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Here&There...in Saratoga

License Plates of the Day

FILLYS. New York

Racetrack Shirts of the Day

It's a Travers Thing, You Wouldn't Understand. Don't hassle me, I'm a local.

Shout Outs

To the team at Blue Lion Thoroughbreds, who named their 2-year-old The Factor colt Detective Tom after the late Detective Thomas J. Gallo, a 25-year veteran of the NYPD who passed away as a first responder in the cleanup of the World Trade Center after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. A \$90,000 purchase at last year's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred sale, Detective Tom won his debut in a 5 1/2-furlong turf maiden last Thursday for Blue Lion, trainer Steve Asmussen and jockey Jose Ortiz.

To Gold And Roses. The New York-bred son of Gold Token died Saturday. Born in 2002, Seth Gregory's homebred earned \$877,966 in 45 starts. The chestnut gelding won 10 races including back-to-back runnings of the John Morrissey at Saratoga in 2006-07. "My horse of a lifetime," Gregory said. Rest in peace old boy.

To Devil At Midnight for providing owner/trainer Melanie Giddings with a win at Finger Lakes Monday. Shaun Bridgmohan guided the \$7,000 purchase to the front-running score. The daughter of Unified has earned \$30,360 in three starts.

By The Numbers

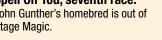
1: Vintage Laurel Park seat cushion under a fan's arm walking to the races last week.

329: Number of syndicates with Madaket Stables listed as a partner on Equibase

Names of the Day

Before Yo Go Go, second race. Robert and Lawana Low's 2-yearold filly is out of Wake Me Up.

Spell On You, seventh race. John Gunther's homebred is out of Stage Magic.



Life Talk, second race, Thursday. Repole Stable's 2-year-old filly is out of Touchy Feely.

Disappearance, fifth race, Thursday. Kingfield Farm's 3-year-old is by Good Magic.

Charging, sixth race, Thursday. Another Peter Blum gem, the 3-year-old colt is out of Electric.

Get Spooled, seventh race, Thursday. Carem Stable's 2-year-old colt is by Hard Spun.



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Here&There...in Saratoga

By The Numbers

22: Percent increase in all-sources handle at the 24-day Ellis Park meet that ended Monday. Ellis reported more than \$60.4 million wagered, \$11 million more than 2022.

60: Fish caught by Nicholas Brown this summer on Saratoga Lake.

14.1: Million dollars in total purses offered at the recent Ellis Park meet.

84: Horses reported sold by Fasig-Tipton in its August Digital Sale for a total of \$2,074,700. Two fillies brought \$180,000 – Zadorsky, a 2-year-old daughter of Tapiture and winner at Saratoga Aug. 13; and Into Happiness, a 4-year-old daughter of Into Mischief riding a three-race win streak that includes a pair of scores at Saratoga.

Worth Repeating

"It's the long game, but it's so worth it."

New York breeder Carolyn Karlson

"Very good week."

Steeplechase jockey Tom Garner after winning two races in three days last week

"That's why you're here."

Trainer Peter Pugh to a Grade 1 winning owner Friday morning

"This isn't as easy as it looks."

Exercise rider pedaling a bike and drinking a coffee Friday morning

"Where's The Fish. I had to get it."

Trainer John Kimmel, sporting a WTF baseball cap last week

"Well. I got in trouble."

Trainer after leaving out a key horse from a Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour last week

"Be careful, we could end up in the Worth Repeating."

Dr. James Fukuda, to a colleague, about a conversation with The Special

"Oh man, that felt great,"

Jockey Dylan Davis after going from last to first with New Ginya in the Yaddo

"Dylan is riding the rail, he's not panicking. We're lucky in New York. Look at him, he's got a lot of horse, in three strides, he's there."

> Trainer Christophe Clement about Dylan Davis and the deep jockey colony at Saratoga after winning the Yaddo Sunday

"Everything's cool by the pool."

Jockey Kendrick Carmouche as he jogged home after a turf work Monday morning



Lawn Boys. Retired trainer Rick Schosberg – and his companion – work on the grass next to the main track Tuesday morning.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Because of our location, we meet a lot of fans. These horses get pet more than most people pet their dogs." Trainer Jennifer Paragallo from Barn 42. near one of the main entrances on Union Avenue













It's sales season and barely a day goes by without news of another **Street Sense** high achiever. **Three Stakes winners in 10 days,** including Whelen Springs in the G3 Philip H. Iselin and Ichiban in the Fleet Indian. Just imagine...



Saratoga Stallion Board

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

season with wins, stakes wins and first-place earnings:			
		Stakes	
Stallion	Wins	Wins	Earnings
Curlin	12	4	. \$1,050,300
Gun Runner	11	3	. \$1,090,100
Into Mischief	10	2	\$708,400
Liam's Map	8	4	\$587,126
Practical Joke	8	1	\$451,550
Justify	7		\$396,000
Maclean's Music	7		\$324,150
Street Sense	7	1	\$393,250
American Pharoah			
Army Mule	5	1	\$412,500
Arrogate			
Central Banker	5		\$246,400
Laoban	5		\$224,950
Lope de Vega	5	2	\$797,500
Mendelssohn	5		\$257,950
Uncle Mo	5		\$308,000
City of Light	4		\$236,500
Connect	4	1	\$138,600
Ghostzapper	4	1	\$282,150
Goldencents	4	1	\$254,650
Hard Spun	4		\$182,050
Jimmy Creed			

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Tod Marks Idiomatic gave Curlin one of his dozen wins at the meet in the Grade 1 Personal Ensign.

Kantharos	4		\$179.850
Medaglia d'Oro			
Munnings			
Not This Time			
Tonalist	1	2	\$301.050

Twirling Candy	4	1	\$349,250
Bolt d'Oro	3	1	\$135,300
Bustin Stones			\$153,725
Cairo Prince	3		\$148,500
Candy Ride			\$162,250
Classic Empire			\$168,850
Cupid			\$198,550
English Channel			\$250,800
Frosted			\$163,400
Girvin			\$173,250
Midshipman			\$196,350
Mucho Macho Man			\$201,300
Nyquist			\$514,250
Speighster			\$157,025
Speightstown			\$145,750
The Factor			\$104,500
Uncaptured			
Violence			
War Dancer			

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already invested in the program." -Frank Gabriel, NYRA Sr. VP of racing operations

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In 2022, of the 2,589 races run in New York, no fewer than 800 were restricted to NY-BREDS, including 60 stakes races (MORE THAN ANY OTHER STATE-BRED PROGRAM).

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ADAM COGLIANESE, ANDI DANEGELIS PHOTOS ©

RACE	NY-BRED	NON-NY-BRED
MSW	.\$136,500	\$105,000
1ST LEVEL ALW	.\$149,500	\$115,000
2ND LEVEL ALW .	.\$156,500	\$120,000
3RD LEVEL ALW .	.\$162,500	\$125,000



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STABLE TOUR

Meet the people & horses who make Saratoga special!

November 7, 2023 Sale NOMINATE NOW!



With the Little Guys

Back by popular demand – and with a little more time and planning if we're completely honest – the Glenn DiSanto Stable Tour with the Little Guys.

The first year of the Little Guys tour featured DiSanto, a Saratoga mainstay who passed away at age 62 in 2017. We've honored him ever since, trying to comb every nook and cranny of the barn area from the Annex to Clare Court and Clark Cottage to the harness track in search of the horses trained by the men and women who keep the game going.

The tour used to appear in the final edition, compiled before and after the Run for the Horses 5K at the Saratoga Spa State Park. The run was discontinued a few years ago, we missed the Little Guys last year but are proud to bring it back again in 2023. On foot and by golf cart, Tom Law, Joe Clancy and Sean Clancy found horses in every corner of the barn area.

Michelle Giangiulio

Sea Foam: Welcome back. Ten Strike Racing's 8-year-old multiple stakes winner appeared in the 2021 Stable Tour with the Little Guys and returns a few days before he runs in Monday's \$50,000 Genesee Valley Breeders' Stakes at Finger Lakes, A 10-time winner in 34 starts with \$854,603, he's also the character of the barn. "He's a cool dude though. Watch out for him, he's guite a biter. Hev big man, still going strong. He's so proud. Such a cool horse. You can tell he's proud of himself the way he walks around. Something special. He's doing really good. It's been difficult for him because a lot of his races have been cut back to a mile. He ran huge in it last year off a seven-month layoff, just got beat the wire. We tried something different with him this year, tried the Birdstone wanting a marathon. Then the Evan Shipman was two weeks after that. We thought about it but going a mile and 6 furlongs and I didn't want to send him back out there so soon. He's still doing just as good as he always has, just have to find the right distance for him."

Ikigai: A four-time winner and earner of \$193,640 for Ten Strike and partners, 4-year-old Bayern gelding finished seventh in the Grade 3 Troy Stakes Aug. 5 after winning back-to-back starts at Monmouth Park. "He's been really good for me since I claimed him, won three races since the claim. We ran him in the Troy on the wet turf and he just hated it. Not sure what the plans are for him. Maybe get one more run at Monmouth."

English Storm: Thomas Thienel's homebred 3-year-old New York-bred gelding by Freud finished fifth in waiver maiden claimer here July 26. He's placed three times in seven starts. "I unfortunately have to go in the maiden special. He ran beginning of the meet in the maiden 40 off an eight-month layoff and then got excluded out of the maiden 40. We're going to try Closing Day. He's a nice one, I like him. The only turf horse I have."



Majestic Return: Ten Strike's 3-year-old Long On Value New York-bred filly finished third in a Belmont Park allowance July 9. "She's supposed to run Monday. Just worked a nice three-eighths this morning in (:35.01). Fast little filly. She'll run in a first-level allowance, New York-breds. Ran a huge race closing weekend at Belmont, at 56-1 and just got beat for second. She's all right."

Noonzio: New York-bred 2-year-old colt by Malibu Moon out of the winning The Factor mare Breezy Gal. "He's a big, impressive looking colt. I'm very excited about him but he's just so big. He's been a push on, push back off."

Mitole's Girl: New York-bred 2-year-old filly by Mitole out of the Empire Maker mare Sinister Siren cost \$125,000 last year. "Nice New York-bred, coming along pretty well. Probably by the end of the year. She'll be ready in a few months. I'm not breezing on either of those 2-year-olds very much yet. But we're getting there, slowly."

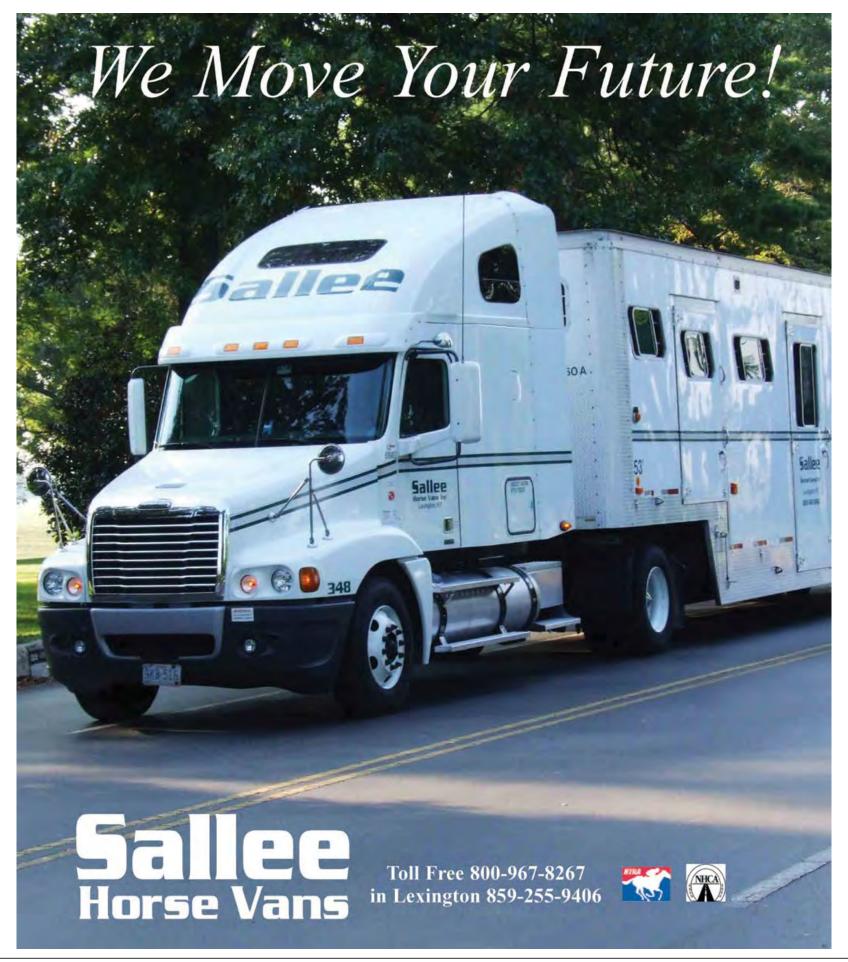
Win For Gold: Ten Strike and partners claimed 5-year-old New York-bred Goldencents gelding for \$25,000 in February at Aqueduct. He's won or placed in six starts for Giangiulio since, improving to 4-5-2 in 18 starts and \$213,261. "He was my winner at the meet (Aug. 17). He ran second opening weekend, then we won with him in a starter allowance and now we're going to run him Closing Day. He's doing fantastic. He's probably my most exciting one to run back. It would be really cool for him to get a second and two wins."

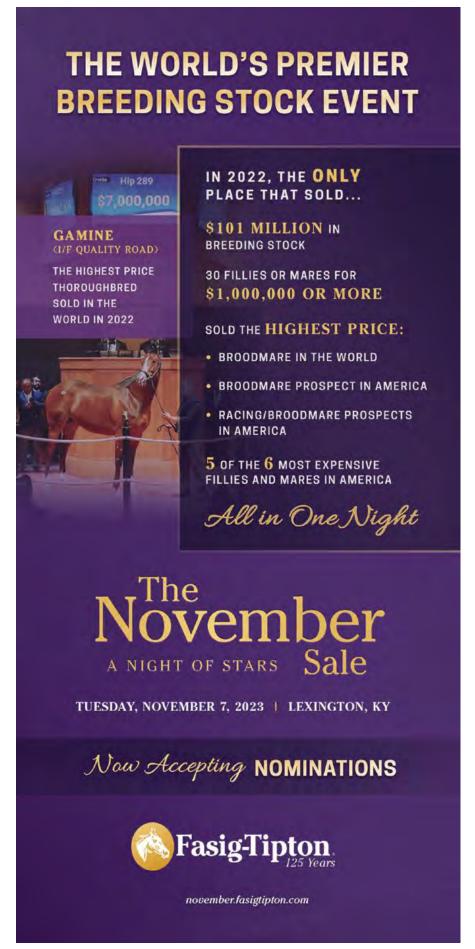
Eddie Barker

Eddie The Great: A two-time winner for Danny Chen, James Caestro and Campbell Road Stables, 4-year-old Munnings colt breezed a. half in in:50 the morning of the tour. He finished eighth in a \$95,000 state-bred allowance going 1 mile on the turf Aug. 3. "We claimed him last year. We gave him the winter off down in Florida, brought him back. He was eligible for the waiver claimer and we ran him there (June 2), he ran a good race. Then I ran him in two allowance races and he got terrible rides in both. Eight-wide around the entire racetrack and got beat 4 or 5 lengths. We're putting him back in never-win-three and Irad is riding him. He's got a good shot to win. I just breezed him over on the Oklahoma. He's an honest little horse."

Calling An Audible: New York-bred 2-year-old filly by Audible out of 2016 Summer Colony Stakes winner Rachel's Temper. She's breezed seven times, including 5 furlongs in 1:02.22 Monday. "The mare won up here and made over \$400,000. She is really training awesome. Going to run long and I'm taking a lot of time with her. She's a big filly. Training great."

Strat Mo Matic: Danny Chen's 2-year-old colt by Uncle Mo out of the Elusive Quality mare Elusive Raven colt cost \$23,000 in March. He's breezed four times in Saratoga, including a half on the main track that provided the barn with a spark. "The lightbulb went off. We bought him down at the sale, he had a big hematoma, and





Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

everybody ran from him. I knew what it was. I had a vet look at it and he said you can drain that. Everybody ran from it. We got him for \$23,000. He worked (Monday), whew. I breezed him like four three-eighths. He's big, like 17 1/2 hands. Monday, we breezed, supposed to go threeeighths, in company, my kid couldn't hold him next to the other horse. He wound up breaking the yoke and went in (:48.73) and 12 and change after the wire. He was reaching. That's one who is going to be good, knock wood. For \$23,000, I said we had to take a chance. He's gorgeous and everything is correct on him. We drained that hematoma, gave him 45 days down on the farm after the sale. ... I've watched him and we've done real slow three-eighths, 38, 38, 38. Let him gallop out. Man, he showed me vesterday he's a racehorse. He's probably a month and a half away. Something to look forward to."

City Blocks: J and M Racing Stable's homebred 2-year-old filly by Enticed is a half-sister to the ill-fated Blame It On Mary. The barn lost that daughter of Blame July 23 when she broke down on the lead in a 5 ½-furlong turf allowance-optional for New York-breds. "That was awful. She stepped in a hole on the turf course had to be put down. She was my best horse, out in front and just skipping along. The soundest horse I had in the barn. Needless to say it's been rough. . . . This filly, she's her half-sister. Probably two breezes away from running. Nice little filly. Very correct, just like Mary was. She breezed in 48 flat the other day, just sitting on her. We've got something to look forward to."

Triumphant Road. Iris Smith's 4-year-old by Quality Road hasn't been out since an eighth in a turf maiden Sept. 17 at Aqueduct. "He was verv. very difficult to keep sound. Too big for himself. We had problems with his knees and problems with his ankles. Now, thank God, he's really training good. There's a 5 1/2 on Labor Day, not near as long for him. We did a PRP with him, but it's a more advanced PRP. We did both knees with that and gave him like three months off. It really did the trick because he doesn't have any problems now. Look at him, like I said, 5 1/2 furlongs might not be nowhere near long enough for him. Now we've finally got him sound. I've breezed him up here five or six times and he's breezed really good. And sound. That's the biggest thing. That's why I gave him the winter off. ... He's got a great mind, plus I gelded him. His stride completely changed once I gelded him. Maybe when we get back to Aqueduct we'll get him in."

Melvin Winney

Duckphat: James Corrao's 5-year-old mare nearly pulled off a feel-good win with a strong second here Aug. 18. "She's a nice mare. She's honest. She'll run and give you everything she has. She's sitting on a win here in Saratoga. Maybe the last day if she gets in, she'll be tough.

Every time, she gives everything she's got. I like her. It was exhilarating, all the time and effort you put in, to get a nice performance that she gave."

War Dancer-Funky Munky Mama 3-yearold filly: "She's not named yet. We'll put the names in a hat. She's going to be OK. She's forward. She wants to be a racehorse also. I don't have the best, but they'll be competitive."

Proud Alumnus: The New York-bred 3-yearold son of Laoban has breezed three times at the meet. "He's a nervous horse. He needs to get over this nervousness. I named him after my grandson who graduated from Le Moyne College this past May. He's going back for his masters. He wants to be a schoolteacher. He's dedicated. I was born and raised in Saratoga, we lived not too far from Division Street School, where he went to school. One summer vacation, he was peeking through the school windows, and someone called the police. It was my grandson; he was wanting to see what was in store for his future. This kid is obsessed with teaching. The kids who will be in his class will come out of it with some knowledae."

Robbie Davis

Vallelujah: East Ave Racing and Carolyn Karlson's 4-year-old New York-bred Teuflesberg filly finished fourth in the Aug. 11 Union Avenue and ventures into open company in today's fourth, a 6 1/2-furlong allowance on the main track. She's won three of 17 with three placings and earned \$209,048, "She ran herself out of New York-bred conditions so we have to start in open company or New York-bred stakes. She's in between a mile and 6. She runs hard. I was watching the a-other-than open and ducked a filly named Three Rivers and was glad I didn't go in that spot. She was fourth in the stake, but it was a strong fourth. That race used to be 6 1/2 but I guess they were convinced to write it at 6 furlongs. She came running and was right there. We were pleased with it and with her. We entered in the a-other-than. She's in with Jackie. She's up to the task. Real solid filly and has been a lot of fun. She's a dream. We're hoping for a trip and a safe run."

Dr. Marbooz: Sisu Racing's homebred 6-year-old Bourbon Courage gelding is 3-5-4 in 29 starts with \$97,323 in the bank. He's entered in Thursday's eighth, a 1-mile allowance for New Yorkbreds. "That's Vallelujah's older brother. He's been at Finger Lakes and we've been trying to go on the MTOs. He loves the wet going but I just can't hit it. They've written one race and it was perfect that day so we had to scratch. We put him in a mile a-other-than Thursday. I have Dylan (Davis) on him, to spread the love a little bit. Actually, Dylan is doing me a favor riding him and we really appreciate it. He's a nice little honest horse. He's hit the board a bunch."

Mary Union Ave: Another half-sibling to Vallelujah, 2-year-old New York-bred filly by Union Jackson. "She's 2 and going through 2-year-old stuff. The ground was breaking loose from her a

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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

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Thursday, September 28, 2023

Three Year Olds & Upward • Six Furlongs



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Stable Tour —

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little bit in behind. I just need to develop her up. I'm not going to wreck her. She'll tell me when she's ready to go. We're still legging her up. She's pretty nice."

Mugsy Fury: Owned by Charles Fury III and Davis' wife Marguerite. 4-year-old Big Brown colt is winless in three starts including a maiden here Aug. 9. "Trains like a beast. He's a colt and he's got a set of coconuts between his legs that get bruised every time he goes out there. We're looking to get a good performance out of him, if not he's got to go to the table. But he's nice. A Big Brown, bred to run all day. Super talented horse so we've kept him a colt. I hope to run him on Labor Day."

Fluorescent Bay: Owned by Davis' son Eddie, his wife and Don King, 4-year-old Creative Cause gelding is winless in five starts. He finished eighth in a Duckphat (10) lost by a nose for trainer Melvin Winney Aug. 18. maiden here Aug. 23. "He bruised his frog the other day. Hard turf and he ran about five-eighths of a

mile. Beat a couple horses, came back and Katie said 'he felt a little funny Dad.' He's a sound horse. He ran through his shoe, it spread a little bit in the hind and he was pounding his frog behind. He eased himself up. We're nursing that frog on him. We'll put some wedges behind to get him up off the ground. That's about it. They keep us busy. When you hit the board at Saratoga you know you're doing good. Hopefully Wednesday and Thursday will be good."

Jennifer Paragallo

Dunedin Causeway: The \$75,000 purchase from the 2022 Fasig-Tipton New York-bred yearling sale has posted 10 breezes this summer. "This guy is a Gormley. He hasn't run yet. He's going to run Closing Day. He does everything willingly and right, we don't how good he is or isn't. He's breezed on the grass and the dirt."

Althena: Owned by LUNA Racing Stable, the 2-year-old filly breaks from the rail in today's third race. "She's a 2-year-old by Blame. She got to run once up here, that didn't go so well. She got beat 59 lengths and came back with a bullet work. She's beautiful. She looks great. She's in on the grass but it might come off. She does everything right and is a real fun horse to be around, I like her a lot. When you like a horse a lot and they get beat 59 lengths first time out and come back with a :48 work...you don't know."

Fire Baron: LUNA's 3-year-old makes start number 18 in Thursday's fifth race. "He's been with us for a whole year, knocking on the door, finishing third and fourth. He was with Mike Maker, he finished third at Tampa for me, he ran third at Belmont, ran fourth up here. He's a fun little guy."

Redzilla: LUNA's daughter of Will Take Charge drew the inside post in Thursday's 10th race. "She's running on the grass. She won on the dirt and the turf at Tampa, kind of been in over her head here but she's doing great. We don't have anything real exciting but we have a fun little group. They're probably a notch below where they need to be but we love all our horses. I'm going to pull it off here, I don't know which one but one of them."

Kerry Metivier

Handle The Truth: Five-year-old daughter of Speightster has banked \$125,872 from a win, three seconds and nine thirds in her 35-race career. She's earned \$11,400 at the meet. "She's been carrying us for a couple of years. We ran her three times at the



meet, she's finished third twice. As usual. Heart always comes through with horses and she's got a lot of heart."

Tizallmine: Bred by Sandra Metivier, Kerry Metivier and Bud Wolf, the daughter of Mineshaft should make her debut this fall. "She's really nice. The 2-year-olds will race probably October, November. Despite the rain, we haven't missed a lot of training so we're much farther ahead with her 2-year-olds. We're really optimistic about the future."

Frankie's Rose: New York-bred 2-year-old daughter of Frank Conversation, bred by Henry and Lance Freebern and Tim Hurlock, hails back to the Bobby Frankel-trained Pertuisane, third in the Grade 1 Diana in 2003. "What's really fun is we have three nice 2-year-olds. All fillies. And they're all doing great. She breezed today."

Savannah Dancer: Racebrook Stable's 2-vear-old filly adds to Metivier's optimism, "She's a Cross Traffic and Cross Traffic has turned out to be a nice sire. She's strawberry just like him, we're looking forward to her running. She's a beautiful horse. We had a good spring, and we had a good summer. We're looking forward to things quieting down a bit. The meet is great, but the off-season is nice, too. We have up-and-coming babies, we try to keep filling the barn with homebreds. It's kind of working for us. Finally. It's taken a while to develop the program but we're getting to the point where it's starting to pay off."

Jimmy Ferraro

General Banker: Seacoast Thoroughbreds of New England's homebred Central Banker colt has earned \$437,943 in 14 starts. The dark bay colt hit the board in the Jerome, the Grade 3 Withers and the Grade 3 Gotham this spring. Freshened since May, he breezed once in Saratoga, a three-eighths move Aug. 13. "I guess we're looking for the fall. We were momentarily on the Triple Crown Trail. We had 16 points. It was fun. A lot of fun. He's a New Yorkbred so we're looking for the fall, some New York-bred allowance races and maybe another stakes. He's doing well."

Holder Close: Daniel Rossiter's New York-bred daughter of Solomini finished fourth in her debut here Aug. 24. "She ran once, she had the one-hole and she ran very greenly, she finished fourth. She's a half-sister to Niko's Dream who Barclay Tagg had. We have high hopes for her. We'll run her at Aqueduct. I remember 1971,

they had a July meet, my father won a race on the turf with Jean Cruguet. I think it was for Elmendorf. I'm going to miss Aqueduct when it's gone."

Sanctuary City: Ferraro's turf horse earned \$489,970 from 2019 to 2022. "He's happily retired. All heart."

Fernando Abreu

Famous Gent: Paterpop Racing's 5-year-old First Dude gelding sports two wins and a second for Abreu, "We claimed him for \$20,000 in Florida and have done really well with him so far. I only got to run him once here, but I thought he was the one who was going to get me out of the hole, off the duck here."

Just Call Ray: Owned by Paterpop, the 4-yearold Mohaymen gelding joined Abreu's stable via a \$25,000 claim here July 22. "Two gray horses. I claimed him here. Ran him back and he finished third off the turf. I raised him to 32."

Gun Maestro: House horse. The son of Gun Runner enticed Irad Ortiz Jr. for the eighth race Friday. "Hopefully my horse comes through. See if he'll get us off the duck. I claimed him, too. I'm a claiming barn. I don't have those top-notch horses. I claimed him for \$12,500. The races at Gulfstream didn't go, they hustled me in the maiden special weight and he ended up winning the race. He paid for himself right there. He finished second twice. I brought him here, never won two, 25. You've got the Linda Rice dropping. I guess she really wants that title. You never know here. This would be my title. I had a good Belmont meet, but everything here has been so tough. They're running well, but not winning. There's nothing like winning."

Dave Harmon

Greg DiPrima

First Deputy: The seven-time winner has earned \$272,825 the hard way. DiPrima became his 10th trainer July 14. "I claimed him about six weeks ago. I claimed him for \$16,000 and he's in for \$12,500, first time we're running him. I have Trevor McCarthy on him. He's an older horse. Real easy to train. We just thought be aggressive and try to win a race with him. I took him back to Belmont, it's a lot quieter down there. I'm probably going to lose him but I'm taking my best shot. When we took him, he didn't win so this is a logical spot."

Home For Christmas: New York-bred daughter of Shanghai Bobby won here for Christophe Clement in 2021. The two-time winner runs in the finale Thursday. "We claimed her from Clement. She was third last time. She ran OK last time, she doesn't break so well, gets compromised. She tried last time. The longer the better but they only have a mile and a sixteenth for three life. We would have loved a mile and an eighth or further but they just don't write them. Tough to keep weight on her, she eats but she's a little finicky. I worked her once since her last start. She worked good. She seems to like it up here. I only have six, two here and four at Belmont. We tried to claim a bunch. We lost one last week for \$50,000. Cees Get Degrees. By the time we go home, hopefully, we can bring a few more home. I won a 12-way shake and a six-way shake back-to-back at the beginning of the meet. I started off my career real strong, we've had ups and downs, but it's really been quiet lately. There are a lot of small guys in this position. It's New York. It's tough. When I was a kid at Agueduct, if you had 35 horses, you were a big outfit. If you had 10, 15 horses, you were sizable. What you got then, which you don't get anymore, is recommendations, now, no one turns a horse down."

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 12

Chad Summers

Clapton: Bred in Florida by Arindel and recently purchased by Summers for Sheikh Rashid Bin Humaid Alnuami's RRR Racing, 4-year-old Brethren colt finished second in the Suburban at Belmont Park in July and is aiming for Saturday's Grade 1 Jockey Club Gold Cup. Grade 3 winner has been in Florida with Arindel trainer Juan Alvarado, and arrived in Saratoga in time to breeze a half-mile for jockey Irad Ortiz Jr. in :48.48 over the main track Sunday. "We bought him about three weeks ago, but he's been on our radar for a long time. We tried to buy a couple horses this year and we came up a little short. People don't want to sell horses after they win races, believe it or not. This deal came together. Give big credit to Brian Cohen from Arindel Farm. He and his father couldn't have been better to work with. We love diversity and the fact that he's run 22 times in 25 months, he can sprint, he can go a mile, he can go a distance of ground and he's run at multiple tracks. Those are the things you like. He's got a running style where he's just going to grind it out. Especially now as a 4-year-old, he keeps coming and keeps coming. That's going to help him."

White Chocolate: Gold Square's 3-year-old City Of Light filly won an off-the-turf maiden special weight here Friday, her second start after finishing third at Fair Grounds in her debut late last year for trainer Steve Asmussen. "We bought her as a short yearling and the plan was to pinhook her. Al Gold loved her too much and didn't want to let her go. She's a lovely filly, very fast. It was nice to finally get a chance to run her. She's going to run in an in an a-other-than Sept. 29 at Aqueduct. Al Gold has been a pleasure to work with. It's nice to have people who invest their time, their money, their energy in the game, see some of that reward and some consistency with horses."

Follow Your Arrow: Bred by the Summers family, 2-year-old Bal A Bali filly has run three times including a fourth here July 26. "We own the mother (Coyote Pretty). She got hurt jogging on the track at Clare Court, which I don't think has ever happened. She broke a piece of her hind ankle that I've never seen before or since. It was just in a weird, odd spot and we couldn't do anything about it so we kept her to do the breeding thing. She's from an old Phipps family (Grade 2 winner Country Hideaway is her third dam). The first foal never made it to the races. This is the second foal. We tried to breed her to Tonalist three times and she never caught. When you're the breeder you get paid for finishing 1-2-3. She's been fourth twice and fifth. She ran very fast here opening week. We were excited to run her back here on Sunday. We went main-trackonly, it was the day they were honoring Mind Your Biscuits and we needed six scratches. They got five and then two more scratched after they scratched us. There's an extra before the meet ends, we'll keep trying to get her in."

Thank You Jon: Gold Square purchased the 3-year-old Maclean's Music colt for \$120,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred sale in 2021, and he won a Belmont maiden by 6 3/4 lengths July 7 and finished sixth here going 7 furlongs. Summers plans to enter for Closing Day. "I trained his mother, Our Hope Diamond, for SF Racing and she was brilliant. I messed her up. She had a shin as a 2-year-old and I didn't know how to treat it properly. We got him and as a 2-vear-old he got a shin. It took a little while. He ran really, really well the day he won. We ran him back on Whitney Day and he turned for home and looked like he was going to win and just shut off. Irad said cut him back to three-quarters. We're going to do that."

Amira Chichakly

Lonchura: First of all, the name is a type of bird in the finch family found in South Asia and the Philippines. Nova Stable's New York-bred 2-year-old Tonalist filly finished second while sprinting on the turf at Belmont July 9 at 18-1 and is aiming for a return at Aqueduct. "She's very interesting, up and coming. I think she's going to do more. We're going to be really patient with her."

Ok Honey: Novak Stable's 7-year-old Haynesfield mare has run 73 times, which fits given that her dam It's Not For Love made 44 starts. The New York-bred owns six wins, 15 seconds, 11 thirds and a \$404,872 career bankroll. The \$20,000 claim in May gets another chance Thursday (third race, main-track-only) or Friday (third race). Chichakly keeps learning about the bay, who has made at least two starts at Saratoga for four consecutive years. "She would rather run than breeze. I've breezed her twice since I got her. The first one was OK, the second one she looked at me and was like, "Why?" She's in (the third race) Friday. She's in among friends, it's a softer spot and I think she'll run well."

Testa Dura: Three-year-old Mineshaft gelding ran twice last year for trainer Linda Rice and joined the new barn about 30 days ago. The \$20,000 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred sale graduate is in Thursday's fifth race. "I didn't know much about him. He had some gate issues last year and seemed a little shell-shocked. He didn't look like he was going to be able to do much of anything here, but he's had two works with me and I think he'll be fit enough. I'm trying him Thursday to see if he's ready, to see if I can learn something from him. He worked with an older horse the other day (a half-mile in :49 Aug. 24) and did not want to quit whatsoever. He might have developed into more of a racehorse."

Jimmy and Jagger: Two ferrets rattle around in a tack-room cage. They're pretty cool, and happy to be in Saratoga. "It wouldn't be a barn tour without the ferrets. Their main use is at Belmont, where they keep the rats away from the feed. They're natural predators and are pretty tough, but the rats pretty much just smell them and stay away. Up here they just look pretty and make people smile."

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AQUAPACER

Arc of a Winner

Belmont victor flies to 2nd Grade 1 score

BY SEAN CLANCY

Jena Antonucci threw her hands in the air, jumped, spun and hugged anybody in reach. And then she leaned over to Fiona Goodwin who she couldn't hug. Antonucci whispered advice to her longtime assistant whose left arm hung in a black sling over a pink jacket.

"Don't crv."

Tears had welled in Antonucci's eyes as she stepped out of the clubhouse box near the sixteenth pole moments after Arcangelo dominated the Grade 1 Travers on a bittersweet Saturday afternoon at Saratoga.



"Fancy meeting you here," she said to another racetrack lifer. "Who would have thought?"

Yeah, who would have thought.

In her 14th season training horses, Antonucci had arrived, winning the Travers with a \$35,000 yearling purchase for Jon Ebbert's Blue Rose Farm. Trainers live their lives hoping for one horse to change it all. Arcangelo had done just that for Antonucci, winning her first, second and only Grade 1 stakes.

"The sport will test your mettle, it will test your constitution, it will test every bit of sanity you have," Antonucci said. "I stick at it because I have the opportunity to make horses for a living. When you have that opportunity, you try and do the best you can with anything that comes through your hands. That's why I do it. We are just committed to training this horse, these horses, to stewarding

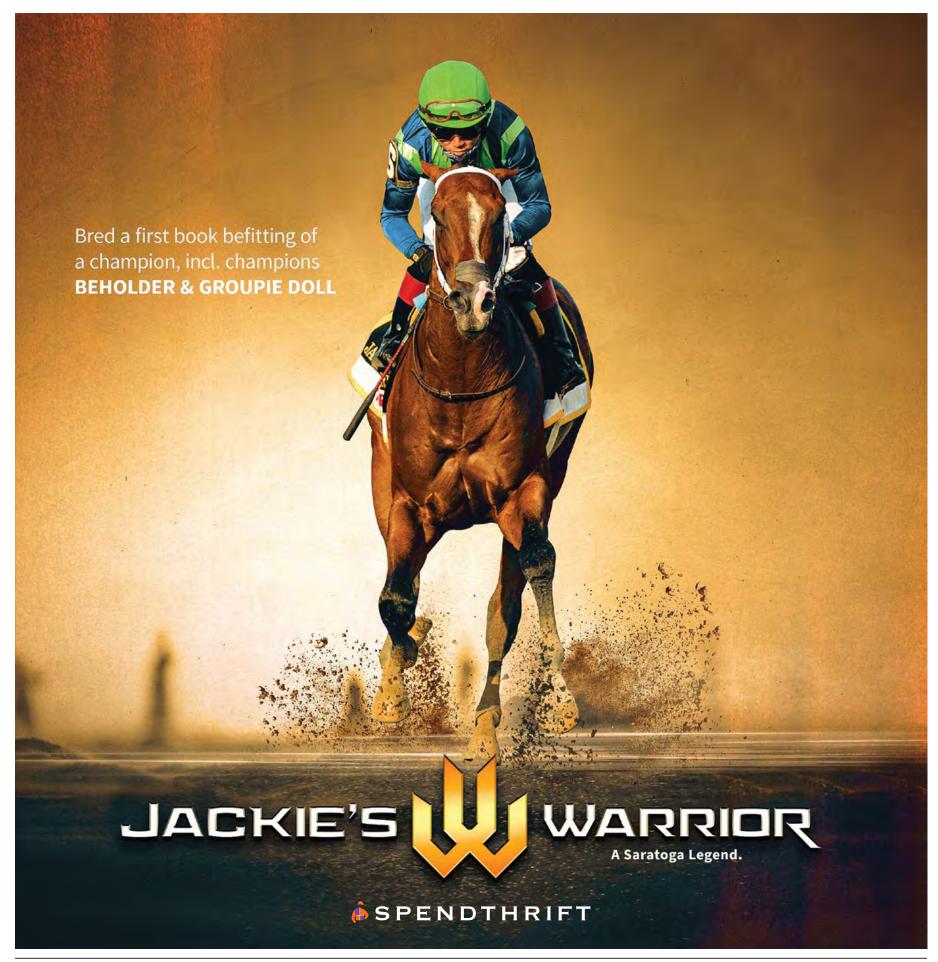
Continued On Page 16



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Travers —

■ Continued from page 14

them the best that we can. When you do that, these things happen."

Arcangelo earned his fourth consecutive win, his third consecutive stakes, his second consecutive Grade 1 stakes and leapt to the top of what was once a muddled 3-year-old division. The son of Arrogate trounced Kentucky Derby winner Mage, Preakness winner National Treasure, 2-year-old champion Forte and three others in a never-in-doubt display of style and stamina. Javier Castellano engineered a perfect trip, establishing a toehold between the three frontrunners and the three closers, sliding out when needed and rolling to a 1-length score over late-running, rail-skimming Disarm and the longest shot on the board Tapit Trice. Arcangelo finished 1 1/4 miles over the muddy track in 2:02.23.

"Holy ----," Antonucci said as she walked down the steps toward the winners' circle. Arcangelo strides toward the finish line in Saturday's Travers. "What a race that was."

She hugged NYRA gap attendant Wendy Smith, NYRA safety steward Juan Dominguez and the Jockeys' Guild's Terry Meyocks. The lifers. Like

"It's just amazing. I'm so incredibly grateful for this horse, this opportunity," Antonucci said. "Just thrilled beyond belief. This horse showed up. He's



class and honesty all day long." And all 10 furlongs long.

Arcangelo broke sharply from post two and eased back as Irad Ortiz Jr. came out from the one hole on Forte. Curlin winner Scotland and Junior Alvarado cleared six inside rivals to establish a lead. Forte slotted into second. Mage, with Flavien

Prat for the first time, pulled into an uncomfortable spot between horses. National Treasure and John Velazquez eyed a stalking spot outside. Tapit Trice and Jose Ortiz lagged in last in the opening strides after a bungled break.

Momentarily in fifth, Castellano declined that spot with a definitive move up the rail to nearly join Scotland on the lead. The Hall of Fame jockey, seeking his seventh Travers, had reshuffled the deck.

Scotland pulled through the first quarter mile in :23.46. Arcangelo loped along in second. National Treasure set up in third on the outside. Forte shuffled back into fourth as Tapit Trice circled horses. Disarm settled in fifth. Mage trailed after a rough first shift.

Scotland led National Treasure by three quarters of a length through a half mile in :48.10. Tapit Trice ranged outside in third. Castellano braced against Arcangelo finding the bridge between the leading three and the closing three. Prat moved early with Mage ranging to Arcan-Dave Harmon gelo's flank as Disarm stayed on the rail and Forte tried to clamber out of one of his flat spots.

Scotland, National Treasure and Tapit Trice stacked three across after three quarters in 1:11.73. All the while, Castellano angled Arcangelo to the passing lane four wide. Midway on the turn, it was a four-horse stack but only one was moving.

"I feel like on the backside, I had so much horse

Continued On Page 18





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Travers —

■ Continued from page 16

I could have opened up by 10, I took my time, put him outside," Castellano said. "Eventually after that I enjoyed the ride, enjoyed the moment."

Passing the quarter pole, Castellano checked off the three inside him and looked over his right shoulder to see Forte, who was nothing but a fading mailbox. Arcangelo opened up at will as Disarm slid inside Scotland at the three-sixteenths pole but had a mountain still to climb. Castellano offered three smacks right-handed near the eighth pole, regrouped with a hand ride, two more just to make sure near the sixteenth pole and then an easy wave to the finish. Number seven was in the books.

"I'm very lucky. I'm very thankful. And blessed for the opportunity," Castellano said. "Working the horse in the morning, he built a lot of confidence in me, he seemed to me he's a super horse."

For Castellano, Antonucci and Ebbert.

"Something you dream of, but you



Dave Harmon

Arcangelo shows the way over Disarm, Tapit Trice and Scotland in the stretch.

don't know if you can do it," Ebbert said. "It is hard. I've been in this business for 15 years. You just need the right horse and the right people around him."

Ebbert saw greatness at the Keeneland September sale in 2021. Looking for a pinhook, the Pennsylvanian stumbled upon the raw-boned son of Arrogate at Gainesway's consignment in book three, barn two.

"I just walked by him and when I saw him, I just knew. I just knew.

I just knew," Ebbert said. "I was like, 'Wowwww.' Then I look and I'm like Arrogate, 'Wowwwww.' I said that's the most beautiful horse I've ever seen. Those were my exact words."

Bred by Don Alberto Corporation, Hip 1182 showed twice while Ebbert sat on a park bench and fantasized.

"I just stared at him," Ebbert said.
"I watched him in two shows and said, 'OK, let me see him.' I was like, 'Wow, what a horse.' I said if this

horse grows like I think he will...I just wanted to see him at 4."

Ebbert bid \$35,000 and had another \$10,000 to go when the hammer dropped. Now what?

"I needed someone to call after I bought him," Ebbert said. "I called my mom, and she said, 'What are you going to do with him?' I said, 'I'm going to win the Breeders' Cup 2024 with him.' That's what I said. We're







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Third Leading 1st Crop Sire

Out of Waltzing, by CANDY RIDE



Travers —

■ Continued from page 18

early. We're early."

20

Ebbert sent the gray ridgling to Clovis Crane in Pennsylvania and then wondered about his vision.

"Of course, after I buy him, I'm like, 'All right, is this horse going to grow?' I'm watching him October, November, December...' Ebbert said. "I'm like, 'Is this horse going to fill out?' I hope I'm right. I thought I was right, but you're hoping. You see the vision but you're not sure if it's going to play out. You don't know if he's going to grow. You don't know he's going to be 17 hands. He's actually 17.1."

Ebbert learned the sport by betting at Phil- Antonucci get acquainted with the Travers trophy. adelphia Park (now Parx) in Pennsylvania. He's dabbled at buying, breeding, pinhooking and standing a stallion in Pennsylvania. Samba Rooster, a grandson of Unbridled's Song, went bust but some of the education helped in discovering Arcangelo. By Arrogate, a son of Unbridled's Song, Arcangelo simply looked right to Ebbert.

"It's from working on the Unbridled's Song line. I had experience watching horses develop from that line and I knew they usually develop late. I could see that in him. From a PA stallion that didn't make it, that's how I got the eye," Ebbert said. "I could just see how athletic he was, but he was very underdeveloped. He was skinny, there wasn't anything to



Team Arcangelo (from left) Javier Castellano, owner Jon Ebbert and trainer Jena

him. That was my eye. I knew. I knew."

Ebbert, who's owned about 20 horses and never had a partner, had met Antonucci the day before he bought his dream and decided to give the smallbatch, hands-on approach a try. All Ebbert asked for was patience.

"I was really concerned about this horse when I got him. I bought him with a plan, and she just suited my needs. The communication. The trust. The everything. It was perfect," Ebbert said. "I met her the day before I bought the horse, like it was meant to be. I was kind of hanging out with them, they were buying their horses, I bought my horses and that's it."

Arcangelo followed the script.

He made his debut at Gulfstream Park Dec. 17, rallying to be second going 6 furlongs in the slop. A month later, he finished fourth behind future Derby starter Kingsbarns going 1

Two months later with Castellano aboard for the first time, Arcangelo trounced maidens going a mile. Stepped up to a stakes, he fought to a head decision in the Grade 3 Peter Pan. A month later, Arcangelo nabbed the Grade 1 Belmont Stakes.

"He's just got the ability that maybe the others didn't have. He just totally bought in, to us, to the team, that we believe in him, and he believes in us. However corny that may sound, it's that simple," Antonucci said. "We don't want to be a huge program; we do what we do. We'd like to pick up a little better quality and we've learned so much from all of this. The hard-knocking, cheaper horses

for a lack of a better word, it prepares you to handle these kinds of guys, literally, the opportunity to have them."

At the end of a difficult day at the track, the Arcangelo team raised their glasses to the most improbable story of all.

"Hey, you won the Travers," Antonucci said to Ebbert. "You won the Travers."

"You did, too," Ebbert said. "We all did. We all did. Salud."

As for not crying, well, that was long gone.

"Oh, I'm cried out," Goodwin said. "Between this and the Belmont, I'm cried out."







The National Steeplechase Association thanks NYRA and the New York Horsemen for preserving the history and tradition of jump racing at Saratoga and Belmont, hosts of three Grade I hurdle stakes.

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

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A Win?

One In Vermillion, connections at a loss after tragic Gr. 1 score

BY JOE CLANCY

From a spot in front on the clubhouse porch just outside the winner's circle, Norma Martinez saw what everybody else saw at Saratoga Race Course Saturday and looked up with a one-word question.

"Win?"

Yes, you won.

Her face lost the emotion, the spark, the pride it had two minutes earlier. She looked down, halfashamed, half-sorry, all gutted. The glee of watching One In Vermillion, a horse she and her husband Esteban train at Canterbury Park in Minnesota and Turf Paradise in Arizona, simply compete in the Grade 1 H. Allen Jerkens Stakes disappeared.

H. ALLEN JERKENS RECAP

One In Vermillion became a Grade 1 winner Saturday, Esteban Martinez a Grade 1-winning trainer, Norma Martinez the wife of a Grade 1-winning trainer, for all the wrong reasons. New York Thunder suffered a fatal breakdown in the stretch while well clear, leaving victory to the late-running California-bred owned by Jonathan Kalman.

The race looked like a coronation, until it didn't. New York Thunder, unbeaten in four starts for AMO Racing and trainer Jorge Delgado, set fractions of :22.29 and :44.40 and

Continued On Page 23



Jerkens winner One In Vermillion turns in after galloping back.



Jerkens —

■ Continued from page 22

kicked away in the stretch. Inside the final sixteenth of a mile, he broke his left front leg and fell. Jockey Tyler Gaffalione rolled under the inside rail as the five other runners continued.

Last and 11 lengths behind the leader after a half-mile, One In Vermillion looked like the 20-1 shot he was until swinging wide off the turn for Irad Ortiz Jr. and picking up horses – Dwyer winner Fort Bragg, Grade 1-placed Drew's Gold, Indiana Derby winner Verifying and finally Grade 1 winner Arabian Lion. One In Vermillion finished 1 3/4 lengths ahead of Verifying, with Arabian Lion another 1 1/2 lengths behind in third after 1:22.63 for 7 furlongs over the muddy, sealed track.

New York Thunder was euthanized on the track, the second high-profile breakdown of the 2023 Saratoga season after unbeaten Maple Leaf Mel was stricken on her way to victory in the Grade 1 Test Aug. 5. It was the seventh fatal injury during a race at Saratoga this season including Nobel, injured after finishing fifth in Saturday's fifth race on the turf. Gaffalione, also aboard that horse, was not seriously injured in either fall.

The Ierkens aftermath felt much like the Test's. One In Vermillion returned to silence instead of applause. Kalman, who watched with his wife Gina and family from a table in the Turf Terrace, greeted his horse with relief instead of joy. The Martinezes met One In Vermillion on the track, snapped a lead shank to the bit, got water on him as fast as they could, thanked Ortiz and followed directions to make a long, weird walk up the stretch to the test barn. There was no winner's circle visit, no trophy presentation, no race replay to watch, no post-race interview for Fox Sports. A handful of family and friends of the race's namesake, on hand to make a presentation and remember, left in shock. The trophies went back inside.

Hours later, standing on the wash pad outside Barn 70 on the Oklahoma side, Jonathan Kalman tried to put it into words.

"Part of me feels sick to my stomach and part of me feels happy for the horse and for Esteban and Norma," he said. "They drove 20 hours to get

here. None of us had been to Saratoga before. He ran great. He showed us he has so much talent, that he can run that way, with these horses. We're so proud of him and if he had just finished second, we would have been so happy. You feel bad for the connections, and anybody associated with the horse. It's really, really tough. It's hard to process. We don't know how to feel."

A few minutes later, Kalman asked who won the Travers. He'd missed the feature, won by Arcangelo. He and Gina sat in folding chairs outside the shedrow while Esteban and Norma finished doing up their chestnut colt.

Standing bandages and hoof-packing applied, One In Vermillion stood loose in the stall. Esteban hung a hay net above a Santa Anita Derby webbing and the son of Army Mule dove in. Every minute or so, he lifted his head and peered over the hay – ears pricked at attention, eyes to the west as the sky tried to stay blue in the last stretches of sun.

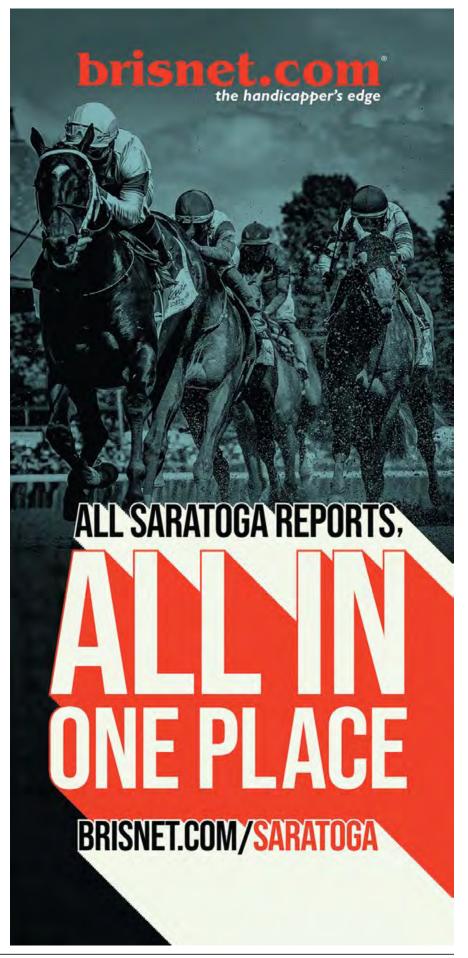
"He looks taller than he did," Gina Kalman said. "Bigger. A little prouder."

She was right. One In Vermillion didn't grow in an afternoon, but there was something. Perhaps the gazes of five people trying to make sense of a strange, sad day helped pull it into view.

"Taller than yesterday? I don't think so," said Esteban. "I see him every day and every time we run him, he is the smallest one in the field. He knows that he won, maybe, or that he did his best."

That had to be enough.

Kalman grew up in New Jersey, went racing at Belmont Park and Aqueduct, went to college in Boston. moved out west to get away from winter and lives in Phoenix. When he could afford it, he claimed Gaileta for \$8,500 at Turf Paradise in December 2021. He had a graphic designer create custom silks - "Arizona, desert, horse racing, power, strength, speed, beauty" were the instructions - and she nailed it. Two weeks off the claim, Gaileta finished fourth in the Sun Devil Sprint Stakes. Two months later, she won and got claimed for \$3,000. Claimers I Am Allthtyouare, Market King, Mountain Spirit went through the Kalman stable in 2022.





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

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

OPEN MIND (Listed)



Runs Saturday, September 16 Closes August 30 \$300.000 Includes \$50,000 from KTDF Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Up 6 Furlongs

SENECA OVERNIGHT STAKES



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

BOURBON TRAIL



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

HARRODS CREEK



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

DOGWOOD (GIII)



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

ACK ACK (GIII)



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

LUKAS CLASSIC (GII)



Runs Saturday, September 30 Closes September 13 \$500,000 Includes \$100,000 from KTDF Three-Year-Olds & Up 11/8 Mile

JEFFERSON CUP

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



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SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE KHRO

Jerkens —

■ Continued from page 23

Purchased for \$26,000 at the Arizona Thoroughbred Breeders Association's yearling sale in 2021, One In Vermillion made his debut last spring - and changed everything. He finished second going 4 1/2 furlongs in April, won a stakes in May, missed seven months with shins, and closed 2022 with another stakes win. One In Vermillion earned \$89,620 last year.

He was just getting started. The only horse Kalman owns, now, opened 2023 with a stakes win at Sunland Park in January, finished fifth in two graded stakes (including the Grade 1 Santa Anita Derby), won the Laz Barrera at Santa Anita in May, added an allowance at Canterbury in June, lost the Iowa Derby by interfering with a rival in July and finished third in the West Virginia Derby Aug. 6. The Jerkens was a big swing and a long journey, but shipping doesn't bother their horse and neither do unfamiliar racetracks.

"We are happy about being here," Esteban said Friday morning. "I never thought about coming to a place like Saratoga. I just hope he runs his race. I will be really happy if he could win."

One In Vermillion ran his race. His trainer was happy about that. The rest, well, the rest just hung there at the barn afterward.

A horseman most of his life, officially a trainer since 2017, Esteban patted One In Vermillion on the shoulder Saturday evening, dodged a bite from the Grade 1 winner, looked at Norma across the way and thought about another horse under their care.

"I claimed a filly two years ago, for her, for Norma, and the first time she ran for us she broke down," he said of Fast Anna filly Millard's Comet. "After that, my wife doesn't like to watch the horses run. I don't know if you saw her today, but she didn't know we won. We know anything can happen in a race, to anybody. You just want them back in your barn after a race. If we don't win, we don't win."

Norma didn't hear her husband say that, but found the same theme while trying to explain Saturday.

"You know what? This horse is my baby; he is their horse, but he is my horse too," she said with a nod toward One In Vermillion and the Kalmans. "I had a filly, a really, really good filly. Everything was OK, everything, she was good and when she was running she broke her knee. That's why I don't watch now. She tried too hard. Today, Esteban told me, 'It is OK, the horse is good.' Always, always, I don't care if they win, I just want them to come back in the barn."



Dave Harmon

One In Vermillion rallies in the stretch of the Jerkens.

Home Free

Echo Zulu stretches Spa record to 4-for-4 with win over champ

BY TOM LAW

Steve Asmussen found a quiet spot at Saratoga Race Course, no small feat on Travers Day just before one of the four Grade 1s on the undercard.

He'd given Florent Geroux a leg up on Echo Zulu, walked with the champion filly as she headed to the track and skipped the procession with dozens of others making their way out of the paddock to the backyard, grandstand and clubhouse while the minutes ticked down to the Grade 1 Ballerina Stakes. Hands on hips, Asmussen watched the Ballerina's eight runners warm up on the television monitor between the paddock and clubhouse. Five minutes to post. Four minutes. Three.

BALLERINA STAKES RECAP

He didn't stay past that, leaving the paddock the same way the others did a few minutes before. Walking past the concession and souvenir stands and under the grandstand and finally back into the sunshine of the apron outside Section O. A minute later – and about 35 minutes after the horror of New York Thunder's breakdown at the sixteenth pole in the Grade 1 H. Allen Jerkens Memorial – the field left the gate for the Ballerina.

Asmussen watched it all from as close to the rail as he could get, like he often does in major stakes, and

Continued On Page 26



Tod Marks

Echo Zulu (left) ousts Goodnight Olive in Saturday's Grade 1 Ballerina.



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Ballerina —

■ Continued from page 25

saw Echo Zulu turn in another performance worthy of her reputation, resume and backing in the wagering pools. Echo Zulu led throughout, shrugged off a challenge from fellow champion and 2022 Ballerina winner Goodnight Olive, and cruised to a 2 1/2-length victory in 1:20.95 for 7 furlongs.

Asmussen, who won the Grade 1 Forego with Gunite and later finished second in the Grade 1 Travers with Disarm, half jogged and half walked to the winner's circle to greet family, members of his team, owners Ron Winchell and members of the L and N Racing operation and the 4-year-old daughter of Gun Runner.

She improved to 4-for-4 at Saratoga, including three stakes, and 9-for-11 overall.

"We were extremely confident in how she's been doing," Asmussen said. "She's dotted all the 'i's' and crossed all the 't's' and been unbelievable coming out of her last race and coming into this. Just had a tremendous amount of confidence that she would do exactly how she did."

The winning connections wore expressions of satisfaction and relief after Echo Zulu added the Ballerina to her 2021 score in the Grade 1 Spi-

naway and most recent start in the Grade 2 Honorable Miss.

"Obviously winning with a filly that like her is tremendous," Winchell said as he made his way to the Carmen Barrera Room for the winner's toast. "But it's a win with a somber moment, too. She looked good and did what she needed to do, but of course you're a little nervous that she'll come home safe."

Bettors hammered Echo Zulu from her 7-5 morning-line price to 3-5 by post time, favoring the 2021 champion 2-year-old filly over the 2022 champion female sprinter Goodnight Olive, who drifted up slightly from 9-5 to 2-1.

Goodnight Olive, off since winning the Grade 3 Bed o' Roses June 17 at Belmont Park, came away first and led out of the chute before Echo Zulu took over to her inside and 6 furlongs from home. Echo Zulu, a few paths off the fence with Matareya and Dr B trying to keep up on the inside, cut through the opening quarter in :22.45 with Goodnight Olive and Irad Ortiz Jr. applying pressure to her on the outside.

The two champions continued to tussle into the far turn and on the bend, clicking past the half in :45.23 with Caramel Swirl joining the fray while three wide. Goodnight Olive drew alongside Echo Zulu approach-

Continued On Page 27



Tod Marks

Echo Zulu exits the winner's circle with her fourth Saratoga win.

Ballerina —

■ Continued from page 26

ing the quarter pole and the two turned for home together. Echo Zulu accelerated coming to the eighth pole, inched away, widened from there and came home clear. Goodnight Olive held second, losing for just the third time in 11 starts, and 6 ½ lengths clear of Matareya in third. Caramel Swirl finished a nose back in fourth.

"I was in control pretty much all the way through the race, and when I asked her turning for home, she gave me this other gear," Geroux said. "She's amazing. I'm just very grateful for the opportunity the owners and Steve Asmussen have given me to ride her. She's a champion and I'm just the lucky pilot.

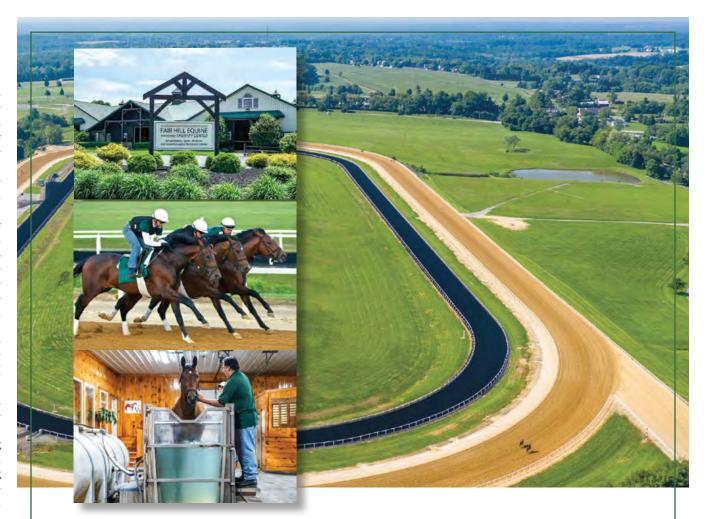
"I felt like I had her (Goodnight Olive). She went to me, but never really went by me when I asked my filly, so I knew I had her measured from there."

A regular workmate with Gunite, Echo Zulu started her career at Saratoga with a 5 ½-length victory in a 5 ½-furlong maiden race on Opening Day of the 2021 meeting. She added the Spinaway the day before Closing Day, one of three straight Grade 1 victories to end her season as champion 2-year-old filly.

Echo Zulu started her 2022 campaign with a win in the 1 1/16-mile Fair Grounds Oaks, earning a spot in the Kentucky Oaks, where she finished fourth and 3 lengths back of Secret Oath in her lone finish outside the exacta. Scratched at the gate by the track veterinarian due to lameness before the Grade 1 Acorn last June, Echo Zulu didn't return to the races until late September in the Grade 3 Dogwood at Churchill Downs. She won that and finished second behind Goodnight Olive in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint to end the season.

Echo Zulu hasn't lost since, racking up three stakes in 2023, boosting her bankroll to \$2,640,375 and adding to her connections' admiration.

"The development that she has shown is so much like her father Gun Runner," Asmussen said. "Loved it. The longer you had him, the faster he was and that's how she's been. As great as she ran in the Honorable Miss, and coming out of her first triple-digit Beyer, your confidence was it was a prep. ... Obviously, she's as fast as a horse can go."



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Pace Play

Gunite ousts champ Elite Power in Gr. 1

As Gunite led a compact field of five into the far turn of Saturday's Grade 1 Forego Stakes at Saratoga Race Course, if you got the feeling he was in complete command, even with an Eclipse Award champion who had beaten him twice this year within striking distance, you weren't alone.

"When they flipped up, I think it was like: 23 and one or whatever it was (:23.16 for a quarter-mile), yeah, pretty much I felt like it was probably going to be over," said winning owner Ron Winchell.

Ever-perceptive track announcer Frank Mirahmadi also took note of the early fraction.

"A tactical advantage to Gunite coming to the half-mile pole," he said. "Tyler Gaffalione trying to slow things down as much as possible."

Gaffalione agreed with that projection.



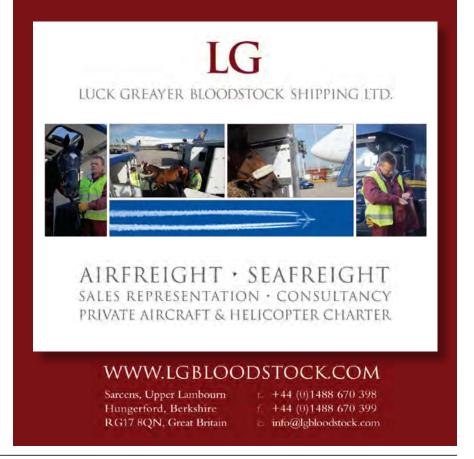
Gunite leads Elite Power home in Saturday's Forego, one of two Grade 1 stakes wins on the day for trainer Steve Asmussen.

kind of races against this group of quality, you got to pay attention who you're running against," he said, mindful that there was only one serious threat in the race.

And serious is a serious understatement. Last "You try to just ride your own horse, but these year's champion male sprinter and 2022 Breeders'

Cup Sprint winner Elite Power had won eight in a row, including Riyadh Dirt Sprint in Saudi Arabia in February and the Grade 1 A.G. Vanderbilt Stakes at Saratoga July 29, with Gunite finishing second in





Forego —

■ Continued from page 28

both. Juddmonte's Elite Power had closed from fourth to nail Gunite by a head in the Vanderbilt, prompting some to wonder how Gunite could turn the tables, especially with an extra furlong to deal with in the Forego.

Start with the fact that he's Gunite. By Gun Runner – whose stallion fee may go up after the Travers Day results that also included a win by Echo Zulu in the Grade 1 Ballerina and runner-up by Disarm in the Grade 1 Travers – he entered the Forego with nine wins in 18 starts and backto-back career-best speed figures. He won the Grade 1 Hopeful as a 2-year-old, the Grade 2 Amsterdam at 3 and was 2-3-0 in five starts at Saratoga. Pretty good resume.

"Gunite's just a very special horse to race at the level he has as long as he has consistently," said trainer Steve Asmussen, who sounds as much like a fan as conditioner when he talks about his horse.

"You know, very tough defeat in the Vanderbilt. And for him to not blink an eye, come back and lay it down again today just proves what a special horse he actually is."

Asmussen sensed that Gunite, who is out of the



sen, who sounds as much like a fan as Despite apparently biting his tongue, Gunite had plenty to say in the Forego.

Cowboy Cal mare Simple Surprise, wanted another crack at Elite Power.

"The horse gives us a tremendous amount of confidence," he said. "Tough defeat in the Vanderbilt, but the next day all he wanted was another chance at him, and today was his chance, and he

proved how truly good he is."

After the field broke evenly in the Forego, Gaffalione took Gunite to the lead with minimal effort, with Pipeline second and Elite Power third. The order remained unchanged through a half-mile in :46.20, almost three-quarters of a second slower than the split in the Vanderbilt. Gaffalione took Gunite wide on the turn, leaving an opening on the rail for Elite Power, which Irad Ortiz Jr. took and actually got to within a long neck, but Gunite had plenty in reserve and ended up winning by 1 3/4 lengths in 1:21.53. High Oak closed for third under Katie Davis.

"I used him a little too much early on (in the Vanderbilt). I wanted to get a little bit of separation coming in the stretch last time and that might have cost us a bit," Gaffalione said. "But he definitely made up for it today. Man, I slapped him on the shoulder, threw him his head, and he exploded. Especially after he switched leads late, he found another gear. He's such a tremendous horse. All the credit goes to Steve and his team."

Asmussen can appreciate what it takes to beat a horse like Elite Power.

Tod Marks

"To fend off Elite Power, great champion, can't say how much I respect him, by the unbelievable





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EQUIBASE





Forego —

■ Continued from page 29

Curlin," he said. "But Gunite has seen good horses and he doesn't blink, and I think that's what makes him so special. He came out of the box trying to prove who Gun Runner was as a 2-year-old. Had six runs as a 2-year-old, two of them here, and he's still winning Grade 1s at 4. Those horses are hard to come by right now."

It is especially meaningful for Asmussen, who trained Gun Runner to a Horse of the Year title in 2017, to have his progeny such as Gunite, Echo Zulu and Disarm in his stable.

"Oh, my gosh. It's amazing," he said. "What Gun Runner is as a sire, it brings back his summer here (2017). Winning the Woodward and the Whitney was just magnificent. We are so blessed to have three in Grade 1s today, and all three of them are Gun

Runners. And it's so hard to compete at this level. And you're talking to me after another Grade 1 win by a Gun Runner."

Going head-to-head three times this year and twice in a month makes this an official rivalry, with Elite Power now holding a 2-1 advantage.

"I love it," Asmussen said. "It's so great to be a part of it. ... You're aware of who they are. You see them all the time. You have nothing but respect for them, and you have to rise to the occasion. What a better day to do it than Travers Day."

Asmussen said he would most likely race Gunite once more and Bill Mott indicated he would train Elite Power up to the Breeders' Cup. Round 4 is scheduled for November 4 at Santa Anita Park, and maybe NBC knew what it was doing when it had the Classic moved up two races, making the Sprint the final Breeders' Cup race of the day. They may just be saving the best for last.



Gunite flexes his Forego cooler on the way back to the barn.

Tod Marks

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Irish Music

Bolshoi Ballet handles turf, foes for O'Brien BY NOLAN CLANCY

Irish trainer Aidan O'Brien and his team have sent horses to Saratoga 11 times in his storied career. Despite strong efforts in some of the most competitive turf races in America, he went winless until Saturday.

Bolshoi Ballet dominated the Grade 1 \$750,000 Sword Dancer, returning to the form that gave O'Brien and assistant T.J. Comerford the confidence to send the 5-year-old to post in the U.S. for the fifth time.

Bolshoi Ballet defeated heavy favorite and former stablemate Stone Age, who was transferred to Chad Brown to train in the U.S. prior to this start.

"Stone Age was a horse of ours as well, the two of them when we had them they were very good horses," Comerford said of the sons of Galileo, who began their careers in Ireland (the 4-year-old Stone Age in 2021, 5-year-old Bolshoi Ballet a year earlier).

Bolshoi Ballet won three of his first six starts for O'Brien, with all three wins at Leopardstown including the Group 3 Derby Trial of 2020. The bay tried Group 1 company twice, finishing fifth in heavy going in France as a 2-year-old and seventh as the favorite in England's Epsom Derby the next year.

A month after that defeat, he won the Grade 1 Belmont Derby at Belmont Park during his first



Dave Harmon

Bolshoi Ballet rolls to victory in Saturday's Grade 1 Sword Dancer.

American campaign, which included three other major stops between 1 1/4 and 1 1/2 miles. After winning the Belmont Derby, he finished fourth in the Saratoga and Jockey Club derbies and was sixth against older horses in the Breeders' Cup Turf.

Following his American tour, O'Brien aimed high in the Group 1 Hong Kong Cup, where Bolshoi Ballet finished ninth and went on the shelf for 11 months. From there, he ran five times in England and Ireland, turning in two thirds and a second. Comerford was particularly excited about his third in a Group 3 stakes at Newbury May 20, in which he lost a close stretch duel.

"He likes quick ground, he ran in Newbury this year, and he ran well on quick ground," Comerford said. "He's been working really strong, and he's

been taking on horses at a high level at home, so it just worked out that he was starting to come all year."

The progress continued Saturday as the O'Brien team tapped Hall of Fame jockey John Velazquez for the assignment, the first time that Bolshoi Ballet didn't have a European-based jockey aboard. Velazquez was no stranger to the 1 1/2-mile race on the inner turf: He won it in 1998 with Cetewayo and in 2018 with Point Of Entry.

"I've been in contact with [O'Brien] for a long time," said Velazquez, who won the 2021 Saratoga Derby (over Bolshoi Ballet) aboard State Of Rest for O'Brien's son Joseph. "I'm just making sure that

Continued On Page 32

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Sword Dancer —

■ Continued from page 31

I'm ready for races with them. It's nice to get a win here."

The field of six broke from the gate in lockstep, as Channel Maker and Stone Age headed for the lead. They organized in pairs down the backstretch the first time, with Bolshoi Ballet to the inside of Daunt 2 lengths off the lead, and another 2 lengths back to Pioneering Spirit and Soldier Rising.

"It was perfect. We wanted to be as close as possible, obviously only one horse with speed in here, and then the Chad Brown horse to the outside," Velazquez said. "Once he went with him, it was obvious that I wanted to be closer because those are the two horses to beat in the race."

Channel Maker and Manny Franco established the lead through an opening quarter-mile in :23.65. Stone Age continued along closely in second, while Bolshoi Ballet and Daunt inched closer around the first far turn. The leading pair became a quartet when the field condensed through the stretch the first time, tapping out a half-mile in :49.58. There was no change in the running order through the next three-eighths of a mile, with Bolshoi Ballet still tucked neatly along the hedge. Velazquez sat still in the solid navy blue of Coolmore's Westerberg, Mrs. John Magnier, Michael Tabor and Derrick Smith.

Down the back straight the second time, Channel Maker fell off the pace he set from the gate, and understandably so: the half-mile fraction was more than a second faster than in his Grade 2 Bowling Green win at a shorter distance on better ground in July. That left Stone Age and Flavien Prat alone on the front end entering the far turn, through a mile in 1:40.90. Velazquez let Bolshoi Ballet out a few notches and guided him to the outside of Channel Maker. Daunt and Javier Castellano worked to keep pace three-wide to their outside.

"That was my judgment," Velazquez said of the tactics. "Come out running, be a little closer to the pace, and the second half of the race make sure you keep him busy, because it takes a long time to get him going."

Bolshoi Ballet confronted the lead-

er, his former stablemate, midway through the far turn. Daunt tried to keep pace, but didn't have an answer for the acceleration to come. Once in position coming off the bend, Velazquez only used the whip twice: once right-handed, then once left-handed to get the 5-year-old clear of the chasing field.

Bolshoi Ballet kicked home to win by 4 1/2 lengths in 2:29.29 over the inner turf course rated yielding. Soldier Rising and Jose Ortiz closed from far out of it to claim second, with Pioneering Spirit another 5 lengths back in third. Daunt was fourth, and early pacemakers Stone Age and Channel Maker rounded out the field.

Coming into the race, the ground was a concern for Comerford, as Bolshoi Ballet showed his best form on firm and fast turf. It's part of the reason the connections think of him as a strong U.S. shipper. Rain throughout the week and earlier in the day made the surface softer than Comerford would have liked.

"He's a much better horse [on firm ground] and he probably wants quicker ground than that," Comerford said. "We'd only call that good ground, you'd probably call that soft, but we'd call that good, good to soft."

O'Brien and Comerford might have firmer ground to look forward to at Santa Anita for the Breeders' Cup in early November.

"He beat the likes of Stone Age, who's run well in the Breeders' Cup," Comerford said. "He probably will [go to the Breeders' Cup] now, because it's late in the year and there's probably not much he can do, but he likes the ground."

The bay horse out of French-bred Anabaa mare Alta Anna collected his fifth win and bumped his earnings to \$1,333,959 in 17 starts.

Bolshoi Ballet notched the first win by a European-bred horse in the Sword Dancer since Irish-bred Glorious Empire won in 2018. The last time a true European-based shipper won it was 2015, when the British-bred and French-based Flintshire won his first of two consecutive editions.

O'Brien first tried the Sword Dancer in 2017 with Idaho, who finished sixth behind winner Sadler's Joy. Since then he's sent four more, and Japan's second in 2021 was the stable's best result.



Triple Play

Clement wins half of Sunday's New York-bred stakes lineup

Christophe Clement and Robert Evans employ a simple strategy to their trainer-owner relationship.

"He doesn't tell me how to train and I don't tell him how to breed," Clement said after the final stakes on Sunday's New York Showcase Day program at Saratoga Race Course. "It works great that way."

The protocol worked great with Tonalist - trained by Clement for Evans to victory in the 2014 Belmont Stakes – and with a couple runners who won stakes Sunday. Drake's Passage capped the day for the team with a dominating victory over six fellow sophomore New York-breds in the \$250,000 Albany Stakes.

Drake's Passage won the 9-furlong

NY-BRED SHOWCASE DAY

Albany by 7 3/4 lengths in his stakes debut under Manny Franco, who won four races on the card. Clement also celebrated three Showcase Day stakes wins, adding the Albany to City Man's score in the West Point and New Ginya's victory in the Yaddo Handicap. The latter, like Drake's Passage, was bred by Evans.

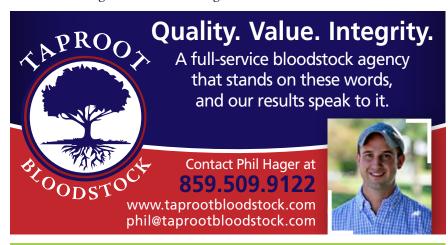
"The horse has always trained like a nice horse," Clement said of the Albany winner. "He won last year ... and came back after some time off. He came back, he won at Belmont and was very impressive this afternoon."

Continued On Page 35



Tod Marks

Drake's Passage coasts in with a victory in Sunday's Albany.



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Sunday —

■ Continued from page 34

Clement and his son and assistant Miguel always liked Drake's Passage, a homebred out of Evans' Grade 3-placed Speightstown mare Raucous. He trained with the stable's summertime string at Belmont Park during last year's Saratoga meet before shipping north to finish his training on the Oklahoma Training Track.

Drake's Passage breezed three times on the dirt on the Oklahoma before a half-mile work on the grass 13 days before his debut, also on grass going 1 1/16 miles during the Belmont at the Big A meet, which actually wasn't totally by design.

The Clements joked about that run, a fifth by 6 lengths on good turf, after the Albany.

"We won't talk about it," Miguel Clement said. "That was my mistake. I knew he wanted to go long, but we had 6 furlongs on dirt that day or a mile and a sixteenth on grass . . . I got in a lot of trouble. That was my mistake."



Tod Marks Trainer Christophe Clement and Manny Franco met in the win-

Drake's Passage made amends from there, finishing third going 7 furlongs a month later during the main Aqueduct fall meet before winning on a muddy track going 1 mile Dec.

"We worked him with everything in the barn and he always outworked everything in the barn," Christophe Clement said. "He's a nice horse."

Off until July 3, Drake's Passage returned with another victory going 1 mile at Belmont Park before stepping into stakes company and going two turns for the first time in the Albany.

Gamblers bet Drake's Passage down to 6-5 in a field that included the 1-2 finishers from the New York Derby in Allure Of Money and Maker's Candy and Chester and Mary Broman's homebred Saratoga allowance winner Mariachi. Drake's Passage bobbled a bit at the break before settling into a tracking position in second behind Mariachi through splits lchiban pulls away in Sunday's Fleet Indian. of:24.11,:48.44 and 1:12.55.

Mariachi held the lead into the lane but came under serious pressure from Drake's Passage outside the sixteenth pole. Drake's Passage took over from there and opened 3 1/2 lengths past the eighth pole. He widened the advantage from there as 15-1 longshot Jackson Heights closed from last to finish second, 1 34 lengths ahead of Miracle Mike with Maker's Candy fourth. Mariachi, Allure Of Money and Leo And Royal completed the lineup. Drake's Passage won in 1:50.95 over the fast track.

"I just wanted to wait as long as I could because I know I had a lot of horse," Franco said. "I know I've got the horse in the lead, so I take a peek back to see what the company was, and it was a matter of time . . . He definitely wants to go longer. Clement told me that the race before . . . that he wants to go longer and he was right."

Drake's Passage improved to 3-for-5, earned \$137,500 and boosted his earnings to \$231,480.

- Tom Law

• Coming into the 34th day of Saratoga Race Course's 2023 meet, Linda Rice sat three wins behind leader Chad Brown in the trainer standings



Tod Marks

with 27. But with all that success, she had yet to notch a stakes win. That void ended when 3-yearold filly Ichiban won the 1 1/8-mile Fleet Indian Stakes by 5 1/2 lengths on the main track.

Rice ran two fillies in the four-horse field, and had secured the services of both of the Ortiz brothers, one and two in the jockey standings. Jose rode the winner while Irad finished second on Amanda's Folly for a Rice/Ortiz exacta.

For Ichiban, a daughter of Street Sense and the Out Of Place mare Cover Girl Elle, it was not only her first stakes win, it also completed a Saratoga hat trick with her third victory of the meet.

"She didn't surprise me," said Rice, of the 2023 meet's first three-time winner. "She's been training so forwardly and I think she's still improving."

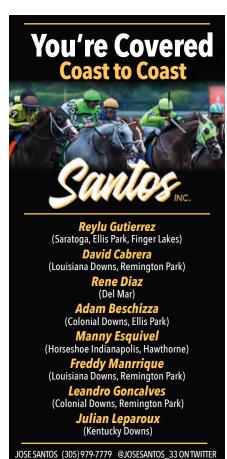
Discussing race strategy, Jose said, "We knew [Timely Conquest] had the speed but was stretching out so we wanted to push her a little. Either one of us could have done it, but I broke better this time so I was the one applying the pressure. But I still wanted to give myself a shot to win. When I came up to the leader, I kind of felt she was done and I knew I

Continued On Page 36



ner's circle after Drake's Passage's win.







City Man (left) prevails in Sunday's West Point, part of the New York-bred Showcase Day.

Tod Marks

Sunday —

■ Continued from page 35

still had plenty of horse so I decided to go on and my filly responded very well."

Ken Gill, a partner with his wife Karen in the filly through Cypress Creek Equine and breeder Mike Moreno's Southern Equine Stable, loved it.

"Powerful," Gill said. "We expected it. We bought into this filly with Mike in July and she's done nothing but win since."

Ichiban lost her first four starts – in January at the Fair Grounds with Ricky Courville and three in New York with Rice – but has turned it around since. Second at Belmont June 25, she started the Saratoga triple with a 7 furlong maiden race July 15 and a 1 1/8-mile allowance July 26.

"We've got a good many horses in the New York program," said Karen Gill. "It's wonderful, you have the breeders' program and you have all these races for New York horses."

Ichiban's share of the \$200,000 Fleet Indian purse pushed her career earnings to \$228,750 with a record of three wins in seven starts.

"As I said, she's improved so much I don't know right now where she goes next," said Rice, an eight-time New York Thoroughbred Breeders trainer of the year. "Maybe she could graduate into the Empire Distaff [Oct. 29 at Aqueduct]. We'll see."

A perfect 3-for-3 on Ichiban, Jose Ortiz also picked up his third Fleet Indian victory (following Final's Cave in 2022 and Sunset Ridge in 2017).

- Terry Hill

• City Man has been dominant among New York-breds, captured a Grade 2 stakes in open company and has won stakes five consecutive years, starting as a 2-year-old. But if you think there's nothing left for him to accomplish, think again.

"Hong Kong or Dubai? What are we doing?" interjected Miguel Clement, assistant to his father and trainer Christophe Clement, as owner Dean Reeves conducted a winner's circle interview after City Man rallied to win the \$194,000 West Point Stakes.

And while Clement said it with a wide smile, it turns out he wasn't kidding

"We actually have looked at it," Reeves said. "There's a nice race in Hong Kong (in December) and I think he could run in Dubai (next year). This guy is maturing and he's running as well as he ever has. It's not out of the realm."

In winning the West Point for the second time (2021), the son of 2013 Breeders' Cup Classic winner Mucho Macho Man improved his career record to 11-5-4, with 10 stakes wins in 30 starts and \$1,189,170 in earnings. He did it by closing from fourth in the five-horse field and catching odds-on favorite Spirit of St. Louis, who had battled down the stretch with Jerry

The Nipper, in the last 50 feet.

"I'm almost out of words to describe him," Reeves said. "Eleven wins and more than a million dollars. He's so consistent . . . Speed and stamina. That's a tough combination to beat. He's special to us."

Jerry The Nipper led until the far turn, putting up fractions of :23.91, :48.83 and 1:13.64. Spirit of St. Louis took the lead on the turn and eventually put away a stubborn Jerry The Nipper, but by then City Man was rolling down the outside under Joel Rosario. The winning margin was 1 1/4 lengths in 1:42.63.

"He's as good as any New Yorkbred out there right now," Reeves said. "We're so proud of him. He's a tough customer."

City Man, owned in partnership with Peter and Patty Searles, was in the second crop of Mucho Macho Man, also owned by Reeves Thoroughbred Racing. City Man earned champion New York-bred turf male honors in 2022.

- Paul Halloran

• It's not the usual business model. Robert Evans bred his four-time stakes winner Rapid Rhythm to his Belmont Stakes winner Tonalist in 2018. She produced a New York-bred filly a year later. Lane's End consigned the bay filly to the Keeneland September Sale where she brought \$25,000. Nine months later, the filly attracted the attention of Evans' advisor Pat-

Sunday —

■ Continued from page 36

rick Lawley Wakelin at the OBS June Sale. Evans bought her for \$250,000 and sent her to trainer Christophe Clement.

Call it a reverse pinhook.

"His advisor liked her as a 2-yearold, called Mr. Evans and he said, 'If you like her, why don't we buy her back?' "Clement said. "You know, he was right. He's done this many times. This is not the first time."

New Ginya made the math work with a last-to-first rally in the \$200,000 Yaddo Handicap. The win improved her record to four wins from 12 starts for \$334,110.

Jockey Dylan Davis settled the 4-year-old filly in last behind a quick tempo set by She's Dancing and Whatlovelookslike. Davis stayed on the hedge through a quarter in :23.52 and a half in :48.90 over the good turf, continued to bide his time in last through three-quarters in 1:13.54. Nearing the quarter pole,

Davis swung New Ginya to the outside and it was over. New Ginya passed seven rivals in about seven strides to draw off by 3 ¾ lengths over Spungie, who had a rough trip, and Runaway Rumour. New Ginya finished 1 1/16 miles on the Mellon turf in 1:43.06.

New Ginya won her debut at Aqueduct in November 2021 and spent the next 17 months toiling in the New York-bred a-other-than division. She broke out of that level in her eighth start and has now three of her last five.

"We've always liked her, he bought her back because she had a very good work at OBS, we always knew she had ability and we just had to be patient. Patience, usually you get rewarded at some stage," Clement said. "She was a little bit tricky mentally. She was always very worried and anxious as a younger horse. She was not easy. She's much better now, but it took a long time."

A venerable owner and breeder on the national stage, Evans waded into the New York program at his trainer's behest.

"Just very recently because of Tonalist. I'm the one who told him that maybe it would make sense to have a few mares in New York," said Clement, who trained Evans' Tonalist to victories in the Belmont Stakes, Jockey Club Gold Cup (twice) and Cigar Mile. "This might be one of the first ones he's done. It's good for him. I hope he's going to carry on doing it because it seems to be working."

Three hours after New Ginya tabbed the Yaddo, Drake's Passage made it a double for Evans by dominating the Albany. And, this time, Evans didn't have to buy up. The son of Tonalist has always been in the program.

"It's great for an owner/breeder," Clement said. "I trained Tonalist for Mr. Evans so this is like a full-time success for the operation. It's nice when it works out."

– Sean Clancy



Tod Marks

New Ginya scores in Sunday's Albany for Robert Evans and Christophe Clement.

• Mike Maker finished one interview and interrupted another to make a point.

"I want to make sure you put a note there to thank Peter Proscia for overpaying," Maker joked with a nod toward Proscia, whose Paradise Farms Corp. co-owns The Wine Steward with David Staudacher.

Proscia and Staudacher did exceed their initial budget of \$250,000, along with Maker's suggested ceiling of \$290,000, when they purchased the New York-bred 2-year-old son of Vino Rosso for \$340,000 at this year's OBS March sale. The Wine Steward has almost earned back that hammer price after adding to his ledger Sunday with a victory in the \$200,000 Funny Cide Stakes.

"A little pricey, but it fell right in for us," Proscia said of The Wine Steward, who improved to 3-for-3 with a head victory over El Grande O in the 6-furlong Funny Cide.

The third highest priced New York-bred at the OBS March sale, The Wine Steward added the Funny Cide to his victory last time out against open company in the July 2 Bashford Manor Stakes at Ellis Park and a May 28 state-bred maiden win at Belmont Park. He won those two races by 2 3/4 and 6 lengths, respectively, and grinded out the Funny Cide by a head over the stubborn El Grande O. Watchatalkinabout finished 5 1/2 lengths back in third with Works For Me fourth of six. Ridden by Manny Franco, The Wine Steward won in 1:10.92.

"Mike developed the horse really nicely for us," Proscia said. "He took his time after the last race at Ellis and here we are."

Maker targeted the Funny Cide specifically to get The Wine Steward back with New York-breds and to allow plenty of time to recover from his win in the 6-furlong

Continued On Page 38

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Sunday —

■ Continued from page 37

Bashford Manor.

"His last race was a hard race, it was hot out that day, so we kind of zeroed in on this one," Maker said. "He's more of a feminine-made horse and we thought the time would be beneficial. Having said that we think he's more geared toward route races anyway."

Sent off as the 6-5 favorite, The Wine Steward bobbled a few times leaving the gate from post six, while El Grande O also stumbled at the break before recovering to take a short lead heading toward the turn.

El Grande O, runner-up in the offthe-turf Skidmore Stakes behind The Wine Steward's stablemate Ship Cadet nine days ago, led through the opening quarter-mile in :22.54 ahead of Works For Me and Trust Fund. Always A Warrior and The Wine Steward raced The Wine Steward (left) edges El Grande 0 in the Funny Cide. fourth and fifth to that point, the latter a few paths off the rail with only Watchatalkinabout behind them starting the bend.

The Wine Steward continued to advance around the turn and eventually made a four-wide rally at the leader through the half in :45.97. The wide run didn't overly concern Franco.

"I wanted to be forward and I had to stalk four wide, but I knew I was on the best horse," he said. "If he's going to win, he's going to win from here. I didn't make things complicated. I just wanted to stay there and made my move when I thought it was the right time."

Trust Fund and Works For Me yielded into the straight, leaving The Wine Steward and El Grande O to settle things in the final three-sixteenths. El Grande O clung to a 1-length lead at the eighth pole before The Wine Steward wore him down in deep stretch to get up in time.

"Manny rode him great," Maker said. "He bobbled at the start and had a wide trip . . . The thing is, he wants no part of sprinting. The best we'll see



is when we go a mile or a mile-and-a-sixteenth."

The Wine Steward collected \$110,000 for the Funny Cide, increasing his earnings to \$274,010.

– Tom Law

• The record shows that Hip 418 sold to Melissa Dicke for \$73,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale Aug. 15, 2022. The reality is it was pretty much a fait accompli well before the gavel dropped.

Dicke, her husband Kevin and their infant son, Caldwell, had met bloodstock agent Josh Stevens at the Saratoga select sale the previous week. They also came across trainer Brad Cox and took a photo with him. At the sales grounds prior to the New York-bred sale, Melissa wanted to have a photo taken with a horse. By pure chance, that yearling happened to be Hip 418, a Goldencents filly at the Taylor Made Sales consignment.

"The sales guys were licking their chops," Stevens said. "They figured they had to buy him now. So, I had my youngest client ever - a one-month old."

The Dickes returned home to Indianapolis before the sale, but they entrusted Stevens with making the purchase. Having already had success buying progeny of Goldencents - including \$2.3 million earner By My Standards and five-time graded stakes winner Mr. Money – he didn't need any convincing.

"All the Goldencents have speed, so I tried to buy one with a little leg and a little length," Stevens said. "I liked that she was out of a Quality Road mare (Snow) to give her some stamina. And I thought the filly would fit their budget.

"We went in looking to buy a \$50,000 horse, but as the sale got closer we talked about going to 65 (thousand). I went to \$72,000 and I wasn't sure if they were going to be happy or mad. Then I got a text saying, 'Tell me we bought her.' So they were happy."

Any joy the Dickes felt at buying the Tod Marks horse they would name for their son was eclipsed by the happiness of watching her win her debut at Saratoga July

27, where she closed from eighth to win by 2 3/4 lengths for Cox and jockey Florent Geroux. The euphoria multiplied Sunday when she outlasted a game Stellamaris to capture the \$200,000 Seeking the Ante Stakes.

"I don't know what to say. It's unbelievable," said Kevin Dicke, who came to Saratoga for the first time about 10 years ago when a friend owned a piece of Mucho Macho Man. "Give me a day or two to let it settle in."

Caldwell Luvs Gold, bred by Jeremiah Desmond and Drumkenny Farm, settled at the back of the pack Sunday as Cara's Time, Tricky Temper and Concerti scrimmaged through an opening quarter in :22.51. Stellamaris made a wide move on the turn and took the lead heading for home. Caldwell Luvs Gold hooked her at the sixteenth pole, but Stellamaris dug in and battled to the wire, with the winner prevailing by a half-length in 1:11.29 for 6 furlongs.

Continued On Page 39



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Sunday —

■ Continued from page 38

"It's pretty incredible," Dicke said. "The last time I was numb, this time it was more like shock."

– Paul Halloran

• Soloshot made her debut a winning one in the Showcase Day opener, an off-the-turf state-bred maiden for New York-bred 2-year-old fillies at 5 1/2 furlongs.

Owned by Bregman Family Racing, Jackpot Farm and Swinbank Stables, Soloshot broke quickly and took a clear lead under jockey Manny Franco. The daughter of Solomini cruised to a 7 3/4-length win under Manny Franco, who won four races Sunday, and trainer George Weaver.

Weaver was dissatisfied with Soloshot's works on the grass and entered the filly as a main-track-only runner.

"We were disappointed in the way she was working on turf," Weaver said. "Wasn't really working that great. She's out of a Twirling Candy mare. I try almost all of my young horses, work them on the turf just to see. She had one work on the turf that was just OK. The next one was horrible so at that point, I'm like 'well, I don't want to run her on the turf because the last work was no good.'

"Luckily it came off turf for us today and we probably caught an easier field than you would if you just went in a regular dirt race."

- Mary Rufo and Alec DiConza

• Michelle Nevin got her first victory of the meet when Born Dancer won Sunday's eighth, a 1 1/16-mile allowance for New York-breds on the inner turf. Owned by Saratoga Ten General Partner, the 4-year-old War Dancer gelding took the lead into the clubhouse turn and held it, finishing a nose ahead of Be Of Courage at the finish.

The frontrunning tactics employed by winning jockey Kendrick Carmouche proved effective in a June 23 Belmont Park maiden race.

"Let him break himself naturally and see where he wants to pace himself," Nevin said of the gelding's running style. "He broke good and got to the lead pretty easily."

Born Dancer improved to 2-for-5, with victories at 1 mile and 1 1/16 miles.

"He wants to go long, so a mile, mile and a sixteenth," she said. "Maybe a mile and an eighth. Seems that he can handle it."

- Mary Rufo and Alec DiConza

• Bona Venture Stables' Sail With The Wind gave trainer Leah Gyramati her second win of the meet in the nightcap, an off-the-turf maiden special weight going 1 mile. Sitting off the pace set by 4-5 favorite Foxy Cara, the 3-year-old daughter of Astern hit the lead nearing the quarter pole and won by 4 lengths.

Sail With the Wind entered with the intention of racing on turf, as she did in her July 29 debut at Saratoga, but Gyarmati was pleased enough with her dirt workouts that she decided to keep her in the field.

"She trains good on the dirt and she has mixed pedigree," Gyarmati said. "Astern is mostly turf but her dam side looks like she's also dirt, and she trains good on the dirt. It's always worth giving it a try, right? It's really nice to know they can run on both surfaces."

Sail With The Wind capped the four-win day for jockey Manny Franco.

- Mary Rufo and Alec DiConza

Saratoga Leaders

Irad Ortiz Jr.....50

Jose Ortiz32	
Manny Franco30	
Luis Saez30	
Tyler Gaffalione29	
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Mike Maker11	
Steve Asmussen10	
Brad Cox10	
Rudy Rodriguez10	
George Weaver10	
Mark Hennig8	
Norm Casse7	
Through Tuesday	/



Caldwell Luvs Gold captures Sunday's Seeking The Ante Stakes.

Tod Marks



lod Mari

Sail With The Wind stretches for the wire in Sunday's 11th for Bona Venture Stable.

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SARATOGA 🦟 SENSATIONS

Keeneland Sales presents a closer look at the 2-Year-Old Performances at the Spa

Pedigree Power

Deterministic rides talent, deep family to Saratoga triumph

BY JOE CLANCY

You'd have a hard time convincing anyone that a horse foaled in 1968 could make an impact on the racing at Saratoga Race Course in 2023.

Unless that horse was Courtly Dee.

By Never Bend out of the War Admiral mare Tulle, the dark bay mare won four of 13 starts on the racetrack but as a broodmare she changed the Thoroughbred breed and continues to do so all these generations later. Courtly Dee's great-great-great grandson Deterministic won his debut at Saratoga Aug. 12. The performance was impressive enough as he rallied from well back early to get up in the final stages and win by a half-length going 7 furlongs on the dirt. Trained by Christophe Clement, the dark bay colt cost \$625,000 at Keeneland September on a bid by Michael Wallace on behalf of St. Elias Stable which brought on partners Ken Langone, Steve Duncker and Vicarage Stable.

The other side of Deterministic's pedigree made sure St. Elias, owned by Vinnie and Teresa Viola, would have interest as they campaigned his sire Liam's Map to two Grade 1 wins and \$1.3 million in earnings.

"We were always going to pay special attention to the progeny of Liam's Map while we were out and about," said Wallace. "And he wasn't a hard horse to like – beautiful, big upstanding horse, good girth, good strong hind pasterns. I looked at my notes from the sale and he had a great ability to keep his feet on the ground as he was extending on the move. That's something you always appreciate and look for."

All that is true, but Deterministic only came to be because of his female family. Dam Giulio's Jewel



Dave Harmon

Keeneland September graduate Deterministic wins his debut at Saratoga Aug. 12.

won three of nine starts for Bortolazzo Stable and trainer Juan Coronel, dipping to a \$25,000 maiden claimer to graduate at Belmont Park in May 2013 before adding wins at Delaware and Laurel in the fall. She finished last of 12 in her only stakes start, the 5-furlong Lightning City at Tampa Bay Downs in January 2014.

Entered in the Keeneland November Sale as a racing or broodmare prospect, she sold privately to Hinkle Farm and was withdrawn from the sale. One thing attracted Tom Hinkle.

"It was really just the appeal of that pedigree," Hinkle said. "I looked at that, and realized the family. Yes, we were interested. We went and looked at her and we made a deal to buy her. It's a family you just don't get a chance to be a part of very often."

Bred by Donald Unger, Courtly Dee cost \$13,000 as a yearling, earned \$19,426 as a racehorse, got claimed for \$15,000 and was sold to Lee Eaton and Leo Waldman as a potential broodmare. Her first foal was Ali Oop, who won a Grade 1 as a 2-year-old in 1976. Her 1975 foal, Native Courier, won 14 races and earned \$522,635. And that was only the

beginning. In foal to Alydar, Courtly Dee sold for \$900,000 to Helen Groves, her daughter Helen Alexander and David Aykroyd at the 1980 Keeneland November Sale.

The Alydar foal became champion 2-year-old filly of 1983 Althea – making her dam the 1983 Broodmare of the Year – and the family branched in all directions from there. Althea is the second dam of Grade 1 winners Arch, Balletto and Acoma and the third dam of champion Covfefe. Courtly Dee produced Twining, who won his first five starts including the Withers and Peter Pan in 1994 Nine of Courtly Dee's 11 daughters produced graded/ group stakes winners, including Grade 1 winner Aldiza (out of Grade 2 winner Aishah).

When Hinkle bought Giulio's Jewel, her half-sister Duff One had won twice and finished second in the Grade 2 Lake Placid at Saratoga, and second dam Amelia was represented by graded winners Assateague and Kindergarden Kid plus Breeders' Cup Juvenile runner-up He's Had Enough.

Deterministic —

■ Continued from page 40

Bred to Candy Ride, Giulio's Jewel produced a filly named Frills who won twice for Hinkle, got claimed and wound up a 10-time winner through last year. The second foal, a City Zip filly, sold as a yearling and 2-year-old and has won once in California. In 2018, Giulio's Jewel delivered a Liam's Map colt who died as a foal. A Nyquist filly came in 2019, but never raced. The mare was barren in 2020, but was bred back to Liam's Map.

"We thought the Liam's Map foal was so nice that it prompted us to breed her back to him," Hinkle said. "He was a really nice foal, he just got sick and couldn't recover."

His brother, foaled Jan. 30, 2021, made up for it. The dark bay drew attention from the start, grew up at Hinkle and dragged high hopes to Keeneland September.

"This colt was just a super nice foal from day one, a gorgeous foal and he grew into a gorgeous yearling. "Everything was right about him."

Hinkle knows how that sounds, so pulled up notes from the early days.

"All of them, right along, say 'Nice body \dots Leggy \dots Well-mannered,' " he said. "He had bumps and scrapes and bruises along the way, but that's just part of growing up. He never did a wrong thing, never took a bad step, was a pleasure to be around, was always a professional sort of a horse."

He did his part at the sale, too, drawing the second-highest price of 20 Hinkle-consigned horses at the sale and backing it all up with a debut win at Saratoga.

"Oh, it never gets old, that's for sure," Hinkle said of watching a horse bred on the farm win. "He was super, super nice. It was a real treat and we had heard that he might be a nice sort of horse."

The CEO of China Horse Club for several years, Wallace advised St. Elias in 2022 and is now with Gandharvi Racing. Like Hinkle, the agent appreciated watching Deterministic perform at Saratoga.

"He went down to Ocala and the reports from Monique Delk, who oversees racehorse development for St. Elias, were always very positive," Wallace said. "Did I think he'd necessarily be a Saratoga-type 2-year-old? Probably not, but that's all credit to him and to the systems St. Elias has in place. It all happened very organically and it looks like they've got a nice horse. It was a privilege to help them out at the sales."

Giulio's Jewel died after colic surgery last year. Her 2022 filly by Frosted was raised by a nurse mare and is part of this year's Keeneland September catalog.

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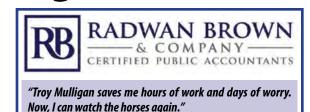






Saratoga Bulletin Board





- Sean Clancy, Riverdee Stable

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Hall of Famer Sheppard dies

Hall of Fame trainer Jonathan Sheppard, a frequent subject of our coverage in Steeplechase Times, The Saratoga Special, thisishorseracing.com and other publications, passed away Sunday, Aug. 27. He was 82.

See the National Steeplechase Association website nationalsteeplechase.com and other racing publications for an obituary. When Sheppard retired in 2021, The Special's Joe Clancy wrote the following.

It was 2008. Jonathan Sheppard was in yet another chapter of his storied career and The Blood-Horse magazine wanted a feature story. Steeplechase Times still existed, and I still wrote freelance articles for other racing publications.

Of course, Sheppard was no easier to corral for an interview then than he ever was but I signed on probably at the request of the magazine's managing editor Dan Liebman. I remember a phone interview or two, but not much depth and even less access. It was early spring. Sheppard was splitting time between Florida, South Carolina, Keeneland, maybe brief stops in Pennsylvania all the while changing rental cars like another person might change socks.

At the Middleburg Spring Races in April, I still had yet to secure a long conversation with the man. I was there, covering things for Steeplechase Times. Sheppard was there, having ridden from Camden, S.C., in the horse van. At the end of the day, he planned to get back on the van –



Tod Mark

Sheppard in 2019.

well, maybe not that van – and head to Pennsylvania. Until somebody did the math.

"Joe, do you have a car here?" Sheppard asked at some point.

"I do."

"Well, maybe I could ride home with you and we could have that interview," he replied, surely doing mental math on the difference between riding in a car and a horse van. "I can drive your car if you want, and you can take notes."

It sounded like a plan, though riding three hours home in the car with the Hall of Fame trainer I may or may not have still called Mr. Sheppard seemed like a bit much. At least I knew enough not to worry about his impression of my Subaru. I'd seen a steady stream of Caprice Classics and other hard-driven Sheppard vehicles come through the gates at steeple-chase meets. Maybe he could drive and I could take notes. Maybe this plan could work.

Then I got a warning. A Sheppard staffer – and man I wish I remember who it was – stopped me at the races.

"You giving Jonathan a ride home to Pennsylvania?" she asked.

"Uh, yeah, I need to talk to him anyway for a story."

"Whatever you do, don't let him drive your car," she said, looking at me like a judge passing sentence. "I mean it."

There went half the plan. I drove, Sheppard sat and talked. I tried to record some of it but mostly got background noise.

We did stop for gas and snacks – he paid – and we made it to Ashwell Stable in the obligatory three hours and change. I have no idea why we didn't



Douglas Lees

Jonathan Sheppard (right) with his mentor and fellow Hall of Famer Burley Cocks in the 1970s.

just stop for dinner and talk there.

After I dropped him off and backed out of the driveway, I remember pulling over somewhere and just scribbling down as much as I could. My journalism professors Chuck Stone and Bill Fleischman used to tell us about listening, really listening, and trying to pull a few nuggets out of an interview even if you couldn't record the whole conversation. "Remember them," they'd say. "Use them."

I still remember Sheppard's descriptions of operating the lift (elevator) at his family's investment firm in London with a co-worker named Sarge, training some point-to-pointers in England before work and how he felt about getting a \$100,000 budget from George Strawbridge to buy some yearlings at Saratoga in 1971. The rest is a blur.

I wrote the story, sent it to The Blood-Horse and kind of forgot about it until Sheppard announced his retirement from training last week. Published in the May 17, 2008 edition, my story came 42 years into his training career and after he'd trained five steeplechase champions and two Hall of Famers. Reading it now, the end hits. Sheppard never did get a top 3-year-old to the Kentucky Derby but he somehow added a dozen years, three more steeplechase champions and his only two flat champions to one of Thoroughbred racing's greatest careers.

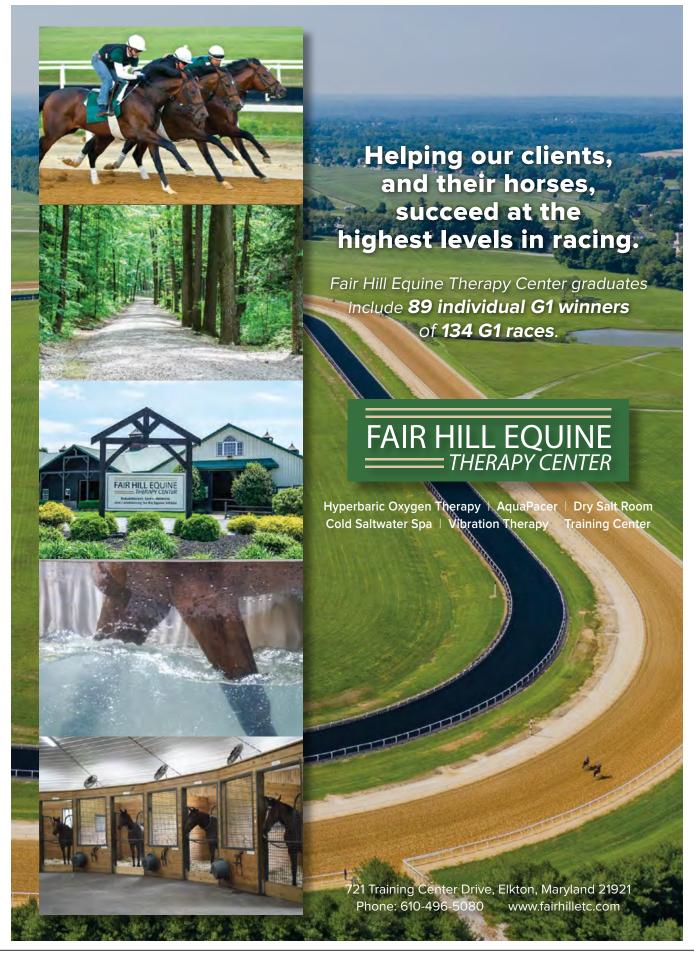
And now it's finished. It started the year after I was born and rolled right

up to the year I turned 55. I watched Tall Award, Arctic Joe, Café Prince, Michael's Mad, Leaping Frog, French Hollow, Double Reefed, Martie's Anger, Flatterer, Jimmy Lorenzo, Highland Bud, Yaw, Double Bill, Mistico, Ninepins, With Anticipation, Forever Together, Informed Decision, Arcadius, Mixed Up, Sovereign Duty, Divine Fortune, Winston C and so many others.

Honestly, I rooted against his horses for a big part of my life, while working in my father's barn. We took down Leaping Frog with Owhata Chief a couple times and ousted the great Flatterer with Gogong once. Gradually, it turned to respect, awe, head-shaking wonder, whatever. Sheppard's horses won. You weren't going to do anything about it. His focus on his horses turned into success on the racetrack - be it with 2-yearold phenom and future stallion legend Storm Cat or teenaged steeplechaser Ninepins – and did so for more than 50 years.

At some point during my writing career, he told me to stop calling him Mr. Sheppard. At another, he gave me his mobile number and I no longer had to call the office and leave a message with his overworked secretary Lisa. At some other, I moved up to riding in his car – to the watch horses train at Saratoga, Fair Hill and Ashwell (I had to ride in the back seat once because his briefcase was on the front seat and wouldn't close).

And that one time I drove him home.



SARATOGA ENTRIES

Wednesday, August 30.				12AE-MTOWinters Lion			
				13AE-MTOGilmore	I. Ortiz, Jr	B. Walsh	4-5
1ST (1:10PM). \$70,000, ALW, 4 YO'S & U	IP, 2 3/8M (HURDLE)			14AE-MTOWico (IRE)	J. Velazquez	W. Ward	10-1
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily D	ouble			15AE-MTOSignator	J. Castellano	C. McGaughey III	3-1
11Modus Operandi (IRE)		K. Brion	9-5	16AE-MTOMidnight Trouble			
	P. Hendriks			ŭ			
	H. Beswick			6TH (4:00PM). \$36,000, CLM \$12,500,	4 YO'S & UP 7F		
	C. McGivern			Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5,			
	T. Garner			11Winning Drive	M Franco	M Kantarmaci	12-1
	D. Mullins			22Air Show	I Torroe	D Dodriguoz	10.1
				33Digital Future			
	G. Watters						
78Go Poke the Bear	R. Dunne	L. Young	9-2		I. Ortiz, Jr		
				55First Deputy			
2ND (1:46PM). \$136,500, MSW, 2 YO, F,					F. Prat		
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, D				77Printrack			
12Justice Julia				88Souper Catch			
1a3Emery	T. Gaffalione	B. Cox	2-1		T. Gaffalione		
21Ruby Queen	J. Castellano	R. Moguett	5-1	1010Dontbelate	O. Hernandez Moreno	R. Persaud	10-1
	J. Ortiz						
	l. Ortiz, Jr			7TH (4:34PM). \$136,500, MSW, 3 YO'S	& UP. F & M . 1 3/16M (TU	RF)	
	R. Santana, Jr			Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4,		/	
	K. Carmouche			11Fizzy		T Pletcher	6-1
	J. Alvarado				T. Gaffalione		
70waskesiu	J. Aivai au0	VV. IVIOLL	0-1				
ODD (0.40DM) #00.000 MOW 0.VO F	4 (OF (TUDE)			33Tawaret	J. Rosario	C. Clement	
3RD (2:19PM). \$83,000, MSW, 2 YO, F, 5				44Libretto (IRE)	D. Davis	N. Maker	12-1
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, D				55Absolute Control (FR)	J. Castellano	G. Weaver	10-1
1AEElusive Fashion				66She Will Dance (IRE)	T. McCarthy	R. Lerman	30-1
1aAE-MTOLuna Rosso				77Akayla (IRE)			
21Althena	K. Davis	J. Paragallo	30-1	88Machiavellique	J. Alvarado	T. Albertrani	20-1
32Rock On Layla	J. Castellano	J. Kimmel	10-1	99Taciturn	J. Ortiz	C. Brown	10-1
	R. Santana, Jr			1010She's Mo Bubbly			
	J. Ortiz			1111Laserjet			
65Leslie's Loot	J. Torres	I Chanman	3-1	1212Why Waste Words			
76Handle On You				13AELady Claypoole (IRE)	D Cantana Ir	M Makor	0 1
	M. Franco			14AE-MTOKatie's Checkride	Torroo	IVI. IVIANTI	15 1
	T. McCarthy			15AE-MTOSpell On You			
109Entrepreneurship	D. Davis	M. Casse	9-2	16AE-MTOParis Style (FR)	J. Leparoux	К. МсРеек	4-1
1110Twirl the Flag	T. Gaffalione	H. Motion	5-1				
12AETurbo Maggie	0. Hernandez Moreno	R. Sells	20-1	8TH (5:10PM). \$156,000, AOC \$62,500			
	J. Alvarado			Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily	Double		
14AE-MTOCall Her Bluff	F. Prat	R. Rodriguez	4-1	11Shezz Koldazice			
				22Movie Moxy	J. Ortiz	L. Rice	3-1
4TH (2:52PM). \$149,500, ALW, 3 YO'S &	UP, F & M , 6 1/2F			33Tough Street	D. Davis	C. Brown	6-1
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily D	ouble			44Signal From Noise			
	O. Hernandez Moreno	M. Kantarmaci	20-1		J. Lezcano		
	J. Davis				T. Gaffalione		
	I. Ortiz, Jr				M. Franco		
	T. Gaffalione				I. Ortiz, Jr		
	D. Davis			99Pretti Xtreme			
				อฮ	J. NUSANU	n. i aibulit, ji	10-1
66Cupid's Heart	F. Prat	B. Levine	2-1	OTH (C-44DM) #450 000 OTK THE D	O IOUNGON (LICTED) OV	O F 44/40M (ININED	TUDE\
	J. Ortiz			9TH (5:44PM). \$150,000, STK - THE P.		U, F , I I/IOWI (INNEK	i lukr)
	I. Castillo			Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double			
99Adeliese's Smile	M. Franco	J. Jimenez	12-1	11Magic Cross			
				22Gala Brand	J. Lezcano	W. Mott	7-2
5TH (3:26PM). \$149,500, AOC \$62,500,	3 YO, 1M (INNER TURF)			33Madame Mischief	R. Santana, Jr	J. Delgado	15-1
Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic	3, Pic 6, Daily Double			44Villi Olento	J. Rosario	C. Englehart	20-1
11Ramblin' Wreck		D. Gargan	5-2		J. Ortiz		
	J. Alvarado			66Cynane			
	D. Davis			77Brocknardini			
				88She Feels Pretty			
55Yacowlef (IRE)				99Takemetothebeach			
	M. Franco				F. Prat		
	J. Castellano			11AE-MTOMiz Sense	J. Ortiz	I. Pietcher	3-1
	F. Prat						
	J. Ortiz						
	T. Gaffalione			Copyright 2023 EQUIBASE Company LLC	C. All Rights Reserved.		
1111Kigali	F. Geroux	P. Bauer	30-1				

SARATOGA ENTRIES

10TH (6:18PM). \$50,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta			
11Social Sidekick	K. Davis	B. Tagg	15-1
22Perfect Outcome	J. Gomez	R. Rodriguez	30-1
33Impazible Prince	J. Leparoux	G. Albright	12-1
44Fast Study	M. Franco	D. Schettino	10-1
55Charming Jim	J. Lezcano	M. Hennig	20-1
66Munny for Nuthin	D. Davis	M. Miceli	20-1
77Silent Running	J. Torres	H. Bond	12-1
88Utamaro	J. Ortiz	L. Rice	6-1
99Hari	F. Geroux	W. Mott	8-1
1010Barry the Builder	R. Santana, Jr	M. Maker	4-1
1111Prix de West	T. Gaffalione	W. Mott	5-1
1212Myles	T. McCarthy		7-2
13AEThatsmyboxer	J. Gomez	D. Donk	15-1
14AEAtlanta's Acuna	J. Castellano	B. Levine	6-1
15AE-MTOI'm Just	J. Rosario	C. Clement	2-1
16AE-MTOUncle Marty	J. Ortiz	L. Rice	7-2



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Dave Harmon

Dancing Spirit looks for his second win of the Saratoga meet in today's P. G. Johnson.

Hit The Road

Pennsylvania-based Rice rolls into Saratoga for turf stakes try

BY SEAN CLANCY

Adam Rice talked to bloodstock agent Joe Brocklebank and then tossed his tack in the back of his pick-up truck parked outside the receiving barn Tuesday morning. The one-man band arrived in Saratoga with Dancing Spirit, a Pennsylvania-bred daughter of Social Inclusion fresh off a maiden win here Aug. 13.

Dancing Spirit is the 4-1 second choice in today's P. G. Johnson Stakes, the ninth race on the 10-race card. The \$150,000 stakes for 2-year-old fillies at 1 1/16 miles on the turf attracted 11 horses, including maintrack only entrant Miz Sense.

Rice had already factored that into his morning thoughts. Rice's brotherin-law Jose Ortiz is named on Dancing Spirit and Miz Sense. Hmmm.

"She's doing all right, but the weather isn't probably going to cooperate," Rice said of earlier rain and expected overnight rain. "I'm 50/50 on it. Her next race might be a PAbred sire series at Parx, I might see if she can go out there and make a little run. It would be a short field. I lose

P. G. JOHNSON STAKES PREVIEW

my rider if it goes to the dirt, he's got a MTO entry of Pletcher's but that's racing, baby. I can't really belly down against a guy like that, I can't blame him, it's business."

Dancing Spirit finished second to Johnson entrant Takemetothebeach in her debut at Rice's base Presque Isle Downs July 17. A month later, the bay filly ventured here to upset eight rivals in a maiden on firm turf.

"I like my filly, I don't have enough creditability to say anything towards the dirt. I'm hoping the track will be hard enough that I can make a decent showing if I do," Rice said. "She's a Social Inclusion out of a Jump Start mare, she might be OK. She trained on the dirt at Ocala, she was nice there, but distance was her best friend."

That showed in her first two races when finishing second going 5 furlongs over the synthetic track at Presque Isle to winning around two turns here. Rice, who owns and trains

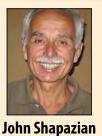


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The **POWER**



Gala Brand

Brocknardini

I'm Just

Prix de West

Barry The Builder

107/349









Rob Whitlock

Charles Bedard

Jessica Paquette

	Gri
Race	
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John Shapazian	
Neotropic	
Barbados	
Hudson River	
Stonestreet entry	
Before You Go Go	
Ringy Dingy	
Twirl The Flag	
Entrepreneurship	
Leslie's Loot	
Liquidity Provider	
Cupid's Heart	
Little Prankster	
Gilmore	
Ramblin' Wreck	
I'm Very Busy	
Digital Future	
Air Show	
No More Talk	
King's Secret	
She's Mo Bubbly	
Fizzy	
Movie Moxy	
Olga Isabel	
Tizzy In The Sky	
Miz Sense	

Neotropic
Animal Kingston
Modus Operandi
Justice Julia
Ruby Queen
Bento
Call Her Bluff
Entrepreneurship
Tempting Lady
Cupid's Heart
Little Prankster
Huntress For Hire
Gilmore
Let's Go Big Blue
Ramblin' Wreck
Ghost Giant
Digital Future
First Deputy
She's Mo Bubbly
Why Waste Words
Paris Style
Movie Moxy
Tough Street
Leave No Trace

Miz Sense

Gala Brand

Brocknardini

Prix de West

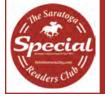
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Hudson River entry
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Before You Go Go
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Leslie's Loot
Tempting Lady
Cupid's Heart
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Twirl The Flag Entrepreneurship
Itza Dream
Liquidity Provider
Huntress For Hire
Need Some Money
Yacowlef
Let's Go Big Blue
Antares
No More Talk
Ghost Giant
Air Shot
Absolute Control
King's Secret
Tawaret
Olga Isabel
Movie Moxy Signal From Noise
Hard To Justify
Brocknardini
Cynane
Hari
Myles
Utamaro
64/349



2023 Records

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Johnson —

■ Continued from page 45

the filly, has made a living by developing young horses and selling them after a few starts. After an impressive Saratoga win, Dancing Spirit surprisingly stayed in his barn.

"There were offers coming in, but she might have a few issues that they aren't happy about. She seems OK so we're going to keep going. I wouldn't bring the filly over if I didn't like her, she's doing all right," Rice said. "I was a little worried about how fast back it would be, but I took her back home she hung out for a few days, and she seemed to freshen up. Can't complain, she seems happy this morning."

Rice's sister, Taylor, exercised the filly Tuesday morning.

"I'm lazy," Rice said. "She liked her. That's a positive."

Rice has struck at a gaudy 15-for-38 this season, including a two-pronged victorious trip to Saratoga earlier this summer. Closethegame Sugar, a \$10,000 purchase from Airdrie Stud consignment at Keeneland September Sales in 2021, won the Mahony Stakes, eight races after Dancing Spirit graduated. Rice pocketed \$140,250 from the two-win scourge and improved his Saratoga record to six wins from nine starts since 2015.

"It doesn't seem real some days. It works out but I don't try to do it very often. If I like the horse, I think everybody has a shot if they're prepared and do everything right, that's all you can do," Rice said. "I've had a couple of nice horses, but I haven't had many opportunities to see if they're as nice as I think they are. Having these ventures between Sugar a couple of weeks ago and bringing this filly back, we'll see, it's tough. It's Saratoga."

Rice is the nephew of Linda Rice, second in the Saratoga standings this summer and son of Wayne Rice, a longtime trainer who retired in 2021. The 32-year-old conditioner learned the game from the pitchfork up.

"I was galloping eight head a day when I was 12," Rice said. "Seven in the morning, I was galloping a horse around a field and my sister Taylor and brother Kevin are getting on a bus and dad was doing his thing. I watched him my whole life. He used to breeze Shekky Shebaz every week for me. And several others."

Rice bought Shekky Shebaz for \$5,000, won four races, including a claimer at Saratoga in 2019 before selling him to Michael Dubb, Madaket Stable and Bethlehem Stable who turned him over to trainer Jason Servis. The turf sprinter won the Lucky Coin in his next start. Four years later, Servis was sentenced to four years in prison for doping horses.

"I've sold a few horses over the years, that keeps myself pretty good. It's good money, I like going back to the sales and finding more. I hope they go on and perform, I want them everybody to per-



Dave Harmon

Carl Spackler tackles Friday's Saranac Stakes.

form. Some do. Some don't. That's horse racing," Rice said. "You can't control them all. I love the babies, I try to put a lot of effort to making them right. They stand around the gate, they stand in the gate. I snap a rope and lead them into the trailer like a pony."

With seven horses back at his base at Presque Isle, Rice was a little anxious about leaving for another road trip to Saratoga.

"I'm the blacksmith, I'm the gallop boy, I'm the van driver," Rice said. "It's tough when you have to go out of town like this, but I have a couple of girls who work on the ground are taking care of it. My brother got on Sugar this morning for me. I almost put him on the trailer, I don't like leaving him there."

Dancing Spirit faces a full field in her stakes debut.

Magic Cross makes her turf debut for Bill Mott. Junior Alvarado rides the 10-1 shot from post one.

Mott entered impressive maiden winning filly Gala Brand in the Johnson and the With Anticipation Thursday. Jose Lezcano has the call aboard the 7-2 favorite.

Madame Mischief exits a Monmouth Park maiden win for Jorge Delgado and jockey Ricardo Santana Jr. The daughter of Into Mischief is 15-1.

Wachtel Stable and Pontefel Stable purchased Villi Olento after three off-the-board finishes at Woodbine. Chris Englehart tabbed Joel Rosario at 20-1.

Cyrnane makes her first start since finishing 10th in the Group 2 Queen Mary at Royal Ascot for trainer Tom Morley. Javier Castellano takes the ride on the 6-1 chance.

George Weaver seeks his 11th win at the meet with dominant maiden winner Brocknardini. The daughter of Palace Malice is 9-2 with leading jockey Irad Ortiz Jr.

She Feels Pretty won her debut at Ellis Park for trainer Cherie DeVaux. Tyler Gaffalione rides for the first time at 6-1.

Takemetothebeach wired Dancing Spirit and six others at Presque Isle for Matthew Klintz. Rosa-

Hey, Adam Rice, what's your strategy when it comes to racing and sales?

"We make do, it's a good turnover, it's similar to a pinhook, if it has value, it will sell. I don't really love the 2-year-old sales as a whole, a lot of horses get overlooked, a lot of horses get pushed. If they're ready, they're ready, if they're not, they're not. I've got a 3-year-old that I haven't run yet, it's September, it's stressing me out. I bought him as a weanling, I love the horse, but he's big, growing up. We'll see."

rio Montanez travels from his Erie base to ride the 20-1 shot.

Hard To Justify drew the outside post for trainer Chad Brown and jockey Flavien Prat. A head win against maidens elicited a 6-1 appraisal on the morning line.

Todd Pletcher entered Miz Sense for main track only. The daughter of Street Sense crushed five rivals in an off-the-turf maiden here July 30.

Mott duo tops Thursday's With Anticipation

Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott sends out two major players in Gala Brand and Get Spooled for Thursday's feature, the Grade 3 With Anticipation for 2-year-olds going 1 1/16 miles on the grass.

Gala Brand is entered against the boys after winning an auction-restricted maiden special weight for fillies going 5 ½ furlongs on grass Aug. 3. The daughter of Violence is also entered in Wednesday's P. G. Johnson, which could come off the grass if predicted rains roll into the area as predicted today. Get Spooled won a New York-bred maiden going the With Anticipation distance Aug. 3.

Spirit Prince, Wine Collector, Market Street, British Sea, Nomos and Carson's Run are also entered in the With Anticipation, which goes as the seventh race at 4:34 p.m.

Carl Spackler bids for 2nd graded stakes

Trainer Chad Brown aims for another turf stakes at the meet with the duo of Grade 2 Hall of Fame winner Carl Spackler and allowance-optional winner Activist Investing in Friday's feature, the Grade 3 Saranac going 1 1/16 miles on the inner turf.

Carl Spackler bounced back from an 11th in the Grade 2 American Turf on Kentucky Derby Day with his 2 ¼-length victory in the Hall of Fame Aug. 11. Activist Investing makes his stakes debut in the Saranac after winning Aug. 13. The son of Kingman made his debut last summer at Saratoga, finishing fifth and third in maiden races at the Saranac trip.

Taking Candy, Freedom Trail, Yacowlef, Mendelssohns March, Lost Ark and Gilmore (main track only) are also entered in the Saranac, which goes as the fourth race at 2:52 p.m.

Take Two

Motion sends pair from Fair Hill for \$500,000 Opening Day feature

BY TOM LAW AND SEAN CLANCY

Put up \$500,000 and watch the entries flow.

Such is the case for today's \$500,000 FanDuel Tapit Stakes, which lifts the lid on the seven-day Kentucky Downs FanDuel meeting in Franklin, Ky.

An overflow field of 16 – with four of those relegated to the also-eligible list – entered the 1-mile and 70-yard Tapit, which attracted runners from New York, Kentucky, Maryland and California. Graham Motion sends the two runners from Maryland in English Bee and Speaking Scout, who prepped for the stakes for 3-year-olds and up which have not won a sweep-stakes in 2023 at his main base at the Fair Hill Training Center.

Calumet Farm homebred English

Bee makes his 33rd start in the Tapit and looks to end a four-race losing streak going back to a mid-January allowance-optional win at Gulfstream Park. The 7-year-old English Channel gelding, who Motion described as a "barn favorite," also seeks his fourth stakes win.

"He's 7 years old, broke his maiden at Presque Isle when we didn't think much of him," Motion said. "He's just been a cool, cool horse who's always been there or thereabouts, it doesn't matter if it's a Grade 1 or a listed."

English Bee's 32 starts have come at 11 tracks, including Kentucky Downs. He finished fourth as the 3-1 favorite in the 2020 edition of the Tapit, which sees a significant purse hike from its \$300,000 that year.

Motion marvels at the gelding's



Tod Marks

Portfolio Company is the 3-1 favorite in the Tapit.



Tod Marks

Turf veteran English Bee takes his game on the road to Kentucky Downs.

workmanlike attitude and ability, which has produced seven wins and seven other placings to go with \$600,681 in earnings.

"Partly the stallion, partly the way he's put together," Motion said. "He's not an overly big horse. He's just a tough horse. He's really a blue-collar horse. He's gritty. He always tries. The only issue I've ever had with him is we went to put him on a plane to California last fall. He absolutely had a meltdown about it. He's so good about everything, we literally had to bring him home from the airport. We couldn't put him on the plane, he had an absolute meltdown. He's such a cool horse, he never puts a foot out of line"

English Bee goes as the 9-2 second choice on the line with Tyler Gaffalione in from Saratoga for the ride. He comes out of a third behind Grade 1 winners Casa Creed and Annapolis in the Grade 3 Kelso on the third day of the Saratoga meet.

"I know he's only won once this year but he was only beaten 2 lengths by some of the best grass horses last time," Motion said. "We've looked after him, we give him a break, hope-

fully that's paid off. These guys, if you want to keep them around, you've got to give them a break. It's worked well for us, giving him the winter off each time."

Trainer Chad Brown and Seth Klarman's Klaravich Stable looks to keep its strong summer rolling with Portfolio Company, the 3-1 favorite from post one under Joel Rosario. A four-time winner who placed in a pair of graded stakes at 2, Portfolio Company exits a third in the restricted Fasig-Tipton Lure Stakes Aug. 5 at Saratoga.

Speaking Scout, the co-third choice at 6-1 on the line along with Strong Quality, also comes out of the Lure. The 4-year-old son of Mr Speaker finished fourth, just 2 ¼ lengths behind Portfolio Company after a third in the Grade 3 Monmouth Stakes and a close fourth in the Grade 3 Dinner Party on Preakness Day.

Motion liked the opportunity to bring Speaking Scout back to Kentucky Downs, where he finished seventh behind fellow Tapit runner Ki-

The **POWER** Grid



Race	John Shapazian
1	Saltwater Taffy Bundchen Backwoods Barbie
2	Tx Women For Art Urban Dancer Edistrudis
3	Beechnut Trophy Federalist Papers Lady Arsinoe
4	Happy Soul Linguistic Bout Time
5	Wicked Again Fireball Fun Noises Off
6	Ham Sandwich Darkroom Sponge Bath
7	Big Dreaming Doctor Davis Ocean Atlantique
8	Towser American Retro Proud Mary
9	Portfolio Company English Bee Flavius
10	Copper Missile Publius Move To Gold



Tom Law
Saltwater Taffy
Bundchen
Buttercream Babe
Hidden Class
Moretastic
Tx Women For Arts
Federalist Papers
Lady Arsinoe
Shad Nation
Walkathon
Majestic d'Oro
Linguistic
Noises Off
Utah Beach
Fireball Fun
Darkroom
Ham Sandwich
Iridescent
Wolfie's Dynaghost
Street Ready
Big Dreaming
Zapple Proud Mory
Proud Mary Zeitlos
Kitodan
Strong Quality
Portfolio Company
Copper Missile
Creek



Rob Whitlock Saltwater Taffy Bundchen Just Be Quiet Tx Women For Arts **Hidden Class** Edistrudis **Shad Nation** Olkovskha Strikingly Spun Happy Soul Ready For Change **Bout Time** Hogslavers R I P **Great Runner** Noises Off Midnite Lumberjack Sponge Bath Coin Miner Injunction Big Dreaming Street Ready Towser Zeitlos Work Of Fiction Portfolio Company **Speaking Scout English Bee** Bernin Hot Creek Raguel



Charles Bedard Bundchen Saltwater Taffy **Buttercream Babe** Tx Women For Arts Edistrudis Hidden Class Lady Arsinoe Beechnut Trophy Strikingly Spun Majestic d'oro Happy Soul Linauistic Wicked Again Utah Beach Noises Off **Aspenite** Darkroom Chisparrajos Ocean Atlantique Wolfie's Dynaghost Street Ready Zeitlos **Proud Mary** American Retro **English Bee** Speaking Scout Portfolio Company **Frontline Warrior** Copper Missile

Hey Joe Joe



Jessica Paquette

Leucadia Saltwater Taffy La Scaloneta Hidden Class Tx Women For Arts Edistrudis Federalist Papers Strikinaly Spun R Calli Kim Bout Soul **Happy Time** Majestic d'Oro Utah Beach Heart N Soul Runningforjoy Iridescent Sponge Bath Aspenite Wolfie's Dynaghost Big Dreaming Altazor **Proud Mary** American Retro Zeitlos Speaking Scout Strong Quality **Enalish Bee** Channeler Copper Missile **Publius**

Tapit Stakes—

■ Continued from page 48

todan in last year's Dueling Grounds Derby.

"It's been on our mind for a while," he said. "It's a little bit hard with him to know exactly what his best trip is. We thought this would be a good distance over that course. He never really runs a bad race, he's always right



Move To Gold

there. Perhaps the ground, he didn't care for it that much last time, but still he was only beaten a couple of lengths. He's a very cool horse, both these horses, just hard-knocking,

blue-collar horses."

Jareth Loveberry rides Speaking Scout, the winner of four of 19 starts for Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, from post four.

Mark Casse sends Strong Quality on the road again for the Tapit. The 4-year-old son of Quality Road prepped for the Grade 1 Arlington Million – where he finished seventh and 5 1/4 lengths behind Set Piece – at Saratoga before heading to Colonial Downs. Florent Geroux, who rode

Strong Quality to an allowance win at Keeneland and a fifth in the Grade 1 Manhattan at Belmont this year, returns from post seven.

The Tapit field also includes Play Action Pass, last year's National HBPA Claiming Horse of the Year Kitodan, Harlan Estate, Whisper Not, Yes This Time, Flavius, Cabo Spirit and St Anthony. Tiberius Mercurius, Seige Of Boston, Johny's Fireball and Minnesota Ready are on the also-eligible list.

Bumper sticker of the Day

I like Kentucky-bred Epicenter

Names of the Day

Saltwater Taffy, first race. Combine Twirling Candy and Shore Bird, you get Saltwater Taffy.

Just Be Quiet, first race. The 2-year-old filly is out of Quiet Talk.

Linguistic, fourth race. The 4-year-old filly is out of Translator.

Utah Beach, fifth race. The 3-year-old colt is by English Channel. The U.S. 4th Infantry Division landed on Utah Beach on D-Day.

Iridescent, sixth race. The 2-year-old colt is by City Of Light.

St Anthony, ninth race. Owned and bred by Alice Bamford, the four-time winner is by Nobel Mission.

Hey Joe Joe, 10th race. A phrase uttered by photographer Dave Harmon to The Special's fearless leader for, oh, 23 years.

Worth Repeating

"They canceled one day last year. Joel and I went to the Tennessee Titans game. That was great."

Agent Ron Anderson about a rare Sunday off

"I enjoy it, because of my background. It's a change. It's fun to see your horses do something different. We've had horses perform there and excel at other places. I love the nuances. The different atmosphere. The purse money goes without saying. I enjoy seeing the riders out of their element a little bit. The hospitality is great. It's fun. You can go a lot of places where there's a lot of pressure and not a lot of fun. There, it's got this element of fun."

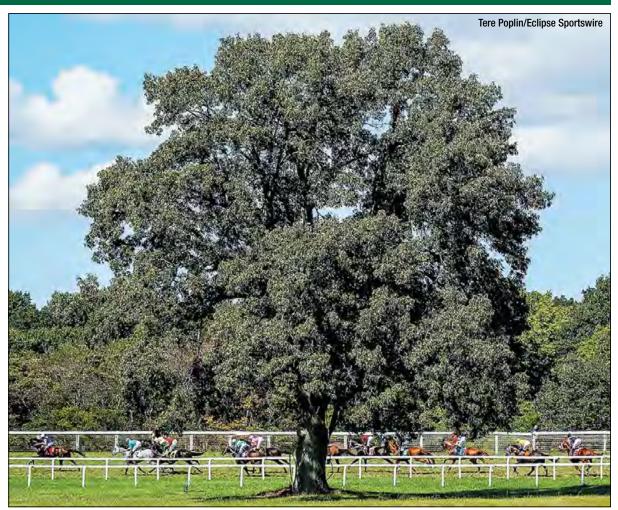
Trainer Jonathan Thomas on Kentucky Downs

"That was a great run, a really good meet. Channing rode a lot of winners. We were on a mini roll all around. That was fun to have a family affair. I didn't even know we had that record until somebody said, 'Maker's going after your record.'"

Trainer Wayne Catalano on his then-record 10-win meet in 2013, with son-in-law Channing Hill riding six



Charles Toler/Eclipse Sportswire



By the Numbers

134: Entries at Kentucky Downs Thursday

7: Racing dates at Kentucky Downs in 2023. Cards are run Thursday, Saturday and Sunday this week and Sept. 7-9-10-13.

80: Nominations for the \$1 million, Grade 3 Big Ass Fans Music City Stakes for 3-year-old fillies at 6 1/2 furlongs, the most of any stakes on the Kentucky Downs slate for 2023.

2 million: Dollar potential purse for the Grade 3 Mint Millions Stakes, the headlining event on Saturday's 11-race card. The Mint Millions offers a base purse of \$1 million with another \$1 million from the Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund for registered Kentucky-born and -sired horses. Last year, with the race called the Mint Million, the base was \$600,000 with a \$400,000 supplement from the KTDE.

10: Of the 12 entrants in the Mint Millions are Kentucky-breds, meaning it could be the richest turf race in America outside the Breeders' Cup, second-richest race at a Kentucky racetrack outside the \$3 million Kentucky Derby and third-richest race in North America not counting the Breeders' Cup behind only the Kentucky Derby and \$3 million Pegasus World Cup.

2: \$250,000 allowance races on today's Opening Day card restricted 2-year-olds that went through the sales ring at last year's Keeneland September yearling sale.

Virtual Stable Tour

The Special can't literally stroll through the stable area at Kentucky Downs or the myriad tracks and training centers that fuel the track's racing program, but we can check in with trainers – in Saratoga and beyond – who sent horses to the most unique flat racetrack in North America for Thursday's Opening Day card.

Brendan Walsh

R Calli Kim: Owned by Averill Racing and Two Eight Racing, the 6-year-old daughter of Revolutionary goes in the third, a 1 5/16-mile allowance-optional worth \$170,000. Entered for \$62,500, she won for \$32,000 July 23 at Saratoga off a more than year-long layoff. "She's a sweetheart. She came to me last spring, I ran her in a 1X at Churchill and she won. I brought her up to New York and ran her once going a mile and three eighths and she finished third. I said, 'Look, you're going to have to give her a chance.' We gave her a break and she came back yesterday. She was always going to win, and she didn't have a very good trip. She's a half to Temple City Terror."

Majestic D'Oro: Maribeth Sandford's homebred daughter of Speightster runs in the fourth, a 6 ½-furlong allowance-optional worth \$180,000. She won the 2022 Alywow Stakes at Woodbine. "She's a three-other-than, a little bit difficult to spot her."

Arnaud Delacour

Doctor Davis: Team Hanley's 4-year-old Tourist gelding exits a fifth

in the Lure Stakes Aug. 5 at Saratoga. A shipper from Fair Hill, he won back-to-back starts before that effort and runs in the seventh, a \$180,000 allowance at 1 mile. "He's a horse that can be very strong in the morning and very much on his toes, so keeping him in a quiet environment probably helps a lot."

Eric Foster

Kitodan: Last year's National HBPA Claimer of the Year won the Grade 3 Dueling Grounds Derby at the 2022 Kentucky Downs meet. A 4-year-old son of Point Of Entry, he won five of eight last year and comes into the \$500,000 FanDuel Tapit going 1 mile and 70 yards off a 10th in the Kentucky Downs Preview Turf Cup Stakes Aug. 6 at Ellis Park. "We said going into the race that he should be better the next time he ran. How many times can you run for that much money and have a condition attached to it? Non-winners of a sweepstakes this year, it seemed like it was a really good race for us. Everything we wanted to do between the races, as far as our training, it just really worked out really well. He worked good (Aug. 24), he's looking good. I kind of feel like he's got a good set-up."

Mark Casse

Strong Quality: Gary Barber's and Kinsman Stable's 4-year-old Quality Road colt also goes in the FanDuel Tapit. Fifth in the Grade 1 Manhattan in June at Belmont Park, he finished seventh after showing speed in the Grade 1 Arlington Million Aug. 12 at Colonial Downs. "He was an expensive weanling owned by Gary and the Steinbrenners. He ran, didn't get beat by much in the Manhattan. That was his first stakes try. That was with missing two or three weeks of training. I thought he was going to need that race and that he ran really well."

Graham Motion

Olkovskha: Owned by Madaket Stable and Alain Jathiere, the French-bred daughter of Zelzal won twice in France before joining Motion. She runs in the third race. "She was a private purchase by Madakat. She had three races come off the grass at Saratoga. She's only run for me once. I was a little disappointed in her first race, but I might have run her a little short. It's sometimes hard with these European horses. You just don't quite know their level of fitness or what they were doing when they came to you. She'll be useful. At this point, I just want to get her in a race."

Federalist Papers: Elkstone purchased the daughter of More Than Ready for \$150,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July horses of racing age sale. She won two races for her former connections and finished second in her debut for Motion at Saratoga Aug. 6. She joins Olkovskha in the third. "She's been with us since the beginning of (Saratoga). She's had a couple of breezes up here; she missed a couple of works with a foot abscess before she came to me. She ran well at Saratoga and this was always the plan after that race."

George Weaver

Heart N Sole: The \$150,000 yearling purchase breaks from past 12 in the fifth race Thursday. "Disappointing maiden but hopefully he'll redeem himself as a gelding sometime soon. Fit and ready to run. Looking for a race."





Jonathan Thomas

Wolfie's Dynaghost: Woodslane Farm's homebred Ghostzapper gelding runs in the seventh, a 1-mile allowance. "It's an intriguing allowance. The non-winners of a graded stake aspect. The cutback to a mile. He's been off a little break. It seemed like an interesting, I don't want to call it an experiment, but certainly the first time there and a little bit of a distance change. The horse is doing great, it seemed like an intriguing spot. We are getting a class relief from Up To The Mark. The question is are any of these horses getting an opportunity to prepare for it. He's athletic, he's well-traveled, he's honest, those are all things that give us confidence."

Proud Mary: A maiden winner in her last start on the turf at Laurel, 3-year-old Point Of Entry filly runs in the eighth. "She's a cool filly, this might be a little stiff for her. There are some horses that have a little more experience but she's done very little wrong. She was second first time at Ellis on a sloppy track. We shipped her out to Del Mar and she was excluded in two races. We put her on a plane and she got in the entry box when she was in the air, went to Laurel. We've asked a lot of tall questions from her and she's answered those. I don't know if Thursday is the day for her but she's training great. She's a Donato (Lanni) special, \$32,000 filly who is as good as any six-figure horse in the barn."

Channeler: Augustin Stable homebred 2-year-old colt makes debut in the finale, a 1-mile maiden. "Neat horse. I wouldn't have ever thought to get an English Channel to the races this early. Certainly not primed to win first time out but a neat horse with a little bit of a future. Maybe it's a prep for Keeneland or maybe it's a prep for Delaware Park, I don't know, we'll see how he runs."

Ben Colebrook

Driana: The \$525,000 yearling purchase won her turf debut at Ellis Park July 22. She drew post 12 in the eighth race Thursday. "We put her on the turf and she won first time out and then circled the Kentucky Downs race. It seemed like she was a lot better on the turf and now we're going to see if she handles the configuration which you don't know until you try. It looks like a pretty salty race. We'll take a shot. At Keeneland, we've got the fields next to Rice Road so I usually take some horses out there, especially the nervous ones. You take them out there and see how they get over that. If they can find their footing over that, it gives you an idea that they can do it. I used to have a better opinion when I was on them myself but when I quit riding, now I just watch."

Rusty Arnold

Field Lass: Daughter of Munnings makes her turf debut in the first today. "She's a filly we like. She got in at Ellis, they took it off the turf, I was already down there, decided to go ahead and run her, she showed some speed, didn't handle the dirt really well and I expect a big improvement."

Moretastic: Drew post 12 in the second race. "She was kind of a victim of circumstances, of timing. She was a Dewsweeper horse which everything has to be sold in the July Sale. They have no grass racing at Churchill, then the meet got canceled. We got her in at Ellis, it came off. We were running out of time so I took her to Belterra, she broke her maiden fairly easy. We went to the stake at Monmouth after the sale, she was bought by a new group, nothing went really well, she drew the one hole and was forced into a pace. She was pretty green actually. She's come out of it good and now we've drawn better and hoping she's going to run better."

Not an Option

e are failing them.

In some way, probably in many ways, we - the people of Thoroughbred racing - are letting down the horses.

We breed, raise, train, own, ride and care for them. We build and maintain the tracks on which they race. We write the rules under which they compete. We are responsible for their stabling and training facilities. We license and regulate participants. We decide what to feed them. We make their health decisions.

So it's up to us to fix the sport for them, though I'm not sure what fix exactly means anymore. Not after this year's racing season at Saratoga Race Course. Twice in a three-week span, we saw catastrophic injuries to horses on the verge of winning Grade 1 races. Both horses were undefeated, fast, brilliant and breathtaking. The deaths of Maple Leaf Mel and New York Thunder came on the sport's biggest stages, in front of a crowded grandstand and broadcast live on television and online platforms.

I was 10 when Ruffian died in her match race with Foolish Pleasure in 1975. Ruffian was undefeated and brilliant, as good as a Thoroughbred can be. The 3-year-old filly died in a match race with that year's Kentucky Derby winner. I wasn't there, and I have a weird recollection of being in Grotto Pizza in Rehoboth Beach, Del., when we heard the news. It felt like a punch then. Still does.

I was 25 when Go For Wand died at the Breeders' Cup in 1990. The 3-year-old filly wasn't Ruffian, but man she was close with 10 wins and two seconds in a dozen starts. She died in the Breeders' Cup Distaff, the most important race of her life. I wasn't there either, but I watched on television. It felt like another punch. Still does.

I was 58 when Maple Leaf Mel died at Saratoga Aug. 5, watching on a computer monitor in a Saratoga rental while isolating with a Covid case. In the middle of working on something for the next day's edition of The Saratoga Special, the video in the upper right corner showed a gray comet owned by a Pro Football Hall of Famer and trained by a cancer survivor in her first full year of conditioning racehorses streaking to victory in the Grade 1 Test. I remember thinking, "Look at this. How good is this finish line. It hurt like a punch. Still does.

In the aftermath, I tried to explain to someone in my age range that Maple Leaf Mel was the Ruffian or Go For Wand of an entire generation of racing fans. Sure, they'd seen and heard of injuries to important horses in big moments, but they'd never seen anything like this.

And then it happened again.



I was 58, still, when New York Thunder died at Saratoga Aug. 26. I stood right there just behind the winner's circle. Technically, it wasn't my race to cover but I took the back-up route and decided to watch with Esteban and Norma Martinez, who brought One In Vermillion all the way from Minnesota for the Grade 1 Allen Jerkens. The longshot probably wasn't going to win, but I'd written a preview about them and if he was going to pull an upset it would be fun to be there with them.

New York Thunder, four weeks after winning the 6 1/2-furlong Amsterdam, put a zero blitz on the Jerkens field with a fast first quarter-mile and an even faster second quarter. By mid-stretch, he was 5 lengths clear and staring at a 5-for-5 record when he broke his left front leg and fell. Like Maple Leaf Mel, the 3-year-old colt was euthanized on the track, in front of the crowd. From my location, the response could be felt. People gasped, groaned, turned away, tried to hide from it. Somebody, somewhere said something loud enough for people to hear and others yelled at him, told him he was out of line, like they were defending a friend. The Martinezes won, but didn't. I'll never forget the looks on their faces. It hurt like a punch. Still does.

Somehow, the rest of the card went on. I don't know if that was right or wrong. I know I could hardly watch the final four races. Also somehow, racing continued Sunday. I don't know if that was right or wrong either. I didn't go, not necessarily by design. There were no serious incidents.

So now what? I wrote at the beginning that we're failing Thoroughbred racehorses. We need to stop failing. With eight fatalities in races, Saratoga 2023 measurement of racehorse safety – will trend closer to the norm. The cluster of breakdowns here, at Churchill Downs this spring, and wherever it happens next can't be ignored however and we need to ask why and what we can do better.

Like what? Man, that's a big question. But we

because the question is big. We need to invest in ... well, everything – racing surfaces, drug testing, investigative staff, diagnostic tools, therapeutic options, trainer education, veterinary education, fan education, jockey education, technology, research, e-v-e-r-y-t-h-i-n-g. The horses exist because of racing and there will always be risks, but the job of making racing safer will never be finished. Work at it, harder.

Divert money from ever-expanding purse accounts to those things. It might mean your \$136,500 maiden race is only worth \$96,500 but your horse gets a better track to train/race on, an hour in a hyperbaric chamber or cold spa and access to a positron emission tomography scan that will detect otherwise invisible problems. From slot-machine subsidies to billionaire horse owners and microshare investors, there's more money in the game than ever. Spend some of it to make a difference.

Synthetic tracks are going to be part of the equation, even if just for training. You can't argue with the data. Really. Just stop. Some form of national regulation will be here. It's the most efficient way to make changes, thwart bad actors, improve horse safety. But - and it's a big but - the national regulation must come with compromise. Start over, figure out how to tackle tangible achievements, see the other side of the argument, win support, build a coalition and then get on with it.

While we're here, breed better horses. Shrink stallion books, reward durability, create (and buy and sell) horses by sires and out of mares with proven records on the track and at stud. If New York Thunder won Saturday and came back with an injury that merely ended his racing career, he'd have been next year's hot stallion prospect based on five

While we're still here, maybe the "big days" the game is so obsessed with don't need to be so big. Dial back the pressure on racetracks, staff, horses a little. At the very least, a bad-weather day won't affect so many important races at the same time.

While we're still still here, get more aggressive with people who make risky decisions with horses. Envelope-pushing veterinarians and trainers need to get caught. Their actions affect the whole sport and its future, not just a single race. Jorge Navarro, Jafor racing?" The 3-year-old filly fell yards from the is an outlier and by year's end the national statistics son Servis and the others - whose horses didn't fail of breakdowns per 1,000 starts at all tracks - a true drug tests - caught by the FBI have been sentenced, but the rest of us are still carrying the bag for them and those like them who are still in the sport. Build bigger investigative teams. Fund a data project to flag performances, good or bad, that strain credu-

This could go on awhile, and already has - but can't just stop trying to make racing/training safer the horses are counting on us. We can't fail them.

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It's that time of year. With six days of racing and one edition of The Special remaining, it's time for the annual "I'll miss, I won't miss." You know the one, it's about the magic and the tragic of Saratoga, the rush and the crush of Saratoga, the highs and the sighs of Saratoga.

I'll miss making deadlines at The Special. I won't miss missing deadlines at The Special.

I'll miss sitting on Tom Law's porch with a fresh cup of coffee in the morning. I won't miss the drivers who use Circular Street like a drag strip to the Northway.

I'll miss the 5-mile trail. I won't miss the last hill on the 5-mile trail.

I'll miss Tom's cat. I won't miss Tom's cat squawking in the night.

I'll miss the first piece of pizza. I won't miss the third piece of pizza.

I'll miss the fans' joy when Katie Davis won the finale on a random weekday. I won't miss the fans' gasp in the final strides of the Test and the Allen Jerkens on the biggest Saturdays.

I'll miss Maple Leaf Mel, New York Thunder and the others. I won't miss the guilt and shame felt track cheats. while walking out of the track on those brutal days.

I'll miss the dust of the horse path. I won't miss missing my family and friends at home. the clack of the pavement.

won't miss the tickets fluttering into the street.

I'll miss the moment Awakened reached the lead in the Jonathan Sheppard. I won't miss the long, sad goodbye felt when I heard Sheppard had died this on the turf. week.

won't miss the drunken prattle in the evenings.

I'll miss the impromptu meetings of racetrack characters like Chicago-based trainer Ken Spraggins and the family of Ellie Johnson Riter. I won't miss the predictable stakes previews of racetrack behemoths.

I'll miss the creativity of the process. I won't miss the drudgery of the process.

I'll miss walking the shedrows with trainers for the Fasig-Tipton Stable Tours, leaning into a stall and seeing a new horse look at me like an old friend. I won't miss guessing the names of Stable Tour horses in Equibase like I'm playing some kind of equine scrabble.

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Missing It



By Sean Clancy

Equibase. I won't miss errantly clicking on the popup ads on Equibase.

I'll miss the racetrack dogs. I won't miss the race-

I'll miss my family and friends here. I won't miss

I'll miss sipping a cold glass of champagne with I'll miss Declan Molloy, a stooper for the ages. I the winners in the Carmen Barrera Horsemen's Lounge. I won't miss seeing the faces of the losers walking home after another punch in the gut.

I'll miss 9 Miles East. I won't miss 5 1/2 furlongs

I'll miss the chalkboard at Henry Street Taproom. I'll miss the racetrack banter in the mornings. I I won't miss the broken boards on the old barns.

I'll miss the honest, hard-working, horsemen. won't miss the numbers-driven, horse hoarding businessmen.

I'll miss Mary Eddy and Ryan Martin, two graduates of The Special, living their lives and making us proud. I won't miss looking into the office at 11:39 p.m. and not seeing an intern in sight.

I'll miss my nephew Nolan, who contributed crisp copy and better atmosphere to a bonus summer. I won't miss knowing there aren't any more nephews to follow in the giant footsteps of Ryan, Jack and Nolan.

I'll miss planning baseball excursions with Tom. I I'll miss finding the horse on the first try on won't miss canceling baseball boondoggles with Tom.

I'll miss Elite Power and Gunite throwing it down in Saturday stakes. I won't miss the four-horse fields in stakes run early on the card.

I'll miss the strings of Mott, Clement and Mc-Gaughey lined up like Munnings' models on the edge of the Oklahoma. I won't miss the yank and smack of exercise riders, too short in their stirrups and too short in their patience.

I'll miss seeing a couple of Allen Jerkens' webbings hanging in Fernando Abreu's barn. I won't miss the daily shock of not seeing Jimmy Jerkens' faded blue and white plaque hanging at the end of

I'll miss seeing the elation on Mark Hennig's face after winning his 1,500th career race. I won't miss seeing the stress on so many trainers' faces as they navigate a strange new world of rules and regulations.

I'll miss readers stopping in front of the office and grabbing a Special from the paper box. I won't miss the readers stopping in front of the office, grabbing a Special and putting it back when they realize it's twice a week these days.

I'll miss stringing words together like it matters. I won't miss struggling for words when it mattered most.

I'll miss the hum of the printer as the pages come to life. I won't miss the silence of the printer when the pages aren't flowing.

I'll miss Joe's steady and creative leadership. I won't miss distressing and disturbing that leader-

I'll miss turf works in the morning. I won't miss off-the turf races in the afternoon.

I'll miss Glenn Kozak and his crew, doing all they can to make it work. I won't miss thinking about the pressure they've been under all meet.

I'll miss the lifers. I won't miss the posers.

I'll miss Tom walking to my office window and holding a sign that reads, "Wrap It Up." I won't miss the days when I can't seem to "Wrap It Up."

I'll miss Saratoga. I won't miss this Saratoga.





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