

Year 23 • No. 17

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

The *Saratoga*

Special

Saratoga's Racing Newspaper since 2001



Sorted

Randomized wires Grade 1 Alabama

Entries & Handicapping
Danny Gargan Stable Tour

Jumpers clash
in Grade 1 Sheppard

Nest, Clairiere,
Secret Oath meet Friday



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Nice View. Joel Rosario looks for challengers – and sees none – aboard Randomized in the stretch of Saturday's Alabama.

Dave Harmon

Here&There...in Saratoga

Field set for 154th Travers Stakes

Forte, last year's champion 2-year-old male and winner of the Grade 2 Jim Dandy July 29, takes on the three winners of this year's Triple Crown races in Saturday's \$1.25 million Travers Stakes at Saratoga Race Course. The Travers is Race 12 on a 13-race card, with post time set for 6:11 p.m.

The Travers anchors a card that also features four other Grade 1 stakes and will be broadcast during FOX Saratoga Saturday from 3-6 p.m. The field, with jockeys and morning-line odds:

1. Forte Irad Ortiz Jr..... 7-5
2. Arcangelo Javier Castellano 5-2
3. Tapit Trice Jose Ortiz 12-1
4. Mage Luis Saez 4-1
5. National Treasure John Velazquez 8-1
6. Disarm Joel Rosario 8-1
7. Scotland Junior Alvarado 12-1

License Plate of the Day

VALELUJA, New York.
FILLYFAN, New York. Repeat, but the driver didn't see it.
OFALTS, Virginia. (Middleburg edition).
DRAFFT, Virginia. (Middleburg edition).
73BIGRED, New York.
KYDERBY, Delaware.

By The Numbers

1: Guy in a vintage Little League World Series windbreaker at the track Saturday.

2: Full-brothers who run in stakes at Saratoga Race Course Wednesday. Five-year-old Jimmy P is part of the field for the Jonathan Sheppard steeplechase stakes. Four-year-old Sy Dog is in the John's Call turf stakes. Bred by Head of Plains Partners and Madaket Stable, they're by Slumber out of My Love Venezuela.

Names of the Day

Coppola, third race. The Hammer Time Stable colt is by Into Mischief.

Blue Eighty Five, sixth race. The 2-year-old colt is by Audible out of Bears Measure.

Clavinet, second race, Thursday. The 2-year-old is by Disco Partner.

Wine Responsibly, second race, Thursday. The New York-bred is by Vino Rosso out of Held Accountable.

Moonlight, first race, Friday. The 2-year-old colt is out of Sundown.

Going The Distance, 10th race, Friday. Eleven more race days. We're almost there. Finish strong.



The Saratoga Special

thisishorseracing.com

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Here&There...in Saratoga

By The Numbers

6: Members of The Special editorial and marketing teams involved in taste-testing sessions at the track Sunday afternoon. Check our Instagram for the scoop.

300: Donuts the Saratoga Race Course Dunkin' has to sell in a day to declare a sellout. Saturday was a sellout.

29,901: Combined career wins by the six trainers in Friday's Personal Ensign.

Worth Repeating

"Not really, we might train him the day of the race just to take the edge off him, settle him a little bit to go that far."

Trainer Linda Rice, on whether 1 5/8-mile John's Call Stakes favorite Pioneering Spirit trains differently than horses who compete at shorter distances

"She has that rare ability to quicken at the end of a dirt race – you don't see a lot of horses show that display of turn of foot at the top of the stretch like we see her do."

Trainer Todd Pletcher about Personal Ensign starter Nest

"I'm very happy with how she's training. Obviously, Nest is a very tall order. We'll see how we do, but we couldn't be happier with Clairiere going in. She's a four-time Grade 1 winner of \$3 million. She's covered plenty of ground."

Trainer Steve Asmussen about Personal Ensign starter Clairiere

"We're so thrilled to be here and blessed to do this. To have the opportunity to be here at this stage is amazing."

Jena Antonucci on running Belmont Stakes winner Arcangelo in the Travers

"I really didn't care, whether we got the 1 or 7, whatever. I think a mile and a quarter, everyone has enough time to get a position."

Gustavo Delgado Jr. on Kentucky Derby winner Mage drawing post four for the Travers

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.

"So many things happen in a lifetime of horses. One filly ran off in the morning, all around the Hialeah racetrack. I ran in to scratch her, the stewards said you can't scratch, scratches just came out and you prevented somebody from getting in. I said the filly just ran off, I didn't mean for her to run off, you can ask anybody you want. They said if a vet deems it that she shouldn't run, you can get her scratched this afternoon. She ran, she won easily. Roger Velez was on her, the bug, a maiden against non-winners-of-two. You used to do that, it was so tough to get in the maidens, Hialeah never had any maiden claimers at their middle meet. When I had one I thought was a claimer, I ran them against winners."



Tod Marks

Jackpot. A Saratoga Race Course backside squirrel cashes a big ticket Saturday morning.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's been on my bucket list."

Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott, who sends out Scotland in search of his first Travers win



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With Danny Gargan

With 11 days to go in the 2023 season at Saratoga Race Course, trainer Danny Gargan owns two victories from 16 starts. He's had better meets, and he's not complaining, but excuse him for a moment while he ponders a couple might-have-beens.

"I could be having the best meet of my life if I had won those two other stakes," he said. "Losing two stakes by a neck each is tough. If you win three stakes at Saratoga it's like swheh, that's a real good meet. If you win one stakes up here, you've had a good meet. It's hard to do."

Cases in point: Ramblin' Wreck's neck loss in the Cab Calloway division of the New York Stallion Series July 20 and half-brother Dakota Gold's neck defeat in the Fasig-Tipton Lure Stakes Aug. 5.

"If we win those two stakes, I'd have three stakes wins and it would be the best meet of my life," Gargan said. "You don't ever come in here saying you're going to win three stakes at Saratoga. It's that tough."

And the Gargan barn will be busy over the final two weeks of the meet.

"Look, there's worse places we could be. We're in Saratoga with a barn full of horses. I'm from the south end of Kentucky, OK, right outside Churchill Downs. Believe me, there are worse places we can be than Saratoga. I've got six legit stakes horses. I can't complain about life at all and we've got a shot at a couple more – I think Dakota can win a stake at the end."

Gargan started training full-time in 2013 and has built the stable into a player on the New York circuit and beyond with a mixture of horses spanning most divisions. Sunday morning, he took The Special's Joe Clancy on a walk through his barns just behind the Morning Line Kitchen on the main-track side.

Ramblin' Wreck: Owned by Reeves Thoroughbred Racing and Peter and Patty Searles, the 3-year-old New York-bred gelding by Redesdale returned from a six-month break in June and won the Spectacular Bid Division of the New York Stallion Series at Belmont Park. Favored in the Calloway, the \$140,000 Fasig-Tipton New York-bred yearling purchase came up a neck short of Itsallcomintogetha while gaining ground late. Back in action in the Rick Violette Stakes for New York-breds Aug. 17, he finished a nose behind Let's Go Big Blue, but got moved up to the win via disqualification for interference. Gargan will take it.

"There's a chance he runs back at the end of the meet in an allowance race. I might wheel him back. We'll see."



Tod Marks
Dakota Gold gets a chance to win
another Saratoga stakes Sunday.

Named for the trainer and New York horsemen's leader who died in 2018, the Violette brought more than a stakes win for Gargan, whose Saratoga horses occupy Violette's former barn.

"I'm very proud to win the race because Rick was a true horseman and we're in this barn. We have the same colors, too. Nothing's changed. We just freshen the (black and light blue) paint up and the initials are different. I met Rick when I was 17 or 18. He was galloping horses at Hialeah and had just started training on his own a little bit. He had six or eight horses and I was across from him. He was a good guy. Everybody says he argued a lot, but that's because he was on those boards. He always helped me and he was good for horsemen. What he did for retirement and aftercare – he built that program. And now Rick Schosberg's taken it over. If it wasn't for those two guys, I don't know what New York racing would have done. In a lot of areas."

Dakota Gold: Ramblin' Wreck's year older half-brother (by Freud) occupies the next stall and boasts \$707,950 in lifetime earnings fueled by five wins, two seconds and two thirds. Dakota Gold won his debut at Saratoga in 2021, finished fifth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf that year and won twice more (both New York Stallion Series stakes) last year. His 2023 began in Florida and has thus far included a third in the Kingston Stakes and a win in the Hudson Valley at Belmont, then the tough-luck Lure. Look for the \$83,000 Fasig-Tipton fall mixed sale purchase in Sunday's West Point Stakes.

Yes, Gargan knows the stall location is unique. The chestnuts are out of the Lemon Drop Kid mare Dakota Kid and resemble each

other enough to make you think.

"The two brothers are next to each other and they look a little bit alike. They're both nice horses. Both of them are feisty on the track, but since we gelded Ramblin' Wreck he's not as feisty. There's a great picture of Dakota standing behind the gate as a 2-year-old straight up in the air, and there's a picture of Ramblin' doing the same thing right out here as a 2-year-old too."

Pointing at Dakota Gold, whose head hangs out over the webbing, Gargan gets right to the point: "He's mean."

Nodding toward Ramblin' Wreck, a little farther back in the stall munching hay: "He's not as mean."

And back to Dakota Gold, whose stall include an orange traffic cone as a warning: "The cone is there for a reason. Don't ignore that. He's baiting you to come over there and see him. He gives you that look – but he wants to bite you."

Dubuyhnell: Owned by West Paces Racing and Stonestreet Stable, the 3-year-old Good Magic colt won an October maiden race and the Grade 2 Remsen Stakes at Aqueduct for Gargan last year. This year's campaign didn't go as well, with an eighth in the Sam Davis Feb. 11 and an 11th in the Florida Derby April 1. The losses earned him a lengthy break and he rejoined Gargan this spring. He's worked five times at Saratoga including a half-mile in :47.80 Thursday.

"His work the other day was nice. He's had a few half-mile

Continued On Page 8

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Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 6

breezes, but that was a real good one the other day. He's probably a month away from running, but I like where he's going. We'll find something at Aqueduct or he might go to Keeneland. He's got the two-x (other than) or non-winners of three."

Dornoch: A full-brother to 2023 Kentucky Derby winner Mage, the bay colt owned by West Paces, R.A. Hill Stable, Belmar Racing and Breeding and Two Eights Racing fills up the stall door. Second in his debut going 6 1/2 furlongs here July 29, the Good Magic colt could get another Saratoga try or tackle the 1-mile Sapling Stakes at Monmouth Park Saturday.

"He ran well the other day, it was too short for him and he's huge. He's a big boy, just look at him, and he's going to get bigger. We think he's going to be a two-turn horse, and he's going to be a nice horse."

James Aloysius: West Paces Racing's 4-year-old More Than Ready colt started just once each in 2021 (a second) and 2022 (a win), but has put together a bit of a campaign in 2023 with a win off the bench in March, a second at Keeneland in April, a third in Monmouth's Cliff Hanger Stakes in May and a fourth here July 20. Beaten less than 2 lengths, he could get another chance next weekend.

"He's a nice horse, just cool. He's won half his starts and he's stakes-placed. There's a two-other-than on the second or third (of September)."

Oglethorpe: Gargan owns part of the 4-year-old Arrogate colt with West Paces, R.A. Hill Stable and Anthony Sileno. The bay won at Keeneland in April after placing in two starts last year and was second behind runaway winner Blue Devil (who won again Aug. 18) in an off-the-turf allowance here July 14.

"He's been just plagued with off-the-turf stuff. He was second on the dirt, but I really want to run him on the grass once here. But he's the rainmaker. Hopefully we get to run."

Champions Dream: The gray Justify colt, owned by Rosedown Racing Stable, won his debut late in the meet here last year and went on to add the Grade 3 Nashua at Aqueduct. Transferred to trainer Mark Casse for a 3-year-old campaign, he finished second in January's Pasco Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs, but was 11th in the Sam Davis and the Tampa Bay Derby before an extended break.

"He went to Hartley/De Renzo after the Tampa Derby and then came back to me. He's just about ready."

Instamatic: Reeves Thoroughbred Racing's 2-year-old More Than Ready colt was favored for his debut July 27, but walked — literally — away from the gate after a lengthy delayed caused by other horses. He finished fifth.

"They called me about him afterward and



Tod Marks

Trainer Danny Gargan.

I was like, 'What about the other three that wouldn't go in?' He stood there like a pony. He ran OK considering. He's back in on Thursday (the second race) and I think he'll run well."

Queen's Martini: Another Reeves runner, the 2-year-old Mucho Macho Man filly won her debut going 5 1/2 furlongs here July 19 and could re-turn in the Spinaway Sept. 3.

"She's probably one of our better 2-year-olds and we're considering the Grade 1. You have to let them make the call themselves. If she makes it, fine, but we already have a plan to only run her a few times this year and give her a month off, so she's better for next year. She'll go home in December no matter what, so probably two more starts this year. The owners have a farm and we get to turn them out, which is why his horses last forever. He's the greatest for turning them out. If I tell him, 'Look I want to give this horse 30 days,' he just says to send him home. It works out great."

Ringy Dingy: A Fasig-Tipton October graduate, the 2-year-old Dialed In filly finished fifth in her debut July 30. The full-sister to Grade 1 winner and \$1.6 million earner Defunded learned plenty in her first race and Gargan hopes to try again this week.

"She ran a sneaky good race the other day, broke a little slow, rushed up and they were flying. The Into Mischief filly that was third, Mugen, I hope she's not in the same race with us because I think she'll be 1-9. It'll take a pretty fast horse to beat her."

Missouri River: Unraced gray Arrogate colt who cost Pine Racing Stable \$275,000 as a yearling at Fasig-Tipton October last year is going through his paces and looking for a spot to debut this fall.

"He's going to be good going long somewhere — a mile-and-an-eighth — I like him. It's a shame there aren't more Arrogates out there."

Astraeus: A 2-year-old Mitole colt owned by Reeves, he breezed a half-mile over the Oklahoma training track in :47 (fastest of 66 at the distance) Saturday. A day later, he was goofing off while jogging for Gargan and then retired to his stall for some hay and a nap.

"He's quick. He'll probably run on the second or the third in a grass race to get him started."

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*August 23 (Grade 1 Jonathan Sheppard Stakes) • August 30
At Aqueduct September 14 (Grade 1 Lonesome Glory Stakes).*

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Party Animal

Noah And The Ark heads field of 10 in Grade 1 jump feature

BY JOE CLANCY

Of all the things to come out of a night on Caroline Street in downtown Saratoga Springs, Noah And The Ark might be one of the most unlikely – and most successful.

Four years ago, English jump jockey Harry Beswick was on vacation with some friends and met American jump trainer Todd McKenna while experiencing the sights and sounds of Caroline Street. They bar-hopped (of course), talked horses, watched a phone video of a handicap hurdle at Worcester and – after breakfast at The Horseshoe – struck a deal to send the 5-year-old gelding to America. To that point, he'd won four races for Beswick's cousin Bart and trainer Donald McCain Jr.

JONATHAN SHEPPARD PREVIEW

Now, the chestnut is an American Grade 1 winner and the highweight in today's Grade 1 Jonathan Sheppard Handicap steeplechase. The first race on the card at 1:10 p.m. drew 10 runners, including meet winners L'Imperator and McTigue and 2022 Saratoga stakes winner Theocrat. Just one was a conversation at the Tin and Lint, Desperate Annie's, Gaffney's, Hamlet and Ghost, Dango's or some other establishment in 2019.

So where were they on Caroline Street when this conversation started?

"Where weren't we on Caroline Street is probably more of the ques-

Continued On Page 12



Tod Marks

Noah And The Ark looks for his second Grade 1 win in today's Jonathan Sheppard.



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Authentic

LOOK FOR FIRST YEARLINGS AT KEENELAND.

 SPENDTHRIFT

Sheppard —

■ Continued from page 10

tion,” Harry Beswick said this week. “I’d always take a trip to Saratoga with my friends from France and it was just a holiday. We bumped into Todd and we had quite a night out on Caroline Street. We had this horse, he was in his novice campaign at the time. It’s quite incredible how it’s all sort of snowballed to where we all are today.”

With McKenna in 2020, Noah And The Ark ran twice, not well, and reunited with Beswick for a ride – and a win – in 2021. Last year, they upset Snap Decision in the Grade 1 Lonesome Glory at Aqueduct (at 41-1) and finished second to eventual Eclipse Award winner and Irish raider Hewick in the Grade 1 American Grand National at Far Hills, N.J., in October.

The 9-year-old Vinnie Roe gelding opened 2023 with a fifth in the Grade 1 Iroquois in May and was fourth in the Grade 1 A.P. Smithwick here July 19. Neither went according to plan. In the 3-mile Iroquois at Nashville, Tenn., Noah And The Ark pulled hard and nearly pitched Beswick over his head a few jumps early. He pressed the pace, ran every step, went wide on the turns and actually stayed on OK to finish fifth. Before the Smithwick, he was wild in the paddock and warm-ups but dull and out the back in the race before rallying late to be fourth as Belfast Banter cruised to an easy win.



Tod Marks
L'Imperator tries to add a Grade 1 jump win to his Grade 2 victory on the flat.

“He’s a very complex horse,” said Beswick. “I’ve been fortunate enough to ride him his whole career and you think I’d know him inside out by now. The biggest surprise was probably Nashville. I’ve never experienced him so unrideable. Then he actually ran quite well figuring he did everything wrong. I was happy with his run in the Smithwick. He got a bit lit up in the preliminaries. We’re going to try to work around that as best we can. Saratoga is a big

crowd, a lot of walking and he doesn’t need much of an excuse to get lit up.”

The first three Smithwick finishers all went to the sidelines afterward, leaving Noah And The Ark as the 158-pound highweight against mainly less experienced horses. He’s the 4-1 second choice behind McTigue for Keystone Stable.

Originally scheduled for Aug. 16, the Sheppard offers a potential highlight to a Spa steeplechase season plagued by small fields and weather cancellations. The Smithwick was five weeks ago. A week later, L’Imperator won an allowance hurdle. The next race, the Jonathan Kiser novice stakes Aug. 2, went to McTigue over Awakened and Merry Maker. There hasn’t been a jump race since due to low entries and soft turf.

The shuffling brings a mixed, if competitive, group to today’s \$150,000 race. Fifth and sixth in the Smithwick, West Newton and Redicean return. McTigue is perfect in two American starts, a win by disqualification in May and a professional score in the Kiser. The Irish-bred tracked a quick tempo from third early, got first run on the closers and won by 3 3/4 lengths for Irv Naylor and trainer Cyril Murphy.

With Irish trainer Jim Bolger, McTigue won and finished sixth behind future Group 1 winner Luxembourg on the flat as a 2-year-old in 2021. He went jumping with Emmett Mullins and won his first two – a 3-year-old hurdle in England and a

Continued On Page 14

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Sheppard —

■ Continued from page 12

\$147,000 race at Auteuil in France. Once imported, the 4-year-old inherited a win when a rival went off course in front of him in May and did everything right in the Kiser.

"McTigue was bought with the summer racing in mind, because of the flat running he did and the nicer ground he did better on," Murphy said. "When he got back to the winter racing there, he wasn't as successful. He's a very light-framed horse."

McTigue wouldn't be running if Belfast Banter didn't come up with a tendon after the Smithwick and Murphy knows that trying a 4-year-old novice Grade 1 company looks ambitious. The 7-2 favorite on the morning line, McTigue carries 150 pounds including Gerard Galligan while seeking his fifth win in nine jump starts at his longest distance.

"Noah And The Ark has separated himself a little bit, but looking at the nominations, it's a novice race with a Grade 1 status on it," Murphy said last week. "Is 2 3/8 within his wheelhouse or are we stretching him a little bit? We'll see. He's a 4-year-old and

with the fall races he's got some options."

Hudson River Farm's L'Imperator dazzled in an allowance hurdle score here July 26, and brings the race's best flat form for trainer Arch Kingsley. With Chad Brown, the son of Holy Roman Emperor won the Grade 2 Fort Marcy last May and finished second in the Grade 2 Bowling Green here last summer. He's won his last two over jumps, but is the least experienced horse in the field with just four starts (all this year). Parker Hendriks takes the ride at 148 pounds and 9-2.

Two-time hurdle winner Awakened (6-1) finished second to McTigue in the Kiser, and tries again while getting a 10-pound shift in his favor in the handicap.

Jimmy P (also 6-1) makes his first start since winning a handicap hurdle in May. Irish-based jockey Danny Mullins, aboard for the win, returns. A winner here last year, Theocrat (8-1) has been first or second in all four American starts, but hasn't run since November.

Third in the Kiser, Merry Maker (12-1) looks for his third win over jumps for Kingsley. Redicean, West Newton and Caramelised complete the field.



McTigue (right) and Awakened meet again in today's Grade 1 jump race.

Tod Marks



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The Small Wonder

Wednesday September 27, 2023

Fillies Two Year Olds • Six Furlongs

The First State Dash

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Two Year Olds • Six Furlongs

The Tax Free Shopping Distaff

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Fillies & Mares Three Year Olds & Upward • Six Furlongs

The New Castle

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Three Year Olds & Upward • Six Furlongs



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Travel Tip

Pioneering Spirit puts win streak on line in marathon turf stakes

BY JOE CLANCY

The path from losing a \$40,000 maiden claimer on the dirt at Aqueduct in March to favoritism in Saratoga Race Course turf stakes in August might never be called direct, but Pioneering Spirit is certainly doing his part.

A. Bianco Holding Limited's 4-year-old gelding rides a four-race winning streak into today's John's Call Stakes and is the 5-2 choice on the morning line in a field of nine. At 1 5/8 miles on the Mellon Turf Course and restricted to non-winners of a Grade 1 or Grade 2 turf stakes this year, the \$135,000 race drew its typical mixture of runners. Six have been claimed. One ran in the Kentucky Derby. One has run 30 times. One is

JOHN'S CALL STAKES PREVIEW

a full-brother to a horse who runs in a Grade 1 jump race on the card.

Pioneering Spirit fits in there somewhere. Bred in Kentucky by International Equities Holdings, he failed to sell as a yearling, went to England and sold for \$144,315 as a 2-year-old at the Tattersalls Craven breeze-up sale. Fourth in his debut for Irish trainer Jessica Harrington at The Curragh in July 2021, the son of American Pharoah came back to the United States and joined the Todd Pletcher stable for Team Valor International – and lost eight maiden special weight races in New York, Louisiana, Florida

Continued On Page 17



Dave Harmon

Pioneering Spirit has won four in a row for trainer Linda Rice.

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John's Call —

■ Continued from page 16

and Kentucky.

Off eight months, he emerged for a \$40,000 claiming tag at Aqueduct in March. Going a mile on the dirt, he caught the attention of trainer Linda Rice.

"I was shopping two horses in the race, the other one was a Curlin, but I just felt like this horse did have some faster back numbers and I thought I'd take a shot," she said Tuesday. "He was running on the dirt, but he had run some pretty good speed figures earlier in his career and I thought maybe he'd be versatile."

The Curlin, Long Term, won the race for Pletcher and Repole Stable but didn't get claimed. Pioneering Spirit finished second and joined Rice's barn. He ran twice in April, finishing third for \$75,000 and sixth in a maiden special weight (both on the dirt) before trying the turf in May. Risked for \$40,000 again, he won by 4 1/2 lengths going a mile at Belmont Park. A month later, he won a starter at 1 1/8 miles. Twenty days after came another win, going 1 1/4 miles in a first-level allowance. At Saratoga July 27, the trip got longer — 1 3/8 miles — and he won again.

Rice didn't say she saw the turnaround coming, but appreciates the horse's newfound purpose and direction. Turf helped. Distance helped more.

"He was pretty sore behind, his hind end, he was struggling with that," she said. "He wasn't breaking well. I fiddled with that and the dirt long enough and just said, 'You know what, I've got to put him back on the turf,' and away he went. They all have something [they're good at]. It's satisfying."

From post four with Jose Ortiz, Pioneering Spirit looks for his fifth consecutive win but will likely need another step forward against a solid group.

"He's shown himself to be ratable in the races and he's just got a really quick turn of foot when it comes to sprinting home," Rice said. "He's got a high cruising speed and he can quicken, as they say. He can really quicken at the end of his races."

Woodbine shipper British Royalty exits a third in the 2-mile Bel-

mont Gold Cup for Bruce Lunsford and trainer Barbara Minshall. The 5-year-old English Channel gelding won Woodbine's Breeders' Stakes at 1 1/2 miles in 2021, finished second in the Grade 3 Singpiel in September. Woodbine-based Kazushi Kimura keeps the mount at 7-2 from post five. Peachtree Stable's Tawny Port won three races for trainer Brad Cox last year — topped by the Grade 3 Ohio Derby — and was beaten just 4 3/4 lengths by Rich Strike in the 2022 Kentucky Derby. Fifth in the Bowling Green here July 30 in his first start for trainer Christophe Clement, the 4-year-old Pioneerof The Nile colt leads the field with \$840,250 in career earnings. Joel Rosario rides at 9-2 from post six.

Head of Plains Partners homebred Sy Dog, whose full-brother Jimmy P runs in the Jonathan Sheppard over hurdles to start the day, won his first three starts in 2021 and 2022 (including the Grade 3 Transylvania) but has been looking for a breakthrough since. The son of Slumber finished fourth in the Saratoga Derby here last year and was third at Colonial Downs last out for trainer Graham Motion. Manny Franco rides the 4-year-old at 5-1 from post eight. Motion also entered Wertheimer and Frere's Serifos. The two-time winner is 20-1.

Trainer Tom Morley entered Flying P Stable's Tide Of The Sea off a seventh in the Belmont Gold Cup and a second in the Fort Marcy before that. He was third in last year's John's Call, on the dirt. Javier Castellano rides the 7-year-old English Channel gelding from post seven at 6-1. Good Skate exits a second to the favorite here July 27. Burning Bright (a son of Empire Maker and female turf champion Forever Together) seeks his first turf win for trainer Norm Casse at 12-1. The Reds makes his first start off the claim for Jordan Wycoff and trainer Joe Sharp at 15-1.



Tod Marks

Tawny Port runs on the turf for the second time.

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See VaBred.org for program details
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SARATOGA ENTRIES

Wednesday, August 23.

1ST (1:10PM). \$150,000, STK - THE JONATHAN SHEPPARD, 4 YO'S & UP, 2 3/8M (HURDLE)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double					
1	.....1	L'Imperator (FR)	P. Hendriks	A. Kingsley, Jr	9-2
2	.....2	Jimmy P	D. Mullins	K. Brion	6-1
3	.....3	Awakened	T. Garner	J. Fisher	6-1
4	.....4	Theocrat (IRE)	B. Dalton	K. Brion	8-1
5	.....5	Noah And The Ark (IRE)	H. Beswick	T. McKenna	4-1
6	.....6	Merry Maker (IRE)	G. Watters	A. Kingsley, Jr	12-1
7	.....7	Redicean (GB)	R. Dunne	L. Young	12-1
8	.....8	West Newton (GB)	S. Mulqueen	R. Hendriks	12-1
9	.....9	McTigue (IRE)	G. Galligan	C. Murphy	7-2
10	.....10	Caramelised (GB)	C. McGivern	L. Young	20-1

2ND (1:46PM). \$55,000, CLM \$25,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double					
1	.....1	.....Graywing	.....D. Davis	.....J. Englehart	.....15-1
2	.....2	.....Victory Built	.....L. Saez	.....J. Englehart	.....12-1
3	.....3	.....Bustin Shout	.....K. Carmouche	.....B. Levine	.....5-2
4	.....4	.....Perfect Munnings	.....J. Ortiz	.....L. Rice	.....1-1
5	.....5	.....Bronx Bomber	.....M. Franco	.....M. Kantarmaci	.....10-1
6	.....6	.....Lohengrin Two	.....J. Torres	.....C. Baker	.....8-1
7	.....7	.....Unflappable Max	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....M. Ferraro	.....6-1

3RD (2:19PM). \$162,500, AOC \$80,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double, Quinella					
1	.....1	.....Mid Day Image	.....J. Ortiz	.....D. Jacobson	.....5-1
1a	.....2	.....Cazadero	.....M. Franco	.....D. Jacobson	.....5-1
1x	.....AE-MTO	.....Colonel Bowman	.....Rider TBA	.....D. Jacobson	.....5-1
2	.....3	.....Coppola	.....J. Alvarado	.....D. Romans	.....10-1
3	.....4	.....High Front	.....I. Ortiz, Jr	.....C. Clement	.....2-1
4	.....5	.....Arzak	.....L. Saez	.....M. Trombetta	.....10-1
5	.....6	.....Slipstream	.....J. Rosario	.....C. Clement	.....8-1
6	.....7	.....Bring Me a Check	.....T. Gaffalione	.....P. Reynolds	.....9-2
7	.....8	.....Jaxon Traveler	.....F. Prat	.....S. Asmussen	.....12-1
8	.....9	.....Thin White Duke	.....J. Velazquez	.....D. Donk	.....7-2
9	.....AE-MTO	.....Sheriff Bianco	.....J. Ortiz	.....L. Rice	.....2-1

4TH (2:52PM). \$88,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double					
1	.....1	Mission Hill	J. Rosario	W. Mott	7-2
2	.....2	Fluorescent Bay	K. Davis	R. Davis	20-1
3	.....3	Tip of the Boot	D. Brown	M. Coffey	30-1
4	.....4	Dolly's Bank	S. Bridgmohan	M. Coffey	30-1
5	.....5	Slapintheface	M. Franco	A. Dutrow	5-2
6	.....6	Tony O	K. Carmouche	D. Donk	4-1
7	.....7	Druid	E. Greenidge	G. Goodwin	20-1
8	.....8	Laurel Valley	F. Prat	M. Maker	5-1
9	.....9	Lt. Mitchell	J. Ortiz	L. Rice	9-2
10	.....10	Cash Bail	S. Uske	P. Meadow	20-1
11	.....AE-MTO	I'm Just	Rider TBA	C. Clement	4-1
12	.....AE-MTO	Bastion	D. Davis	T. Albertrani	15-1
13	.....AE-MTO	Aula	R. Silvera	M. Maker	6-1

5TH (3:26PM). \$95,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1M

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 6, Daily Double					
1	.....3	.....April Antics	.....M. Franco	.....M. Kantarmaci	.....7-2
1a	.....6	.....Shigeko	.....J. Alvarado	.....M. Kantarmaci	.....7-2
2	.....1	.....I'm Nervous Now	.....J. Rosario	.....M. Dini	.....8-1
3	.....2	.....Disruption	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....C. Brown	.....5-2
4	.....4	.....Kara Para	.....D. Davis	.....J. Ryerson	.....10-1
5	.....5	.....Saratoga Chrome	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....J. Hiles	.....10-1
6	.....7	.....Red Moon	.....J. Ortiz	.....W. Morey	.....9-5
7	.....8	.....Charge Nurse	.....L. Saez	.....J. Englehart	.....8-1

6TH (4:00PM). \$88,000, MSW, 2 YO, 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double					
1	.....1	.....Albedo	.....L. Saez	.....P. Serpe	.....15-1
2	.....2	.....Benzodini	.....T. Gaffalione	.....S. Asmussen	.....5-1
3	.....3	.....Mischief Joke	.....I. Ortiz, Jr	.....M. Maker	.....9-5
4	.....4	.....Officer Derick	.....K. Carmouche	.....T. Albertrani	.....12-1
5	.....5	.....Dixie Pharaoh	.....D. Davis	.....R. Handal	.....8-1
6	.....6	.....Skyler's Starship	.....J. Castellano	.....J. Terranova, II	.....12-1
7	.....7	.....Blue Eighty Five	.....M. Franco	.....W. Mott	.....8-1
8	.....8	.....B D Saints	.....J. Ortiz	.....L. Rice	.....7-2
9	.....9	.....Hal Away	.....K. Davis	.....J. Falk	.....30-1
10	.....10	.....Ez Roll	.....J. Velazquez	.....T. Morley	.....15-1

7TH (4:34PM). \$135,000, STK - THE JOHN'S CALL (LISTED), 4 YO'S & UP, 1 5/8M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double					
1	.....1	..... Good Skate	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	M. Maker.....	10-1
2	.....2	..... Serifos	F. Geroux	H. Motion	20-1
3	.....3	..... Burning Bright	L. Saez	N. Casse	12-1
4	.....4	..... Pioneering Spirit	J. Ortiz.....	L. Rice	5-2
5	.....5	..... British Royalty	K. Kimura	B. Minshall	7-2
6	.....6	..... Tawny Port	J. Rosario	C. Clement.....	9-2
7	.....7	..... Tide of the Sea	J. Castellano.....	T. Morley	6-1
8	.....8	..... Sy Dog	M. Franco	H. Motion	5-1
9	.....9	..... The Reds	T. Gaffalione.....	J. Sharp	15-1
10	.....AE-MTO	.....Mystic Night	Rider TBA	R. Diodoro	3-1

8TH (5:10PM). \$52,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double					
1	.....1	.....The Elusive Drwong	.....K. Carmouche	.....J. Kimmel	.....20-1
2	.....2	.....Into It	.....J. Gomez	.....R. Dutrow, Jr.	.....12-1
3	.....3	.....Tiz the Coast	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....J. Ortiz	.....12-1
4	.....4	.....Rockstar Red	.....F. Prat	.....L. Rice	.....7-2
5	.....5	.....A Lister	.....A. Castillo	.....E. Pringle	.....50-1
6	.....6	.....My Favorite Topic	.....D. Davis	.....M. Hennig	.....12-1
7	.....7	.....Bolt d'Plata	.....J. Ortiz	.....J. Terranova, II	.....10-1
8	.....8	.....Bee Well	.....T. McCarthy	.....J. Sisterson	.....8-1
9	.....9	.....Sixwillberich	.....J. Torres	.....T. Morley	.....8-1
10	.....10	.....Mufrih	.....L. Saez	.....S. Joseph, Jr.	.....5-1
11	.....11	.....Strapped	.....I. Ortiz, Jr	.....T. Pletcher	.....9-2
12	.....12	.....Wild Guess	.....T. Gaffalione	.....L. Lewis	.....10-1
13	.....AE	.....Fast Boat to Skye	.....J. Ortiz	.....M. Trombetta	.....10-1
14	.....AE	.....Collect From Ike	.....J. Castellano	.....J. Pregman, Jr.	.....8-1
15	.....AE	.....Gold Franc (IRE)	.....J. Leparoux	.....K. McPeek	.....8-1
16	.....AE-MTO	.....Vigano	.....Rider TBA	.....N. Zito	.....6-1

9TH (5:44PM). \$100,000, AOC \$45,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double					
1	.....1	Straight Arrow.....	S. Camacho.....	M. Dini.....	8-1
2	.....2	Thrill of It.....	J. Torres.....	J. Terranova, II.....	15-1
3	.....3	Zeebear.....	M. Franco.....	L. Rice.....	8-1
4	.....4	Aggregation.....	F. Prat.....	C. Brown.....	5-1
5	.....5	Amundson.....	J. Ortiz.....	L. Rice.....	9-2
6	.....6	Radio Red.....	J. Rosario.....	D. Gargan.....	7-2
7	.....7	Brew Pub.....	J. Alvarado.....	R. Rodriguez.....	8-1
8	.....8	Prince of Pharoahs.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Dutrow, Jr.....	6-1
9	.....9	What's Up Bro.....	J. Castellano.....	R. Klesaris.....	15-1
10	.....10	Montebello.....	L. Saez.....	T. Pletcher.....	8-1

10TH (6:18PM). \$52,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta					
1	.....1	Solevo Spritz	J. Torres	G. Rodriguez	30-1
2	.....2	Souper Tropical	T. McCarthy	M. Trombetta	12-1
3	.....3	Call Me Penny	J. Gomez	E. Caramori	30-1
4	.....4	Lexi's Spirit	D. Davis	M. Hennig	15-1
5	.....5	Love Mami Love	T. Gaffalione	S. Joseph, Jr.	5-1
6	.....6	Quiescent	J. Castellano	R. Ribauda	12-1
7	.....7	Nursekringledances	J. Leparoux	I. Wilkes	12-1
8	.....8	Negra Gata	L. Saez	M. Trombetta	9-2
9	.....9	Cherokee Cottage	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	12-1
10	.....10	Iguazu (IRE)	F. Prat	W. Ward	8-1
1111	Accept the Outcome (IRE)	I. Ortiz, Jr.	C. Brown	7-2
1212	Shesasmalltowngirl	M. Franco	M. Maker	5-1



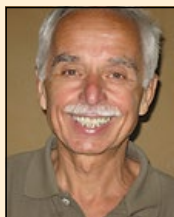
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The **POWER** Grid



John Shapazian



Tom Law



Rob Whitlock



Charles Bedard



Jessica Paquette

Race	John Shapazian	Tom Law	Rob Whitlock	Charles Bedard	Jessica Paquette
1	Jimmy P McTigue Noah And The Ark	Awakened Jimmy P L'Imperator	Awakened Theocrat McTigue	L'Imperator McTigue Awakened	Awakened L'Imperator Theocrat
2	Perfect Munnings Bustin Shout Unflappable Max	Perfect Munnings Bustin Shout Bronx Bomber	Perfect Munnings Bustin Shout Graywing	Perfect Munnings Bustin Shout Unflappable Max	Perfect Munnings Bustin Shout Bronx Bomber
3	High Front Jacobson entry Thin White Duke	High Front Thin White Duke Bring Me A Check	Bring Me A Check High Front Thin White Duke	Colonel Bowman High Front Bring Me A Check	Thin White Duke Arzak High Front
4	Slapinthe face Mission Hill Laurel Valley	Mission Hill Slapinthe face Tony O	Slapinthe face Mission Hill Laurel Valley	Aula Slapinthe face Laurel Valley	Mission Hill Laurel Valley Cash Bail
5	Disruption Red Moon Krakow entry	April Antics Red Moon Disruption	Red Moon Charge Nurse Kara Para	Red Moon Charge Nurse Kantarmaci entry	Disruption I'm Nervous Now Red Moon
6	B D Saints Mischief Joke Benzodini	Mischief Joke Benzodini B D Saints	B D Saints Benzodini Albedo	Mischief Joke Dixie Pharaoh Officer Derick	Dixie Pharaoh Mischief Joke Blue Eighty Five
7	Mystic Night Pioneering Spirit Tawny Port	British Royalty Tawny Port Pioneering Spirit	Tide Of The Sea Good Skate Serifos	Mystic Night Tide Of The Sea Tawny Port	Sy Dog Serifos British Royalty
8	Bolt d'Plata Rockstar Red Mufrih	Strapped Rockstar Red Mufrih	Into It Sixwillberich Mufrih	Collect From Ike Rockstar Red Mufrih	Sixwillberich Rockstar Red Strapped
9	Aggregation Radio Red Amundson	Radio Red Amundson Zeebear	Radio Red Prince Of Pharoahs What's Up Bro	Amundson Zeebear Prince Of Pharoahs	Prince Of Pharoahs Zeebear Aggregation
10	Negra Gata Iguazu Love Mami Love	Accept The Outcome Negra Gata Quiescent	Love Miami Love Lexi's Spirit Quiescent	Accept The Outcome Love Mami Love Negra Gata	Negra Gata Iguazu Cherokee Cottage
2023 Records	92/295	80/295	75/295	91/295	54/295



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Building a Nest

Breeder Lyster enjoys ride with filly champ

BY SEAN CLANCY

Gray Lyster doesn't pick up rocks, walnuts and acorns anymore.

That's what happens when you sell the most valuable horse on the farm.

Lyster and his brother Bryan manage Ashview Farm in Versailles, Ky. With Richard Santulli's Colts Neck Stable, Ashview bought Marion Ravenwood for \$400,000 in 2017, sold three of her offspring, including Personal Ensign favorite Nest, for a combined \$875,000 and sold the mare to Coolmore for \$2.6 million in November.

"It was bittersweet. But I can't afford to own \$2.6 million horses," Lyster said Tuesday. "The only good part, it was relief. You have this super valuable horse and you're looking at her, double checking her. I'm watching her walk off the van and I'm kicking little rocks and walnuts and acorns out of the way. You're overanalyzing everything. Relief, thrill, bittersweet. You don't get excited about a horse of that quality leaving your farm but it's what we've done for 50 years."

PERSONAL ENSIGN & STAKES PREVIEWS

The Lysters' parents, Wayne and Margaret "Muffy" Lyster III, bought Ashview in 1978 and have been raising horses on its 350 acres since. Nest is at the top of the list.

Owned by Repole Stable, Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and Michael House, Nest seeks her ninth win and fourth Grade 1 stakes triumph in the Personal Ensign.

The \$500,000 stakes highlights Friday's card. The ninth race on the 10-race pre-Travers program attracted six runners, topped by three Grade 1 winners. Secret Oath, Nest and Clairiere have traded wins and losses for two seasons. The trio face each other for the first time since Malathaat's Breeders' Cup Distaff when Clairiere rallied to be third, Nest finished fourth and Secret Oath faded to fifth.

With eight wins from 12 starts and a come-

Continued On Page 21



Susie Raisher/NYRA Photo

Champion Nest headlines Friday's Personal Ensign.

Where do future jockeys and trainers get their start?



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Thank you for your generosity and good luck to all the Saratoga connections!

CAROL FENWICK PHOTO

Previews —

■ Continued from page 20

back victory over Clairiere in the Grade 2 Shuvee here July 23, Nest should go off favorite in the 9-furlong stakes. Trained by Todd Pletcher and ridden by Irad Ortiz Jr., the daughter of Curlin has missed the board once when fourth in the Breeders' Cup.

"It's flattering, it's unbelievable. It's just a pleasure to be associated with one like this," Lyster said. "She's got that heart you can't measure. She could be turning herself into something different, a generational horse. Maybe it's next level, the Beholders or Zenyattas. I think she's on the doorstep and I'm just along for the ride."

Some ride.

The Lysters purchased Marion Ravenwood on behalf of Ashview and Colts Neck Stable at the Keeneland November breeding stock sale in 2017. Owned by My Meadowview Farm, the daughter of A.P. Indy had won four races, including the Capades Stakes at Aqueduct, and was in foal to Pioneerof The Nile.

"Joe Miller and Lincoln Collins were selling horses for My Meadowview and Joe had always spoken highly of this mare. He said, 'I know on paper she hasn't done anything yet; she's only had a couple of foals, but she's still got her whole life in front of her. You should look at this mare.' He put me onto her," Lyster said. "She's a beautiful stakes-winning A.P. Indy mare, that says enough in its own right. She was in foal to Pioneerof The Nile and the only reason we bred her to Curlin was because Joe had said the Curlin weanling was really nice."

The weanling sold for \$375,000 a year later and turned into Grade 1 winner Idol while the Lysters sold the Pioneerof The Nile colt for \$250,000 as a weanling. He became stakes-placed Dr Jack. A year after Dr Jack, Nest hit the ground.

"That's how simple it was. Joe said she's got a nice Curlin. 'He's an amazing sire, we'll breed her to Curlin,' " Lyster said. "She was medium-small and has turned into this perfect horse. She didn't take any crap from anybody in the field. She wasn't the boss, but she didn't get pushed around. Anything a handler would ask her to do, she would do and do it willingly. Beautiful walk, very athletic, an amazing head on her shoulders. Just a very, very sensible horse. Probably the number one thing I would say is balance and athletic. Everything fit together."

Part of the Repole yearling scourge, Nest fetched \$350,000 at Keeneland September sale in 2020. Ashview sold Mo Donegal, a colt by Uncle Mo, for \$250,000 at the same sale. They finished 1-2 in the Belmont Stakes.

"The average commercial buyer wants these monsters. The small ones and medium ones end up being the perfect useful size and they brag about them," Lyster said. "Mo Donegal and Nest brought \$250,000 and \$350,000. We were disappointed with both, frankly, they were six-figure stud fees. It's not a windfall."

In 2021, Ashview sold Marion Ravenwood's Violence colt for \$275,000. Lost Ark won his debut and the Sapling last summer and finished fourth in the Curlin here this summer. All the while, Nest was running up the score. Back in foal to Curlin, Marion

Continued On Page 22



Tod Marks

Nest (right) surges clear of Clairiere late in the Shuvee Stakes July 23.

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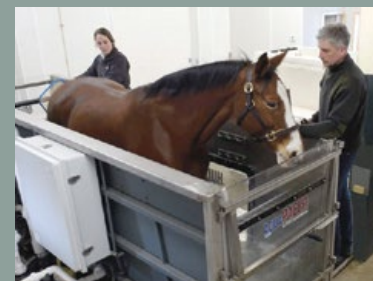
"I've worked with Stowe Burke for years. He's a seasoned horseman and a veterinarian. This is a great combination to have at a rehabilitation center."

— Hall of Fame trainer Todd Pletcher

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2023 September Meet Stakes Schedule

SEPTEMBER 14 – OCTOBER 1

IROQUOIS (GIII)

"Breeders' Cup Dirt Dozen"

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



LOCUST GROVE (GIII)

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



POCAHONTAS (GIII)

"Breeders' Cup Dirt Dozen"

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



LOUISVILLE THOROUGHBRED SOCIETY

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



OPEN MIND (Listed)

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



SENECA OVERNIGHT STAKES

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



BOURBON TRAIL

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



HARRODS CREEK

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



DOGWOOD (GIII)

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



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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
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Includes \$50,000 from KTDF
Three-Year-Olds
1 Mile (Turf)



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SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE KHRC

Previews —

■ Continued from page 21

Ravenwood provided the windfall in November.

"We're accustomed to it. We take a crop of yearlings every year that we absolutely love to death and walk them to the sales ring, give them a pat and oftentimes we never see them again. That separation is a little bit tougher, but it was never a question at that value," Lyster said. "She's literally paying for private school for my children, giving every one of our employees and myself pride in our brand. You put those things together and that's why we're in the business. She's putting food on the table and making us look good. You just sit back and enjoy it."

And thank Santulli.

"There are a lot of I's and we's as far as Ashview, but without Colts Neck Stable and Richard Santulli, my dad's best friend and biggest supporter, none of this happens. It's all him. He and my dad are enjoying it," Gray Lyster said. "When I was 6, I remember Mr. Santulli's horses being on the farm. He's never done anything but pay us every month and be totally supportive. He's literally a throwback owner."

Stonestreet Stable's homebred Clairiere seeks her fifth Grade 1 score for Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen and jockey Joel Rosario. The daughter of Curlin and Cavorting has finished worse than fourth once in her life, in last year's Personal Ensign when she smashed into the gate moments before the break. This year, the 5-year-old mare finished second behind Secret Oath in the Grade 2 Azeri, won the Grade 1 Apple Blossom and Grade 1 Ogden Phipps. She chased Nest in the Shuvee, winding up second. For the second consecutive time, she breaks outside Nest.

Secret Oath skipped the Shuvee and aimed to the Personal Ensign for Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas. The Briland Farm homebred has faced Nest three times, winning once and finishing second to her twice. Secret Oath has tackled Clairiere four times with a win, a second and two fifths. Luis Saez, who guided her to win the Grade 1 Kentucky Oaks last spring, returns for the first time this year.

Juddmonte homebred Idiomatic breaks from the rail for jockey Florent

Geroux. The daughter of Curlin and Lockdown has notched six wins from nine starts for trainer Brad Cox. The 4-year-old filly has won back-to-back stakes, dominating the Grade 3 Shawnee and battling for a head decision in the Grade 2 Delaware Handicap.

Tom Amoss decided to "swing for the fences" with Sixtythreecaliber. Owned by MyRacehorse and Spendthrift Farm, the six-time winner finished behind Idiomatic and Secret Oath in two tries this year. The daughter of Gun Runner rallied to win a third-level allowance here July 19. Kendrick Carmouche rides for the third time. He guided her to win the Grade 3 Comely at Aqueduct in November.

Malloy returns to the stakes ranks for the first time in 11 starts for Coffeepot Stable and trainer Wayne Catalano. The 5-year-old daughter of Outwork placed in the Grade 3 Dogwood in 2021 and recently won an allowance race rained off the turf at Hawthorne Race Course. Dylan Davis takes the call from post two.

- Friday's card also includes the \$150,000 Smart And Fancy Stakes for fillies and mares going 5 1/2 furlongs on turf. The Smart And Fancy goes as the third race at 2:20 p.m.

Roses For Debra, winner of the Grade 3 Caress July 22 at Saratoga, returns to face Caress third and Grade 3 Intercontinental runner-up Bubble Rock and four others entered in the body of the Smart And Fancy. Roses For Debra stretched her win streak to three for trainer Christophe Clement in the Caress and looks to improve to 7-for-9 in her career in the 5 1/2-furlong turf stakes.

Intercontinental winner Poppy Flower, Can't Buy Love, Train To Artemus and Talkin Topsy are also entered, while Self Isolation and Bluefield are main track only.

Surprisingly eyes Ballston Spa upset

Shug McGaughey hinted at a possible change in strategy when he sends out Phipps Stable homebred Surprisingly against familiar foe Consumer Spending and others in Thursday's feature, the Grade 2 Ballston Spa Stakes.

The 4-year-old daughter of Mastery takes on eight fillies and mares in the \$300,000 turf stakes, coming off back-to-back close defeats to Con-

Continued On Page 23

Previews —

■ Continued from page 22

sumer Spending in graded stakes at Monmouth Park.

“A couple of those I thought we had won,” McGaughey said Tuesday morning outside his barn on the Oklahoma Training Track. “[Consumer Spending] came and finished and beat us. I’ll look at the race really close, and I’ll make up my mind if I want to change my strategy a little bit.”

Javier Castellano rides Surprisingly, 8-1 on the morning line, from post five.

“Javier is riding right now at the top level, and I think he’ll fit her really well and her running style, but we’ve just got to figure out how we can get to be about a length better,” McGaughey said.

Surprisingly comes into the 1 1/16-mile Ballston Spa, her first start at Saratoga, with a record of 4-3-2 in 11 starts. She won the Grade 3 Endeavour at Tampa Bay Downs this winter and has placed in four straight graded stakes.

“She’s the kind of filly you put the bridle on her and take her over, she’s going to run her race,” McGaughey said. “She’s good enough . . . In that Hillsborough at Tampa (third) after she had won the Endeavor, she might not have gotten the best trip. Same thing in the Beaugay (third). She was wide the whole way. Hopefully maybe things will go our way.”

Technical Analysis, one of two runners for Klaravich Stable and trainer Chad Brown, is the 9-5 morning-line favorite. The 5-year-old daughter of Kingman won the De La Rose Aug. 2. Consumer Spending, the 3-1 second choice for Brown and Klaravich, handed Surprisingly a half-length defeat in the Grade 3 Matchmaker Stakes July 22 at Monmouth Park.

Brown also sends out this year’s Grade 2 Distaff Turf Mile winner Fluffy Socks, fifth of five last time out in the Grade 1 Diana July 15; and the 2022 Distaff Turf Mile winner Speak Of The Devil, fifth in the Grade 1 Just A Game June 9 at Belmont Park.

European import Jumbly, eighth in the French One Thousand Guineas and sixth in the German One Thousand Guineas last season for Joseph O’Brien; Perfect Sting winner Evvie Jets, Sister Bridget and Gam’s Mission are also entered. Into Happiness runs only if the race comes off the grass.

— Nolan Clancy and Mary Rufo



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Defined

Connections make right call with front-running Randomized

BY TOM LAW

Chad Brown gave the racing office two names when entries were drawn three days before the Grade 1 Alabama Stakes, one of Saratoga Race Course's signature events.

The trainer wasn't sure he'd even enter, let alone run Klaravich Stable's Randomized, winner of the Wilton Stakes here opening weekend, with Juddmonte's Fireline in Saturday's \$600,000 stakes for 3-year-old fillies.

"You should really consider this race," owner Seth Klarman told Brown of the 10-furlong Alabama, which was attracting the first three from the Coaching Club American Oaks in Wet Paint, Sacred Wish and Gambling Girl and Black-Eyed Susan

ALABAMA STAKES RECAP

winner Taxed.

Randomized, a daughter of champion Nyquist who faltered in her lone try against Grade 1 company in the Acorn the day before the Belmont Stakes, trained well enough since the Wilton to earn a spot in the Alabama but Brown wasn't convinced. He thought about waiting for the Grade 1 Cotillion in September at Parx Racing, liking the 1 1/16-mile distance and the two-month break between races.

"Let's just enter and look at the pace scenario," Brown said.

Klarman, who races in the red and

Continued On Page 25



Tod Marks

Randomized coasts in with a Grade 1 triumph in Saturday's Alabama.

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SCAN TO GIVE



Tod Marks
Randomized (right) takes control early.

Alabama —

■ Continued from page 24

white colors of his Klaravich Stable operation, agreed.

“Look, if you’re willing to do it, I have a good feeling about this,” Klarman said.

The good feelings combined with savvy tactics drawn up by the owner and trainer and executed by Joel Rosario – with a bit of an assist when an expected rabbit didn’t get away sharp – came together to produce a victory for Randomized in the 143rd Alabama. She defeated Wet Paint by 4 lengths to give Brown his first victory in the Alabama, one of three marquee events at Saratoga going two turns on the dirt along with the Whitney and Travers.

“I’ve got to give owner Seth Klarman a lot of credit here,” Brown said. “He was right. He’s a guy that’s such a good partner of our stable and such an important guy in our industry... Seth’s a great guy and (I hope) he and his wife really enjoy this win. They deserve it.”

Randomized, a \$420,000 purchase by Klaravich at the 2021 Keeneland September yearling sale, deserved it after toppling Wet Paint and the others but also Indiana Oaks winner Defining Purpose and longshot Sabra Tuff, who finished third and fourth, respectively. Randomized won in 2:03.07 under Rosario, who took control of the race from the break and won his first Grade 1 of the meet after winning five in 2023.

“It was the plan,” Rosario said. “We thought maybe another horse would show speed, but the plan was maybe to go and if that horse showed speed, lay second. I got the lead and could do it from there.”

Randomized broke quickly from post eight and cleared the field after a few strides, with Defining Purpose and Brian Hernandez Jr. coming over from post 10 to keep her company past the stands and finish post the first time.

Sacred Wish, a gutsy second to Wet Paint in the CCA Oaks, led possible pacesetter Chocolate Gelato, Taxed and Julia Shining behind the top two with Wet Paint down on the inside and just ahead of Fireline. Randomized led the group through the opening quarter in :23.45, exiting the far turn into the backstretch and to the half in :47.86.

Even with some pressure from Defining Purpose to Randomized’s outside, Rosario liked how things unfolded up the backstretch and to the far turn.

“She was moving so well, nice and easy all around,” he said. “She’s just a nice filly, but a mile-and-a-quarter is a long ways, so you have to have something always for the end.”

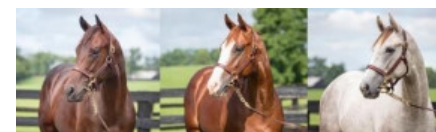
Rosario let Randomized out a few notches into the far turn and she accelerated, with only Defining Purpose keeping pace. The top two put about 4 lengths on Wet Paint and Taxed past 6 furlongs in 1:12.33 and around the bend and to the mile in 1:37.17. Randomized turned for home about six paths from the rail as Wet Paint and Flavien Prat tried to cut the corner and make up the deficit.

Randomized widened from there, Defining Purpose finally gave up the chase and Wet Paint stayed on down on the inside. Rosario took a few looks back in the stretch, put away his whip and cruised to the finish well clear. Wet Paint, looking to become just the 20th horse to win two Grade 1s in a single meet at Saratoga, finished 1 1/2 lengths ahead of Defining Purpose, who was 8 1/2 lengths clear of 61-1 longshot Sabra Tuff. Taxed finished fifth but was disqualified to sixth for impeding Gambling Girl just after the start.

Wet Paint added a Grade 1 placing to her victories this season in the CCA Oaks and Grade 3 Fantasy Stakes. Trainer Brad Cox saddled the Godolphin homebred and couldn’t fault the Blame filly’s run.

“I was proud of our filly’s effort,” Cox said. “She was

Continued On Page 26



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Alabama —

■ Continued from page 25

maybe a little bit closer than I expected, but you know, given the trip, I loved the trip. I love where Flavien put her. I thought she responded when he asked her. She finished up well, second best today no excuses that I can see. ... I need to watch the race before I say too much and watch the horses up front. I was kind of zeroed in on her. Based off what I saw there, the first time and the only time, she got a great trip and finished up and was just second best, bottom line."

Randomized improved to 3-for-5 with the victory and boosted her earnings to \$465,850. She made one start at 2, finishing third in a 6-furlong maiden special weight in late July at Saratoga, followed by six workouts on the main track and Oklahoma Training Track in August and September, before going to the sidelines.

Brown sent Randomized with his string to Payson Park in Florida for the winter and she returned to the races in late March at Aqueduct, winning a 1-mile maiden race by 5 1/2 lengths.

That earned a trip to the 1 1/16-mile Acorn, where she endured a wide trip and finished sixth.

Brown said he was "very disappointed" in the Acorn, where Randomized finished 11 1/2 lengths behind Kentucky Oaks winner Pretty Mischievous, but didn't take it as a total failure.

"I wasn't really discouraged because I knew how fast she had run," he said. "She had one of the highest (speed) figures early in the year for a 3-year-old filly. For quite a while, she had the fastest number. ... Now, that doesn't mean she'll go a mile-and-a-quarter, but

she's at that top percentile of this crop."

Randomized righted the ship and earned a return to Grade 1 company with a 1 1/2-length win in the Wilton, a 1-mile event for 3-year-old fillies that had never won a sweepstakes other than state-bred. She beat three opponents including stablemate Accede in the Wilton, winning in 1:35.83.

"I regretted moving her up so far in class, but when she came up here and won opening day and the way she did it and how fast the number came back, I then realized how the Acorn wasn't representative of her," Brown said. "It was just a mistake by me and kind of just draw a line through it so to speak."

Pretty Mischievous likely holds the narrow edge over Wet Paint in the race for champion 3-year-old filly, based on victories in the Kentucky Oaks and Acorn, along with her win in the Grade 1 Test that came after Maple Leaf Mel suffered a fatal breakdown just before the finish. Randomized still needs to do more to make the championship conversation, and might get the chance sooner than later, especially with a potential matchup with Pretty Mischievous in the Grade 1 Cotillion Sept. 23 at Parx Racing.

"I'm just going to enjoy this win," Brown said. "We didn't really look beyond it when we committed to give this a try. We took everything else off the table. The Cotillion is still in play, it's quite a ways away still."



Tod Marks

Trainer Chad Brown (right) greets Randomized and Joel Rosario.

All Wet

Aspray makes off with Gr. 2 turf stakes

BY JOE CLANCY

After Aspray won the Hilltop Stakes at Pimlico Race Course in May, owner/breeder Jan Vande-bos Naify texted a simple message to Bill Farish at Lane's End Farm, "She kicked ass today. Luckily, it wasn't yours."

Farish laughed, because two-and-a-half years earlier Aspray did indeed kick him around while part of the Lane's End consignment at Fasig-Tipton's November sale in Kentucky. The moment spurred more smiles from Farish and Naify Saturday afternoon at Saratoga Race Course after Aspray won the Grade 2 Lake Placid Stakes.

"We were at the sale, this is the only time this has ever happened to me, and the foal wheeled around and kicked me so hard," Farish said. "It's

Continued On Page 28

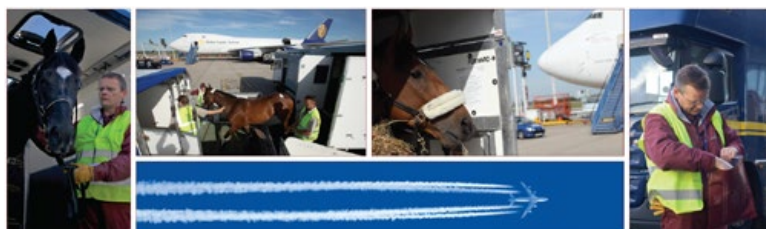


Tod Marks

Aspray leads the way late in Saturday's Lake Placid Stakes.

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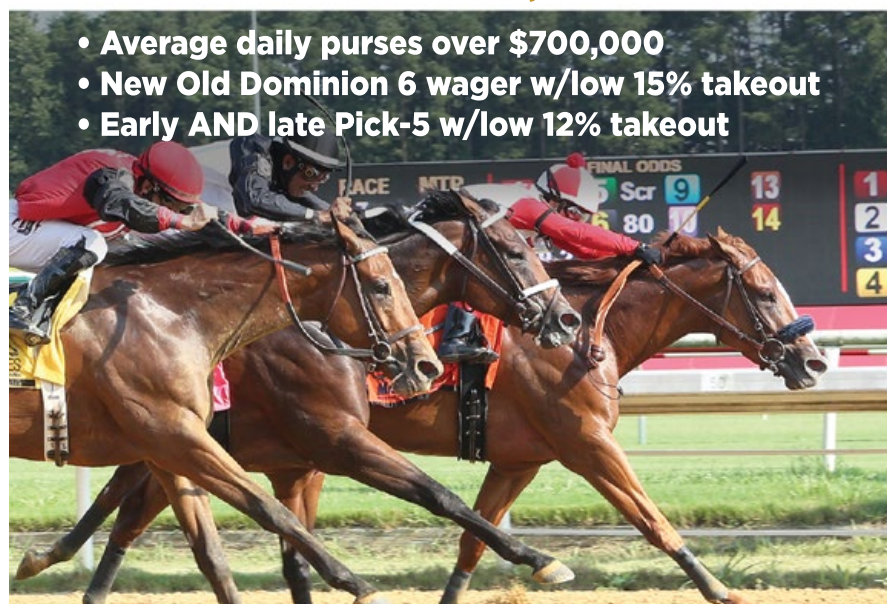


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Lake Placid —

■ Continued from page 27

always been kind of a running joke with everybody and luckily it's been one of those deals where you say 'Thank God she didn't sell her' because she's just become such a nice filly for her."

The kick had nothing to do with the sale not happening — Hip 266 simply got sick and was withdrawn — but will be something Aspray's people remember for a while.

Kept to race for Naify's Ran Jan Racing and sent to trainer Chad Brown, the bay daughter of Quality Road and the Irish-bred Galileo mare Up won for the fourth time in five starts and became a graded stakes winner with a strong push over the final 3 furlongs of the Lake Placid.

From post two for Flavien Prat, Aspray broke well and eased back off the early activity of Heavenly Sunday, Gloria's Princess and Junipermarshmallow. Fourth and inside through a quarter-mile in :24.05, Aspray found a comfort zone up the backstretch and began to advance along the rail after a half in :48.37. Heavenly Sunday and Gloria's Princess took a 2-length lead on the turn, but Aspray erased it in a few strides to take over while three wide at the top of the stretch. She widened to the sixteenth pole, and pushed away late to score by 2 lengths in 1:42.58 for 1 1/16 miles on an inner turf course labeled good. Surge Capacity, trained by Brown for Klaravich Stable, finished second, a head in front of Soviet Excess (who closed from last of eight at 28-1). Slight favorite Tax Implications finished fourth. Brown ran four in the race (all 4-1 or lower) and finished first, second, fourth and fifth.

Unraced at 2, Aspray won her debut at Tampa Bay Downs in January. She added an allowance score in March and became a stakes winner on the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes undercard at Pimlico. She tried 1 1/4 miles in the Grade 1 Belmont Oaks July 8, but settled for fourth.

"I trained her a little too far last time, but you



Aspray (right) bides her time early in the Lake Placid.

Tod Marks

had to try since it was such a prestigious race we were pointing towards," Brown said. "I thought she could do it. Flavien knows the horse so well, he came back after the race and he was adamant about the race being a little too far for her and that we should cut her back in distance to 1 1/16 miles to 1 1/8 miles and we'll be fine. He was right."

Naify and her husband Robert bought Aspray's dam at Keeneland's January sale in 2015. Trained by Aidan O'Brien, Up won a Group 2 and a Group 3 in Ireland, placed in a Group 1 in France and twice competed at the Breeders' Cup. In foal to War Front, she cost \$2.2 million to top the sale. Vandebos said she made "one bid, and one bid only" to complete a search for a Galileo mare.

"I looked for about 10 years for the right Galileo mare and during the January sale I saw her," said Vandebos. "I saw her walk. She wasn't big. She was only about 15-2."

Up has since been something of a giant. Her 2017 foal, Monarch Of Egypt, sold for \$750,000 as a yearling and is racing in Australia; Khartoum, a 2018 foal who sold for \$1 million as a yearling, is racing in Saudi Arabia.

Robert Naify died in 2016, but the breeding operation — with a few racehorses — carries on. Van-

debos is typically busy on her California farm, home to 18 horses in various states of retirement.

"I'm very involved in aftercare," she said. "I believe in responsible breeding, responsible racing and responsible aftercare. Although I haven't raced in a long time I've come back since we have new regulations with the HISA. I'm very, very supportive."

Robert Naify and his brother Marshall were partners in United Artists Theaters (now part of Regal Cinemas), the United Artists Communications cable television pioneer and the Academy Award-winning Todd-AO sound studio. Marshall owned 505 Farm in Kentucky, campaigned champion Bertrando in partnership and raced Grade 1 win-

ner Manistique among others. Ran Jan won major races with Moulin de Mougins, Schiaparelli and (with Leatherman Racing) graded stakes winner Cambiocorsa.

With a select group of mares, Ran Jan focuses primarily on breeding for the commercial market while maintaining a small racing footprint (Aspray is the only 2023 runner).

Up and her daughter Star Of India are both in foal to Flightline, while Up's 2022 foal (a Medaglia d'Oro filly) is cataloged in the Keeneland September sale.

"They're my babies," she said. "I spend all of my life working with my horses at my farm. When I'm not there I'm in Kentucky doing something with them or for them. I'm just very supportive."

Of course, there's a fair bit of work involved as well.

"I ride four horses a day, work with horses all day and I have the hands to prove it," she said. "I work 12 to 14 hours a day and I love what I do. It's a gift. Every day of my life is a blessing. Sometimes it gets a little tiring in the summer when it's hot and we have a hurricane coming through [like this past weekend]. I was supposed to stay until Monday, but I'm getting on the plane at 8 o'clock in the morning."

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Local Miracle

Members of 1980 Team USA hockey team attend Alabama Day

Like the town of Lourdes in France, Lake Placid, N.Y. is probably best known for a miracle. Two of the men responsible for that miracle were at Saratoga Race Course Saturday to help celebrate the 40th running of the Grade 2 Lake Placid Stakes.

Lake Placid, 80 miles from Saratoga, has twice been the site of the Winter Olympics, most memorably Feb. 22, 1980, when Mark Johnson and John Harrington and the rest of USA men's hockey team pulled off an Olympic victory over a seemingly unbeatable Russian team. The win became known as "The Miracle on Ice." And if you think the word "miracle" is overdoing it, note that Sports Illustrated named the game the top sports moment of the 20th century.

Harrington, head coach of the

SATURDAY RACING RECAP

Minnesota State-Mankato women's ice hockey team, brought along his Olympic gold medal. It was the medal Team USA earned two days after the "miracle" in a win over Finland. For almost an hour, he and teammate Mark Johnson posed for photos at the track with people attending Saturday's races. Some even got to wear Harrington's medal.

The connection for the team with Lake Placid is deeper than just the venue for the Russia game.

"The team was actually in Lake Placid for training in August of '79, then we were back for a tournament in September," said Johnson, who played center for Team USA, "so by



Dave Harmon

Members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team helped present the Lake Placid trophy.

the time of the Games, Lake Placid didn't just mean home ice, it was also kind of home. And then that arena with all those cheering fans. I don't know if we could have done it without them."

Johnson scored two goals in the 4-3 victory over Russia and he is now the head coach of the University of Wisconsin's women's ice hockey team. He

and Harrington were in Lake Placid for this month's 2023 USA Hockey's Women's National Festival.

"The timing for coming here worked out beautifully," Johnson said. "It's just exciting to see and talk to people who still remember or know about something our team did over 40 years ago."

Continued On Page 30

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Saturday —

■ Continued from page 29

Later, in the winner's circle after the victory by the 3-year-old filly Aspray in the Lake Placid Stakes, Harrington and Johnson posed for more pictures — including one with the winning connections of Aspray.

— **Terry Hill**

• A cloudy and brisk Alabama Day kicked off with an impressive debut for Risk It, a Gun Runner 2-year-old who won the 6-furlong maiden race for Winchell Thoroughbreds, Three Chimneys Farm and Steve Asmussen.

Irad Ortiz Jr. took the second and third, with the former pulled off the turf after the rainy week. The latter remained at 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf and was won by Breeze Easy's 3-year-old filly Shootoutthelights for trainer Wesley Ward.

The fourth, a 6-furlong claimer on the main track, went to Poppy's Pride, a 5-year-old veteran of the NYRA circuit. With Jose Lezcano aboard, the Khozan gelding gave trainer Gustavo Rodriguez his first win of the meet. His brother Rudy Rodriguez nearly completed a sibling double in the fifth with Daufuskie Island, but he settled for second behind David Jacobson's Durante.

Chad Brown kicked off his memorable day in the sixth with Leadership Ability. The surface switch from

turf to dirt didn't bother the daughter of Laoban, who led from the Wilson Chute to the wire under Tyler Gaffalione. She was claimed for \$40,000 by Charlton Baker. Brown followed that up with a 1-2 in the Lake Placid with Aspray and Surge Capacity.

Following the Alabama, Duke Of Hazzard won a 1-mile allowance race on the inner turf for owner James Riccio and trainer Rick Dutrow. The finale went to Madaket Stable's and Happy Face Racing Stable's Henson, improving upon his third here on debut a little over a month ago. He was claimed for \$40,000 by Twin Sports Racing and Carlos David.

— **Nolan Clancy**

• Risk It dazzled in his debut to start Saturday's card for Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen.

The \$500,000 purchase at last year's Keeneland September sale by Winchell Thoroughbreds and Three Chimneys Farm paid off after a gate-to-wire romp. The son of Gun Runner broke sharply out of the gate to flash speed, exactly what Asmussen expected.

"The colt's very professional and very competitive," Asmussen said.

Sent off as the 8-5 favorite in the field of seven, Risk It won by 4 1/2 lengths over Hunt Ball, a half-brother to multiple Grade 1 winner Cody's Wish.

Asmussen said the Grade 3 Iroquois Sept. 16 at Churchill Downs

Continued On Page 31



Dave Harmon

Dancing Groom wins Saturday's second race for trainer Antonio Sano.



Nostalgic (second from right) sweeps to a win in Saturday's eighth race.

Dave Harmon

Saturday —

■ Continued from page 30

could be next.

"He's trained like he'll get a mile," Asmussen said.

— **Mary Rufo**

• Antonio Sano got his third win of the meet in six tries with Eduardo Soto's Dancing Groom in the second. Originally scheduled for 1 1/16 miles on the inner turf, the race was moved to 1 mile on the dirt following the rainy week.

Dancing Groom improved on his sixth here at 6 furlongs on the dirt July 22.

"Whether it was 1 mile, a mile and a sixteenth, on the grass or dirt, the horse, I know he likes the long distance," Sano said. "[Trevor McCarthy] after his first race told me that he needed more distance."

McCarthy rode first-time starter Get Ready To Rock - who finished seventh - while Irad Ortiz Jr. rode the winner.

Dancing Groom broke from post five in the Wilson Chute and settled in mid-pack in the field of nine led by third choice Tom Collins, who took out the opening quarter-mile in :24.03.

The son of Vino Rosso sat in fifth through the half-mile in :47.70, and

began picking off foes traveling four-wide around the far turn. Divine Empire took over from Tom Collins midway around the turn, with Dancing Groom looming to his outside.

Dancing Groom hit the lead by the quarter pole, ticking off 6 furlongs in 1:13:26. He drew away from there and won by 5 lengths.

"He was not 100 percent the first race," Sano said. "The second race he came back at 100 percent, and that's the difference."

— **Nolan Clancy**

• Godolphin's Nostalgic returned to the winner's circle for the first time since the Grade 3 Gazelle in April 2022 with a victory in the eighth, a 1-mile allowance-optional. Trained

by Bill Mott, the 4-year-old daughter of Medaglia d'Oro finished second in a similar race last month but came up short by a neck against Grade 1 Personal Ensign entrant Sixtythree-caliber.

Nostalgic's victory in the Gazelle at Aqueduct earned her a spot in the Kentucky Oaks, where she finished 10th. She ran in five stakes after that effort, placing in the Grade 1 Coaching Club American Oaks last summer at Saratoga and second in the Grade 3 Turnback The Alarm. Mott plans to bring her back into stakes company.

"She's come back after a vacation and we'll look around for some stakes races," he said. "Hopefully something at Aqueduct."

— **Mary Rufo**

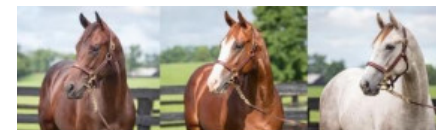


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Full Flow

Amidst Waves tops four foes in Bolton Landing turf sprint

George Weaver, Randy Hill and 2-year-old fillies sprinting on the grass. It's a winning combination in 2023.

In June, it was Crimson Advocate winning the Group 2 Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot, defeating 25 rivals in a straightaway 5-furlong dash. Sunday, Amidst Waves won the \$150,000 Bolton Landing at 5 1/2 furlongs on Saratoga Race Course's Mellon Turf Course after a stretch duel with Crown Imperial.

"We bought a filly that won at Ascot. That filly has really enjoyed this barn," Hill said. "George told us, 'You've got to buy this one, too, she'll take you to the Breeders' Cup.' So it was easier to buy the second one after the win at Royal Ascot."

Hill and partners BlackRidge Stables, Swinbank Stables, Big Tuff Stables and Black Type Thoroughbreds purchased Amidst Waves after she broke her maiden June 11 at Belmont. Since then, she's won two stakes, including the Colleen at Monmouth July 29 and Sunday's Bolton Landing. The Midshipman filly defeated four rivals, including two she beat in the Colleen in the John Ortiz-trained Crown Imperial and Kevin Rice-trained She's Fire.

"She's been pretty versatile," Weaver said. "She's been a nice filly. To come back on short rest from

SUNDAY RACING RECAP

Monmouth to come up here and get the job done here, she's done a lot in a short period of time."

All five fillies broke from the gate in lockstep, with Astonesthrowaway and Luis Saez taking the initiative down the backstretch. She's Fire and Jose Ortiz raced just off the pace in second. Amidst Waves found her spot just outside of Crown Imperial in fourth as the tightly bunched group rolled through a :22.52 opening quarter-mile. Four lengths covered the field around the turn.

Crown Imperial snuck along the rail inside the leader while Amidst Waves circled four wide, and four fillies lined up across the course with a chance to win.

Tyler Gaffalione rallied Crown Imperial to the lead while Amidst Waves charged down the center, dipping her head toward the Saratoga grandstand and drifting out a few paths.

"She was just digging in a bit, digging in to try to get the job done," Weaver said. "Irada didn't come back and be like 'She's lugging me bad' or anything, she just had her head cocked a little bit. No big deal, a lot of horses do that."

Ortiz guided Amidst Waves back toward the inside, and the two fillies



Tod Marks

Amidst Waves (left) sweeps to the front in Sunday's Bolton Landing Stakes

clashed side by side with a sixteenth of a mile to go. Amidst Waves proved to be the strongest by a nose, winning in 1:03.38 over turf labeled good.

Gram and Joel Rosario closed from last under to finish third for trainer Christophe Clement.

"I thought she was going to have them measured," Weaver said. "I told Irada, at Monmouth she pressed a little bit, I prefer the way she ran at Belmont where she kind of just sat and punched down the lane. I was pretty sure we had [Crown Imperial] measured, but there was a moment there where I was like 'Is she kicking in?' and then 'Oh yeah, she is. OK, we're good.'"

The filly out of the Into Mischief mare Troublesome bumped her career earnings to \$194,000 in four starts.

"I was very confident. Irada rode her perfect, laid off her a little bit, and once you ask her to go she's like an Aston Martin," Hill said. "You hit that gas and away she goes. I wasn't worried."

Amidst Waves was a \$100,000 purchase at Keeneland September last year. She started twice for Dew Sweepers, a pinhooking partnership focused on developing 2-year-olds on the track for major races like those at

Continued On Page 33





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Sunday —

■ Continued from page 32

Royal Ascot, before she sold privately to her current ownership group.

Weaver, Hill and partners have a few options at the top of the juvenile sprint class in *Amidst Waves* and *Crimson Advocate*. They purchased the latter from Dew Sweepers after her debut third at Keeneland in a 4 1/2-furlong contest won by *Brightwork*, the unbeaten winner of the Grade 3 *Adirondack* headed to the Grade 1 *Spinaway* on closing weekend.

Amidst Waves was the second Saratoga sprint winner of the weekend for *Midshipman*, with *Ship Cadet* taking Friday's off-the-turf *Skidmore* at 5 1/2 furlongs.

— **Nolan Clancy**

- Sunday was a return to (mostly) regularly scheduled turf racing, with only the ninth race pushed to the main track. That makes 51 total races pulled off the turf at the meet this year heading into Week 7.

The third race, run at 1 1/16 miles on the inner turf, went to *Strong Odor* and *Manny Franco* for *Mike Maker*.

Todd Pletcher and Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners were in for a sweet treat when 2-year-old filly *Candied* won her debut in the fifth under Luis Saez. The daughter of *Candy Ride* defeated eight 2-year-old fillies including a few high-profile yearling purchases from last year.

"We liked the way she was training, we thought she'd show a little bit more speed but she didn't jump perfectly," Pletcher said. "Had some dirt in her face probably for a little bit. Once she got in the clear, she ran in a big way."

Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners bought the winner, a daughter of *Candy Ride* for \$165,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July sale last year.

Mount Up, a 3-year-old by *Army Mule*, won the seventh for *St. Elias Stable*, *West Point Thoroughbreds* and *Rob Masiello*, the second win of the day for Pletcher and jockey *Irad Ortiz Jr.*

Digitize went gate to wire for *Chad Brown* and *Klaravich Stables* in the eighth, breaking his maiden in his third start in the 7-furlong event

under *Flavien Prat*. *Prat* didn't even have to get changed before hopping on *Money Supply*, a main track only entrant for the same connections, to win the ninth.

Mudville Nine won the 10th, breaking his maiden for *Mike Trombeta* and *The Elkstone Group* and improving on his second here in late July.

Ricardo Santana Jr., *Franco*, *Ortiz* and *Prat* each won two races to close out Week 6.

— **Nolan Clancy and Mary Rufo**

- *Ian Wilson* grew up in *Saratoga Springs*, and calls his horse racing trajectory inevitable. He had jobs around the backstretch growing up before working for *Vinery* at the *Fasig-Tipton Saratoga* sales.

Sunday's sixth was a homecoming for the assistant to *Graham Motion*. *Wilson* saddled *Memorialize* to a 3-length victory in the maiden race for 2-year-old fillies on the turf.

"That's the first horse I've ever saddled up here that won," *Wilson* said. "I've only saddled two up here, but that was the first winner, so that's pretty cool. It's like a childhood dream come true. So not a big deal or anything."

The filly debuted at *Colonial Downs* exactly a month before Sunday, where she impressed her connections despite a tumultuous beginning.

"It's super cool to have her come up here and run that way, but we've liked her since she came in. She's a cool little filly," *Wilson* said. "The *Colonial* race really was a prep to come up here, so it kind of worked out, finishing second there and trying to win one up here."

Memorialize stumbled out of the gate unprepared in her debut, without jockey *Jorge Ruiz's* feet in the irons. She spotted the field double-digit lengths before she got up to speed in the 5 1/2-furlong turf contest.

"All we told *Manny [Franco]* was to keep his feet in the irons," *Wilson* said.

Memorialize was shuffled back after being bumped at the start, but still got away from the gate miles better than her debut. The daughter of *Karakontie* went on to win by 3 lengths over *Steel Lute*, with post-time favorite *Lamorna* third.

"She was always pretty straightforward, she's straightforward but not an easy filly to train around the barn,"



Tod Marks

Candied heads to victory in Sunday's fifth.

Wilson said. "Once you get her on the track she's very very professional. She really hasn't put a foot wrong since she's come into the barn."

— **Nolan Clancy**

- The opener remained on the grass and *Smokin' Hot Kitty* won for trainer *Horacio De Paz* and *America's Pastime Stables*, *Liberty House Racing* and *Mic Duff Stables*. The daughter of *Kitten's Joy* gave *De Paz* his first win of the meet in his 28th start.

"These guys have had horses with *Horacio De Paz*, but this is our first one," said *Brian Spagnola* of *America's Pastimes Stables*. "He's got some of his other owners here and they're partnered with us, this is our first horse with him and he does a great job. We're thrilled to be a part of it."

Making her third start since being claimed for \$30,000 in late April, the 4-year-old daughter of *Kitten's Joy* picked up her second win from 12 starts. She won the 1 1/16-mile event for \$50,000 claimers by 3 lengths, adding it to her victory going 5 1/2 furlongs in a state-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer last year.

"[*De Paz*] is a great guy," said *Chris Duffy* of *Mic Duff Stables*. "Great horseman, great guy, *Horacio* had her ready. *Ricardo* gave a great ride. We're thrilled."

— **Nolan Clancy**

- *Seinfeld* fans who threw in a hunch bet on *Sue Ellen Mishkin* were rewarded Sunday. The *Matt Shirer*-trained 4-year-old daughter of *Mohaymen* won the 6-furlong event for \$12,500 claimers by 2 3/4 lengths, returning \$7.80 as the third choice in the field of five.

"She seems to always run good here," *Shirer* said. "She's a *New York-bred*."

Sue Ellen Mishkin is owned by *Ten Strike Racing*, a group headed by *Marshall Gramm*.

"They're great," *Shirer* said. "Marshall and I have known each other for a while now. We seem to like the same kind of horses and you know, they're always very open minded. We get along very well over the years."

Sue Ellen Mishkin was claimed for \$12,500 by *EKB Stables* and *Peter Walder*.

— **Mary Rufo**

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Well Versed

Rhyme Schemes zips to head of 2YO class

BY JOE CLANCY

When he bought Hip 1049 at Keeneland September last year, Deuce Greathouse didn't necessarily see all this: an easy maiden win at Ellis Park, a just-as-easy Grade 2 score at Saratoga and a spot among the favorites for the upcoming Grade 1 Hopeful.

But there was something there.

"He was just an incredibly balanced horse," Greathouse said of looking at the yearling. "He's got those nice shorter cannon bones but he's not a squatty horse; he's got a big shoulder; that's the way you'd draw a hind leg on a horse; strong gaskin, light in the neck so he doesn't have all that weight on his front end. He really is, when you're taught to look for a racehorse, kind of what you think of."

Bred by the Parks Investment Group of Lee Searing, Rhyme Schemes went to Keeneland with Paramount Sales.

"He was a beautiful yearling," said Paramount's Gabriel Duignan. "I raised him and he was always a horse you looked at – a beautiful horse all his life, I don't think he was ever sick a day in his life either."

The looks were there, clearly, but the son of Ghostzapper might not have made everybody's pedigree list.

His dam, the Distorted Humor mare Katherine, sold for \$575,000 as a 2-year-old but won just once. Rhyme Schemes was her second registered foal and the first had finished eighth in his debut before the sale. Second dam Eileen's Dream also won a single race, for breeder Searing's CRK Stable, and didn't produce a stakes winner. Back there one more generation lurked all sorts of black type however, including Grade 1 winners Dream Rush, Dreaming Of Julia and Malathaat.



Dave Harmon

Rhyme Schemes glides home with a victory in the Saratoga Special Stakes Aug. 12.

Greathouse saw that, plus all those physical attributes, and spent \$210,000 to add the chestnut to his Pura Vida Investments partnership.

"I'm not one of those people who says everything I buy is gorgeous; I buy them for different reasons, sometimes it's more pedigree," he said. "He was a great combination of both. I try and buy horses where I know that if that horse can really run all the sudden it's a live pedigree again. You've got in the third dam, Dreaming Of Julia, Malathaat, all that stuff. Now you've got a Grade 2 winner in the first dam. All the sudden, the rest of the pedigree just filled back out."

After his first three starts, Rhyme Schemes' name could be All The Sudden. Trained by Norm Casse in Kentucky, the colt touted himself in early workouts but finished sixth in his debut at Churchill Downs May 18. Casse and jockey Ricardo Santana Jr. added blinkers, and Rhyme Schemes responded with a 9 1/2-length maiden win at Ellis Park June 15. The lopsided score earned the winner heaps of praise, massive speed figures and a trip to Saratoga.

Greathouse and Casse targeted the Hopeful Sept. 4 and looked at the Grade 2 Saratoga Special as a bridge to the Grade 1 try.

First run in 1901, The Special is 32 years older than the Golden Gate Bridge but proved to be important for Rhyme Schemes if not California traffic.

Sent off at even money in a field of six, he let Market Street and Woodcourt fight it out up front, took over at the top of the stretch and won by 9 1/2 lengths – again – while Santana looked under his arm and at the infield video board for competition.

Greathouse loved the way the horse allowed the race to develop before getting involved and making a play for the lead.

"He's always acted like a 4-year-old in the barn," he said. "We all know him, and we know how important a smart horse is. The smarter they are, the more they tend to have heart. He seems to have shown that so far."

Duignan echoed that sentiment.

"He looks like an impressive horse," he said.

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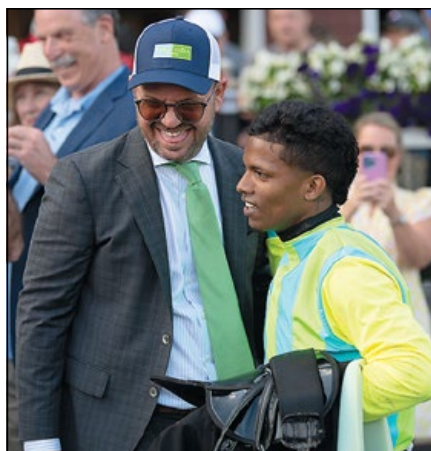
Rhyme Schemes—

■ Continued from page 34

"He just goes away in a few strides. He always had a fantastic temperament and he showed that [in the Special] too. He's bombproof, he really is. If they were all like that, and could run like that, it would be an easier game."

Pura Vida came together three years ago and focuses on pooling the buying power of multiple partners, purchasing yearlings at auction and going to the races. Purchases in 2021 included the stakes-placed Towhead and New York-bred stakes winner Les Bon Temps. The 2022 class went 10 deep and includes Smokey Smokey (second early on the Saratoga Special card) in addition to Rhyme Schemes.

"The first group we had a filly named Ontheonesandtwos (who placed in a stakes) and we had about six in the first group," Greathouse said. "We spent twice the money and bought 10 [in 2021] and had Les Bon Temps and Towhead. For this year we bought 10. We've only run two or three. We spent a million and a half. There are 10 people in the group including myself."



Tod Marks

Deuce Greathouse and jockey Ricardo Santana Jr. after the Saratoga Special.

Winning a Saratoga stakes with a 2-year-old who makes everyone talk will do plenty for the future of the project.

"This is what you do it for," Greathouse said. "Fingers crossed, everything good tomorrow, everything good after the next couple breezes, you couldn't be more excited about the Hopeful."

Duignan and Paramount will watch it all, and hope for a catalog update to a half-brother (Hip 929) to the Saratoga Special winner by Honor A. P. in this year's sale.

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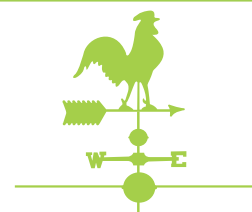
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Cide of Power

Never underestimate the power of one horse.

I'm sure I've started a column with that sentence before. Pick your horse. Seabiscuit. Secretariat. Smarty Jones. Zenyatta. Heck, leave it blank and put your favorite horse's name there. One horse can change your life.

I've got a few. Hawaiki, my father's one training win at Saratoga (1983). I carried the buckets to the test barn, through a dirt track so muddy that at some point it was easier to remove my Docksidies, roll up the cuffs of my yellow (why?) dress pants and walk barefoot. Dandy Danny. He won a race at Laurel Park at a huge price and Lonnie Fuller (in a bucket hat no doubt) and I had to compose ourselves before walking to the winner's circle. "Act like you been here before, Joey," he told me. We bet every dollar in our pockets, which really wasn't that much, but man we felt like millionaires afterward. Fourmatt, who was as classy as he was fast. He won the Federico Tesio, back when it was a proper Preakness prep. Owhata Chief, who could smell a veterinarian from 100 yards away. Joe Mac, who I couldn't hold one side of unless I sang to him. A New Zealand-bred whose head was probably four feet long, he'd relax and gallop on a loose rein but only if I kept singing. Baythorne, whose stride was so smooth he felt like a speedskater.

You want horses you've actually heard of? Horses I've written about? As a favorite trainer Charlie LoPresti used to say to me, "Oh, I don't know . . ." But let's go with California Chrome, Tom's d'Eat, Wise Dan, Get Stormy, Toby's Corner, Swiss Skydiver, Snap Decision. In their own ways, they awed me and challenged me.

Ask me tomorrow and the list could be entirely different, but that's part of the power.

Last week, I went to the Funny Cide sendoff at Siro's. It wasn't my first racehorse memorial service, but it was the first one with a theme song. "Funny Cide, Funny Cide, Saratoga's on the map, it's been

THE OUTSIDE RAIL *By Joe Clancy*



a hell of a ride . . ." or something like that anyway. He died July 16 at age 23, a hero as much for his 2003 wins in the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes as for his everyman status as a New York-bred, a gelding, a part of Sackatoga Stable and trainer Barclay Tagg's barn, a horse whose career closed with a win at Finger Lakes. He won 11 races, earned \$3.6 million. Foaled at McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds, he made New York-breds seem trendy and cool.

He also made it all seem attainable. Jack Knowlton and his friends from Sackett's Harbor, N.Y., pooled their money and bought a 2-year-old for \$75,000. Less than a year later, they were riding to the Kentucky Derby in a school bus. At the Siro's sendoff, Knowlton relayed the story of a partner trying to arrange transportation for the group from the Galt House Hotel in Louisville to Churchill Downs on Derby Day. The first choice was too expensive, and the booker asked a simple question, "How much pride do you have?" Not a lot came the reply. Yellow school bus it was. By the time the Preakness and Belmont Stakes came around, it took more than one bus to ferry the Funny Cide crew to the races but that only added to the lore.

By winning, Funny Cide changed the lives of

Knowlton and the other partners, Tagg and assistant/partner Robin Smullen, jockey Jose Santos and plenty of others. Beyond them, racing fans went along for the unlikely ride as Funny Cide became New York's horse. It reached a crescendo of sorts at Saratoga that summer. There was a Funny Cide Store at the end of Caroline Street (it may be a hoo-kah shop now), plus Funny Cide beer, Funny Cide ice cream at Stewart's, hats, shirts, you name it. He and Empire Maker were supposed to meet in the Travers after splitting the Derby and Belmont Stakes. That never happened as they both scratched after entering – coughs, mucous, whatever. Ten Most Wanted won.

But 20 years later, there we were at Siro's sending off Funny Cide with that song, video highlights and comments from his connections via emcee Tom Durkin. I'm bad at estimating crowds but there were a few hundred people there. They were young, old, connected, totally disconnected. Official proclamations ("Whereas...") came from the State of New York via assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, Saratoga Springs and Sackett's Harbor, plus the Governor of Kentucky Andy Beshear. Find another racehorse with four proclamations read at his memorial.

For all his New York roots, Funny Cide spent the last 15 years of his life at the Kentucky Horse Park, showcasing his literal and virtual power. He resided in the Hall of Champions, an attraction for visitors of all ages.

"It's all about education and engagement," said Kentucky Horse Park executive director Lee Carter, who made the trip to Saratoga to read Beshear's proclamation and relay the horse's impact. "Our goal is always to deepen that relationship with the horse. We believe there's a connection between the head, the heart and the horse. We're able to just tell their story. You've got folks that come who know a

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Saratoga Bulletin Board

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The Outside Rail —

■ Continued from page 36

lot of the history, and you've got folks that are just looking for a unique experience."

Funny Cide was a star.

"He had his own show every day at the Horse Park," Carter said. "At 3:30, every afternoon, we'd have our Derby champ turnout. So fans would line up along the paddock and watch him as he ran out of the stable into his paddock for the night. It was just a daily activity. He was a great ambassador. You could put him out there and take photos and feed him peppermints, so it was great for folks to get that up close and personal."

The day Funny Cide died, the Horse Park was reminded — again — of Funny Cide's impact. Six-hundred (and counting) comments flooded the organization's Facebook page. People

missed him, grieved over him, remembered him, cared about him.

"There was just this affinity and this connection to Funny Cide that was really amazing," said Carter said.

You couldn't help but feel it last week at Siro's.

• • •

NYRA will salute Funny Cide one more time at the races Sunday. At 11 a.m., his remains will be buried near the horse path just inside Gate C. Knowlton, Tagg, Smullen and Santos will be on hand to sign memorabilia, including Funny Cide posters and bobbleheads, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Jockey Silks Porch. Later in the afternoon, following the annual running of the Funny Cide Stakes, NYRA will present a video compilation of his career, including his wins in the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes and Jockey Club Gold Cup at Belmont Park.



Tod Marks

Funny Cide greets a fan in 2003.




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The New York Turf Writers Cup. The Turf Writers. That's how we knew it. The iconic Saratoga steeplechase, the one you wanted to win, the one you needed to win. Just to feel like you belonged. To justify the crazy decision you made to become a jump jockey so many jumps, so many lumps ago.

The first one I remember was when my mom told me that "Happy won." 1977. Happy Intellectual and my hero Joe Aitcheson Jr. Happy was 11, eight years after finishing third in the Illinois Derby and in the midst of three straight wins in the Turf Writers. Joe was 49, nine years away from his seventh and final championship.

Mays and Mantle to me. Joe checked himself out of the hospital after another thumping fall earlier in the meet. Stiff and sore, he somehow stoked and soaked to turn back time one more time. Valet Harry Rice talks about Aitcheson with higher regard than Lazarus. Happy got in front over the last. On fumes, Joe couldn't turn his head, couldn't wave his whip. Naval Person came charging. Happy heard him, went again and ground out a neck on his junior foe. It was legend.

The first one I won, OK, the only one I won was Hokan in 1998. I hustled the ride from Janet Elliot, just to ride the race. I raked her Annex shedrow and walking ring for a week, to show my dedication, my commitment.

I didn't think he would win but I just wanted to say I was riding the race. In my 11th year at Saratoga, winless in the big one and on a four-year skid, I couldn't face saying I didn't have a ride in the Turf Writers. I sweated out a summer spent at The Parting Glass in a week and did 142. Well, that's what it says (Janet, you'll never know). He won by a neck. I rode more than 1,000 races over 13 years, it was never poetry, one race went in slow motion, one race went in paint-by-numbers perfection. Somehow, it came on a 13-1 chance against five-time champion Lonesome Glory and a field of burners. It was the ninth race, the flag dropped at 5:19 p.m. There was a crowd. They clapped. In the ever-elusive search for a perfect moment in sport, that was it for me.

Now it's the Jonathan Sheppard. If there was ever a race to be renamed, this is it.

The Hall of Fame trainer won the Turf Writers 15 times. Nobody dominated a sport like Sheppard



CUP OF COFFEE

By Sean Clancy

but his exploits in the Saratoga Grade 1, they were legendary. He won it with fillers and favorites. Top weights. Low weights. Frontrunners. Closers. Veterans. Rookies. He won it with future Hall of Fame jockeys and walk-ons fresh off the farm. He won it with low-budget homebreds and Augustin Stable hotshots. He won it with 4-year-olds in their stakes debuts. And a 13-year-old in his 35th stakes start.

He won it the first time in 1979 with Virginia-bred Leaping Frog, a hard-trying son of Tulpehocken and the War Admiral mare Admiration. Third-string Bruce Christison guided him to the ribbon cutter, part of a seven-win campaign that should have netted him a championship. Leaping Frog was as tough as they come, running in the Turf Writers four years in a row and at Saratoga 13 times in six years. He started at Bowie in 1976 and finished in Saratoga in 1982.

Sheppard won it for the second time in 1983 with 6-year-old Double Reefed, an 84-start battler. Sheppard came back the next year with Flatterer, a 5-year-old on his way to the Hall of Fame. The over-achieving Florida-bred Double Bill won it in 1989-90 and the front-running Yaw won the next two, sweeping a Sheppard 1-2-3 the first time. Mistico lugged 168 pounds in the mud (yeah, it used to

be rain or shine). Arch Kingsley stole one on Bisbalense, again in the mud, three years later. Ninepins, at 13, won it in 2000.

Homebred It's A Giggle scored three times in 29 days, taking the Turf Writers in 2001. Another homebred Mixed Up followed five years later. Sermon Of Love won one open stakes in his life, yeah, the Turf Writers in 2010.

Homebred Italian Wedding did the same in 2013. British import Winston C won it in 2019, Sheppard's final runner in the stakes that would eventually be named after him.

Sheppard saddled his last runner in December, 2020. The king of the Turf Writers quietly slipped off the stage, retiring to Florida. The New York Turf Writers Cup was changed to the Jonathan Sheppard the following summer.

The Mean Queen won it in 2021. Snap Decision won it in 2022.

Today, 10 runners go to post in the third running of the Sheppard. The first race on today's 10-race card. Sheppard would like this group. An eclectic group that runs the gamut of the sport.

There's L'Imperator, owned by Hudson River Farm (Winston C and Ninepins) and trained by Kingsley, who steered two of the 15. There's Jimmy P and Theocrat, trained by Sheppard's final assistant, Keri Brion. There's Awakened, a blue-blooded flat horse, a Mixed Up taking a shot. There's Grade 1 winner Noah And The Ark, a 9-year-old Ninepins. There's Merry Maker, a low weight Sermon Of Love. There's Redicean, a 9-year-old with back class and flat form, a Mistico. There's West Newton, a frontrunner, a Bisbalense. There's McTigue, an upstart 4-year-old, a Flatterer, maybe someday. And there's Caramelised, a free-running British-bred, maybe a Winston C.

One of them will join a legendary list. Sheppard will be proud.

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