of the stretch. Those two held it until Deterministic edged ahead in the final strides, stopping the clock

in 1:24.18. Post-time favorite Eliminate finished third, while Informed Patriot held onto fourth.

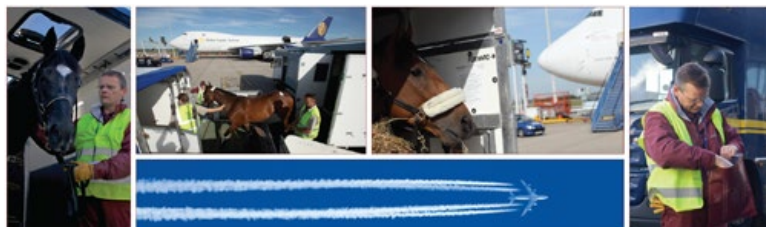
Duncker, a member of the NYRA board of directors, owned horses on his own for decades, but the partnership with St. Elias Stables is relatively new.

“We’ve known Vinnie for a long time,” Duncker said. “At The Jockey Club dinner last year, we were sitting around talking and he said ‘You know,

Continued On Page 30

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Saturday —

■ Continued from page 29

we should own some horses together.' To be able to share this moment with them, I get emotional about stuff like this. I'm extremely excited. I'm not sure I've processed it yet, but now we get to revel in it for a while."

— Nolan Clancy

• George Weaver is hopeful for a California-sized future for Good Lord Lorrie after he broke his maiden in his debut in the second.

The 2-year-old son of Hard Spun won as the 4-1 second choice behind Ocean Mermaid, whose only other start was a runner-up to Weaver's Royal Ascot winner Crimson Advocate in the Royal Palm Juvenile Fillies Stakes at Gulfstream.

"The goal is to get to the Breeders' Cup," Weaver said of Good Lord Lorrie and this year's world championships at Santa Anita. "This horse will probably go a little further. But right off the cuff, this horse may be a good candidate for Kentucky Downs."

Bred by G. Watts Humphrey Jr., Good Lord Lorrie cost \$90,000 at



Good Lord Lorrie pulls away late in Saturday's second race.

Tod Marks

Keeneland September via purchasing agent Steve Young. The Saratoga winner's dam Spinning Wheel is out of Magical Ride, a daughter of Humphrey's star mare Victory Ride (winner of the Grade 1 Test at Saratoga in 2001).

Even though he's looking ahead with the Harrell Ventures' colt, Weaver

isn't about to slow down at Saratoga anytime soon.

"We're in a nice position to be in with some nice horses," said the trainer, who has won seven races at the meet. "Shopping for some good spots."

— Mary Rufo

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Saratoga Bulletin Board

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Saturday —

■ Continued from page 30

• Saturday saw two turf stakes go off without a hitch despite a few showers throughout the card and a threatening evening forecast. Casa Creed vs. Annapolis III in the Fourstardave headlined the day of 11 races.

Tall Paul, a rare Bob Baffert-trained New York-bred, won the first race going 6 furlongs on the main track. Bred by Jeff Treadway, the 2-year-old son of Frosted and the Scat Daddy mare Ananda cost \$475,000 at OBS March and won Sunday for owners Mike Pegram, Karl Watson and Paul Weitman. Tall Paul finished third in his debut at Del Mar July 23 and won by 3 lengths with Joel Rosario aboard against fellow state-breds Sunday.

The third race, a starter allowance out of the Wilson Chute, was won by Sa Foradada under leading rider Irad Ortiz Jr. for Rick Dutrow.

Bill Morey collected his third win of the meet with Ten Cent Town in the fourth. The sixth race, a 6-furlong maiden special weight affair on the main track, went to Richies Princess for Larry Rivelli's second win of the meet. Chileno won the 10th, going a mile on the main track for Linda Rice.

Luis Saez completed a turf stakes double when L J's Emma won the Galway and Casa Creed to the Fourstardave.

A few regular faces were missing from the races, busy finding success in the Beverly D. and Arlington Million at Colonial Downs. Fev Rover won the former, with Javier Castellano aboard for Mark Casse, after finishing third in Saratoga's Diana July 15. Set Piece took the latter for Florent Geroux and Brad Cox.

Saturday also saw no entries for the meet's leading trainer Chad Brown, who averaged four starts per day through the first 22 days of the meet.



Tod Marks

Chileno captures Saturday's 10th race for trainer Linda Rice.

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Closethegame Sugar adds to Rice's Saratoga haul Sunday

BY NOLAN CLANCY

Adam Rice brought a Saratoga record of three wins and a third in six starts when he shipped Closethegame Sugar here for his debut at the end of last year's meeting. Most would say winning at a 50-percent clip at the toughest meet in America isn't sustainable, and that the law of averages is sure to kick in.

Closethegame Sugar won his debut at 5 1/2 furlongs over good turf Aug. 31, 2022 to improve Rice's mark.

Rice and the law of averages met again Sunday at Saratoga.

The Presque Isle Downs-based conditioner and his 3-year-old gelding came out on top again, this time with a win in the \$150,000 Mahony Stakes.

MAHONY STAKES RECAP

"You know you're reaching coming up here some days, coming out of Presque Isle, and the horses are nice," Rice said. "If they're nice, they'll tell you what they want to do. He's one of my favorite horses to ride every day."

The son of Girvin captured his second win in three starts for owners Rice and Sugar Diaz. Last August, Rice's brother-in-law Jose Ortiz rode the gelding out of Casual Cocktail to victory on the inner turf.

"Jose [Ortiz] was excited when he got off of him," Rice said of the 2022 debut win. "Jose couldn't ride him today, but that's OK, Jose Lezcano

Continued On Page 33



Dave Harmon

Closethegame Sugar surges to an upset of Sunday's Mahony Stakes.

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Mahony —

■ Continued from page 32

brought it home.”

Uncashed and Harry Time dueled through an opening quarter-mile in :21.49, opening a 4-length lead on post-time favorite No Nay Hudson and the rest of the field. Closethegame Sugar sat in fourth, just inside of Drew's Gold.

As the field bunched up around the far turn, Lezcano held his ground-saving position and waited for a gap. His patience paid off when the two leaders faded along the rail, and Closethegame Sugar unleashed his run to the inside of No Nay Hudson and James Graham.

After establishing the lead and holding off a late charge from Private Creed and Joel Rosario, Closethegame Sugar went on to win by a half-length.

Eye Witness, Jose Ortiz's mount in the Mahony for Wesley Ward, had won three straight including stakes at Turfway Park and Belmont Park. He made a late run from last to finish third. No Nay Hudson, Ward's other runner, faded to fourth.

Closethegame Sugar stopped the clock in 1:02.54, almost four seconds faster than his Saratoga debut win at the same distance last year, when he beat Mark Casse's standout Grade 2 winner Webslinger.

“There is so much fight in this horse it's not even funny,” Rice said. “He gives every bit you ask if you ask him. His first out, he was a little bit

short I think and that horse [Webslinger] gave it to him, and he still gave it.

“The horse that ran behind him was a monster this year. I've been excited to see if mine could somewhat come back up, but to be here against these horses, these horses are all nice. If it was on the dirt it would've been a little different race, but it was my race today.”

Webslinger most recently finished second in the Grade 1 Saratoga Derby Invitational and has collected \$1,025,320 in his career.

Bred in Kentucky by Brereton Jones, Closethegame Sugar only ran once between his debut and Sunday's Mahony, a second in the June 6 Tom Ridge Stakes on Presque Isle's synthetic surface.

Rice, the nephew of New York-based trainer Linda Rice, also collected a win in Sunday's second with Dancing Spirit, a 2-year-old filly with Ortiz aboard. Rice has now won six races in nine starts at Saratoga.

The Mahony is Rice's second stakes win, the other coming in the 2020 Fitz Dixon Jr. Memorial at Presque Isle with Like A Saltshaker.

Rice doesn't have any secrets to his success at Saratoga, but he said that getting them used to the environment is key, even just for weekend stays.

“I ship into the receiving barn. I call the racing secretary and see if they let me come in early, and if they do I come in,” Rice said. “I train them the day of the race just to get them quiet because they're here, and we do our best.”



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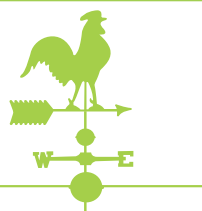
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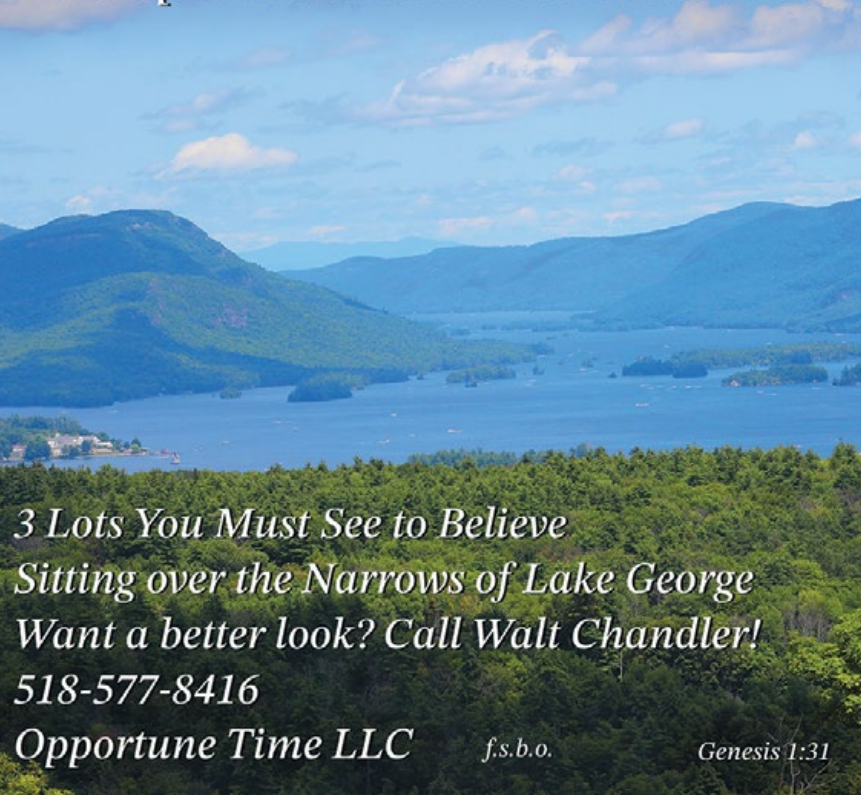
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Back to Normal

Sunday puts wraps on fifth week of meet

The fifth weekend of the meet felt like a return to normalcy at Saratoga Race Course.

All races ran on their scheduled surfaces, the power stayed on and most importantly, all of the horses came home safe. Part of Saratoga's normalcy also includes seeing some prospects for the future, and Sunday delivered just that.

The 24th day of the meet featured several promising winners who have opportunities to do bigger and better things.

Adam Rice collected the first of his winners on the card in the second, with Dancing Spirit making a successful turf debut for the owner and trainer. The filly shipped in from Presque Isle Downs and made the trip worthwhile in a maiden score.

The second was also run as the Mike Hernandez Memorial, in honor of the late graded stakes-winning trainer who was based in New York throughout his career. Hernandez died at the age of 99 late last year. Family, friends and the jockeys who participated in the inner turf contest gathered in the winner's circle to celebrate his life and contributions to the sport. Saratoga was always a happy place for Hernandez, his daughter Cathy Hagney said.

"My father was Mike Hernandez and this was his magical place," Hagney said. "He always said Saratoga was magic to him. It would put air in his lungs. I was fortunate enough to move here five



Dave Harmon

Magic Tap could be headed to graded company after winning Sunday's eighth race.

years ago, and he allowed me to get into the circle. It was the best thing that could've ever happened to me."

Winchell Thoroughbreds' Magic Tap won the eighth race for trainer Steve Asmussen and could be headed to Grade 1 company in his next start in the \$1 million Pennsylvania Derby at Parx Racing Sept. 23.

Wonder Ride won her debut in the opener, a maiden special weight for 2-year-olds going 7 furlongs, for owner Walking L Thoroughbreds and trainer Kenny McPeck. She'll most likely run next in the Grade 1 Spinaway Stakes on closing weekend.

He'smyhoneybadger continued trainer Tom Amoss' strong meet winning the ninth, a 7-furlong allowance-optional for 3-year-olds and up on the main track. Amoss improved to 4-for-10 at the meet with the victory. Chad Brown extended his lead in the trainer standings with a win in the fifth, a 9-furlong allowance-optional on the turf. Owned by Klaravich Stables, Activist Investing hadn't been out since his maiden win in mid-October at Aqueduct. Legion Racing's Zadorsky gave trainer Wayne Catalano his first victory of the meet in the sixth, a 6-furlong maiden for 2-year-olds.

— Alec DiConza

Continued On Page 35

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Sunday —

■ Continued from page 34

• Walking L Thoroughbreds' Wonder Ride gave McPeck reason to think big after she won Sunday's opener in her debut under Julien Leparoux.

"Julien was patient and saved some juice for the finish there," McPeck said of the daughter of Gun Runner's half-length victory over Stellamaris. "That was the difference. She's done everything right. Every move she's made as a young horse has been the right one."

McPeck said the Grade 1 Spinaway could be next for Wonder Ride.

"Obviously, today is a good first step. And maybe we'll bring her back in the Spinaway," he said, adding that the Grade 3 Pocahontas Sept. 16 could also be a target. "We'll nominate to that, too, but because she's here and she had a good run over the track, we'll look at the Spinaway."

— Mary Rufo

• Sometimes, success runs in the family. One month after trainer Linda Rice won the first race of the Saratoga meet, her nephew and owner/trainer Adam sent out his first starter of the season and came away with a victory in Sunday's second.

Sent off at 8-1, Dancing Spirit broke from the outside post in a field of nine going 1 1/16 miles on the inner turf. The daughter of Social Inclusion settled in third behind Dr. Ray D. and Out Too Late, made a three-wide bid on the far turn to make the lead at the top of the stretch and held off the closing Sea Dancer. She won in 1:45.03 under jockey Jose Ortiz, who is Adam Rice's brother-in-law.

Rice shipped the filly from Pennsylvania.

"My stable is based out of Presque Isle, so I shipped in to run here," Rice said of the track in Erie. "I'll place them as they come along, but this filly seemed right and it seemed like the right place, and yes it was."

Dancing Spirit made her debut July 17 at Presque Isle, finishing second in a 5-furlong maiden on synthetic. Rice said the stretch out to two turns and the switch in surfaces, though a big adjustment, helped Dancing Spirit get the job done.

"You're never confident, or at least too confident," Rice said. "I got her

in here last night and galloped her this morning just to get her out of the stall and be happy. I've had a good record flipping them to the turf and they seem to like it, but I think that synthetic surface really helps us get them happy and prepared. It shows. The filly showed up."

Dancing Spirit may be headed to some stakes closer to home.

"We'll see what comes down," Rice said. "She's Pennsylvania-bred, sired and bred, so there's a sire series at Parx, but she'd have to like the dirt and who knows how that goes."

Rice later won the Mahony Stakes with Closethegame Sugar to improve to 2-for-2 at the meet.

— Alec DiConza

• City Fever improved on his close second in his debut opening weekend with a victory in the fourth for Sonata Stable and trainer Mike Trombetta. Irad Ortiz Jr. gave the 3-year-old son of City Of Light a ground-saving trip for a majority of the 5 1/2-furlong turf maiden before a 1 1/2-length win.

City Fever finished second by a nose in a similar race July 15.

Continued On Page 36

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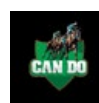


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Sunday —

■ Continued from page 35

Chris Aro, Trombetta's assistant, said he learned from that effort.

"He's been training great after that race and came out of it well," he said. "We were really looking forward to running him. He's such a laid-back colt. Not really aggressive. Just very kind."

— Mary Rufo

- Trainer Wayne Catalano made a quick business trip to Saratoga from Churchill Downs for last week's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale of selected yearlings. He made a point of staying through Wednesday, to run the promising 2-year-old Tapiture filly Zadorsky in the fifth that day.

Catalano had his filly in the paddock and was waiting for jockey Jose Lezcano when, as the saying sort of goes, "stuff happens."

What happened was a power outage. All the electric power at the track went out. The tote board went black, the lights went out, the wifi was gone. Everything stopped. The outage was blamed on a tree falling on the Yaddo property or a tree or branches falling near a barn on the backstretch. Catalano took the delay in stride.

"Basically we just continued walking her in the paddock while the lights were out," Catalano said. "It was like schooling her."

The electricity returned after 41 minutes, but by then the fifth race

was canceled. Zadorsky went back to her barn. And Catalano went back to Louisville.

Fast forward four days. The deleted race had been rescheduled as Sunday's sixth. The same 10 fillies were led to the paddock. The valets brought out 10 saddles. Ten jockeys walked to their mounts. Everything was the same as Wednesday except Wayne Catalano was 800 miles away from the Saratoga paddock.

Zadorsky and Lezcano got the job done without him. Lezcano urged his filly to the front in a hurry and they ran in tandem with Luis Saez and Lady Prospect for the first half-mile of the 6-furlong maiden special weight. Zadorsky opened up on the field by 2 lengths at the quarter pole and maintained that lead to the finish. Shimmering Allure bested Crazy Cami for second by a head.

Lezcano took a congratulatory and appreciative phone call from Catalano leaving the winner's circle.

"I wish it could have been Wednesday," Catalano said later, "but winning at Saratoga is great anytime, even four days late."

— Terry Hill

- The 3-year-old male division may have gained another player in Magic Tap, winner of the eighth for Winchell Thoroughbreds and Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen.

The son of Tapit followed pacesetter Film Star through early fractions of :24.06, :47.77 and 1:11.27. Magic Tap was still second and 2 1/2 lengths



Dave Harmon

City Fever prevails in Sunday's fifth for trainer Mike Trombetta.



Dave Harmon

Zadorsky heads for home in Sunday's sixth, a race rescheduled from Wednesday.

back at the eighth pole, before wearing down the leader to win by a neck. He won in 1:50.24.

"This is ideal," Asmussen said of the 9 furlongs. "He has run good numbers. Huge pedigree. Has a lot of talent. Has kept great company in the morning. He's very impressive."

The close win for Magic Tap is a reversal from a narrow defeat in his last start June 30. Pressured on the front end that day at Ellis Park, he got outdueled by stakes-placed Tapit's Conquest by a head. Asmussen was happy to see the change in tactics under Tyler Gaffalione.

"Him not being the target today and getting worn down, him laying off of them and handling them like he did, we needed to see that," Asmussen said.

Magic Tap improved to 2-for-4. He broke his maiden two starts back going 1 1/16 miles at Churchill Downs after a sixth in his debut in mid-April at Keeneland. Asmussen said maturity has been the key for the \$450,000 Keeneland September yearling sale purchase who prepped with the trainer's father Keith in Texas.

"He came with a nice tested group from the barn last year," he said. "He came from my father's place extremely well-touted. He didn't handle it mentally last year, and he's putting it together. He has always been in the upper echelon of horses in our stable with talent."

Asmussen said Magic Tap could take some top members of the sopho-

more class next time out.

"We are going to probably run him in the Pennsylvania Derby off of this," Asmussen said.

— Alec DiConza

- Tom Amoss came into Sunday with three wins in just eight starts at the meet and increased his win percentage when He'smyhoneybadger won the ninth for owners Ron Groene, David Bernsen and Omar Aldabbagh. Amoss, who sent out Ba Dee Yah to a sixth in the second race, improved to 4-for-10 at the meet.

"This is really a lot of fun," he said. "I have a big group here, some friends from out of town. Tyler (Gaffalione) rode the horse great. My horse showed up today. I'm very proud of my horse."

He'smyhoneybadger broke from post seven and stalked the pace early in the 7-furlong allowance-optional. Surrounded by challengers in the stretch, the 5-year-old Daredevil gelding outlasted Castle Chaos, Twenty Four Mamba and Willy Boi to win by a neck and earn his seventh win in 19 starts.

"I knew he had determination and that's really what made the difference," Amoss said.

He'smyhoneybadger was claimed by Amoss out of a win May 14 at Churchill Downs and was claimed again Sunday by Rob Atras for \$62,500.

— Alec DiConza

Strong Finish

Sales season closes with more records for NY-bred yearlings

BY TOM LAW

Fasig-Tipton Co. followed up its record-breaking Saratoga sale of selected yearlings with more records at the two-day New York-bred yearling sale that brought the live auction season to a close Monday.

Fasig-Tipton reported sales on 219 of the 300 yearlings through the ring for a record \$20,904,000, up 3.6 percent from last year's record of \$20,175,000 for 188 sold.

The increased number of yearlings sold – which came after an initial catalog of 364 – and rise in overall RNA rate led to a drop in average price. Average price came in at \$95,452, down 11.1 percent from last year's \$107,314. Median rose 1.4 percent from \$74,000 in 2022 to \$75,000.

"All in all it's a healthy market," said Boyd Browning Jr., Fasig-Tipton president and chief executive officer. "You've heard me describe for a while, in July and again here, it's going to be fair marketplace. The buyers were complaining that they couldn't buy the horses that they wanted and the sellers were saying they wish they had a little bit more marketplace, particularly in the \$30,000 to \$60,000 price range. That's indicative of the world we live in today."

"Overall, a very successful sale. The New York-bred program continues to be a leader in the United States certainly and probably in the world of a state-bred type program. There's great incentives for people to both breed and to race in New York and that was reflective of the results the last two days."

Two colts – one early in the first session and another late in the second – shared honors for highest price at \$380,000.

Hip 306, by Violence from the family of graded stakes winners Itsaknockout and Rush Bay, went through the ring in the first few minutes of bidding Sunday evening. Chris Bacari, bidding alongside trainer Kenny

FASIG-TIPTON SALES

McPeck and on behalf of country music star Toby Keith, signed for the colt out of the winning Liam's Map mare Liam's Lookout.

The colt, consigned by Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa, sold as a short yearling to SKPJ Stables for \$175,000 at this year's Keeneland January sale. Liam's Lookout, a \$100,000 yearling at the 2018 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July sale, won two of 10 starts with four seconds and earned \$49,222. She's a half-sister to Itsaknockout, winner of the Grade 2 Besilu Stables Fountain of Youth Stakes at Gulfstream Park and ninth in the Kentucky Derby in 2015; stakes winner Storm Power and stakes-placed winner Hot Sean.

Tom McCrocklin, who bought nine yearlings for multiple clients including Champion Equine for an average of \$131,667, purchased the other \$380,000 colt. Offered as Hip 628, the colt by Practical Joke is out of the Grade 3-winning Awesome Again mare Golden Mystery.

McCrocklin also bought the topper at last year's New York-bred sale, going to \$700,000 on behalf of Champion Equine for a colt by Arrogate. He later sold that colt, a full-brother to multiple Grade 1 winner Cave Rock, for \$1.05 million at this year's OBS March sale.

McCrocklin said he plans to pinhook this year's co-topper, along with his other purchases. He said he liked "everything" about the Practical Joke colt.

"I thought he was the best horse in the sale and just when you thought Practical Joke was sleepy, he's come back to life," said McCrocklin. "I mean the filly of Chad's [Brown], she's a legitimate horse, Ways and Means. It's a little bit of trying to look into the future so that's what we do and it's a lot of risk and a lot of money. It worked out last year on a few horses and it's extreme risk mitigated by expertise. It's not necessarily my ex-



Fasig-Tipton

Hip 306 sold for \$380,000, tied for the top spot at the sale.

pertise but somewhere in there there's got to be expertise."

The top-priced filly went through the ring Monday afternoon when trainer Wesley Ward landed Hip 463, a daughter of Munnings out of the Malibu Moon mare To The Moon Alice for \$340,000.

"She just looked like a standout individually in the sale," said Ward, who signed for the filly in the name Preferred Equine, agent. "We're really happy with her. She looked like the best filly we've seen in this sale."

Bred by and foaled at Old Tavern Farm in Saratoga Springs, the filly is the fifth foal out of the half-sister to Grade 2 winner Unchained Melody. To The Moon Alice is the dam of New York-bred winner Two for Charging and the unraced New York-bred 2-year-old Ghostzapper filly Don't Scroll who sold for \$160,000 at the 2021 Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale.

Niall Brennan, agent for JR International Holdings, landed the fifth most expensive yearling and second highest-priced filly when he went to \$325,000 for Hip 619, a daughter of Munnings out of multiple New York-bred stakes winner Freudie Anne.

"From the first time we saw her I felt like she was a very, very good Munnings. He's a great stallion; it doesn't matter if it's fillies, colts, turf or dirt," said Brennan, who said the filly would be raced by Richard Spoor. "The mare was excellent. They do a great job at Hunter Valley. They raced the mare,

they raised this filly. She looks like a really good Munnings."

Bred by Fergus Galvin, Marc Detampel, Jayne Johnson and Adrian Wallace and consigned by Hunter Valley Farm, agent, the filly is the fourth foal out of the Freud mare who won the 2015 Statue of Liberty division of the New York Stallion Series Stakes at Saratoga. She's also a full-sister to the 2-year-old Lamorna, who sold for \$320,000 at last year's Keeneland September sale; the 3-year-old filly Showemyourheels who sold for \$350,000 at the 2021 Saratoga New York-bred sale; and the winning 4-year-old colt Eddie the Great, who sold for \$100,000 at the 2020 Fasig-Tipton Select Yearling Showcase.

"She's been an incredible mare for us, we've sold over a million dollars out of her," Galvin said. "This is her fourth Munnings. It's a great cross, with Freud. It's super physically as well. We've had a pretty good sale. We brought some nice horses. I know it's been a little bit patchy for some people, but we got the right bounce of the ball so to speak."

Those four yearlings were among eight to sell for \$300,000 or more and 26 that brought \$200,000 or more. Last year's New York-bred sale saw 12 yearlings bring \$300,000 or more – including colts for \$700,000 and \$600,000 – and the same number sell for \$200,000 or more.

– Additional reporting
by Nolan Clancy and Mary Rufo

It will make you question what you're doing with your life.

Tough beats. Rough trips. Bad tracks. Bounced checks. Gate scratches. Vet scratches. Photo-finish losses. First-turn debacles. Early mornings. Late nights. Hot afternoons. Long drives. Soul-searching phone calls. Soul-crushing missteps. Devastating losses. Despicable cheaters. Inexplicable rules. High takeout. Low returns. Missed claims. Lost claims. Colic. Condylar. Lameness. Laminitis. The final strides, the final moments of the Test.

Yeah, horse racing will make you question what you're doing with, what you've done with, your life.

For Lee Einsidler, there was a day when he never questioned horse racing and his life in it again.

It was a Saturday in Saratoga. August 22, 2020. Eleven days after Einsidler's 34-year-old son, Aaron, and his wife, Sara had died, leaving behind their three-week-old daughter Allie.

"When Aaron and Sara passed away three years ago, it was beyond belief, beyond dark. It was the first time in my life that I was ever in a dark place," Einsidler said Saturday. "I came here a couple of days later, when Casa Creed walked into the paddock, he was 4. Billy Mott was there and I thought, 'Somehow, somehow I'll get through this.' All because of horse racing."

Einsidler's big horse, Casa Creed, trained by Mott, finished third that day. Einsidler wasn't complaining about a 2 1/2-length defeat behind Halladay and Got Stormy. No, that day, was about distraction, about the momentary respite of sport from the hard reality of life.

It's been three long hard years for Einsidler and his family. Horse racing – and Casa Creed – have done their part to salve an unsalvable loss.

"I can just sit there and watch replays of races we've won, look at win pictures, and it puts me in the most happy place I could possibly be," Einsidler said. "It's my most happy, safe place in the world."

There is no happy for a parent after losing a child. It's about being the most happy you can possibly be in a world which will never be the same.

Somehow, horse racing and Casa Creed continue to offer a safe place, a most happy place for Einsidler and his family. The 7-year-old overachiever overachieved yet again Saturday, winning a stun-



CUP OF COFFEE

By Sean Clancy

ning edition of the Fourstardave. Sure, for Todd Pletcher, Ramona Bass, Irad Ortiz Jr and the Annapolis team, it was another notch in racing's belt of defeat. For Einsidler, it was escape. Pure escape.

"It's a very emotional time for us. My son and his wife passed away three years ago yesterday," Einsidler said at the end of the day. "I said in the interview on Fox and I meant it, 'You know I think Aaron is probably looking down on us and if he is, it will give us at least a couple of lengths on the competition.' And it turned out to be true."

So true. Down and seemingly out at the quarter pole, Casa Creed clawed and clutched his way back into contention by the eighth pole, gradually reeling in Annapolis to win his second consecutive Fourstardave by the hardest-fought three-quarters of a length. Luis Saez pumped from atop Casa Creed and maybe, somehow, Aaron Einsidler implored from above.

"How do you do that at 7 years of age? Come on, now," Einsidler said. "When we won the Kelso, we got the jump on Annapolis. Today we had to go get him. You can't even imagine running in the same Grade 1 race four years in a row in Saratoga. To win it, two years in a row, I have no words, I can't even describe it. It's unbelievable. It's unheard of. The

only other horse to do that is Fourstardave. Now they call him the mayor of Saratoga. Casa Creed. I couldn't be more proud of him. I couldn't be more proud of him."

In the ever-eclectic world of horse racing, Einsidler weaved his own patch in the quilt. From a kid tagging along with his dad to a \$2 bettor to an owner of a four-time Grade 1 stakes winner and a Saratoga legend.

"Like a lot of us degenerates in New York, our dads took us to the track. When I was a little kid, I was mesmerized by it. When I got a little older, my friends would go to Yankee games or Met games and I would get on the bus and go to Aqueduct or Belmont," Einsidler said. "I just fell in love with it as a kid and it stayed with me ever since. I never dreamed I'd be in a position to own racehorses but fortunate enough, I've been able to do that and here we are."

From working in his father's liquor store to becoming CEO of Sidney Frank Importing Company, creators of Grey Goose Vodka, to the CEO of Casamigos Tequila, Einsidler certainly rose to a position to own racehorses.

And, more importantly, enjoy horse racing, enjoy Saratoga.

"I guess it's the ultimate escape from reality. All of us need some escape from the trials and tribulations of everyday life," Einsidler said. "Maybe somebody buys a yacht, or somebody buys a plane, or somebody goes on a trip to Italy, or somebody sails around the world, Saratoga is my marlin if you know what I mean. To me, this is the most special place in the world. To come here and participate at the highest level and win this super important race today, it's a horse owner's dream come true. It's just so special."

Einsidler finished the conversation, posed for a photo with a fan and walked toward the paddock at the end of a special day. Three years and a day after the worst day. Horse racing had done its part.

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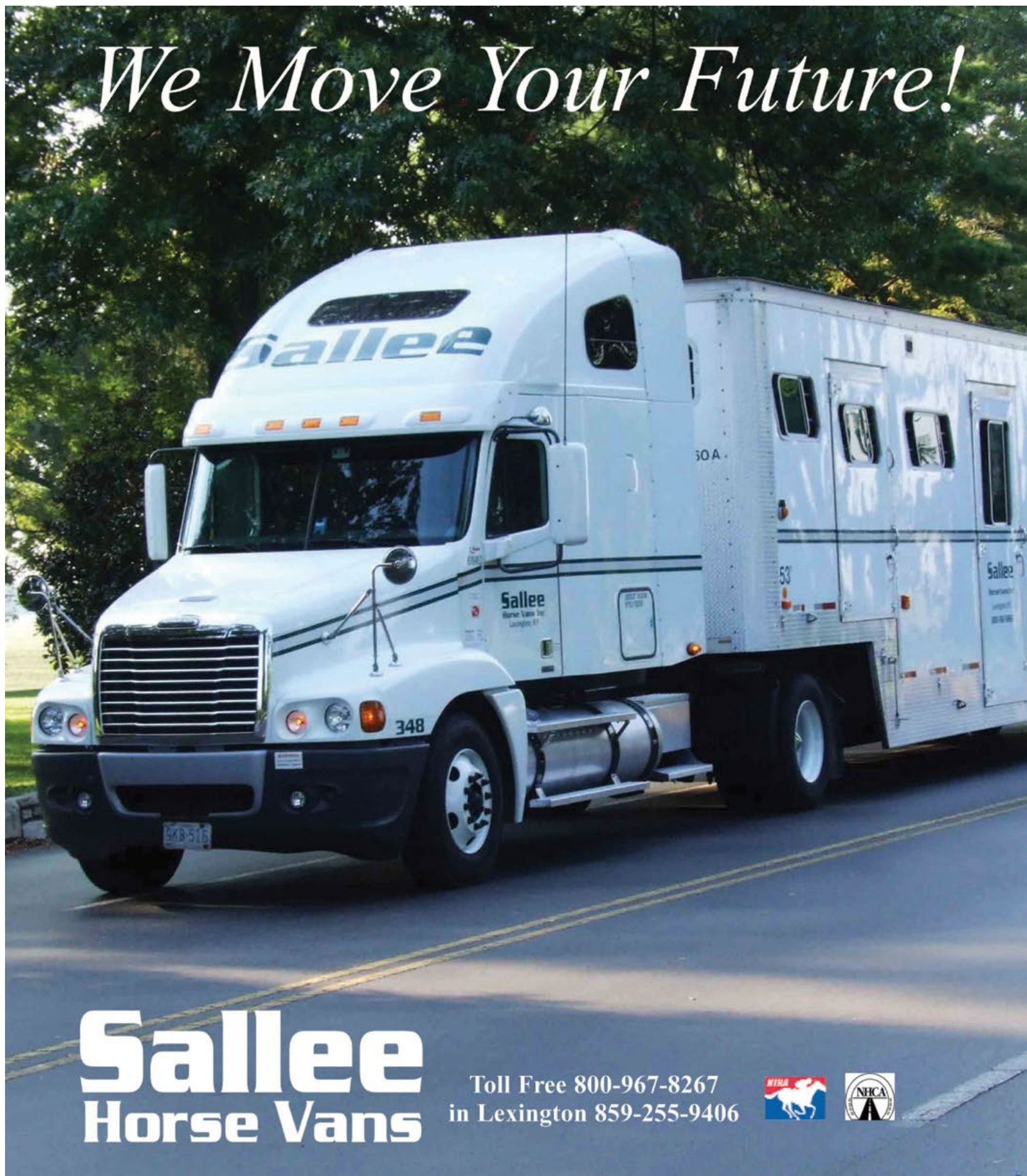
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