The

Saratoga's Racing Newspaper since 2001

CASINO

# Senora **Diana** Star turf mare Didia seeks Grade 1 repeat

aratoga

**Saturday Entries & Handicapping Twirling Queen lands Coronation Cup** Miss Justify wins Wilton • Upset City in the Schuylerville







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# Here&There...in Saratoga Quips, Quotes, Names, Numbers & Notes found along the way

# Names of the Day

Kunshan Bridge, fourth race. Krakow Racing and SOK Racing's 5-year-old is out of Majestic Island. The Danyan-Kunshan Grand Bridge is the longest bridge in the world at 102.4 miles and connects Shanghai and Nanjing in China's Jiangsu Province.



**Hunt Ball, fifth race.** Godolphin's 3-year-old colt is out of Dance Card and if you're going to the hunt ball you might need to figure out who's on your dance card.

Act Of Congress, sixth race. Flying P Stable and Bruce Levine's 5-year-old mare is by Constitution out of Perfect Stage.

**Tough Catch, seventh race.** The Dallas Stewart trainee, a 2-year-old filly making her debut, is by Complexity out of Try To Catch Her.

**Innovator, seventh race.** BC Stable's 2-year-old colt is by Authentic out of Inspired.

Fluffy Socks, 10th race. The Diana runner is by Slumber out of Breakfast Time. Sounds comfortable.

# Name of the Day (History Edition)

**Phileas Fogg, ninth race.** AJ Suited Racing Stable's 4-year-old is named for the main character in Jules Verne's novel Around the World in Eighty Days. Now that's a stayer.

# **License Plate of the Day**

FILLYS, New York.

# By the Numbers

**300:** Yearlings cataloged for the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred sale August 12-13.

**240:** Yearlings in the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga select sale August 5-6.

**128:** Highest-rated horse, Laurel River, on the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings. The leading American-based runners are National Treasure and Senor Buscador at 121.

1: Trainer jogging at a decent clip to catch up to a mid-morning set deep in the stable area Thursday morning. He should consider today's Silks and Satins 5K, which starts at 8 a.m. at Fasig-Tipton and benefits Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga.



Catching Freedom. Outrider Jesse Costa catches Whatintheliteral who stumbled and unseated Javier Castellano in Thursday's Schuylerville Stakes.

996: Wins for trainer George Weaver heading into today's card.

2,991: Wins for jockey Julien Leparoux heading into today's card

# **Worth Repeating**

"I have some others that I like but I almost want them to show it to me before I put them in."

Trainer Jeremiah Englehart, wrapping up his Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour this week "Opening Day. Off the Saratoga Special duck already." *Rich Cristiano making it 2-for-2 in Worth Repeating* 

"Would you look at that fella."

Trainer Ron Moquett after former trainee Pure Courage won an allowance hurdle at Colonial Downs Thursday

"I always knew he'd love the 18F."

Breeder Bret Jones after Pure Courage won over hurdles



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# Here&There...in Saratoga Quips, Quotes, Names, Numbers & Notes found along the way

# **Worth Repeating**

"I'm always riding good." Jockey Kendrick Carmouche, when asked how he was riding

"I've got some mudders so I'll be OK with it."

Trainer Wesley Ward on whether the Opening Day turf races would be moved to the main track (they were)

"Man of the people."

Luis Bouza to Sean Clancy when learning The Special is still free

"Optimistic at this stage, like most of us."

Trainer Dave Duggan when asked how he was doing Thursday morning. Duggan wound up better Thursday when Sunday Girl won the seventh

"The one guarantee when you get to Saratoga is you can open this up and draw a line down to scratch out Garlic Rob's picks."

Unsuccessful prognosticator in the barn area Thursday morning. Rob wound up with four winners and a positive ROI of almost \$20 on Opening Day. Whoops

"I'm going to give you my pre-Saratoga interview. Can not wait for Monday and Tuesday night."

Fasig-Tipton President Boyd Browning Jr., ready for the big show next month Saratoga after Tuesday's Kentucky July sale

"I'm in. Tell me what to do."

Bob Agnello to his friend Dick Knapp about joining The Saratoga Special Readers Club (you should follow his lead)

"VIP Service."

Tuba, getting a ride back to the barn in The Saratoga Special golf cart

"Riff Raff Cab."

John Wayne Eastwood as Tuba and Nicholas Brown stepped off the cart

# Read The Special at Home thisishorseracing.com



Warrior Winner. Joel Rosario and Warrior Johny warm up for Thursday's ninth race, a win for Rigney Racing and trainer Phil Bauer.

"Tough up here. You know that."

Retired jockey Mike Luzzi about hustling rides for his son Lane

"I can't hit Saratoga but I can hit Chile."

Gambler in the Jim Dandy Bar after scoring out on Gulfstream Park's simulcast of racing in Club Hipico Conception

"The whole article will be about him."

Trainer Jeremiah Englehart after talking for several minutes about today's Sanford runner Mo Plex in his Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour

### "How about our girl? She's fitting right in."

Tom Law when seeing Julia Reedy's shoes on the office floor

"There is an R2D2-sized air conditioner blowing on me." The Special's Joe Clancy, staying cool churning out the first two editions from the ST Publishing's home base in Fair Hill

Jeremiah Englehart to exercise rider Lorna Chavez: "Love you Lorna." Chavez: "Yeah, like a headache."



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THE SARATOGA SPECIAL

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024

The two-time Eclipse Champion and four-time G1 winner, **Essential Quality**. He's already the leading freshman at the sales: just imagine! **More yearlings sell at Saratoga** – early offerings made \$572k in Japan and \$225k at F-T July.





S SHOW TIME

# Here&There...in Saratoga Quips, Quotes, Names, Numbers & Notes found along the way

# **Community Corner**

• The Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation and the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund host the 2024 Casamigos "For Jocks and Horses" event at the Adelphi Hotel in Saratoga Springs July 31 from 6-8 p.m. The gathering promises a memorable evening of celebration and philanthropy, with some of the biggest racing stars in attendance. All proceeds benefit the TRF and PDJF.

VIP admission (\$125) includes a bottle of Casamigos autographed by the Saratoga jockey colony plus all general admission benefits. General admission (\$50) includes entry to the event, hors d'oeuvres, and a signature cocktail.

Tickets are available at donorbox.org/events/577889.

• The 15th annual jockeys-versus-horsemen charity basketball game, which benefits the programs of the New York Race Track Chaplaincy, this year in partnership with the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund, will be played Aug. 1 at Saratoga Springs Recreation Center at 7 p.m.

The game attracts more than 300 fans. Admission is free.

The jockey team will be coached by Hall of Fame jockey Angel Cordero Jr., with trainer Todd Pletcher and agent Kiaran McLaughlin coaching the horsemen team. Mitch Levites of the NYRA TV department will serve as the announcer.

The game often has an NBA connection and this year will be no different. One of the sponsors is the Al Bianchi Racing stable operated by Al's son Lucien Bianchi. Al Bianchi, was an NBA player and coach and served as the general manager of the New York Knicks in the late 1980s. He was also the coach and general manager of the Virginia Squires of the American Basketball Association, which featured a young Julius Erving.

The Saratoga Springs Recreation Center is at 15 Vanderbilt Avenue in Sarato-



Dirt House. Recently retired turf star Casa Creed won a Saratoga maiden race as a 2-year-old in 2018. For more, see The Outside Rail on page 44.

ga Springs. The New York Race Track Chaplaincy serves the New York backstretch and farming community with children's enrichment, teen mentoring, women's programming, social service, recreational, and educational programming as well as non-denominational religious services. The PDJF provides financial assistance to approximately 60 former jockeys who have suffered catastrophic on-track injuries. Horsemen, individuals, or organizations who would like to sponsor the game may do so via the NY Chaplaincy website at rtcany.org.

# Water-main break sidelines Impressions

All of us here at Impressions of Saratoga thank all of you for your kind thoughts and support as we navigate this unexpected closure of our main store at 368 Broadway in downtown Saratoga Springs.

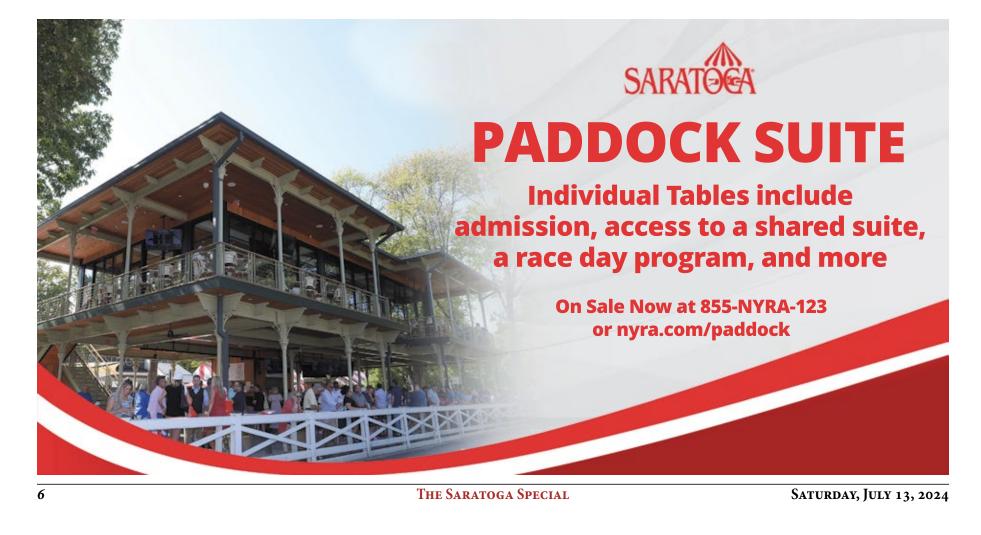
Our tale of woe – on June 19 there was a water main break under Phila Street that flooded the building's utility room, caused an electrical fire and blew out the power to the entire building. Impressions and our five retail neighbors, a dozen or so offices and more than 20 apartments were evacuated and have not been allowed back into the building.

Luckily, we have been able to move our servers to The Dark Horse Mercantile (our second location at 445 Broadway) so we have made that our base of operations for now.

We are operating a pop-up tent in front of Impressions, weather permitting, and are doing a lot of personal shopping. We're also online with shipping or pick up at The Dark Horse.

That's it in a nutshell. We are thankful that no one was hurt and none of us sustained any property damage but we are unable to let people in to shop. The building maintenance staff, MTG Electric and all the others involved have been working diligently to get us back up and running. They hope to have the inspections completed next week – fingers crossed – so we can open the doors. Please follow us on social media for daily updates. Again, thanks so much for your kind words and concern for us.

– Marianne Barker and Maddy Zanetti, owners, Impressions of Saratoga and The Dark Horse Mercantile



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# **STABLE TOUR**

Meet the people & horses who make Saratoga special!



SALE AUGUST 5-6 • 6:30PM

THE 103RD

# With Jeremiah Englehart

We've said it once, we've said it a thousand times at The Special.

We like tradition. From Jimmy Toner's straw pillows, figure eights under the Clare Court trees, the bell ringers doing their job with 17 minutes to post and bleary eyed tourists coming out for morning works with coffee and bagels or making a mad dash for the picnic tables on a Saturday. And the Jeremiah Englehart Stable Tour in its usual spot, batting second.

"I'm really happy and lucky you still have me this early," Englehart said this week after training from his barn office in the Oklahoma Annex.

Englehart led off the run of Stable Tours a few years back, a nod to his deep ties to New York and not long after making the move to nearby Schuylerville with his family.

The son of a trainer from a racing family with a long run of success at Finger Lakes, Englehart churns out a handful of winners every season at Saratoga Race Course. He saddled Maple Leaf Mel to victory in the 2022 Seeking The Ante, the same race he won in 2020 with Samborella. He also won that season's Fleet Indian Stakes with Makingcents, giving the barn a double on Saratoga Showcase Day.

The barn leans toward New York-breds, especially this year's crop of 2-year-olds that gives Englehart the usual optimism and trepidation that's true to his profession all rolled into one.

"The young horses we have, it seems like they're doing well," Englehart said. "Then the 2s turning 3s have been positive, so hopefully they continue. Every year you kind of start out the same way. You're either happy by the end or unhappy."

So what would make him happy?

"I always try to set some sort of goal for myself by the beginning of the meet," Englehart said. "I haven't set my goal yet, because it's changed. With horses, when you're dealing with young horses, how do they handle each step to get to the races? Right now I've had a couple that don't want to get past the gate issues. Every year it's something different. You have to get past the baby issues with soundness, shins, the gate and anything else on the track that can spook them. If you would have asked me a month ago, I would say that collectively this is the best group of 2-year-olds that we've had in the barn. The last couple days they're making liars out



The Jeremiah Englehart barn at the Oklahoma Annex bustles with activity.

Samantha Decker

of me. Not really ability wise, but bumps along the road. But still pretty exciting in general."

Englehart, who was quick to credit his crew at the barn and at home for providing a foundation to the stable, kicks into high gear when he runs flashy New York-bred maiden winner Mo Plex in today's Grade 3 Sanford Stakes.

He sat down with The Special's Tom Law, who brought along first-year staffers Julia Reedy and Fin Maroney to learn the ropes.

**Mo Plex:** R and H Stable's 2-year-old Complexity colt drew post 8 and is 6-1 on the morning line for today's Grade 3 Sanford Stakes. He showed up in the barn in April, impressed early and won his debut against fellow New York-breds by 10 lengths June 10 at Aqueduct. "We bought him, Legion Bloodstock and myself, in April. When he came in he showed he had a lot of ability. I know (consignor) Jesse Hoppel thought a lot of him at the sale. We got a pretty good price on him for \$45,000. He was working very well going into the first race. His last breeze before this seems like he's ready for the next step. Looks like a good, quality field. Hopefully he gives a good showing."

Iron Max: Tom Thienel's homebred 2-year-old New York-bred son of Caravaggio out of the unraced Alphabet Soup mare Royal Alpha. He breezed a half-mile Wednesday in :48.88 on the Oklahoma Training Track. "He was supposed to run July 7 but had some gate issues loading. He was good leaving there but haven't had him load perfectly yet. He was also a little antsy inside there. There's a race for him and I think he'll be a turf horse. Seems like he has a lot of ability. Lorna (Chavez), she's been a mainstay here with us, and she seems pretty high on him. That usually means good things for me. Sometimes they'll make liars out of you but he's a horse we're really looking forward to running. The owner bred him, he was down in training at Travis Durr's, he sent him up and I was lucky to get him. I'm looking forward to running him."

**Sir Kartrite:** Two-year-old son of Maclean's Music cost \$195,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale. Out of the five-time winning Hennessy mare Water Of Life, he hasn't breezed since early June. "He's for Legion New York. We're concentrating on New York-breds with this group. We bought four New York-bred colts to start with. The group includes Ken Ellis, Rich Flaherty and J. J. Gartland of Greyhound Stables. It's a really good group of people that are local or invested into Saratoga in some way. This is a colt that seems he could be one of those you could change the 'NY' at the end of his name to a 'KY'. Good looking colt, Probably second book. We had a little setback with him, an abscess that popped out of a hind foot, which took longer than I would have liked it to. A colt that has a lot of potential."

**Continued on Page 10** 



# **#1 RANKED YEARLING SALE BY % OF GRADE 1 WINNERS\***

THE 103RD SARATOGA SALE

Selected Yearlings

AUGUST 5-6 | SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK

\*Among horses sold at major North American yearling sales per the BloodHorse (Sales Years 2019-2021)

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# Stable Tour -

## Continued from page 8

**Annexperience:** Named with a nod to the location of Englehart's string, 2-year-old New York-bred Instagrand colt cost Legacy Racing \$165,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale. "He seems like he has a lot of potential. First-year sire, kind of unproven but great physical and really athletic looking. He'll be ready second book as well. A lot of potential."

**Omaha Pistol:** Englehart's JCE Racing bought Audible gelding out of the Trappe Shot mare Gun Club for \$50,000 as a yearling last September. "Recently gelded because he decided that he did not want to stop screaming at everything in sight. Early on he looked like he'd be the first one ready to go. Because of the gelding and a couple other issues mentally I had to push him back a bit to the second or third book. He's been working right along with Sir Kartrite. I'm guessing a sprinter but looks early with plenty of potential."

**Toga Life:** New York-bred 2-year-old colt by the red-hot Complexity sold for \$13,000 at the 2022 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga fall mixed sale and later as a yearling for \$40,000. He breezed a half in company with Sunday Gilt Friday in :51.77 on the main track. "Most likely second or third book. He's a horse that had very little page when we bought him in September. If he wins a race he makes the page. There was a lot of blank. Not much ink. He's been working very well and we're looking forward to running him. Another one we gelded. That's the story of the year so far, we've gelded just about everything. Complexity, I wish I had a few more of them now."

Alpine Giant: Two-year-old filly Speightstown is awaiting on her name. Bred by Old Tavern Farm and a \$92,000 sale at last year's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred sale, she was purchased privately after scratching from a sale in April. She's out of the winning Indian Charlie mare Alpine Sky. "She's for a partnership of Christopher Dunn, Chris Marra, Jonathan Sacks and Corrin Genovese. Real good group of people. I'm guessing she's going to be turf. I was shooting for a race at the end of July. We've had her on the turf gallops and she seems to like doing it. When we've asked her to go fast she goes fast. I'm looking forward to her as well."

**Miss Welch:** Buckle up. Social-media savvy folks will know the name Hailey Welch. Tread lightly if you're easily offended. Otherwise, Legion Bloodstock bought 2-year-old New York-bred daughter of Maclean's Music for \$190,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale. "She was supposed to run on the 17th, but will probably push her back to a race on the 26th. She's had some gate problems. The more I rush her the worse it will be for. She's a very fast filly. I really thought she would be a win-first-out type and then point to the Seeking The Ante Stakes. We'll see how timing works out with her. Being by Maclean's Music, it's hard to lose when you have them and they look as racy as she does. She's named after the famous tik toker, Hailey Welch.

The conversation then turns from Tom, age 52, to The Special's college interns Maroney and Reedy, who aren't familiar with the name until given a little context.

"You guys know her at all? Hawk Tuah. That's Hailey Welch. And the filly is Miss Welch. I tried to reserve some names associated with that but couldn't get them. I think The Jockey Club has me red-flagged. I tried Hawk Tuah. I tried Hawk Utah, neither worked. They wouldn't let me have it."

**Amber's Answer:** Legion Bloodstock spent \$30,000 last October for 2-yearold Kentucky-bred daughter of Shancelot out of the unraced Empire Maker mare Empires Answer. "Legion bought her and sent up here for Saratoga. She had shown a lot of ability at the farm. Very fast. And she's shown that up here, too. She's an open horse but looks like she'll be one that shouldn't have any problem with the open 2-year-olds here in Saratoga."

**Bellacose:** New York-bred filly by Audible out of the unraced Uncle Mo mare Little Bullet cost \$82,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale. She's entered in Wednesday's third race, a New York-bred maiden going 5 1/2 furlongs. "She's owned by Chris Dunn's group, the same as Alpine Giant. Belacose has been a pretty precocious filly. She's gone through a couple different growing spurts as well. I've had to space her out a little bit. She reminds me of Lady Arwen when she broke her maiden up here. Very similar to her and hopefully she continues to grow up."



Trainer Jeremiah Englehart.

Lil Breezzy: Two-year-old Kentucky-bred daughter of Tapiture scratched out of her planned debut June 14 at Aqueduct. "Joel (Rosario) scratched her behind the gate. She ended up with an infection in a hock. She's lost a couple weeks but hopefully we'll have her ready by the end of the meet. She was in against Danny Gargan's nice Complexity filly (Complexion). I don't know if I could have beaten her that day but she definitely would have ran well. Maybe second or third for sure."

**Sunday Gilt:** R and H Stable's homebred New York-bred 2-year-old son of Goldencents breezed a half in company with Toga Life in :51.77 Friday on the main track. "He came up here form Travis Durr's and has progressed. I think he'll want to go a little further. He has that makeup. Should be early as well. I've always been a big fan of Goldencents. Some of those sires you get horses that are the blue-collar horses and he's one of them."

Kyle's Mom and Kyle's Sister: The house horses. Kyle's Mom is a 2-year-old daughter of Brody's Cause who cost \$2,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October sale. Kyle's Sister is a 2-year-old Paynter filly who cost \$14,000 at the same auction. "Two fillies I'm very close to that I own myself. They're named after a very good friend of mine. Kyle Zorn, and his mom and his sister. I'm real excited about them and I'm probably going to leave it at that. But I need to mention them. There will be a big group of people that will get a big kick out seeing Kyle's Mom and Kyle's Sister in The Saratoga Special. How can I describe Kyle? He's a good friend and the gift that keeps on giving. I've only known him for about eight years. But as I've known him, we get closer and closer every year. I thought this would be a great tribute. Who knows, maybe we'll have Kyle's Aunt down the line. The two fillies have a cult following, around the barn, around the whole Northeast and all the way to the tip of Southern Florida. There are a lot of people anxious to see how they run. Kyle's Mom, I watched her walk in the back ring and said, 'I really like this filly.' Something about her, I don't know. Long story short, her half-sister (Divine Gal) ended up winning her first two starts. I told Kyle that this filly is going to end up being worth \$1 million because I named her Kyle's Mom. It hasn't been anything like that yet because we've had some setbacks. It seems every time Kyle comes and visits I have a setback with them."

**Enfuega:** A debut winner last fall at Aqueduct and seventh in the Tempted Stakes, 3-year-old New York-bred filly by Flameaway finished second in June 30 allowance at Aqueduct. "Good second. With her I want to lead her over there thinking she'd win, but a lot of horses I gave time to kind of needed a race. She's going to run back on July 25, hopefully win that first-level allowance condition."

**Tricky Temper:** Mark Stanley's 3-year-old stakes winner finished third in the Bouwerie Stakes June 9 at Saratoga, her first start in almost six months. A debut winner here last August, daughter of Into Mischief won the Key Cents Stakes in mid-November at Aqueduct and finished second in open company in the Matron Stakes in early October. "We've been entering her for a New York-bred allowance that hasn't gone. If it doesn't go, I might try her open. She's a filly, that from last year to this year, has probably made the best jump from 2 to 3. Just from what she shows in the morning. She'll have a really nice 3-year-old campaign."

**Accidental Bid:** Stanley's 3-year-old by Nyquist cost \$375,000 at the 2022 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky New York-bred yearling sale. He finished second in his debut June 15 at Aqueduct.

The name? Just as you might guess ... from last year's Stable Tour:

"My client was doing online bidding and he meant to set his price at \$250,000 and he made a mistake and added a zero and it was \$2.5 million. We ended up getting the horse. He called me and said 'we have good news and we have bad news. The good news is you got your horse. The bad news is I had to spend a little more than I wanted to.' Mark is a great guy, from Kentucky and always has a couple New York-breds every year. We're looking forward to this colt. He might not make the beginning of the meet. He's still a little behind but he's growing. May foal. He seems like he has a load of talent, we'll just have to give him some time to get there."

As for now: "We'll look to run him here in the second book. They didn't have a New York-bred long race that I liked in the first. He's going to be one of those that as he gets older he'll get better and better. He's another that we gelded."

Whittington Park: The veteran and another barn favorite. Ten Strike Racing's 5-year-old stakes-winning son of Midnight Lute finished third in the Commentator Stakes June 9 at Saratoga. He's won six of 20, including the Haynesfield Stakes in February before a fourth in the Grade 2 Carter Stakes, and earned \$380,435. He was eligible for a Parx Racing allowance but Englehart opted not to enter, looking ahead to Saratoga, where he won as a 2-year-old in his second start. "The Commentator was a pace-less race that he just closed into. ... We'll hopefully look to come back in the Evan Shipman (August 9)."

**Canigetaloan:** Three-year-old New York-bred Leofric colt finished second in his debut last August at Saratoga then won the Aspirant Stakes in late September at Finger Lakes. He's been off since with Englehart and owners Legion Racing, Peter Dorsman Racing, Spa City Stables and Christopher Dunn hopeful for a comeback. "I really wanted him for the Stallion Series Stakes, but he hurt his knee after the Aspirant. He's been ready to run but I can't get him to pass his 180-day test. On the track he looks great but on the end of the shank he doesn't. We're all over the map with him as far as what to do. We've re-x-rayed him. He's a real talented colt. I'm hoping I can get him to where he looks healthy and ready to run. Every year you get a couple horses, whether it's one work or a couple works. With Maple Leaf Mel, I kind of remember when Shaun (Bridgmohan) worked her from behind horses one time. Canigetaloan went out there in 1:14 (for 6 furlongs) on the Oklahoma by himself, galloped out strong. Mo Plex, galloped out last Sunday in 13 and change with his ears up. You're looking for one of those works where you go 'wow'. Canigetaloan was one of them."

**Cut The Cord:** Another house horse, with a bankroll. Englehart owns the 5-year-old Creative Cause gelding, who sports a record of 5-2-1 in 18 starts and earnings of \$197,732. He won a \$95,000 allowance at Saratoga last summer, setting off a celebration. "He's a barn favorite. His groom Oscar DeJesus is a fantastic kid. I own him, so if he does well, the barn does well. He always has a close following. Special horse. He won last year up here when my whole family was here. Kendrick (Carmouche) does such a great job with him. Neat horse. Kind of reminds me of the very first horse we teamed up with. Probably back in 2001 or 2002, 22 years ago when I first met Kendrick at Charles Town. He rode a horse for me named Good Man Sam (99 starts, 17 wins and \$375,325 in earnings). These two horses are so much alike. It's a lot of fun. He's been great, a real cool horse."



Exercise rider Lorna Chavez is part of the Englehart team.

# РОЖЕЯ

1 of 9

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PUCA (BIG BROWN X BOAT'S GHOST)

### **DIANA STAKES PREVIEW**

# Border Crossing Canada-based mare

# makes 2024 debut in Grade 1 turf stakes **BY SEAN CLANCY**

Kevin Attard and Korina McLean leaned over a black and red Phipps webbing Friday morning. Behind the webbing in stall six on the east side of Shug McGaughey's barn, way back in the stall stood Moira. The 5-year-old mare didn't prick an ear, didn't move a muscle, didn't acknowledge her trainer or her exercise rider.

"She's not real personable," Attard said. "She's a leave-me-alone type horse."



She can be who she wants to be. The winner of five stakes, including the Queen's Plate and Grade 2 Canadian, makes her 5-year-old debut in today's Grade 1 Diana Stakes, the feature of the 12-race card. Owned by Lanni Bloodstock, Madaket Stable and SF Racing, the Ontario-bred daughter of Ghostzapper drew post one in the field of 10 in the 1 1/8-mile turf stakes. She's 5-1 behind Grade 1 winners Didia, Chili Flag and Whitebeam. The latter tries to defend her Diana title after a nose win last summer.

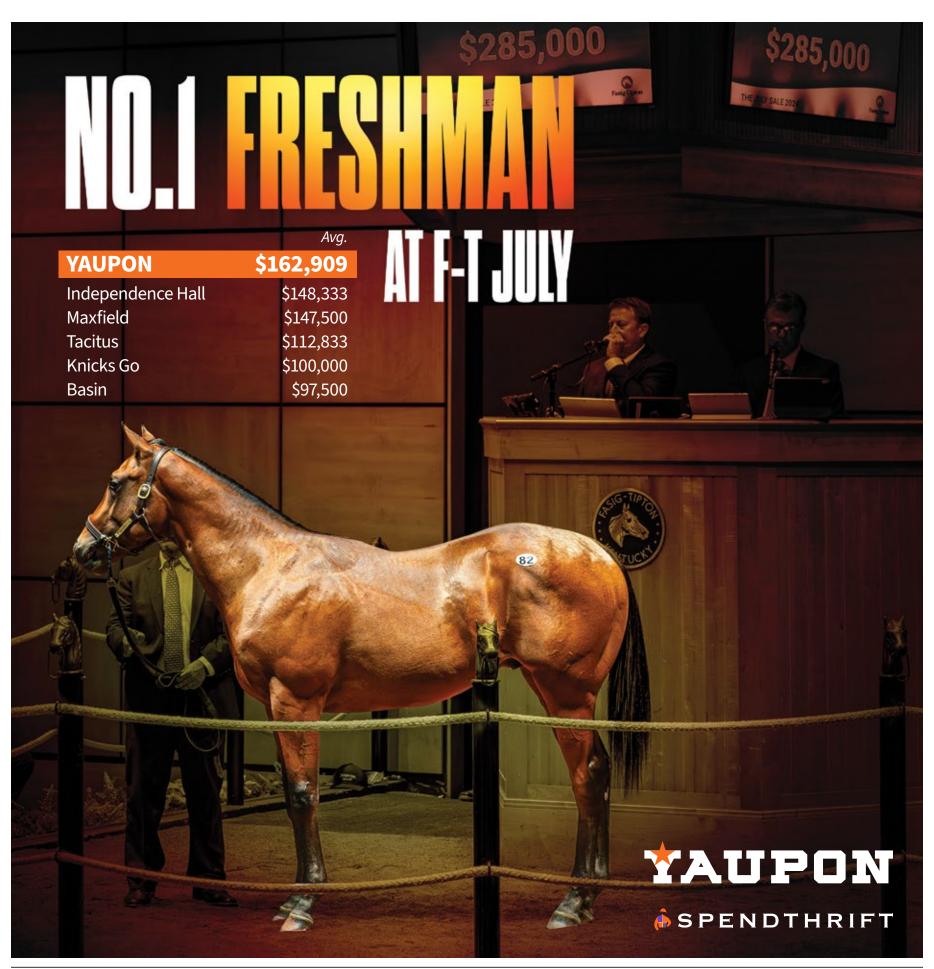
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**2024 September Meet Stakes Schedule** SEPTEMBER 12 - 29

**IROQUOIS (GIII)** to the Kentucky Derby Points Race"

Runs Saturday, September 14

Closes August 28

\$300,000 Includes \$75,000 from KTDF

Two-Year-Olds

One Mile, Dirt

Runs Saturday, September 14

Closes August 28

\$400,000

Includes \$100,000 from KTDF

Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Up

One Mile and One Sixteenth, Dirt

Runs Saturday, September 14

Closes August 28

\$300.000

Includes \$50,000 from KTDF

Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Up

Six and One Half Furlongs, Dirt

Runs Saturday, September 21

Closes September 4

\$300,000

Includes \$50,000 from KTDF

Three-Year-Olds

One Mile and Three Sixteenths, Dirt

Runs Saturday, September 21

Closes September 4

\$300,000

Includes \$50,000 from KTDF

Fillies, Three-Year-Olds

Seven Furlongs, Dirt

DOGWOOD (GIII)

BOURBON TRAIL

OPEN MIND (Listed)

LOCUST GROVE (GII)

POCAHONTAS (GIII)

o the Kentucky Oaks Point "Breeders' Cup Dirt Dozen'

Runs Saturday, September 14

Closes August 28 \$300,000

Includes \$75,000 from KTDF

Fillies, Two-Year-Olds

One Mile, Dirt LOUISVILLE THOROUGHBRED

Runs Saturday, September 14

Closes August 28

\$300,000

Includes \$50,000 from KTDF

Three-Year-Olds & Up

Six Furlongs, Dirt

SENECA OVERNIGHT

Runs Saturday, September 21

**Closes September 4** 

\$175,000

Includes \$65,000 from KTDF

Fillies, Three-Year-Olds

One Mile and One Sixteenth, Dirt

Runs Saturday, September 21

Closes September 4

\$300,000

Includes \$50,000 from KTDF

Three-Year-Olds

Seven Furlongs, Dirt

HARRODS CREEK

STAKES (Listed)

SOCIETY (

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

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

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE KHRC



Didia seeks her second consecutive Grade 1 stakes victory.

# Diana -

## Continued from page 12

Moira hasn't been seen in the afternoon since finishing third in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf at Santa Anita in November. Since then, she passed through the sales ring for \$3 million at Fasig-Tipton's November Sale, freshened up at Margaux Farm in Midway, Ky. and returned to Attard's barn.

"She had a setback early and that's why she's been a little delayed coming back. This was a race we had discussed after her winter break. She's been training really well at Woodbine, she's ready, the rain is out of the way," Attard said. "Ideally, it would have been nice to have a prep race, but she's run well fresh, she's a good horse, she's proved she belongs with these fillies and mares. I think I've got her cranked up enough. I hope she lays it all out there."

Like she usually does.

Purchased by X-Men Racing for \$150,000 at Keeneland September Sales in 2020, Moira tipped herself early at Attard's barn. In October 2021, Attard called X-Men's Donato Lanni with a plan.

"We were running out of time, she was training so well, there was a Canadian-bred stakes," Attard said. "I called Donato and said, 'I've got a bit of a whacky idea. I think I want to run this filly in the stake first time out, it's going two turns. I promise

## Hey Kevin Attard, what about Moira might make it easier for her to overcome an eight-month layoff?

"She's not an overly big, heavy horse, so I think that helps. She's been training a long time but obviously training and racing are two different things. When you're going up against this group of horses, you need to be fit and ready. It's like any athlete, your timing might be a little off, sometimes they need a start. But she's run well enough fresh that I'm confident we're not asking too much from her."

she won't embarrass us.' He said, 'OK, you're in charge.' We entered her, we ran her and sure enough she ran a thrilling race. It was nice to see when they train that well and show up. That highlighted and proved that she was going be a good horse."

Moira won the Princess Elizabeth Stakes in her debut and backed it up with a win in the Grade 3 Mazerine Stakes a month later. Put away for the winter, she roared back to action with a head decision in the Fury Stakes, a 10 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-length route in the Woodbine Oaks and a 7-length drubbing of 10 rivals in the Queen's Plate.

"She won the Oaks authoritatively, you win that and then the Plate comes up four weeks later, that's the Mecca, the big prize for us," Attard

**Continued on Page 16** 

# Rising TO THE TOP AS A BROODMARE SIRE

Among Broodmare sires with at least 10 2023 runners, 30 named foals of racing age, four lifetime N. American SWs, & \$4 million lifetime earnings, via BloodHorse MarketWatch in June magazine.

BROODMARE SIRE	LIFETIME AEI
BLAME	1.85
Mr. Prospector	1.80
First Defence	1.78
Kingmambo	1.66
Storm Cat	1.61
Deputy Minister	1.59
A.P. Indy	1.57
Machiavellian	1.57
Scat Daddy	1.57
Bernardini	1.56
Seattle Slew	1.56

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TINY TEMPER 2024 Azeri (G2)

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SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024

**THE SARATOGA SPECIAL** 

# Diana -

## Continued from page 14

said. "She was probably more impressive that day, against the males, set a track record. The highlight of my career, really."

Moira returned to finish second (disqualified to eighth) in the Grade 1 E. P. Taylor and fifth in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf at Keeneland. Put away for her 4-year-old season, she returned with seconds in three straight graded stakes at Woodbine before dominating the Grade 2 Canadian in September. Third in the E.P. Taylor, Moira flew to California and made Attard proud in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf at Santa Anita. She was beaten 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> lengths by international superstars Inspiral and Warm Heart.

"The Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita, all you can hope and think is firm ground. We headed out there, we weren't sure how she was going to handle the trip because she is a little quirky, she took it all great and that was a good sign that she can travel," Attard said. "She ran a huge race that day against a great group of fillies and mares. At the eighth pole, I thought I had a shot to win. I was more than excited about how she ran."

Three days later, Moira went through the sales ring. Attard wouldn't have missed it.

"It was a rollercoaster, a high at the Breeders' Cup and then she's directed to the sale, you're like, 'Oh man, this might be the last time I see her.' I kind of sat back and watched and held my breath," Attard said. "You hope. I was lucky with Starship Jubilee when she sold, she came back to me so that's always another possibility, someone says, 'Hey, she's done well with him, let's keep her with him.' That crosses your mind."

The hammer fell at \$3 million under the name D M Racing Ventures. Madaket and SF Racing stayed put and X-Men Racing was swapped for Lanni Bloodstock. All Attard knew was that she was coming back.

"I didn't know immediately; I wasn't sure what was happening. Donato told me that she's staying and we're bringing her back. I said, 'Whew, I'll save my tears for next year,' " Attard said. "At the end of the day, she's with me still and I'm happy and I'm excited to be here."

Attard arrived in Saratoga with fond memories. His 19-time winner Starship Jubilee won the Grade 2 Ballston Spa and finished fourth in the Diana in 2020.

"She definitely put me on the map," Attard said. "She won the Ballston Spa. She gave me a little bit of recognition. She did a lot for my career no doubt about it. At the end of the day, horses make people."

There's plenty of horses making people in the Diana.

Didia seeks her 12th win, fresh off a 9-1 upset in the Grade 1 New York at Saratoga June 7. The Argentine-bred 6-year-old has captured six stakes

since joining Ignacio Correas' barn in 2022. Jose Ortiz rides the 7-2 shot from post four.

Chad Brown tries to win his ninth Diana with a five-horse attack.

On the morning line, Whitebeam leads the quintet at 4-1. The British-bred upset the Diana last year, nosing out stablemate In Italian. A daughter of Caravaggio, she hasn't won since in four plucky efforts. Flavien Prat, aboard for the Diana win, returns. They break from post six.

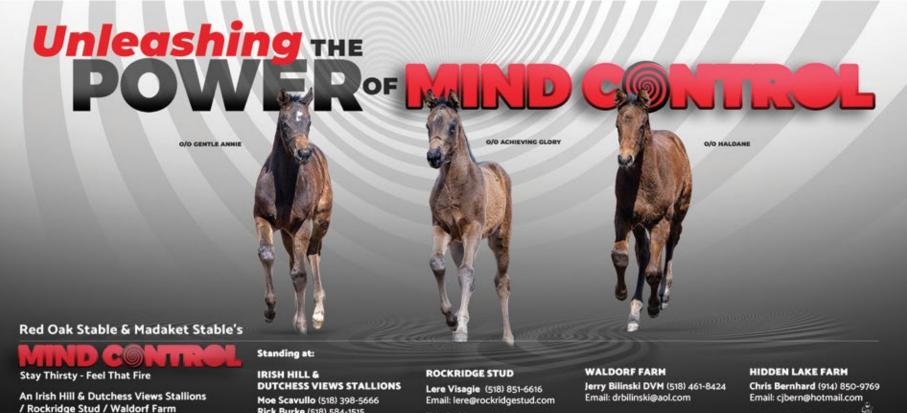
Chili Flag rides a three-race win streak into the Diana. She ticked off the Grade 3 Honey Fox, the Grade 2 Distaff Turf Mile and the Grade 1 Just A Game. Irad Ortiz Jr., aboard for those three wins returns on the 5-year-old daughter of Cityscape. The 9-2 shot breaks from the outside post.

Coppice tries to win her first American start. after finishing second in the Grade 2 Churchill Downs Distaff Turf and sixth, beaten 2 lengths, in the Grade 1 Just A Game. Frankie Dettori has the return call on the 8-1 shot from post two.

Gina Romantica at 8-1 owns three stakes wins, including the Grade 1 First Lady at Keeneland in October. The daughter of Into Mischief exits a fifth in the Just A Game. Manny Franco rides for the first time from post five.

Fluffy Socks snapped a seven-race losing streak with a facile score in the Grade 3 Galorette at Pimlico in May. Joel Rosario picks up the ride from

#### Continued on Page 18



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# Best of luck to the connections of

# Studlydoright

# IN TODAY'S Grade 3 Sanford Stakes

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# Diana -

## Continued from page 16

Irad Ortiz Jr. The daughter of Slumber is 15-1 from post seven.

In search of an elusive first win in the Diana, Graham Motion sends out Mission Of Joy. The 4-year-old daughter of Kitten's Joy sports two stakes wins and just missed while third by a halflength in the Just A Game. John Velazquez rides for the fifth consecutive time.

"She wasn't beaten much last time, but she's going to need things to go her way. I think she's Grade 1 caliber. She showed that in her last race and she's in really good form," Motion said. "The little bit longer trip helps her. Certainly, off her last race you would say it does. She galloped out past those horses. She just got carried wide on the last turn. She's going to need to get lucky, have a good trip and run the way she can, but she's not far behind those horses."

#### • • •

The stakes action gets started early Saturday with the Kelso set to go as the second of 12 races. Post time for the first is 12:35 p.m., meaning the \$175,000 Grade 3 starts at 1:07.

Six horses passed through the entry process, with five entered for the mile on the turf and one, Repo Rocks, tabbed for the main track only.

The quintet squeezes plenty of quality into the



Diana hopeful Mission Of Joy trains at Fair Hill

gate as Godolphin and Charlie Appleby lead up favorite Mysterious Night. The Irish-bred finished second in the Grade 3 Poker going the same mile trip here last month after winning twice at Meydan in Dubai in January. He tried Saratoga last year, and was seventh after setting the pace in the Grade 2 Hall of Fame. William Buick rides the 4-year-old Dark Angel gelding from post two at 8-5 on the morning line.

Trainer Chad Brown counters with Carl Spackler, fifth in the Poker after opening 2024 with a win in the Opening Verse at Churchill Downs. The e Five Racing Thoroughbreds' 4-year-old colt won twice at the meet last year – taking the Hall of Fame over Mysterious Night and finishing off the season with a comfortable score in the Grade 3 Saranac at 1 1/16 miles. Tyler Gaffalione rides the Irish-bred from post five at 2-1.

Co-second choice Talk Of The Nation has run two solid races this year without winning for Todd Pletcher, a second (by a head) to Carl Spackler in the Opening Verse and a third (beaten a length) by Ice Chocolat and Mysterious Night in the Poker. The 4-year-old Quality Road colt, who races for Allen Stable and CHC Inc., won three times last year (twice in stakes) for trainer Shug McGaughey. Irad Ortiz Jr. takes the riding call from post four.

Northern Invader seeks his fourth win for trainer Cherie DeVaux off a fourth in the Grade 3 Arlington at Churchill Downs June 1. The Collected colt won twice and finished second four times last year and won a 1-mile two-other-than allowance at Keeneland in April. Jose Ortiz rides the 5-1 shot from post three for West Point Thoroughbreds and David Ingordo.

Call Me Harry breaks from the rail and makes his graded-stakes debut for Michael Dubb and trainer Rick Dutrow. The 8-year-old owns six wins – three on the Saratoga turf – and \$473,811 in lifetime earnings while coming out of a fourth in \$62,000 optional-claiming company last time at Aqueduct June 15. Luis Saez rides at 15-1. The Dutrow-trained Repo Rocks, a multiple stakes winner on the dirt with \$817,546 in the bank, hopes for rain.



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# **Family First** Rich past pushes Studlydoright into Grade 3 stakes for Robb

# **BY JOE CLANCY**

Jim Dresher wanted a broodmare, maybe one who could be a foundational piece in his breeding program at Glenangus Farm in Maryland. He talked to his friend and fellow breeder Dr. Tom Bowman, who brought up Richetta.

Mission accomplished.

Richetta was a stakes winner and stakes producer when Dresher made the private purchase "maybe 10 years ago." She's only padded her resume since as her foals for Glenangus include stakes winner Peach Of A Gal, Saratoga allowance winner Good Measure and the stakes-placed Riccio.

And now the success is headed to a second generation as Peach Of A Gal's second foal Studlydoright seeks

## SANFORD STAKES PREVIEW

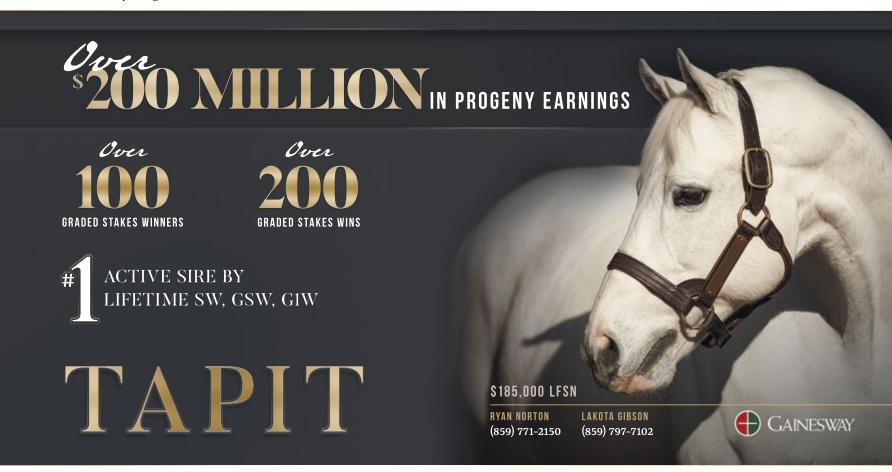
his third win in as many starts in today's Sanford Stakes. The Grade 3, first run in 1913, counts Secretariat and Affirmed among its winners and goes as the 11th race on a 12-race card. Post time for the 6-furlong race, worth \$175,000, is 6:17 p.m.

Dresher sold Studlydoright for \$110,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale and has watched him win twice for owner David Hughes and trainer Jerry Robb. The chestnut won his debut at Robb's home base Laurel Park May 5 and pulled a mild upset in the Tremont Stakes during the Belmont Stakes

Continued On Page 22



Studlydoright and Xavier Perez reach the finish line of the Tremont here last month.



THE SARATOGA SPECIAL

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024



martypanza@aol.com | 310-505-4544

Adrian Beaumont - International Racing Bureau adrian@irbracing.com | 44-1638 66 8881



## Continued from page 20

Racing Festival at Saratoga June 6. The water gets deeper again today as the morning line's 7-2 second choice takes on 6-5 favorite Mentee from the barn of trainer Todd Pletcher and runaway New York-bred maiden winner Mo Plex in a field of eight.

"That horse of Pletcher's you've got to be scared of him, but I like going a little bit farther," Robb said. "The way my horse runs, that's going to be fine."

Studlydoright runs like an older horse rather than an early 2-yearold, relaxing early and kicking late. He did it in the slop going 4 1/2 furlongs in the debut, and mirrored the strategy in the Tremont when reeling in Touchy and Three Echoes going 5 1/2 furlongs. The son of Nyquist breaks from post six for Xavier Perez and should get pace to run into once again. Robb recognized the natural tactics early.

"Breezing from a pole it's a different story, but from the gate he breaks good, drops back and settles himself



Mentee (right) wins a photo in his debut at Aqueduct last month.

and then comes running," said the trainer. "He went in five (seconds) and change the last sixteenth of a mile (in the Tremont). If he can repeat that, he's got to be the horse to beat."

Dresher likes the sound of that, and what it might mean for his breeding program. Glenangus was founded in 1941 by Larry MacPhail, who owned the New York Yankees and is a member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Dresher's parents Jim and Virginia bought the 372acre property in 1975 and for a time Glenangus stood stallions and operated as a commercial farm. Eventually, much of the property was developed as Maryland Golf and Country Clubs but the central farm remains and Jim Dresher and his wife Patti – after the passing of his parents and a hiatus from racing – rehabilitated the farm (some barns date to 1817) and got back into the sport.

Richetta, now retired on the farm, and her daughters have sped up the process. Dresher keeps fillies (mainly) to race and sells the colts. Peach Of A Gal won three races and placed in a Grade 3 for Glenangus before retiring in 2019. In addition to Studlydoright, she has produced a Kantharos colt, a Ghostzapper yearling filly and an Omaha Beach foal. She's in foal to Bolt d'Oro for next year. The family includes multiple stakes winner Concealed Identity, Grade 2 winner Ruby Nell and other success stories.

"It's a lot of fun to see families develop like this," said Dresher. "We're working with generations out of that family now and we've been very fortunate. We all want those kinds of mares and these kinds of horses."

Dresher paid credit to bloodstock advisor Marette Farrell for steering him toward Nyquist as a mate for Peach Of A Gal and for many of the mating decisions of his mares. Peach Of A Gal's half-sister Good Measure produced a Frosted colt this year and Dresher knows that Studlydoright's success for another owner can only be a positive.

"This is the model, you can't look back," he said of selling young hors-

Continued on Page 24



**THE SARATOGA SPECIAL** 

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024

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# Sanford -Continued from page 22

es. "I'm trying to make the mare and wish them all the luck in the world." But he's probably keeping Peach

Of A Gal's yearling filly.

Robb and Hughes, who races as Men's Grille Racing in Maryland, were happy to get an opportunity to buy into the family. The trainer bought Riccio, Peach Of A Gal's half-brother by Cross Traffic, at the sale in 2021 and won two races with him as a 2-year-old and remembered watching Concealed Identity run for Eddie and Linda Gaudet.

"He was a big, good-looking horse and I knew the family well, I knew they could run," said Robb of his first impressions. "He went to Lynn Ashby from the sale, she broke him and got him legged up for me. He held together, which is key too. Most of them have a shin here and there and you have to stop with them. He hasn't had that."

The trainer said stepping up to New York from Maryland made sense in June, and makes sense again - though the Sanford isn't an easy spot.

"This is the routine," he said. "If you're ready early with young horses there's no difference between a stake or an a-other-than . . . there isn't that much difference between 2-year-olds at that time of the year. Every week the races get tougher and tougher. Just like this one. You never know what's around the corner."

Mentee is around the corner. The Repole Stable homebred, a full-broth-

er to 2023 juvenile male champion Fierceness, won his debut eight days after Studlydoright captured the Tremont, blazing through the early stages of a 5-furlong race and lasting by a nose in :56.97. The son of City Of Light breaks from the inside for John Velazquez.

Pletcher hopes for a clean start for the colt he called the "cool little brother" this week.

"You never prefer

er said. "But so far he's been a very good gate horse in the mornings and showed good speed in his debut."

The outside post showcases another major majden winner in Mo Plex. R and H Stable's son of Complexity blitzed six others in a 10-length romp at Aqueduct June 20. Irad Ortiz Jr. rides at 6-1 for trainer Jeremiah Englehart.

A \$45,000 purchase out the OBS April sale, Mo Plex impressed Englehart with his training almost as soon as he arrived in Saratoga.

"When he came in after the sale I worked him a half-mile, probably three or four weeks after he got here. and he ran off for a mile afterward," Englehart said of the New York-bred. "Fitness wasn't necessarily an issue with him. It seemed like he wanted to do it. It was just the matter of calming him down. I was a little worried the first time with how he'd handle shipping down to Belmont to run, then shipping over to Aqueduct for the race. But he did everything well."

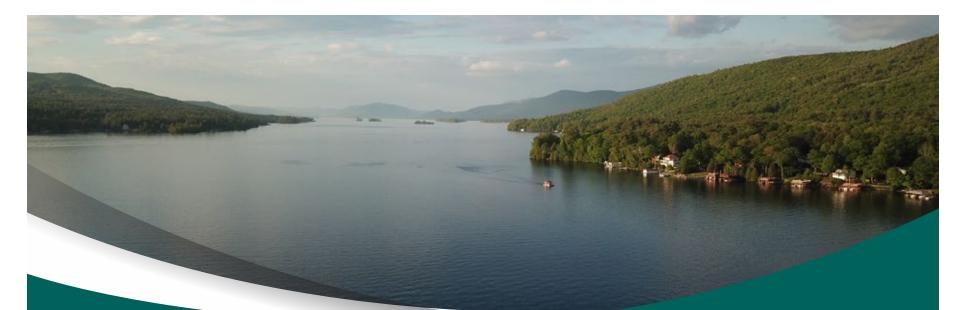
Rick Higgins and Howard Reed run R and H Stable. They came to Englehart toward the end of 2023.

'It's been a great experience so far," Englehart said. "I told them that this isn't how it always happens with 2-year-olds when we buy them. But they're having a lot of fun and looking forward to this weekend."

Three Echoes (4-1) returns from a third in the Tremont for trainer Steve Asmussen. The others include Presque Isle Downs maiden winner Mr. Squeaky Wheels, Parx maiden winner Baby Dukes (also a Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling graduate) and Aqueduct maiden winners Soontobeking and War Tax.



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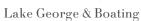




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SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024

#### Saturday, July 13.

### IST (12:35PM). \$80,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 5 1/2F

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

11Katerina Ristova	0. Hernandez Moreno	A. Chichakly	
2	J. Rosario	J. Servis	
3	J. Velazquez	D. Stewart	
4	T. Gaffalione	M. Casse	
55Amore Sofia	I. Ortiz, Jr	R. Rodriquez	
66Bisa	-	0	
77Mezcalifornia	B. Hernandez, Jr	K. McPeek	

#### 2ND (1:07PM). \$175,000, STK - THE KELSO, 4 YO'S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF)

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

11	Call Me Harry	L. Saez	R. Dutrow, Jr	15-1
2	Mvsterious Ńight (IRE)	F. Prat	C. Appleby	
			C. DeVaux	
44		I. Ortiz. Jr	T. Pletcher	
		,	C. Brown	

#### 3RD (1:40PM). \$80,000, CLM \$50,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.2Nelson Avenue	L. Dettori	
1a	.8Top Gunner	M. Franco	
2	.1Poppy's Pride	L. Luzzi	
3	.3Didinger	J. Lezcano	R. Reid, Jr
4	.4Celestial Glaze	J. Ortiz	J. D'Angelo
5	.5I Got No Munny	I. Ortiz, Jr	9-2
6	.6Milton the Monster	L. Saez	9-2
7	.7Lost in Rome	D. Davis	E. Ibrahim

#### 4TH (2:13PM). \$110,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

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

1	1Uncorrelated		C. Brown	12-1
2	2 Illuminare	I. Ortiz, Jr	T. Pletcher	7-5
3	3Classic Legacy	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	
	<b>3</b> ,	F. Prat		
5	5Abadin	L. Saez	M. Maker	
6	6Vinco	T. Gaffalione	D. Stewart	
7	7Agoo	J. Ortiz	D. Beckman	15-1
8	8J D Factor	L. Dettori	R. Dutrow, Jr	

#### 5TH (2:46PM). \$110,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

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

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11Transactional (	GB)F. Prat	C. Brown	
1a5Unit Economics	s (GB)I. Ortiz, Jr	C. Brown	
22Devilsgotacaus	eB. Hernandez, Jr	D. Stewart	
3	J. Ortiz	C. DeVaux	
4	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	
56Suerte	L. Saez	M. Maker	
6	B)J. Rosario	W. Mott	
78Ramblin' Wreck			
89Samburu (GB)			
9 AE-MTO Notah	L. Saez	J. Terranova, II	
10AE-MTODonegal Surges	sI. Ortiz, Jr	T. Pletcher	
11AE-MTOFromanothamu			
12 AE-MTO Skylander			
13 AE-MTO Certified Lover			
14 AE-MTO Grandpa's Kid			

#### 6TH (3:20PM). \$95,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	J. Castellano	H. Bond	
1a AE-MTO Bussia			
21Bern Rosey Bern	K. Carmouche	M. Maker	
3			

4		Citv Blocks	L. Luzzi	E. Barker	
		,		R. D'Alessandro	
6		U Should B Dancing	F. Prat	R. Rodriguez	6-1
7		Stolen Future	I. Ortiz, Jr	M. Casse	
				D. Donk	
				R. Rodriguez	
				B. Levine	
				C. Clement	
12	AE-MTO	First Class Cat	J. Lezcano	L. Rice	

#### 7TH (3:54PM). \$100,000, MSW, 2 YO, 5 1/2F

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

_					
1		Tough Catch	L. Saez	D. Stewart	8-1
2		Moment's Notice	M. Franco	C. Clement	8-1
3		Tenacious Leader	I. Ortiz, Jr	T. Pletcher	5-2
4		Floodlites	J. Ortiz	W. Ward	8-1
5		Asleep At Eight	R. Santana, Jr	S. Asmussen	8-1
6	6	Sam's Rocket	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	5-1
7	7	Munson	T. Gaffalione	T. Amoss	6-1
8		Devil of Ramadi	J. Leparoux	J. Paragallo	30-1
			J. Rosario		

### 8TH (4:29PM). \$100,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

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

1Hedge the Ris	skD. Davis	C. Brown	
1a 11Call Protectio	nF. Prat	C. Brown	
2Point Clear	J. Ortiz	J. Ortiz	
32Upstanding	I. Ortiz, Jr	T. Pletcher	
4 3	nnelJ. Alvarado	W. Mott	6-1
5 4 Escondido	J. Velazquez	M. Hennig	
6 5 Frostelle	E. Cancel	C. Englehart	
76Commuted	B. Hernandez, Jr	K. McPeek	
8	rL. Dettori	W. Mott	
98Light the Way	J. Castellano	M. Nevin	
109Hurricane Ne	lsonM. Franco	C. Clement	
11 12	erveL. Saez	D. Stewart	

#### 9TH (5:04PM). \$115,000, AOC \$62,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (TURF)

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

Exacta, infocta, superiodia, i to 3, i to	t, Dully Double		
14Tidal Forces	J. Castellano	F. Abreu	10-1
1a AE Runningwscissors	J. Castellano	F. Abreu	10-1
21Ruse	R. Maragh	T. Hills	15-1
32Phileas Fogg	J. Ortiz	J. Toner	12-1
4			
55Space Launch	L. Dettori	J. D'Angelo	10-1
66Altazor (ARG)	R. Santana, Jr	I. Correas, IV	
7	I. Ortiz, Jr	W. Walden	
88Irish Aces	T. Gaffalione	B. Walsh	
99Beuys (IRE)	L. Saez	M. Maker	
1010Taking Candy			
1111Bring Me a Check	M. Franco	M. Maker	15-1
1212			
13AEOcean Atlantique	J. Velazquez	R. Dutrow, Jr	
14AE-MTOCosta Terra	İ. Ortiz, İr	L. Rice	
15AE-MTOSynthesis	R. Vazquez	D. Jacobson	

#### 10TH (5:43PM). \$500,000, STK - THE DIANA, 4 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 1/8M (INNER TURF) Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	Moira	T. Gaffalione	K. Attard	5-1
2	Coppice (GB)	L. Dettori	C. Brown	8-1
3	Mission of Joy	J. Velazquez	H. Motion	10-1
		J. Ortiz		
5	Gina Romantica	M. Franco	C. Brown	8-1
6	Whitebeam (GB)	F. Prat	C. Brown	4-1
7	Fluffy Socks	J. Rosario	C. Brown	15-1
88	Neecie Marie	L. Saez	R. Reid, Jr	12-1
99	Evvie Jets	D. Davis	M. Kantarmaci	20-1
10 10	Chili Flag (FR)	I. Ortiz, Jr	C. Brown	9-2
11AE-MTO	Venti Valentine	Rider TBA	J. Abreu	2-1

# **SARATOGA ENTRIES**

#### 11TH (6:17PM). \$175,000, STK - THE SANFORD, 2 YO, 6F

#### Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	Mentee	J. Velazquez	T. Pletcher	6-5
2	Mr. Squeaky Wheels	J. Ortiz	K. Rice	15-1
3	Baby Dukes	J. Lezcano	R. Reid, Jr	
44	Soontobeking	E. Cancel	G. Weaver	20-1
55	Three Echoes	F. Prat	S. Asmussen	
66	Studlydoright	X. Perez	J. Robb	7-2
77	War Tax	J. Castellano	C. Martin	15-1
8	Mo Plex	I. Ortiz, Jr	J. Englehart	

#### 12TH (6:50PM). \$70,000, SOC \$35,000-\$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

#### Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

	Lindula, influencia, Superficula			
1	I1Final Verdict	T. Gaffalione	E. Barker	6-1
1	2	J. Rosario	C. Clement	7-2
:	3	L. Saez	J. Abreu	15-1
4	44War Terminator	A. Bocachica	G. Contessa	
ļ	55Heymackit'sjack.	J. Alvarado	J. Begg	
(	66Sugar Gray Leona	ardI. Ortiz, Jr	R. Dutrow, Jr	6-1
7	7	J. Ortiz	C. David	6-1
	38Playground Lege			
9	99Rithm Nic	R. Santana, Jr	M. Maker	
1	010Feathers Road	R. Vazquez	D. Jacobson	20-1
	1 11			
	2AE-MTOWill Be Famous			
1	13 AE-MTO Tivy	J. Castellano	J. Antonucci	
	4AE-MTOBourbon's Hope			
	5AE-MTOUpside Potential.			
	6AE-MTO Magnificent Mile			

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SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024

**THE SARATOGA SPECIAL** 

# **Big Move** Kentucky shipper Miss Justify scores for Pletcher in mile stakes

## **BY TOM LAW**

Todd Pletcher consolidated his expansive operation a bit in late summer and early spring, all with a goal to maximize opportunities in one part of the country while bypassing what he saw as a lack of quality spots in another.

He talked about it this week during his Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour – it just didn't make the 38-horse, 4,123word review – and again Friday after saddling Miss Justify to victory in the co-featured \$135,000 Wilton Stakes at Saratoga Race Course. Miss Justify, one of the 38 and among hundreds trained by Pletcher, came up the rail late to win the 1-mile Wilton by a

# WILTON STAKES RECAP

length over Striker Has Dial and stablemate Courbe.

Miss Justify arrived in Saratoga less than two weeks ago, after spending time with Pletcher's string at Churchill Downs this spring and summer and in South Florida this winter. Pletcher closed his string at Churchill at the end of the spring-summer meet in Louisville, bypassing chances to run at Ellis Park or elsewhere in the Midwest with more of a focus on Saratoga and other East Coast races.

"We were at Churchill and looking at it, out that way there's races like the Iowa Oaks, the Indiana Oaks,"



Miss Justify scores in Friday's Wilton Stakes for trainer Todd Pletcher.

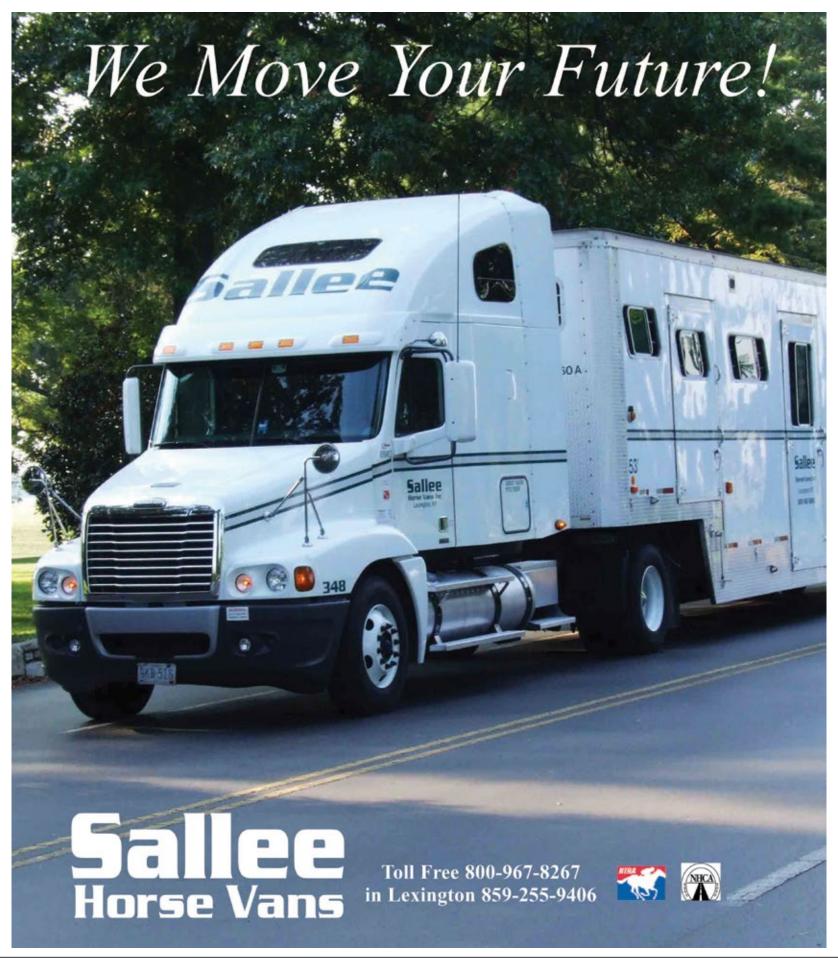
Pletcher said. "She'd probably be better running out of her own stall, so we felt like this restricted stakes available made sense."

The 1-mile Wilton, for 3-year-old fillies which have never won a sweep-stakes other than state-bred, also

came at a distance the daughter of Justify won in her previous start June 1 at Churchill. A \$200,000 purchase out of the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale last year, Miss Justify started her career in Maryland with Susan

### **Continued On Page 32**







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Above: Eugene Pechaubes (French, 1890-1967) Maison Laffitte 1930 Prix Du Tibre (detail)

# Wilton –

## Continued from page 30

Cooney before a portion of the filly was purchased privately after her first start. She made one more start for Cooney – finishing third in the Smart Halo Stakes Nov. 11 at Laurel Park – before transferring to Pletcher.

"Nick Sallusto called me about her," Pletcher said. "He picked her out, sent her our way with the idea that she was the kind of filly that could stretch out."

Campaigned by original owner Twin Oaks Bloodstock and partners IEE Racing, Joseph Bulger and Will Campbell, Miss Justify went off as the 5-2 second choice of seven in the Wilton.

Pletcher expected Miss Justify to vie for the early lead, or perhaps sit just off, but Dazzling Move and jockey Joel Rosario threw water on that plan by hustling to a 4-length lead through the opening quarter-mile in :23.71. Dazzling Move continued at a torrid clip through the half in :46.60, 4 ½ lengths in front of 5-1 third choice Striker Has Dial with Miss Justify and Lady Moscato another length back.

Dazzling Move tired from her efforts around the far turn, coming back to the field as Striker Has Dial snatched the lead and opened up by 2 lengths through 6 furlongs in 1:11.46. Miss Justify and Flavien Prat stayed along the rail approaching the stretch, passed the tiring leader but still needed to find more to get past Striker Has Dial, Lady Moscato and Courbe turning for home.

Prat admitted later to being unsure "what I had underneath me all the way around," but Miss Justify showed him in the lane. Miss Justify responded to two cracks of Prat's right-handed whip outside the eighth pole and two more left-handed inside the furlong grounds to draw on even terms with Striker Has Dial at the sixteenth pole.

"When I went after her she responded properly," said Prat, who won three races on the card.

Miss Justify extended with every stride from there. Striker Has Dial edged Courbe by a neck for the runner-up spot. Lady Moscato finished fourth with even-money favorite Bells Beach a non-threatening fifth. Miss Justify won in 1:37.51.

"I thought we were going to be battling for the lead with (Windy Walk) and (Striker Has Dial), and (Dazzling Move), I think that's a pretty hot pace for the mile chute race," Pletcher said. "It worked out and we were able to save ground and get in a good spot. I thought both fillies ran well and (Miss Justify) re-rallied in the last part to find a little more. It's nice to see that she can come from off the pace. She was able to win wire-to-wire last time, so it's good to see."

Pletcher figures Miss Justify would stretch out even more, but wasn't ready to commit to something like the Grade 1 Alabama Stakes later in the meet.

"I don't know if we'll be quite that ambitious just yet, but we'll keep all our options open," he said.



Miss Justify's people celebrated after the stakes win.

Dave Harmon

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SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024

THE SARATOGA SPECIAL

# **Rising Tide** Twirling Queen lands turf sprint for improving D'Angelo stable

Jose Francisco D'Angelo brought a string of 20 horses – more horses and better horses in his opinion – from his main base in South Florida to Saratoga Race Course with a goal.

"My goal was to try to win with every horse," D'Angelo said Friday at Saratoga. "And my goal is to try and be on the top of the sport and in the big races. That's my plan."

He won't win with every runner at Saratoga – having watched his first starter, Episode, finish ninth in a maiden race on Opening Day – and freely concedes that he knows it's an impossible task. He did make the winner's circle with his second starter as Twirling Queen stretched her win streak to four in Friday's co-featured \$150,000 Coronation Cup Stakes.

"I'm getting better horses," D'Angelo said. "Without the horses and the owners, and your team, (it's hard) to show your skills. It's team work, it's not just the trainer and the jockey. It's hard work and we're working hard to make it happen."

Twirling Queen, campaigned by GU Racing Stable, worked hard for her third straight stakes victory.

Luis Saez kept the daughter of Twirling Candy in a stalking position in third early in the 5 1/2-furlong turf stakes for 3-year-old fillies as 2-1 favorite Ever So Sweet barreled through a quick opening quarter in :21.65 over the firm turf.

Toupie tracked the leader in second with Twirling Queen third and just to the outside of In Our Time. Ever So Sweet gave up the lead approaching the stretch after being challenged to the inside by In Our Time with Toupie and Twirling Queen to her outside.

Toupie came away with a brief lead in midstretch before Twirling Queen lengthened her stride and draw off.

"She broke from there pretty fast," Saez said. "I feel like she wanted to take the lead, but I knew the speed was outside. Everything came like the

## FRIDAY RACING RECAP

plan – we sat behind and let the speed go. We sit behind and she relaxed really well. When we came to the top of the stretch, she was pretty loaded."

Kairyu ralled from fifth to finish second, three-quarters of a length behind the winner and the same margin clear of third-place finisher Cloudwalker. Twirling Queen won in 1:01.93, adding the Coronation Cup to her victories in the Melody Of Colors in March at Gulfstream and Mamzelle in May at Churchill.

D'Angelo hopes to run Twirling Queen back in the Galway Stakes later in the meet with long-range goals of running at Kentucky Downs and the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint. Twirling Queen improved to 5-for-8 in her career and boosted her bankroll to \$375,063.

"She's so small. So we rest her [after] she runs," D'Angelo said. "We gave enough time between races. You can see her four races come in



Twirling Queen (right) sprints to victory in Friday's Coronation Cup Stakes.

between the layoff and she responds very well. When you train horses, you have to know them and do whatever they want – not whatever you want." – Tom Law

# Former Jerkens assistant Abreu gets first Spa training triumph

Fernando Abreu experienced many thrills at Saratoga Race Course during his life as a racetracker working for the late Hall of Famer H. Allen Jerkens. He enjoyed another Friday, sending out Irving Cowan's homebred filly



Reliable Lady scores in Friday's opener for trainer Fernando Abreu.

Reliable Lady to a 2 1/2-length victory in the opener for his first Saratoga victory.

"Very special feeling," Abreu said. "An unbelievable feeling you feel. When I knew I was going to win, I had a tear come out of my eyes. Very special. All the things you go through in the morning, to see them show up in the afternoon. You're running against Todd, Chad, a lot of Hall of Fame or future Hall of Fame trainers that are there. It always feels good to beat those guys."

Abreu worked as an assistant to Jerkens for 19 years before starting his own career after his mentor passed in March 2015. He took over Reliable Lady's training after Ralph Nicks retired this spring.

Abreu raced her on the grass at Gulfstream Park, where he's based, and she finished fourth.

Javier Castellano, who rode the daughter of Take Charge Indy Friday, liked the way she trained at Belmont Park and suggested to Abreu that he put her back on the dirt. The suggestion worked.

"I ran her one time in Gulfstream on the grass and she had a lot to do and she still ran good," Abreu said. "But when Javier got on her here, he worked her real good twice, and he said, 'I would keep her on the dirt.' Once again, thanks to the Cowans because they let me bring her from



## Florida over here."

— Alec DiConza

• Classic Creation won in his return from a short layoff and return to John Terranova's care in the seventh, a 1 1/16-mile starter-optional on the turf.

The 4-year-old son of Classic Empire came back to Terranova after racing at Santa Anita Park and Keeneland this year for Jonathan Thomas. Funbelly Stable's colt ran down his foes in the stretch under Flavien Prat to win by a half-length over Gilded Craken.

"I had him as a 2-year-old and 3-year-old, so we had him early on," Terranova said. "I sent him out for his last few races, he was in a different jurisdiction. Kentucky and then a little bit of California. But we got him back and he's trained on great. I kind of targeted this race just to get him back on form. I didn't know if we were quite ready today. He was training really good, all the signs were great, and things set up really well. Flavien laid a beautiful ride on him."

Terranova has his sights set on the rest of the summer.

"Very competitive meet, nothing is a gimme up here," he said. "Grateful for everything we get. More than anything that the horses stay healthy, sound, and we get to keep doing it time after time. Just happy to be here and grateful for these guys that won this race and looking forward to the rest of the meet. Hopefully things go well." — Alec DiConza

• Frankie Dettori performed his first signature flying dismount of the meet after the finale, when he rode Dennis Narlinger's Over And Ollie to victory in the 1 1/16-mile maiden claimer on the grass.

Dettori relished the cheers from the remaining crowd after his dismount, which he hopes is the first of many at the meet.

"It takes the monkey off your back," he said. "Sometimes you can do three, four, five days a week without a winner. Then you start forcing the issue and making mistakes. But it's nice to get the first win out of the way, the first jump. Hopefully they'll ask me to do every race. I'm feeling very good. It was a good start."

Trained by Al Stall Jr., Over And Ollie stayed inside for most of the trip before taking over in the stretch on the way to a 2-length victory.

"Jumped better than I thought," Dettori said. "I was in a good spot, stayed on the fence. By the quarter pole, it was just a matter of getting the split. I got the split on the inside, I asked my horse to go and the response was instantaneous. I had the race won from then on."

– Alec DiConza

### Continued on Page 36



Classic Creation (left) charges to victory in Friday's seventh.

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Twenty Six Black wins Friday's fourth for trainer Horacio De Paz.

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# **Friday -**

## Continued from page 35

• Roger Cimbora's Twenty Six Black gave trainer Horacio De Paz and jockey Manny Franco their first wins of the meet when he scored in the fourth, a 5 1/2-furlong allowance on the turf. The 4-year-old War Dancer gelding closed from last to win by a neck over Tunisian Spring and Cigarette Boat.

"I didn't think he'd be that far back," De Paz said. "But there was a lot of pace. They were going quick. Manny just let him relax and when he asked him to go there was a good pace to run into."

Twenty Six Black, the 5-2 second choice off a runner-up finish June 8 at Saratoga, improved to 4-for-8.

"He's maintained his form, every time we lay him up and bring him back," De Paz said. "He seems to get better and better with age."

#### - Fin Maroney

• Finger Lakes shipper Disco Deano coolly held back behind battling front runners Chateau and Cold As Hell in the early stages of the fifth before making his move on the outside at the top of the stretch. The 7-yearold New York-bred Verrazano gelding drew off from there under Keiber Coa, finishing 2 lengths clear of Cold As Hell.

Owned and trained by M. Anthony Ferraro, Disco Deano won for the first time since the George W. Barker Stakes in late May 2023.

"I know he's capable of winning with these horses, but when you're the away team and you come in here, you just never know who you're going to catch," Ferraro said. "But I had confidence that he would be right there tonight."

Saratoga is not unfamiliar territory for Ferraro, who has trained at Finger Lakes since 1985. He won a maiden race at Saratoga last year with Bustin Away

- Julia Reedy

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THE SARATOGA SPECIAL

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SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024

### Bad start, Bad start, Good filly The Queens M G wins chaotic feature on Opening Day card BY SEAN CLANCY

Danny Gargan slammed down the stewards' phone and stomped off. The horse ambulance sped past the winner's circle. Jena Antonucci slid the saddle off Whatintheliteral in the winner's circle. Norm Casse searched for Slang, galloping loose behind the field of 2-year-old fillies. Valets searched for horses. Writers asked about jockeys. John Velazquez walked to the scales and shook his head, "Wow."

The Schuylerville, the \$175,000 feature for 2-year-old fillies on Opening Day, began with drama and ended with drama.

Slang was reluctant to load. Second choice Complexion, trained by Gargan, reared up, forcing Velazquez to step off twice and was backed out. Favorite Viggiedal was restless from stall 10. Astoria winner Whatintheliteral fidgeted from stall eight. After several delays and numerous "No, no, no" pleas from the gate crew, the gate sprang and Whatintheliteral buckled to her knees, catapulting Castellano.



The Queens M G and Dylan Davis head for victory.



The Queens M G (second from left) ranges up to the leaders while coming off the turn in Thursday's Schuylerville.

Samantna Deckei

Dylan Davis watched it all aboard the longest shot on the board, The Queens M G, from the outside post. Owned by C Two Racing Stable and Mathis Stable and trained by Saffie Joseph Jr., the daughter of Thousand Words shocked the 6-furlong stakes with a \$91 score.

<sup>a</sup> A lot of commotion in that gate, didn't faze her at all, she was the last in, she was tight, but she didn't budge. The guy was telling me to maybe readjust her, but I said just leave her alone," Davis said. "I was just looking to my left, the 10 was acting up, the 5 was acting up, Javier's horse was act-

ing up. They kept moving and moving. I was happy with what I was sitting on, she was well composed so it didn't faze her at all. A lot of the others, they're next to that action, they're all prepared to run this race, on high energy, ready to break, nerves, they were all getting themselves worked up."

Capitalizing on her composure, The Queens M G broke sharply and established an outside stalking spot in third behind Aoraki and Viggiedal. After a quarter-mile in :21.89 and a half in :45.19, The Queens M G sidled next to the early leaders and ahead of Long Neck Paula from the outside. At the top of the stretch, Davis asked for a lead change and then forced a lead change as The Queens M G rolled past the spent leaders.

Five taps left-handed and five swishes of her black tail and The Queens M G rolled "under the wire with an easy 2 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-length win over late-running Sherbini and Long Neck

#### Hey, Dylan Davis what were you doing in the gate?

"I was ready, I'm making sure I listen because we were sitting in there a long time, and you can get a little complacent. Got to make sure she's standing good. You've got focus on your horse and your task. You can't worry about the horse next to you. As long as you know you're ready to break. You've got to holler if you're not. They said, 'Good to go.' When I heard one of the guys was ready to go, I was ready. Once they said, 'Yeah,' we broke. The handler, whoever was moving, said it. They want the handlers speaking, not the jockeys. The jockeys might say, 'no, no' and the handler will speak to the head guy. The starter wants to make sure everyone's standing the best they can to give everyone a fair start, they don't want to wait any more than they have to wait. It's quick, oh yeah, it's quick. Once you hear, 'OK,' it clicks."

Paula. The Queens M G finished 6 furlongs in 1:11.31.

"I was super confident. She broke well. She jumped in the bridle, she was pushing off her hind end, it was a beautiful feeling," Davis said. "Hit the turn, she was jumping into it, she's not super aggressive but jumping into it, floating nice. She was traveling very nice, but keeping in mind she's a longshot, trying to conserve her, don't get too eager. At the three, three and a half pole, I felt really nice. It's a nice race, you never know another horse might challenge later down the stretch, but I was pretty confident."

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#### Continued from page 38

A \$3,500 yearling purchase at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky fall yearling sale, The Queens M G won her debut by a head at Keeneland for owner/ trainer Israel Acevedo. Purchased privately after the 4 ½-furlong win, she made her next start in the Astoria at the Belmont Stakes Racing Festival. Sent off favorite, she was bumped early and often and faded to last. A month later, she went off the longest shot on the board and made bettors wonder about their fickle ways.

Davis, aboard for the first time, did his homework and went to work.

"Just trying to see what Saffie had

to say and the crew. They said she had been training well. When she came up here for Belmont Stakes Festival, she just had a tough time shipping and everything," Davis said. "She was able to settle in nicely this time. Take her away from the pony, play it as it goes, break well, if you're on the lead, that's good, but if you want, you can sit off it, just keep her happy."

Davis grew confident as minutes ticked to post time.

"By the end of the warmup, she felt really nice," Davis said. "I told the pony girl, Lorna, 'She don't feel like a longshot to me.' She was like, 'Really? Really?' I said, 'I like surprises,' " Davis said. "Any win is special but to win the feature on Opening Day is incredible. Just to get off the duck right away."



The Queens M G reaches the wire with a stakes win in the Schuylerville.





#### MANAGED HORSES 2022-2023

Win Percentage	25.71%
Saratoga Win Percentage	30.78%
Stakes Win Percentage	28.57%
Graded Stakes Win Percenta	age <b>33.33%</b>



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SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024

**THE SARATOGA SPECIAL** 

# **Show Goes On** Rain shelves turf races but Opening Day a hit

It wouldn't be Saratoga without the occasional torrential downpour. The weather cooperated for Opening Day of the Saratoga Race Course meeting Thursday, but the day's racing was impacted by tremendous rainfall – and a tornado watch – Wednesday night.

The rain forced Thursday's races off the turf, which may have disappointed some, but Saratoga has plenty of dedicated fans who will take any kind of racing they can get.

It was easy to feel the enthusiasm as the field for the first race made the walk to the gate.

With track announcer Frank Mirahmadi's call of three minutes to post, the conversations throughout the stands turned to loud cheers. Usually, when a race begins, you can hear the gates open, but that was not the case for the meet's opener. Instead, the roar from the crowd filled the air. The fans, made up of people of all ages sitting anywhere from the 1863 Club way to the corners of the backyard, were eager to get the meet underway. The 40 days of fun, excitement, competition, betting and horses were finally here.



The field for the first race of the 2024 summer season at Saratoga leaves the gate Thursday. Winner Empty Tomb (white blinkers) leaves from post seven.

• It's always exciting to be the leading trainer at Saratoga. While the winner of the first race of the meet doesn't often end up on top of the standings by the end, it's still a thrill to know that the meet is off to a great start. That's exactly how Robert Falcone Jr. felt after winning Thursday's first race with Empty Tomb.

"It's a great feeling," he said. "Everyone loves being up here. We look forward to coming up here. This year, we did things a little bit differently, we

came up here a little bit earlier. We have been here for almost two months since when they opened. So, I kind of aimed for the meet which usually I don't do. Usually, I try to reserve my horses sort of for the meet, because I don't want to lose them all in the claim box, but just did things a little bit differently this year. I think getting up here early was a big help and it feels great."

Empty Tomb, an 8-year-old son of Speightstown, led every step under Jaime Torres in the \$20,000 claiming event going 9 furlongs, the typical distance for the meet's opening race to put the starting gate in front of the crowd. Setting comfortable fractions of :24.43 and :48.91, Empty Tomb held off all challengers and widened his gap to 1 3/4 lengths at the wire. The winner for owner John Gros-Dave Harmon si's Racing Corp. covered the distance in

1:50.84.

"Before the race I was talking with Rob and the plan was to go to the lead," Torres said. "That horse, I rode him before and it seems like he likes being on the lead. When he is on the lead he is more confident. So that is what we did. We got a good post – number seven – got a little speed on the outside. Everything worked out good. Obviously you have to have the horse and today we did. I just grabbed the mane and let him do his thing."

Empty Tomb, who has won at least one race every year since 2019, came off a near year-long layoff in May, but ran a disappointing 10th on Kentucky Oaks Day at Churchill Downs in his return. Falcone attributes that performance to the sloppy track and the massive crowd. But on Thursday, the track was fast and the crowd was not nearly as packed as it was on Oaks Day. The conditions were ideal for Empty Tomb, and he took advantage.

"I think with him, as he gets older, he may not really favor a sloppy track," Falcone said. "We shipped to Churchill a few days before, it was a big day. Crowd kind of got him amped up and usually it is a pretty big crowd here, too, but compared to Kentucky Oaks day over there at Churchill it's not even comparable."

Falcone, especially after noting that the past couple of seasons at Saratoga hadn't always gone his way, was relieved to get the first win out of the way.

"Hopefully win a handful of races," he said of his goals. "I don't have the greatest stock in the

Continued on Page 41



Punch The Clock rolls to victory in Thursday's third race.



#### Continued from page 40

world to be up for every race. Even this race is tough and it's a \$20,000 claimer. Hopefully we can win a handful more, that would be great. We'll see how it goes."

Torres echoed Falcone.

"I remember last year I rode in the first race, too, in the meet," Torres said. "I got third. So I got the little taste and I was like 'Whoa, how's it going to feel like winning the first race?' and today we made it, so we're very, very happy."

- Alec DiConza

• Linda Rice won the opener in 2023, along with the last race of the season (and more in between) to finish atop the trainers' standings with Chad Brown.

She didn't have a runner in the first race this year, but didn't wait long as Amanda's Folly won the second, an off-the-turf allowance-optional going 10 furlongs.

"It's such a tough meet to win races, and I've been fortunate enough to get to the top twice here at Saratoga, which is quite an accomplishment," Rice said of her two training titles at the Spa. "I don't expect every year to be that good. Last year we set the bar high for my stable. I'm just hoping

that by the end of the meet we're happy with how it goes."

Amanda's Folly, the 3-5 favorite in the three-horse field, sat off the pace set by the Sweetest Princess. She pulled alongside that rival at the quarter pole and edged clear under Iose Ortiz.

"Jose has ridden her before," said Rice, also the winning owner. "He's won a couple races on her. He knows her well. She's a filly that really has a lot of endurance, so I think that Jose rode her perfectly and she was the right horse for the distance."

Ortiz, who recently tied for the riding title at Churchill Downs, returned to Saratoga after switching his tack full time to Kentucky. He's happy to be back and anxious for more wins.

"Hopefully we can keep winning races," he said. "It looks good. Like I said before, I went to Kentucky, obviously I'm going to lose some business, but hopefully you get back rolling. You know, you've got to keep winning and when you win they start to notice and you get a lot of horses back. I just have to start winning."

- Julia Reedy and Alec DiConza

• Merrylegs Farm's Penny Hallman felt some déjà vu as the owner and breeder of a winner on Opening Day for the second consecutive year.

"I thought she would run well,"

Continued on Page 42



Sunday GIrl wins Thursday's seventh for trainer Dave Duggan.





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## Thursday -

#### Continued from page 41

Hallman said after Punch The Clock won the third. "She was at the right level."

Last year, Yarrow won an allowance-optional on Opening Day. He finished fourth in Friday's fourth. Thursday, Hallman's eyes were on her 3-year-old Tapiture filly, who broke her maiden at first asking for trainer Ray Handal and jockey Dylan Davis.

"I was pretty optimistic coming into it," Handal said. "She has been pretty forward and precocious in the morning. She's fast from the gate, so, yeah, I thought she'd run well."

Yarrow won for Merrylegs and trainer Christophe Clement in 2023. Handal is hopeful for some more Opening-Day luck down the road.

"We got to make it an omen," Handal said. "I'm happy to do it again next year."

- Fin Maroney

• Trainer Mark Casse was disappointed when he heard that the day's turf races would be moved to the main track, but that didn't slow down Run For the Hills. Gary Barber's 5-year-old Runhappy mare won the fourth race despite her inexperience on dirt.

"I went back to look at her pedigree, reviewed all her works and I was like, 'We're going to give it a try,' " Casse said. "And it worked."

Run For The Hills finished fifth in the Grade 2 Intercontinental Stakes on the grass last time at Saratoga June 7. She'd run in six straight turf races prior to Thursday.

"I find the synthetic, the Tapeta, is much kinder to them, and that's kind of brought her to where she is today," Casse said of the surface at Woodbine Race Course where much of his stable is based. "If we had started her career on dirt, you probably wouldn't be seeing her running right now."

#### - Julia Reedy

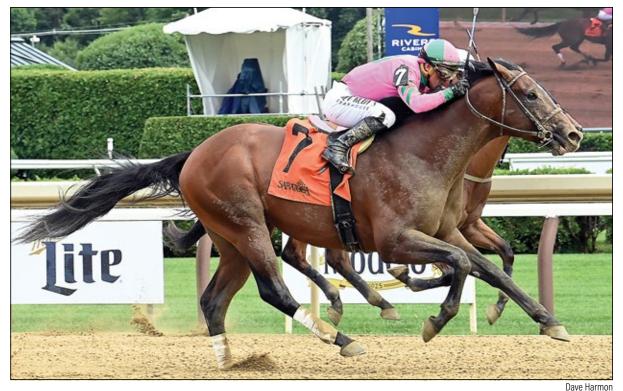
• Brown Eyed Cat may not have gotten the start trainer Bruce Levine wanted, but his closing kick down the stretch to win the fifth, a maiden special weight for New York-bred 3-year-olds going 6 furlongs, gave Levine quite the thrill.

"Unbelievable," he said. "Going down the backside, I gave him no shot. Even turning for home, he was so far out of it. Then he just kicked in."

Brown Eyed Cat had the slowest break in the field, faded so far back that he was still off the screen by the time the leaders reached the quarter pole, shifted outside of the pack that was still well ahead of him, and just mowed them all down in time to reach the wire a length to the good of Call Bob.

"Nothing better," Levine said of getting an early win. "Get the monkey off your back early. Enjoy the meet."

Thursday was the first time Brown Eyed Cat ran in a race, but the debut for the 3-year-old son of



Dave Harmo

Big Brown couldn't have been much more impressive. Levine noted that he was confident in the colt's abilities, and the public was as well, sending AngieV Stable's first-time starter off as the 5-2 second choice.

Brown Eyed Cat gets up in time to win Thursday's fifth for trainer Bruce Levine.

"He always trained good," he said. "I know he was going to be green and he wasn't the best out of the gate, but I knew he could run."

• Strong State gave it a good try in her first race, finishing second in a maiden race at Churchill, but the experience gave her the necessary edge over her competition in Thursday's sixth to get the victory for trainer Al Stall.

"She trained really well, very smart about everything," Stall said. "The first time, she just missed the break a hair and the winner took her spot, which is OK. That's fair. She just did a few things. Ran like a snake a little bit. But all we did was lead her over here one more time and Mother Nature took care of all that. She was very sharp."

Off as the even-money favorite for owner Highlander Training Center, Strong State broke fast from the rail and attended the pace with Teca and longshot Selectively Sweet. After fighting off them the top of the stretch, she was not given any sort of breather as Will Not Be Swayed loomed large. Strong State and jockey Irad Ortiz Jr. held off one more rival to get to the wire first by a neck. Teca was 14 lengths back in third.

"It's fun, I think we've done that once before years and years ago," Stall said of winning on Opening Day. "It's exciting. You come up here and nothing like getting started on the right foot. We're happy. Couldn't be more happy with the sire of this filly and the way she ran. We love her so much. She's so smart and easy to deal with and does everything right at all times, so we're happy."

Stall trained the winner's sire Tom's d'Etat, who won a Grade 1, earned \$1.7 million and won three times at Saratoga.

#### - Alec DiConza

• Trainer Dave Duggan got his meet off to a quick start in Thursday's seventh, a 5 1/2-furlong New York-bred allowance for fillies and mares, when Sunday Girl outlasted the early pacesetters and held off the late closers to get her third win under Flavien Prat.

"Pretty good," Duggan said about how he felt after the victory. "With this one, obviously we were just taking a step backwards. But we have a couple more, nothing spectacular, but bread-and-butter type horses."

Breaking well from post 10, Sunday Girl sat just to the outside of Concerti and Queens Dancer before striking the lead near the top of the lane. The 3-year-old daughter of Central Banker just had to hold off Weekend Rags to secure her victory, and did just that with 1 1/2 lengths to spare.

For Mitre Box Stable, Clear Stars Stable, and Eighth Note Stable, Sunday Girl rebounded after a disappointing seventh in the Bouwerie Stakes during the Belmont Stakes Racing Festival at Saratoga last month. Duggan believes the drop to allowance company and the switch from 7 to 6 furlongs made all the difference on Thursday.

"Class and distance, simple," he said.

• While most people feared the potential thunderstorms forecasted for Wednesday, Anthony



Quartarolo was "praying for rain." The trainer's prayers were answered as the Opening Day races were off the turf and his main-track-only entry Crushed Ice drew into the eighth.

"I'm going to put her main track; I loved the spot," Quartarolo said. "I thought with a good trip, with a little luck, I didn't think she could lose."

She didn't. Ridden by Julien Leparoux, the 4-year-old filly came from mid-pack to win the 1-mile starter optional by 3 lengths for Quartarolo and his daughter/co-owner Ashley.

"I just love doing this with my dad," Ashley said about winning with her father and co-owner.

#### - Fin Maroney

• Phil Bauer has had a productive last few Saratoga seasons, winning five races last year and six in 2022. This year, perhaps as a sign of another strong showing by the Kentucky-based trainer, his first entrant Warrior Johny ran one of the best races of his career in winning the ninth, a 9-furlong allowance for older males on the main track.

"One, I like to bring horses up here with good conditions, but a horse like this, you either run him and try to wait on a race at Ellis Park or you bring him up here where maybe you can swing an MTO or at least get this race to fill," Bauer said. "It's really just who is doing well."

And Warrior Johny is doing well. Entering from a couple of solid thirds in allowances at Churchill Downs for Rigney Racing, the 5-year-old gelding by Cairo Prince got off to a little bit of a rough start after some bumping at the break caused him to settle near the back of the field in the early stages. There was no panic in jockey Joel Rosario, though. He staved on the rail, moved up on the backstretch to fourth heading into the far turn and found a seam at the three-sixteenths pole. Quickly, he opened a gap on his competition and ran away to score by 4 lengths in 1:47.87 against a classy field that included stakes horses Salute The Stars, Film Star, Blazing Sevens, Artorius and Rocket Can.

Bauer thought perhaps Warrior Johny was a bit of an underdog, but was more than happy at the result.

"He ran super," Bauer said. "I think the key to the horse is just to kind of let him keep in a big rhythm, gallop mode. Joel kind of made sure of that going up the backside when he had a chance to just let him stretch. I think if you can lay him close turning for home it increases his chances of getting there. But the way he powered away today, I didn't expect that. He loves it here. Probably the two best races on his form are here including this one. I thought this race today was just jam-packed talent. Very, very happy he could get the win, but certainly didn't expect it."

Bauer will think graded stakes next for Warrior Johny, perhaps as soon as the Whitney Aug. 3 or the Jockey Club Gold Cup Sept. 1.

"He's got to go that route now," Bauer said of running Warrior Johny in graded stakes. "We're completely out of conditions, so we'll see how we bounce out of it and what options are around here. I'd like to keep him here the rest of the meet. It's just the greatest place for a horse and I just haven't even thought that far."

- Alec DiConza and Julia Reedv





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# Home Run

The bay horse stared out the back window of his stall on a hot, muggy afternoon. If he wondered where he was, he didn't act like it. His mid-July view - for the first time in seven years - featured birdhouses instead of walking rings, trees instead of tractors, deer (if they happened by) instead of golf carts, perhaps a lost mountain biker who missed the turn for the Red Trail.

Casa Creed is no longer a racehorse.

Retired after a fourth in the Poker Stakes last month, he took his first steps toward a stallion career from a stall at Bruce Jackson's Frensham in Fair Hill, Md. The previous day, he met a group of visiting Maryland state senators and delegates at Jackson's Fair Hill Equine Therapy Center but was at the farm for some turnout time - small round pen, bigger round pen, paddock - enjoy some saltwater spa treatments to treat a hind suspensory and be ready for inspection by stallion farms.

Future stallion or not, give Casa Creed his due. The 8-year-old started 36 times, winning nine races and placing in 11 others while earning \$2,691,308 for owners Lee Einsidler and Mike Francesa and trainer Bill Mott.

Along the way, he raced at Saratoga Race Course for seven consecutive years.

• 2018: Sixth in his debut on the dirt, he graduated six days later in an off-the-turf race. Einsidler still laughs about it. "Bill entered him back on six days' rest MTO. The entry shocked me because that's not normally Bill Mott. Sure enough, the rains came and it came off the grass. Bill gave Junior Alvarado a leg up in the paddock and said, 'Junior, it's show time.' " Einsidler called his son Jeffrey and said, 'We're

about to win a race at Saratoga.' Then they did. • 2019: A turf horse by then, he won the Nation-

al Museum of Racing Hall of Fame Stakes. • 2020: He finished third in the Grade 1 Fourstar-

dave.

• 2021: Fourstardave again, another third.



• 2022: Another Fourstardave, this time a win as he rallied from last of five and scored going away.

• 2023: Two starts this time, both wins and both thrillers against Annapolis. In the Grade 3 Kelso, Casa Creed got first run and made it stand up by a length. The rematch, in the Fourstardave, was even better. Annapolis got the jump this time and led in deep stretch until Casa Creed unwound his long stride to get up late by three-quarters of a length.

• 2024: One more time. Because of construction at Belmont Park, the Poker shifted to Saratoga. Casa Creed settled for fourth in what ended up the final start of his career.

"If he was a younger horse, you would give him time and bring him back," said Einsidler. "He's earned the right to retire. We're hoping to have a stallion deal for him. Nothing's confirmed, but we are talking to some people. He's 8 years of age, he's done enough. He's got a ligament we've been nursing for a few years and it's time for him to move on."

Einsidler will miss him.

"He's meant so much to me, my family, my friends, he's meant a lot to the people at Saratoga," he said. "When he won the Fourstardave last year, people were standing up and cheering. I hope one on the head and turned toward that back window. day NYRA considers naming a race after him."

Me too.

Those Fourstardave wins should help. That Saratoga legend started at the track for nine consecutive years - winning in the first eight - and ultimately the track renamed the Daryl's Joy Stakes (which Fourstardave won twice in five tries) and even named a bar in his honor. Casa Creed isn't about to usurp the "Sultan of Saratoga," but is the kind of horse people name races after.

Beyond Saratoga, he won the Grade 1 Jaipur at Belmont twice, made three Breeders' Cup starts and competed in the Middle East four times.

"He had the will to win, he had the heart of a champion," Einsidler said. "Look at the replay of his Fourstardave last year, he had every reason not to win. Annapolis got the jump on him, Annapolis got the better trip, we were a number of lengths behind. He loved being a racehorse and he loved to win. And when he won, he knew it. You could see he was so proud of himself."

His people were just as proud. On the advice of trainer Kenny McPeek, Einsidler paid \$105,000 for Casa Creed at Keeneland September in 2017. The son of Jimmy Creed paid it back on the racetrack and beyond.

"A big part of life is making great memories and some of the greatest memories I've had in my life are because of Casa Creed," Einsidler said. "Watching him, celebrating him with my friends and family, sitting outside at a restaurant somewhere in Saratoga... . all because of a horse. I'll think about sitting outside a great restaurant in Saratoga like Osteria Danny or Solevo after one of his wins. I always will."

Taking it easy in his temporary home Thursday, Casa Creed couldn't hear those words from his owner but graced two appreciative visitors with pricked ears and some attention at the door to his stall. He munched a handful of hay, shook off a pat

The view, and the rest of his life, beckoned.



THE SARATOGA SPECIAL

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024



Casa Creed and Luis Saez streak to victory in the 2023 Kelso at Saratoga Race Course. The 8-year-old was retired after seven consecutive years of racing at the Spa.

Tod Marks

# Saratoga Bulletin Board

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# **Crash Landing**

"I thought I was going to die."

Phil Bauer forced those seven words Friday morning when asked about a plane crash on Lizard Island off the northeast coast of Australia Jan. 8.

All 10 on the Cessna 208B Grand Caravan thought the same thing, felt the same thing, as the plane's engine over-torqued early in the flight.

Bauer was enjoying a rare vacation with his wife Ashley, owners Richard and Tammy Rigney, their daughter Madison, bloodstock agent John Moynihan, his wife Helena and a few other friends.

"Trip of a lifetime. Literally," Bauer said. "We knew something was awry. We were in the air maybe five or 10 minutes and the plane started registering that it was on fire. You can't slow the engine, it's like a runaway horse. The only way to stop it is cut the engine."

The pilot turned the plane around and aimed at the runway where they had just departed. Houses stood tall in front of the landing strip. Cut the engine too soon, hit the houses. Cut the engine too late, miss the runway. The pilot opted for the latter, knowing there was no way to stick any kind of from the crash. They found chairs near a walking landing.

"He couldn't get it down because we were going too fast. He had already cut the engine so he alive.' I don't know how to describe it, almost discouldn't take off again. We were running out of runway," Bauer said. "It wasn't panic until it was going to happen."

It happened.

The plane bounced three times on one wheel at the end of the runway and then careened into a 300yard stretch of sand and bushes between the runway and the ocean cliff. The nose of the plane gauged into the ground and the whole thing eventually flipped and shuddered to a an upside-down stop.

A 200 mile an hour plane crash.

necessarily know if your life flashes before your was literally sitting right behind him, and I walked eyes, kids flash. It's like, 'This isn't...this isn't... away without a scratch," Bauer said. "My knees



#### By Sean Clancy

we're not ready,' " Bauer said. "He really buried it in the sand and the nose finally caught and we flipped. That thing was built like an old Buick or something, she held together. You're like, 'What in the hell just happened?' People were yelling for each other, trying to get unbuckled. Luckily, they were the seatbelts that came across the shoulder. Started evacuating the plane, the pilot is yelling, 'Run away, it's going to blow up.' "

The pilot and passengers ran – staggered – away trail and began a triage unit.

"When everything stops, you're just like, 'We're belief. Everybody was crying. You muscle up some courage and you try to help people," Bauer said. "It was like you were on a movie set. One of people on there was a firefighter, a friend of the Rigneys, he was doctoring up Richard. We're sitting on these chairs. Richard's head is all wrapped in gauze. There's blood on your hands. John's arm is broken and we're just sitting there."

Everyone survived. Bumped, battered and a few breaks, they walked away.

"Richard took it the worst: a bush came through "Going in, you're like 'Well, this is it.' I don't the window and tore his head and his hands up. I

were really sore from banging together when we flipped and landed. My wife's chest and pec muscle still aren't right from the seatbelt whiplash. John broke his arm, I think it was a stress fracture. Richard had a fracture in his collarbone. Tammi had a big bump on her head. But overall, you talk about plane crashes, it was remarkable how we all walked away."

And back to work.

Three weeks after the crash, Tipsy Tammy broke her maiden at Fair Grounds. Two days later, Speedy Traveler took an allowance race at Fair Grounds. Halina's Forte won the Ruthless Stakes at Aqueduct Feb. 17. Buchu won the Grade 2 Appalachian in April. Legadima secured the Goldfinch Stakes at Prairie Meadows in May. Warrior Johny dominated a tough allowance race here Opening Day.

Off a career-best 33-win, \$3.9 million season in 2023, Rigney Racing is rolling with 13 wins and \$1.3 million this year. A rare private trainer in a world of super stables, Bauer is thankful for the opportunity.

"It's been the biggest blessing in my life," Bauer said.

Reminded of the plane crash, the 39-year-old switched his answer. Fast.

"Yeah, I would put that at the top," Bauer said. He tries not to think about it.

"When you go to places where you haven't seen people for a while, they ask you about it and it resurfaces," Bauer said. "For me, it's more the audio. I'm pretty sure I just closed my eyes and tried to tighten down. The noises that vou were hearing while it was going on, that's what sticks in my mind."

During this year's Derby, the passengers on that fateful flight got together, praised the pilot and celebrated being alive.

Yeah, it was that simple.

"We call it the Miracle Nine," Bauer said.





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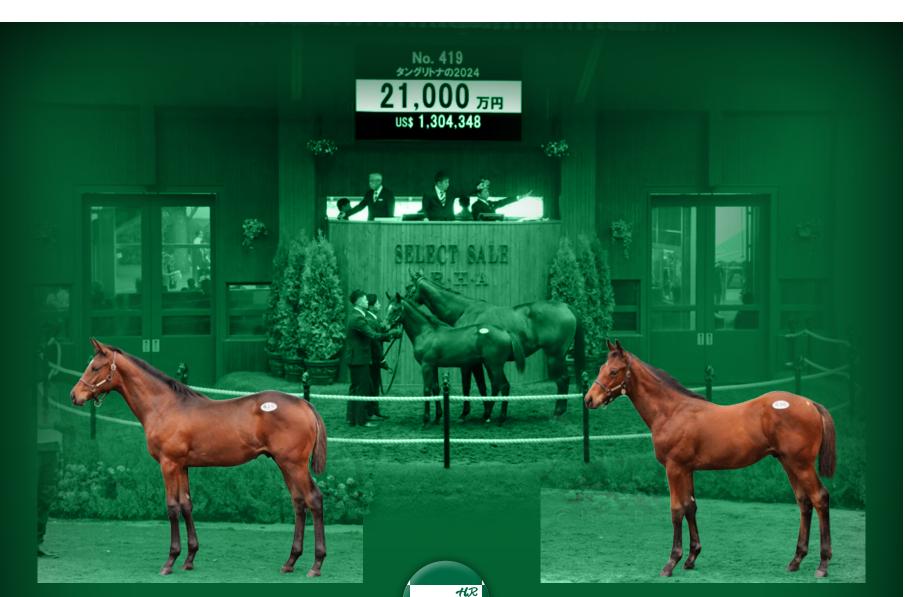






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