

Year 24 • No. 4

Saturday, July 20, 2024

The *Saratoga*

# Special

Saratoga's Racing Newspaper since 2001

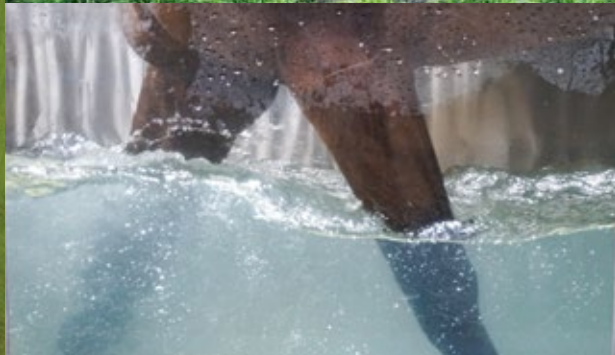


## On A Roll

Thorpedo Anna seeks fourth straight in CCA Oaks

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# Here&There...in Saratoga

Quips, Quotes, Names, Numbers & Notes found along the way

## Names of the Day

**What Me Worry, first race.** The 2-year-old filly – owned by Harold Lerner, AWC Stable, Nehoc Stable – is out of No Fault Of Mine.

**Wine Responsibly, fourth race.** Chester and Mary Broman's homebred 3-year-old is by Vino Rosso (Red Wine) out of Held Accountable.

**Reconcile, sixth race.** Shel Evans' homebred 3-year-old filly is by War Front out of Welcoming.

**Girls Weekend, sixth race.** Legion Racing's 3-year-old filly is by World Of Trouble out of Island Love Song.

**Andthwineris, ninth race.** Susan Moulton's homebred 4-year-old gelding is by Oscar Performance.

**De La Cruz, 12th race.** For Tom Law and all the Reds' fans out there.

## License Plates of the Day

3CROWN77, New York. AFRMED77, New York. GO4WAND, South Carolina. TAKITEAZ, New York. RIDRS-UP, Florida. S-TOGA, Virginia.

## Bumper Sticker of the Day

Don't Re-Elect Anyone.

## T-Shirt Slogans of the Day

Let Me Ask My Wife.

Dude, I'm right here (with a Bigfoot silhouette).

## Worth Repeating

"The trainer's life."

**Maggie Wolfendale Morley** about where her husband, trainer Tom Morley, was seconds after winning Thursday's Cab Calloway. He went to the racing office to claim Squints for Rainbow's End Racing Stable

"Yes, now I have to discuss with an owner how I spent \$50,000 of his money."

**Tom Morley**

"I like reading the 'What they said' and stuff."

**Retired Little League coach Eric Dudzinski,** proving he's a reader, back home in Maryland

"I need a tranquilizer."

**National Steeplechase Association director of racing Bill Gallo,** after the A.P. Smithwick was rained off Wednesday



Samantha Decker

**Jersey Guy.** Belmont Stakes runner-up Mindframe (Carlos Quevedo) trains at Saratoga this week in advance of a start in today's Grade 1 Haskell at Monmouth Park in New Jersey.

"Whatever Tommy says, make sure you listen. He's the best."

**Jockeys' agent Jason Beides, to a group of Saratoga Special writers listening to Tom Law Thursday morning**

"Let's make good choices."

**Trainer Cherie DeVaux aboard a rookie lead pony Thursday morning near the starting gate**

"I'm worth a lot."

**Hall of Fame jockey John Velazquez after a golf cart in reverse came close to his valuable legs Thursday morning**

"Went to three Dead and Company shows at the Sphere this summer. I am now a fan of Arch Kingsley."

**Longtime reader Larry Kerr after reading about the trainer's concert jaunt**

"Saratoga in the summer is probably the best meet. There are a lot of good horses and you ride with a great colony of riders and I have the opportunity of riding for great connections, so yeah, I was at the point where I thought it was a good thing to do. And here we are."

**Jockey Flavien Prat when asked about coming east.**

"I only won one race last summer and that was Taking Candy. We had a great summer, but the weather, everything was not in our favor. It can be a spiral."

**Trainer Cherie DeVaux, during the Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour (she's won three this year)**

"These are the 'Saratoga's souvenirs' that you bring home to all your friends."

**Trainer Kate Dalton with seven brand-new brooms ready to head south**

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

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

2024 Summer Editions: Wednesdays and Saturdays July 11-Aug. 31.

Plus Opening Day July 11 & Sales Week Daily Aug. 2-7.

All editions in print and online.

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# Here&There...in Saratoga

Quips, Quotes, Names, Numbers & Notes found along the way

## Worth Repeating

"I'm not a gambler, but I think she's a good bet today."

**Owner Joel Politi, several hours before  
Topsy Runner won Thursday's third race**

"The Special coming to Colonial?"

**Fan at Colonial Downs when seeing Sean Clancy Thursday afternoon**

"Instead of Chad Brown, Chad Brown, Chad Brown, it's going to be Amoss, Amoss, Amoss."

**Owner Greg Tramontin, about his goal of Tom Amoss  
trainees making up the entire field of the Spinaway Stakes**

"He's been all dressed up twice, with nowhere to go."

**Trainer Todd Pletcher,  
about former trainee Abaan (and rained-out steeplechase races)**

## By The Numbers

**15:** Paddock schoolers on the way through Clare Court at 10:30 Wednesday morning.

**17:** Wood blocks (4x4's mostly) leveling the camera platform at the Capital OTB set on the backside.

**24/7:** Hours listed on the Beau Lane Bloodstock website.

**1:** Guy carrying an upright bass down East Avenue Thursday evening.

**1:** Julius Erving T-shirt in the barn area Friday morning.

**52:** Consecutive years Tim Jones has been to Saratoga Springs in the summer for racing (even in 2020).

**33.8:** Percentage of winning favorites at the meet, through Friday.

## Happy Anniversary

Old Friends Thoroughbred retirement farm resident Lubash won the Cab Callo-way division of the New York Stallion Stakes (Thursday's feature) in 2010. Another Old Friend, V. E. Day won the Curlin (Friday's feature) in 2014.

## Congratulations

The team of Turf writers Tim Wilkin and Mike Kane, along with Jim Melia and Niel Tebbano took home top honors – again – at Tuesday's ThoroFan Trivia Night at the National Museum of Racing.



Samantha Decker

Dog Day Morning. Erma Scott takes Winston for a walk, we mean drive.

## Happy Birthday 'Sunny Jim'

A celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birthdate of legendary Hall of Fame trainer James "Sunny Jim" Fitzsimmons will be included in today's Saturday Morning Social from 9-11 a.m. at the National Museum of Racing.

The event, sponsored by the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and New York Thoroughbred Breeders, features complementary coffee, donuts and water, a demonstration by the Saratoga Clay Arts group, handicapping seminar with Tom Amello and the showing of the documentary film Mill Reef: A Legacy of Heart.

Various Fitzsimmons family members are among the speakers, and a curated selection of Sunny Jim trophies and artifacts will be on display. Today's sixth race will also be run as the "Sunny Jim" Fitzsimmons Memorial.

## The Chief

The Special enjoyed a long relationship with Hall of Fame trainer H. Allen Jerkens, who filled notebooks and recorders with wisdom, stories, laughs, advice, questions and more. Here's another gem from "The Chief."

"Kelly Kip should have been champion, look what he did. If you want to be champion, you have to go after it, that's what you're supposed to do, I guess. There are a lot of good horses that weren't champions. Kelly Kip and Duck Dance, look what they did. Kelly Kip won the big race on Wood Memorial Day, the big race at Finger Lakes, the big race on Mass Handicap Day in Boston and he won the big race in Maryland, The De Francis. He won all those races and they gave it to the horse who win the Breeders' Cup. Which, I mean, maybe he deserved it. We didn't go to the Breeders' Cup because his ankle was getting to bothering him."

– **Trainer Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015**



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# Here&There...in Saratoga

Quips, Quotes, Names, Numbers & Notes found along the way

## Vote for Retired Racehorse of the Year

Voting for the first Down Broadway Retired Racehorse of the Year Award opened Wednesday. The presentation of the Down Broadway Award, named for the first horse to retire through the TAKE THE LEAD Program back in 2013, will highlight New York Thoroughbred Aftercare Day Aug. 15 at Saratoga Race Course.

The New York Racing Association, New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and New York Thoroughbred Breeders will host the fourth annual aftercare day, which showcases retired racehorses demonstrating the skills they've learned in second careers, and interviews with New York's aftercare community.

The \$125,000 Rick Violette Stakes, named for the late trainer and former NYTHA president who spearheaded the TAKE2 Second Career Thoroughbred Program and TAKE THE LEAD Retirement Program, will anchor the racing card.

Seven retired Thoroughbreds have been nominated by the organizations who participate in Aftercare Day – Fortunate Storm (Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation), Kid Blast (Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga), My Boy Tate (ReRun Inc.), Nucks (Second Chance Thoroughbreds), Ring Of Fire (Lucky Orphans), Traffic Chief (ACTT Naturally), Zuzudini (New Vocations).

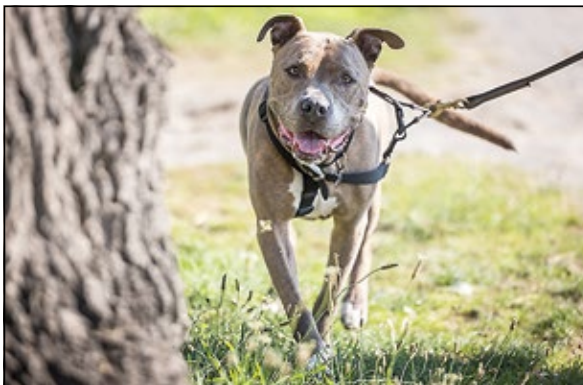
The winner of the Down Broadway Award will be decided by a fan vote, with the voting through Aug. 8. Wristbands for each nominee will be given away on Aftercare Day so that fans can show their support, and the presentation of the award will be made in the Saratoga winner's circle after the first race that day.

To vote, see [take2tbreds.com](http://take2tbreds.com).

## Churchill Downs rescinds Baffert suspension

Churchill Downs Inc. rescinded the suspension of Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert from racetracks it owns and operates, effective immediately.

"We are satisfied that Mr. Baffert has taken responsibility for his actions, completed a substantial penalty and is committed to running in full compliance with the rules and regulations going forward," Churchill Downs Chief Executive



Samantha Decker

## On Guard. Taz the dog keeps an eye on things – all things – on the backstretch.

Officer Bill Carstanjen said. "All parties agree that it is time to bring this chapter to a close and focus on the future. Mr. Baffert is welcome to return to any of CDI's racetracks, including our flagship Churchill Downs Racetrack, and we wish him and his connections good luck in their future competitive endeavors."

The suspension, which stemmed from Medina Spirit's failed drug test after the 2021 Kentucky Derby, prohibited Baffert from competing in the last three editions of the Derby. The two sides were involved in several legal disputes after the suspension was handed down.

Churchill's decision to end the suspension came after a conciliatory statement released by Baffert Friday.

"I accept responsibility for Medina Spirit's positive test in the 2021 Kentucky Derby," Baffert said. "I am responsible for any substance found in the horses that I train, and I have paid a very steep price with a three-year suspension and the

disqualification of Medina Spirit's performance. I understand and appreciate that Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission took steps to enforce the rules that they believed were necessary to protect the safety and integrity of horse racing and the reputation of the Kentucky Derby. My family and I want to put this behind us and get back to doing what we love to do without anymore distraction or negativity. I very much look forward to returning to Churchill Downs and getting back to the winner's circle."

## Keeneland to host pre-Breeders' Cup sale

Keeneland will conduct the inaugural Keeneland Championship Sale, an opportunity for owners to acquire top racehorses and breeding stock, Wednesday, Oct. 30, in the paddock at Del Mar two days before the 2024 Breeders' Cup World Championships. The sale will be conducted by Keeneland's sales team and curated in conjunction with Thoroughbred owners.

Participation in the Keeneland Championship Sale is by invitation; buyers and sellers will be contacted individually by Keeneland sales representatives. Interested parties can visit [championship.keeneland.com](http://championship.keeneland.com) for information.

"The Keeneland Championship Sale is an opportunity to play at the highest levels of the sport," Keeneland President and Chief Executive Officer Shannon Arvin said. "Prospective owners have the chance to enjoy the ride of a lifetime, potentially taking a horse from the sales ring to the Breeders' Cup winner's circle and possibly back to the sales ring, all in less than a week. That's a rare thrill only horse racing can provide."

Capitalizing on the atmosphere surrounding the Breeders' Cup, sale participants will enjoy an exclusive party from the picturesque Del Mar Paddock. This event, part of the Breeders' Cup official event calendar, will feature handcrafted cocktails, culinary offerings, live music and other surprises.

The catalog will feature horses entered in the Breeders' Cup or undercard races (full sale or fractional ownership interest), bloodstock closely related to contenders in the World Championships, stallion shares and breeding rights.

**SARATOGA**

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## With Phil Bauer

Phil Bauer volunteered Fireball Shot, a maiden with more than \$100,000 in earnings at the time, as his horse way back in 2018. Joining perennial little guys Robbie Davis, Kerry Metivier and Eddie Barker in the Little Guys' Stable Tour, the Kentucky-based trainer had just wrapped up a 0-for-12 record at Saratoga. Fireball Shot had finished second and fourth.

Those days are long gone.

Training privately for Richard and Tammy Rigney's Rigney Racing, Bauer comes off his best season to date, winning 33 races and \$3,924,319 in purses, the eighth consecutive season of growth. With 14 horses here and another 20 at Churchill Downs, Bauer and Rigney Racing are primed to continue the growth trend.

"Early on, it was a struggle but now that we've kind of hit our stride and reached this level, it's a lot of fun. We didn't have the stock," Bauer said. "They hired John Moynihan to pick our horses and it's made a world of difference. They all can't be graded stakes horses but for the most part, they're all athletes and have some type of ability. It's much easier. Very seldom are we making excuses for horses breezing bad, they're all talented athletes."

Last year, Played Hard earned the first Grade 1 stakes win for Bauer when the daughter of Into Mischief captured the La Troienne at Churchill Downs.

"Now, the next two or three years will be big for them with the breeding program," Bauer said. "Those nice race mares have retired and gone home, Played Hard is in foal to Gun Runner. Sk-



Samantha Decker

**Romain Techer and a Tapwrit colt out of Putthebabiesdown return from the track.**



Samantha Decker

**Buchu (with groom Roberto Ambriz) gets ready to train at Phil Bauer's barn.**

ratch Kat is in foal to Into Mischief. We've got a lot of sire power and really good mares. If they throw anything like them, it will be a lot of fun."

The Special's Sean Clancy walked Bauer's scalene-triangle enclave near the maintenance sheds on the Oklahoma side last weekend.

**Violence/Hoppa 2022.** Unnamed and unraced, the 2-year-old half-sister to Grade 1 Arkansas Derby winner Muth is one of four juveniles to make the trip from Churchill Downs to Saratoga this summer. "She's done everything right, well enough that we put her on the van with intentions of running her up here. She'll have a breeze, probably a gate breeze the following week and then we'll see where we're at. We still have some good ones at home. We struggled with stall space this spring, so the babies had to wait a little longer, we brought them in after the Derby. Maybe we're a few weeks behind where we usually are but it's all in good time with 2-year-olds. They'll make you hurry up and wait anyway."

**Princess Madison:** Three-year-old daughter of Speightstown rolled into Saratoga fresh off a maiden win at Churchill Downs and won again in the eighth race Friday. "We ran her first out at Keeneland, we led her over there thinking there was no way she could lose and encountered a hellacious trip. Ran back in the slop on Oaks Day and disappointed again. She was really impressive in her third start, put things together. She's doing well for us. Her dam is by Old Topper, stuff you really don't see but she's got a ton of ability."

**Two Sharp.** The \$925,000 daughter of Twirling Candy finished second in her first start at Churchill Downs June 29. "She kind of fooled me a bit, the good ones do sometimes as far as how fit they are. She hit a wall at about the eighth

pole. She missed the gate, loomed up and just ran out of training. No fault to her. Sharpen her up at the gate, make sure we are a little cleaner leaving there next time. She's got a ton of ability. She should run the first part of the next book in a maiden special."

**Angkor.** Gelded son of Anchor Down has won four times and earned \$480,195 since winning his debut in 2020. "The old man of the group. He's 6 years old and he's never been better. He had two really good races at Churchill this spring and a troubled trip in between. I'm not sure if we are going to swing for the Grade 1 up here but we'll see how it turns out. He's a cool horse to have around. He's a peppermint snob but we just don't have any. He's a nervous nellie. It's to a point where you think he's running his race in the paddock but then he goes out there. We found that (cotton in his ears) just mellows him out a bit. He's 6 years old, I don't think we're going to change him. As long as he keeps running 90 Beyers, we're all right."

**Ghostzapper/Romantic Intention 2022.** Another unnamed 2-year-old (that's a trend), the \$330,000 yearling booked his own ticket to Saratoga. "He's still a big kid but he just does everything so easy. Beautiful stride to him, he's a smaller made horse but he's very elastic. Every time you watch him gallop, he puts a smile on your face. We haven't squeezed him too hard but he's very willing to do more. He was a hair behind, he came in on the second load but he's done everything so well, he's pushed into the first group. We bought him as a yearling, went to see him a few times and were like, 'Man, he's not growing.' That's at the end of the shank. Put him under tack and forget it."

*Continued on Page 10*



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# Stable Tour -

■ Continued from page 8

**Vekoma/Female Drama 2022 colt.** Purchased as a weanling for \$290,000 the dark bay colt is a half-brother to stakes-placed Startdfromdabottom. "This horse has a stride on him from here to the end of the road over there. Very natural. Ohio-bred. Mr. Rigney and John Moynihan bought him as a weanling. John actually bought us three Vekoma weanlings and he was right."

**Warrior Johnny.** Son of Cairo Prince earned his fourth career victory Opening Day with an inside rally in a tough three-other-than allowance. He also won here in 2022, but faded to seventh in last year's Jockey Club Gold Cup. "This is big Warrior Johnny. He ran a monster race. We were excited to bring him here off his last two efforts at Churchill but when you run against a cast like that, you just hope he'll run well. I don't know if it will be one of those races where they say it was a golden rail, but it doesn't matter. They gave him a decent number. We're out of conditions now, we'll see where we'll go now. His two best races are here. The Jockey Club, I still scratch my head about that, the way he was training going into it, but it didn't work out."

**Xigera.** One of the stars of the show. The daughter of Nyquist has racked up \$914,921 in a six-win, 13-start career. She finished last season with a bang, winning an overnight handicap, the Grade 2 Mother Goose and the Grade 3 Falls City Stakes. The 4-year-old filly finished fifth in the Grade 1 La Troienne, second in the Shawnee and fifth in the Grade 2 Fasig-Tipton Fleur de Lis. "It's been a very frustrating year for us. Kind of gives you a bad taste in your mouth about last year with Played Hard. We started hitting bad luck and speed bumps, but knock wood, we can get her back on track. That last race was an absolute boxing match. I talked to Mr. Rigney this morning, I think we're going to point for the Personal Ensign as long as everything goes well. The way she trains in the morning gives you every bit of confidence to try them. It's still, what, six weeks away, a lot can happen between now and then with the others. We shall see."



Samantha Decker

**Phil Bauer shows off stable star Xigera.**

**Buchu.** A two-time stakes winner, the daughter of Justify won the Grade 2 Jesamine last season and began 2024 with a win in the Grade 2 Appalachian. "She's been a blast. She was up here last year, too. She really put things together. I don't know what's next for her, she brings her race everywhere you go. She's got to get a little bit better, it's midway through our 3-year-old year. We need to get a little bit faster, but she'll be willing to try. She's going to have to, if she doesn't, she's a multiple Grade 2 winner. By the right stallion. She's awesome."

**Tony the Pony:** Lead pony of the stars grazed after morning chores. "We bought him off Tony Dutrow last year. He's a great pony."

**Speedy Traveler:** The daughter of First Samurai won her first three before finishing fifth in the Roxelana at Churchill Downs in April. "She reeled off three wins in a row this winter at Fair Grounds. We ran her in a stake opening weekend at Churchill and she was just a horse, you could tell, she just needed a breather. She worked (last Friday), we are going to enter her for next week, a 3X. She's a bull of a filly, big, strong thing. If she returns to the form she had early in the year, she'll be tough."

**Halina's Forte.** A \$250,000 graduate of the Fasig-Tipton July Sale, the daughter of Mitole won her debut in November, the Ruthless in February and another allowance in May. "She was just third in the Victory Ride. A really nice filly in her own right. She was stakes-placed at 2, won the Ruthless at Aqueduct and was third the other day. Building her resume, just have to find her a winning spot. It's hard to do. Maybe the Prioress. I'm not sure she's quite that level. She's pretty good but you get to the point where you're butting heads with really good ones."

**Mighty Madison.** The 4-year-old filly grazed on a patch of grass Friday morning. Two days later, she just missed against allowance foes when beaten a neck in Sunday's fourth race. "She's a filly who we struggled to get into a rhythm with over her career. Now, this is three races in a row. Sometimes you come up here and the race doesn't go, and you start spinning your wheels, but we are in a great rhythm with her. She ran a real good race last out to break her 1X so we'll try the 2X. She's a real sweet filly on the end of the shank, you put a bridle in her mouth and she's a bit of a bear."

**Arro Smash.** A winner here last summer, the 4-year-old gelding aims at his third career win in the eighth race today. "He's a little Arrogate gelding, he broke his maiden up here last year. He's a funny horse, he's such a sissy but he's very talented, 2X on the 20th, seven-eighths, should hit him right in between the eyes. We bought him and he was this size and he never grew. He's got such an efficient stride, no wasted energy. Hope the race goes, he's in a great rhythm."

**Tapwrit/Putthebabiesdown 2022.** "Put the babies down. It was the first sentence Mr. Rigney's son said when he was holding the twin girls. Homebred. The mare's last foal. She struggled the last couple of years, so they've since retired her, she's now a nurse mare down there at Denali. He's by Tapwrit, we'll see how good he is, he's done everything right and his mom was precocious. Hopefully he will be, too. His brother, One More Baby, won up here. He'll breeze and we'll get a gauge where we're at, they're all within the 30-day mark. They should all make the meet. We've been real selective with 2-year-olds here, Buchu last year, Xigera broke her maiden the year before. We haven't brought this many but it was one of those things where we had more this year, so we said let's go ahead and try."

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# On Target

Thorpedo Anna lines up for another defining score

BY TOM LAW

Thorpedo Anna stepped out of her stall about 20 minutes before sunrise Thursday morning, into the dark and humid air, right on time and right on schedule.

The sun wasn't up but activity in the Oklahoma Annex picked up considerably in those minutes before light poked through the tall trees around the eastern edges of Caroline Street and Fifth Avenue. Buckets clattered, hoses turned on and off to clean feed tubs and fill water buckets, Latin music played, crows crowed, birds chirped and the gentle clip-clop of the first hooves to hit the wash pad cut the early-morning peace.

Thorpedo Anna took a few turns of the walking circle in front of trainer Kenny McPeck's stalls in his usual spot, the same barn where she and Kentucky Derby winner Mystik



Samantha Decker

*Continued On Page 14* Thorpedo Anna is 1-2 on the morning line for today's Coaching Club American Oaks.

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*Above: John E. Ferneley Jr. (British, 1815-1862)  
A Sportsman with his Spaniels in a Landscape, c.1850 (detail)*

## CCA Oaks -

■ Continued from page 12

Dan resided before last month's Belmont Stakes Racing Festival. Mystik Dan returned to McPeek's base in Kentucky after the Belmont, the rigors of the Triple Crown taking their toll and the son of Goldencents earning a rest for a possible fall campaign.

Thorpedo Anna remains in Saratoga with the other members of McPeek's string and returns today in search of another major prize in the Grade 1 Coaching Club American Oaks. The daughter of Fast Anna owns successive wins in the Grade 2 Fantasy and Grade 1 Kentucky Oaks and Acorn Stakes. A win in today's 9-furlong CCA Oaks figures to lock up a championship that really might already be won.

One of five 3-year-old fillies in the field, along with Grade 1 winners Candied and Leslie's Rose from trainer Todd Pletcher's barn, Thorpedo Anna hasn't missed a beat since she arrived in May and goes as the 1-2 favorite on the morning line.

Thursday morning she blended in with the other early risers in the Annex. Regular exercise rider Danny Ramsey got a leg up at 5:17 and joined Elephants Ear and Django, who ran in Friday's Curlin Stakes, on their walk around McPeek's small office building. A few minutes after McPeek pulled up to start his day,

assistant Dermot Magner led Thorpedo Anna across Fifth Avenue before unsnapping his shank to let the filly walk along the short horse path into the main Oklahoma grounds. She strolled past a couple security guards manning the gate and by Shug McGaughey's barn before making a right down the longer horse path behind the backyards of the lucky residents on the south side of Fifth Avenue.

Thorpedo Anna, who will be ridden by regular partner Brian Hernandez Jr. today, stepped onto the track at 5:33, jogged the wrong way from the backstretch to a spot near the clocker's stand, stood for a few seconds and set off on her routine gallop. Thorpedo Anna started strong, giving the 73-year-old Ramsey her usual and forcing him to take a good hold as she passed McPeek, chatting on the outside rail with D. Wayne Lukas. A bit more relaxed and more focused the second time past, Thorpedo Anna pulled up on the backstretch, walked back to the gap and off where she went on by 5:45.

McPeek, with his now empty coffee mug in his left hand and cell phone in his right, followed his star filly back to the barn.

"She likes her routine," McPeek said of Thorpedo Anna, who always trains or breezes in the first set without deviation. She's done all her work on the Oklahoma since her 5 1/2-length domination of the June 7

*Continued on Page 16*



Candied gallops on the main track in advance of today's race.

Samantha Decker



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### IROQUOIS (GIII)

"Road to the Kentucky Derby Points Race"  
"Breeders' Cup Dirt Dozen"

Runs Saturday, September 14  
Closes August 28  
\$300,000  
Includes \$75,000 from KTDF  
Two-Year-Olds  
One Mile, Dirt

### POCAHONTAS (GIII)

"Road to the Kentucky Oaks Points Race"  
"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

### LOCUST GROVE (GII)

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

### LOUISVILLE THOROUGHBRED SOCIETY

Runs Saturday, September 14  
Closes August 28  
\$300,000  
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF  
Three-Year-Olds & Up  
Six Furlongs, Dirt

### OPEN MIND (Listed)

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

### SENECA OVERNIGHT STAKES (Listed)

Runs Saturday, September 21  
Closes September 4  
\$175,000  
Includes \$65,000 from KTDF  
Fillies, Three-Year-Olds  
One Mile and One Sixteenth, Dirt

### BOURBON TRAIL

Runs Saturday, September 21  
Closes September 4  
\$300,000  
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF  
Three-Year-Olds  
One Mile and Three Sixteenths, Dirt

### HARRODS CREEK

Runs Saturday, September 21  
Closes September 4  
\$300,000  
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF  
Three-Year-Olds  
Seven Furlongs, Dirt

### DOGWOOD (GIII)

Runs Saturday, September 21  
Closes September 4  
\$300,000  
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF  
Fillies, Three-Year-Olds  
Seven Furlongs, Dirt

### ACK ACK (GIII)

"Win and You're In Dirt Mile Division"

Runs Saturday, September 28  
Closes September 11  
\$400,000  
Includes \$100,000 from KTDF  
Three-Year-Olds & Up  
One Mile, Dirt

### LUKAS CLASSIC (GII)

Runs Saturday, September 28  
Closes September 11  
\$500,000  
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## CCA Oaks -

Continued from page 14

Acorn, breezing four times including a half-mile tightener in a bullet :47.66 under Ramsey July 6 and another strong 5 furlongs in 1:01.55 under Hernandez last Saturday.

McPeek called the last breeze, in company with Grade 3 Ohio Derby runner-up and Grade 2 Jim Dandy hopeful Gould's Gold, a "nice maintenance work."

"She's happy," McPeek said this week. "And she's a good doer, too. She eats up early, generally, and eats up well. Not all fillies are like that, and just goes to show you how sturdy she is."

Owned by Nader Alaali, Mark Edwards, Sherri McPeek's Magdalena Racing and her breeder Judy Hicks, Thorpedo Anna casts a long shadow in the CCA Oaks with five wins in six starts. Her lone defeat came in the Grade 2 Golden Rod when she got off to a slow start and endured a wide trip in her first attempt at a two-turn race.

McPeek is leery of the myriad scenarios that can pop up in a race – and at Saratoga, oh so well known for quirky outcomes in major stakes – and doesn't discount the other four runners.

"It's not an easy race," McPeek said. "There are some accomplished fillies in there and they don't hand those things out. Look, horses stumble, the pace might get funny, a jock misjudges, somebody steals it, anything. It's horse racing. There are no gimmes."

Pletcher conceded that trying to knock off Thorpedo Anna again – he tried unsuccessfully in the Kentucky Oaks and Acorn with Leslie's Rose – will be a "tall order, obviously" well before entries were drawn for the 108th renewal of one of America's most prestigious 3-year-old filly stakes.

He did so again after Candied, winner of the Grade 1

Darley Alcibiades and part of the also-eligible list for the Kentucky Oaks, drew the rail and Leslie's Rose, winner of the Grade 1 Ashland and 13th of 14 in the Kentucky Oaks on a wet track she hated and runner-up in the Acorn, drew post four.

"We need to move forward, and I think with both fillies we are in a position to do that," Pletcher said. "Sometimes strange things happen in Saratoga."

Candied won the Lady's Secret Stakes June 8 at Monmouth Park, a 4 1/2-length that more closely resembled her juvenile form that landed her victories in her debut in August at Saratoga, Alcibiades in October at Keeneland and a troubled but close third in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies.

Owned by Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, the daughter of Candy Ride is the 5-2 second choice for jockey Manny Franco.

Leslie's Rose, who picks up John Velazquez with regular rider Irad Ortiz Jr. at Monmouth Park to ride the Pletcher-trained Mindframe in the Grade 1 Haskell, is the 5-1 third choice for owner Whisper Hill Farm.

The other two figure to be longshots – Intricate, runner-up in the Monomoy Girl Stakes at Churchill Downs for trainer Brendan Walsh and jockey Tyler Gaffalione at 8-1; and Barbratina, winner of a 9-furlong allowance-optional last time and making her first start for trainer George Weaver and jockey Junior Alvarado at 20-1.

The CCA Oaks goes as the 11th of 12 races on today's card with post time set for 6:17 p.m.



Samantha Decker

Leslie's Rose looks to reverse a second to Thorpedo Anna in the Acorn.



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# Lawn Job

## Hernandez rolls into Saratoga with sights on another big one

BY SEAN CLANCY

Deck height. Dinner plans. To-do lists. Life's choices.

That's what most people think about while mowing grass.

For Brian Hernandez Jr., nah, none of those.

"You'll be riding around on the lawnmower and you're like, 'Wow, I really did win the Derby,'" Hernandez said back in June. "It's starting to sink in. It's fun."

Three weeks after winning the Kentucky Derby aboard Mystik Dan, Hernandez was still grappling with the fact that he had accomplished his childhood dream. Yeah, like every kid growing up in a horse-crazy family,

### CCA OAKS PREVIEW

Hernandez said he was going to win the Derby while growing up in Lafayette, Louisiana.

"It's a dream," he said.

None of the elementary-school Corderos dared to say they would win the Kentucky Oaks and Kentucky Derby on back-to-back days.

"I don't know if it's really real," Hernandez said.

Thorpedo Anna provided the first half of Hernandez's historic double, wiring 13 rivals. She started the year with a win in the Grade 2 Fantasy and

*Continued On Page 20*



Tod Marks

Thorpedo Anna and Brian Hernandez Jr. look to win another Grade 1 today.



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# Hernandez -

■ Continued from page 18

demolished seven rivals in the Grade 1 Acorn at the Belmont Stakes Festival at Saratoga June 7.

"She broke quick enough that we could get to the two, three path and she just got in her nice cruising speed. When I asked her to jump forward into the second turn to go after Just F Y I, she turned it on so quick I was like, 'Oh. OK. Now we're in good shape.' From there, she just showed her dominance," Hernandez said. "You come up here and win a Grade 1 again, it's something special. Everybody knows Saratoga, it's a special place, and it's nice to come up here and showcase these good horses like her."

The Acorn was so easy, some were questioning Hernandez's worth.

"One of our friends in the winner's circle, he was laughing, like, 'You really get paid for that?'" Hernandez said. "I said, 'Pretty easy. I got paid for size more than anything today.'"

Yeah, that's how dominant Thorpedo Anna has been in three starts this year. Trained by Kenny McPeck, the 3-year-old daughter of Fast Anna aims to make it four in a row in today's Coaching Club American Oaks.

With \$11,237,660 in earnings already this year, the 38-year-old jockey is closing in on his best season of \$12,386,357 in 2022.



Brian Hernandez Jr. and Mystik Dan.

## Hey, Brian Hernandez Jr., what do you think about coming to Saratoga for the meet?

"I first talked to Kenny about it after the Oaks and Derby and he said, 'Ah, you don't have to, you can stay in Kentucky.' We have so many 2-year-olds there, we can get them developed and have them ready for the fall. It's all up to him, whatever he wants me to do. I wouldn't mind it but at the same time we have the farm back at home and the kids. It would be hard to be away for eight weeks. At the same time, you would enjoy being here. At least they want you. There will be a day when they don't so take it while you can."

Asked if he's ever ridden better, Hernandez hesitated.

"No. Yeah. I'm sure I have," Hernandez said. "I'm just riding really good horses. That's what it all comes down to, that's the difference. You always go out there and try to give them the best trip possible but when you have good horses like this, it makes my job easier. It's just another testament to Kenny to stick with us. It's been eight years now. That's rare these days for a team to stick together like this. It's loyalty on both sides."

Loyalty makes everything easier. Hernandez is involved from the start, helping to develop and educate McPeck's 2-year-olds. And always playing the long game. With that experience and security, Hernandez can ride confidently, instinctively, knowing he's not getting second guessed or worse, jockeyed off.

"You know if you mess up one day, you don't have to worry about getting taken off the next time. I can go out there and ride them. I can come back and say, 'Kenny, I owe you one there, that wasn't the best trip I could have gave one,'" Hernandez said. "It helps to learn about the horses over time. Sometimes you ride a horse once or twice and you get taken off. Where if you ride them three or four times, each time you learn something different. It's a huge difference especially in these big races, you don't have that added pressure, 'oh, if I don't put them in this spot today, they're going to take me off.'"

Hernandez has ridden Mystik Dan in eight of nine starts over six tracks and Thorpedo Anna in each of her six starts over four tracks.

"We're not out there trying to win first time out or trying to put them in spots where you're not teaching them the right way," Hernandez said. "It's been a fun team effort. With all the help, between all the assistants, to be down in New Orleans with them, getting them ready, shipping to Oaklawn. When you're able to say, 'Hey, we kind of knew how this came along,' makes it that much more special."

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Jul 27	DMR	Bing Crosby Stakes	Sprint	California
Aug 3	DMR	Clement L. Hirsch Stakes	Distaff	California
Aug 3	SAR	The Whitney	Classic	New York
Aug 10	CNL	Beverly D. Stakes	Filly & Mare Turf	Virginia
Aug 10	SAR	The Fourstardave	Mile	New York
Aug 24	DMR	Pat O'Brien Stakes	Dirt Mile	California
Aug 24	SAR	The Ballerina	Filly & Mare Sprint	New York
Aug 24	SAR	The Resorts World Casino Sword Dancer	Turf	New York
Aug 31	DMR	FanDuel Racing Pacific Classic	Classic	California
Aug 31	DMR	Del Mar Handicap Presented By The JRA	Turf	California
Aug 31	DMR	Green Flash Handicap	Turf Sprint	California
Aug 31	SAR	The Flower Bowl	Filly & Mare Turf	New York
Sept 1	SAR	Jockey Club Gold Cup	Classic	New York
Sept 7	KD	The Kentucky Downs Turf Cup	Turf	Kentucky
Sept 7	KD	The Turf Sprint	Turf Sprint	Kentucky

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# Willkommen

## German-bred Gavea tackles graded company for Stall stable

BY FIN MARONEY

Al Stall Jr. has only trained two German-bred horses. The first, Dalika, won multiple graded stakes including the Grade 1 Beverly D while earning \$1.4 million. The second, Gavea, came to him at the end of last summer.

"They're hardy and very sound," Stall said about his two, and perhaps all German-breds. "They eat well all the time, and they are less of a headache to train. You don't have to deal with as many day-to-day issues."

Gavea, owned by Bal Mar Equine like Dalika, runs in today's Grade 3 Lake George Stakes for 3-year-old fillies on the turf. She's 15-1 on the morning line, but Stall is excited to see her run.

### LAKE GEORGE STAKES PREVIEW

"We ran her right off the plane in the September meet at Churchill," Stall said. "Ran a nice race, wasn't brilliant, but we made a little mistake trying to run her one more time instead of giving her time to acclimate to America."

While her first race in America might not have been a brilliant performance, she pulled out a win in first-level allowance company after winning her debut at Chantilly in France. In her next start, she stepped up to the Chelsey Flowers Stakes at Aqueduct and finished last of 10. Stall says the daughter of Gleneagles has changed since. She showed it with a third in the Grade 3 Regret Stakes at



Samantha Decker

Grade 3 winner Pounce is part of the Lake George field for trainer Mark Casse.

Churchill Downs June 1.

"After the failed experiment going up to New York we sent her down to Bridlewood in Ocala, let her hang out and get used to being an American horse," he said. "She came back in great shape, completely different, every day has been great for her. We

loved her first race [of 2024]. We didn't want to pick a 1 1/8-mile race right off the bat, but we didn't want to ship her anywhere. She gave us a little thrill in the stretch, just getting passed by two nice horses, so that

*Continued On Page 24*

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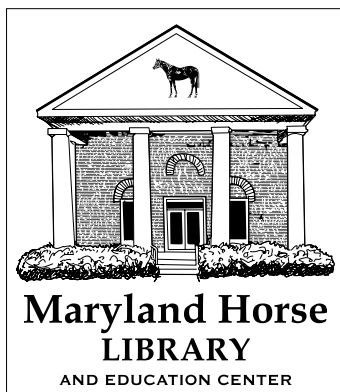
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## Lake George -

■ Continued from page 22

race should have set her up pretty well for this one."

Turning back to a mile from her last start, Gavea breaks from the inside in a field of 10 on the inner turf course. Post time for the day's 10th race is 5:38 p.m. Brian Hernandez Jr. takes the ride, one race before riding star 3-year-old dirt filly Thorpedo Anna in the Grade 1 Coaching Club American Oaks.

Among Gavea's rivals today will be Sterling Stable's Vive Veuve. Trained by Jack Siston, the filly has made four starts since coming over from Irish trainer Emmet Mullins' barn in the fall.

"It helps when you've got good friends," Siston said. "Emmet and Paul [Byrne] knew she was the type of filly who would work well in the U.S., so it was high regards from day one."

Since coming over, the Kentucky-bred daughter of Collected broke her maiden in her second start, and won the Sanibel Island Stakes next time out at Gulfstream Park in March. She comes into this race off of a third in the Grade 2 Wonder Again at Belmont May 27.

"She'll love to come back to the mile," Siston said about today's race. "The Wonder Again was too far. She loomed up like she was going to go win the race, and then flattened out that extra eighth of a mile."

Ramon Vazquez gets the mount for the first time on the 8-1 filly.

Klaravich Stable and trainer Chad Brown lead over 5-2 morning-line favorite Oversubscribed. The British-bred daughter of Too Darn Hot brings two wins and a second into her fourth career start. She dead-heated for a maiden win at Tampa Bay Downs in February, finished second in allowance company at Aqueduct in May and landed the Wild Applause Stakes with a late kick at Aqueduct June 22. Joel Rosario takes the ride for the first time from post two. Brown also sends out second choice Sweet Rebecca. Resolute Racing's daughter of American Pharoah won her debut for trainer Brendan Walsh in March, and won the Memories Of Silver Stakes in her first start

for Brown. Fifth as the favorite in the Wonder Again, she breaks from post six for Tyler Gaffalione.

Victorious Racing's Manama Gold, trained by Todd Pletcher, makes her second American start and turf debut after winning three in Dubai for Fawzi Nass. The Louisiana-bred daughter of Star Guitar finished second in the Jersey Girl at Saratoga June 6. John Velazquez takes the return call.

De Regreso brings 10 starts, all at Gulfstream Park, for trainer Antonio Sano and Cairol Racing Stable and Magic Stable. The daughter of Audible won her last three, a turf allowance, the Honey Ryder on turf and the Martha Washington on the Florida track's Tapeta surface. Manny Franco rides from post seven at 6-1.

Mark Casse's Pounce started the year with two wins, including the Grade 3 Herecomesthebride. Since then, she was 11th in the Grade 2 Appalachian at Keeneland and third last out in the Penn Oaks at Penn National. Dylan Davis rides the daughter of Lookin At Lucky.

Bill Mott sends out two horses. Gala Brand was fifth behind Oversubscribed in her only start this year. She looks to regain some of her form from last year which saw her win twice in four starts including the Grade 3 With Anticipation Stakes against males at Saratoga. Jose Lezcano rides the daughter of Violence at 12-1. Mott's other entry, 30-1 Magic Cross, makes her first start on turf and first since winning the off-the-turf P.G. Johnson Stakes here last summer. Junior Alvarado rides from post 10.

Another entry without turf form is the D. Wayne Lukas-trained Lemon Muffin. The daughter of Collected broke her maiden in the Grade 3 Honeybee in February, but has since run four races in tough company including the Grade 1 Kentucky Oaks while failing to finish better than fifth.



Samantha Decker

Manama Gold has won three races, on the dirt in Dubai.



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# SARATOGA ENTRIES

Saturday, July 20.

## 1ST (12:35PM). \$100,000, MSW, 2 YO, 11/16M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....1	.....Insubordination (IRE).....	E. Cancel	.....G. Weaver	.....12-1
2	.....2	.....Without Caution.....	J. Lezcano	.....C. DeVaux	.....15-1
3	.....3	.....Clever Again.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....S. Asmussen	.....7-2
4	.....4	.....Lucas's Mischief.....	J. Alvarado	.....W. Mott	.....6-1
5	.....5	.....Helicity.....	T. Gaffalione	.....J. Sinsterson	.....6-1
6	.....6	.....Profound.....	J. Velazquez	.....C. DeVaux	.....6-1
7	.....7	.....Hands of Time.....	J. Rosario	.....C. Clement	.....6-1
8	.....8	.....Nudge.....	M. Franco	.....T. Pletcher	.....9-2
9	.....9	.....What Me Worry.....	B. Hernandez, Jr.	.....K. McPeck	.....10-1
10	.....10	.....English Law.....	D. Davis	.....M. Casse	.....15-1
11	.....AE	.....Academy.....	M. Franco	.....H. Motion	.....10-1
12	.....AE	.....Running Away.....	J. Velazquez	.....W. Ward	.....8-1
13	.....AE	.....Papiamento.....	T. Gaffalione	.....D. Beckman	.....20-1
14	.....AE	.....Simulate.....	J. Alvarado	.....W. Mott	.....8-1
15	.....AE-MTO	.....Seattle Road.....	Rider TBA	.....T. Amoss	.....6-1

## 2ND (1:07PM). \$40,000, CLM \$16,000, 4 YO'S & UP, F & M , 6F

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

1	.....2	.....Starship Defiant.....	L. Rivera, Jr.	.....D. Jacobson	.....7-5
1a	.....6	.....Self Isolation.....	R. Vazquez	.....D. Jacobson	.....7-5
2	.....1	.....Carbon.....	R. Maragh	.....R. Samsundar	.....10-1
3	.....3	.....My First Love.....	D. Davis	.....W. Potts	.....4-1
4	.....4	.....Reigning Chick.....	T. Gaffalione	.....P. Walder	.....10-1
5	.....5	.....It Takes Heart.....	M. Franco	.....R. Falcone, Jr.	.....9-5
6	.....7	.....Everlys Girl.....	E. Cancel	.....N. Chatterpaul	.....8-1

## 3RD (1:40PM). \$90,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....King Puck.....	J. Rosario	.....C. Clement	.....1-1
2	.....2	.....Nano Man.....	M. Franco	.....J. Kimmel	.....6-1
3	.....3	.....Fratellino.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....A. Sanchez-Pinero	.....20-1
4	.....4	.....He Has It All.....	K. Davis	.....R. Handal	.....3-1
5	.....5	.....Call Bob.....	J. Davis	.....E. Caramori	.....10-1
6	.....6	.....Clancy Fancy.....	L. Luzzi	.....C. Englehart	.....20-1
7	.....7	.....Mazzei.....	L. Rivera, Jr.	.....H. Bond	.....10-1
8	.....8	.....Outtawaterbury.....	J. Velazquez	.....D. Donk	.....8-1

## 4TH (2:13PM). \$95,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

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

1	.....1	.....Silver Satin.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....J. Abreu	.....2-1
2	.....2	.....Yo Banana Boy.....	L. Rivera, Jr.	.....D. Heath	.....5-1
3	.....3	.....Boss Tweed.....	J. Alvarado	.....G. Contessa	.....4-1
4	.....4	.....On the Hill.....	J. Rosario	.....H. Bond	.....5-1
5	.....5	.....Fast Buck Freddy.....	T. Gaffalione	.....J. Abreu	.....6-1
6	.....6	.....Wine Responsibly.....	J. Lezcano	.....L. Rice	.....12-1
7	.....7	.....Freedsdale.....	E. Cancel	.....L. Rice	.....10-1
8	.....8	.....Bad Larry.....	D. Davis	.....W. Potts	.....10-1

## 5TH (2:46PM). \$35,000, CLM \$16,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

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

1	.....4	.....Xcellent Men.....	M. Franco	.....D. Jacobson	.....3-1
1a	.....7	.....Independent Paul.....	R. Vazquez	.....D. Jacobson	.....3-1
2	.....1	.....Midnight Express.....	J. Rosario	.....R. Rodriguez	.....8-1
3	.....2	.....Safalow's Mission.....	J. Lezcano	.....L. Rice	.....2-1
4	.....3	.....Bonne Chance.....	L. Luzzi	.....B. Levine	.....12-1
5	.....5	.....Solo in Paris.....	E. Cancel	.....R. Persaud	.....15-1
6	.....6	.....Vin Santo.....	R. Maragh	.....B. Brown	.....8-1
7	.....8	.....G Munning.....	O. Hernandez Moreno	.....C. Goberdhan	.....15-1
8	.....9	.....Bobby the Tank.....	T. Gaffalione	.....L. Rice	.....9-2
9	.....10	.....Assertive Attitude.....	J. Alvarado	.....P. Serpe	.....10-1

## 6TH (3:20PM). \$110,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	.....1	.....Reconcile.....	J. Lezcano	.....L. Rice	.....4-1
2	.....2	.....Union Dolly.....	D. Davis	.....R. Handal	.....10-1
3	.....3	.....Masterof the Tunes.....	J. Velazquez	.....J. Lee	.....6-1
4	.....4	.....Golden Rocket.....	J. Rosario	.....C. Baker	.....8-1
5	.....5	.....Girls Weekend.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....D. Beckman	.....4-1
6	.....6	.....Parola Sicura.....	B. Hernandez, Jr.	.....J. Sharp	.....5-2
7	.....7	.....Reflexivity (IRE).....	M. Franco	.....M. Maker	.....9-2
8	.....8	.....Riley Jean.....	T. Gaffalione	.....T. Amoss	.....15-1
9	.....AE-MTO	.....Jackson's Dixie.....	Rider TBA	.....O. Noda	.....8-1
10	.....AE-MTO	.....Low Society.....	E. Cancel	.....L. Rice	.....6-1
11	.....AE-MTO	.....St. Benedicts Prep.....	J. Lezcano	.....L. Rice	.....9-5
12	.....AE-MTO	.....Majestic Return.....	Rider TBA	.....M. Giangiulio	.....5-1

## 7TH (3:54PM). \$100,000, MSW, 2 YO, 6F

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

1	.....1	.....Cooper.....	J. Alvarado	.....W. Mott	.....12-1
2	.....2	.....Authentic Gallop.....	T. Gaffalione	.....T. Amoss	.....8-1
3	.....3	.....Dapper Moon.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....D. Stewart	.....8-1
4	.....4	.....Incentive Pay.....	J. Rosario	.....C. Brown	.....4-1
5	.....5	.....Perfect Force.....	R. Vazquez	.....D. Lukas	.....8-1
6	.....6	.....Ranger Battalion.....	J. Lezcano	.....W. Mott	.....15-1
7	.....7	.....Be Real.....	J. Velazquez	.....T. Pletcher	.....3-1
8	.....8	.....Track Ranger.....	M. Franco	.....B. Cox	.....8-1
9	.....9	.....Filoso.....	D. Davis	.....C. Summers	.....10-1
10	.....10	.....Social Hour.....	B. Hernandez, Jr.	.....T. Pletcher	.....6-1

## 8TH (4:29PM). \$115,000, AOC \$62,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

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

1	.....1	.....Alternate Reality.....	R. Maragh	.....N. Chatterpaul	.....30-1
2	.....2	.....Federal Judge.....	M. Franco	.....B. Cox	.....2-1
3	.....3	.....Gun It.....	J. Lezcano	.....L. Rice	.....4-1
4	.....4	.....Costa Terra.....	T. Gaffalione	.....L. Rice	.....8-1
5	.....5	.....Deer District.....	J. Alvarado	.....D. Romans	.....5-1
6	.....98	.....Principe Carlo.....	R. Vazquez	.....D. Jacobson	.....
7	.....6	.....Arro Smash.....	E. Cancel	.....P. Bauer	.....4-1
8	.....7	.....Full Screen.....	D. Davis	.....M. Casse	.....6-1
9	.....8	.....Midnight Trouble.....	B. Hernandez, Jr.	.....T. Morley	.....10-1

## 9TH (5:04PM). \$120,000, AOC \$80,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 11/8M (TURF)

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

1	.....6	.....Pioneering Spirit.....	J. Lezcano	.....L. Rice	.....10-1
1a	.....AE-MTO	.....Sheriff Bianco.....	Rider TBA	.....L. Rice	.....10-1
2	.....1	.....Major Dude.....	J. Velazquez	.....T. Pletcher	.....3-1
3	.....2	.....Belouni (FR).....	M. Franco	.....C. Brown	.....4-1
4	.....3	.....Harlan Estate.....	J. Alvarado	.....D. Beckman	.....20-1
5	.....4	.....Atone.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....M. Maker	.....4-1
6	.....5	.....Cash Equity (FR).....	T. Gaffalione	.....S. Joseph, Jr.	.....8-1
7	.....7	.....Signator.....	E. Cancel	.....C. McGaughey III	.....15-1
8	.....8	.....Andthewinneris.....	J. Rosario	.....C. Brown	.....5-1
9	.....9	.....Steady On.....	D. Davis	.....T. Pletcher	.....6-1
10	.....AE-MTO	.....Cooke Creek.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....M. Maker	.....8-5

## 10TH (5:38PM). \$175,000, STK - THE LAKE GEORGE, 3 YO, F , 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....Gavea (GER).....	B. Hernandez, Jr.	.....A. Stall, Jr.	.....15-1
2	.....2	.....Oversubscribed (GB).....	J. Rosario	.....C. Brown	.....5-2
3	.....3	.....Manama Gold.....	J. Velazquez	.....T. Pletcher	.....5-1
4	.....4	.....Vive Veuve.....	R. Vazquez	.....J. Sinsterson	.....8-1
5	.....5	.....Gala Brand.....	J. Lezcano	.....W. Mott	.....12-1
6	.....6	.....Sweet Rebecca.....	T. Gaffalione	.....C. Brown	.....7-2
7	.....7	.....De Regreso.....	M. Franco	.....A. Sano	.....6-1
8	.....8	.....Pounce.....	D. Davis	.....M. Casse	.....8-1
9	.....9	.....Lemon Muffin.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....D. Lukas	.....15-1
10	.....10	.....Magic Cross.....	J. Alvarado	.....W. Mott	.....30-1
11	.....AE	.....Golden Degree.....	J. Lezcano	.....L. Rice	.....20-1
12	.....AE	.....Goa (IRE).....	M. Franco	.....C. Brown	.....8-1
13	.....AE	.....In Our Time.....	R. Maragh	.....J. Sinsterson	.....15-1



## SARATOGA ENTRIES

11TH (6:17PM). \$500,000, STK - THE COACHING CLUB AMERICAN OAKS, 3 YO, F, 11/8M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double


1	.....1	.....Candied	.....M. Franco	.....T. Pletcher	.....5-2
2	.....2	.....Barbratina	.....J. Alvarado	.....G. Weaver	.....20-1
3	.....3	.....Thorpedo Anna	.....B. Hernandez, Jr.	.....K. McPeck	.....1-2
4	.....4	.....Leslie's Rose	.....J. Velazquez	.....T. Pletcher	.....5-1
5	.....5	.....Intricate	.....T. Gaffalione	.....B. Walsh	.....8-1

12TH (6:51PM). \$100,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, 11/2M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	.....8	.....Factor Analysis	.....M. Franco	.....C. Brown	.....7-5
1a	.....AE	.....Take Your Seats (IRE)	.....J. Rosario	.....C. Brown	.....7-5
2	.....1	.....Thielen	.....B. Hernandez, Jr.	.....B. Russell	.....20-1
3	.....2	.....Artempus	.....J. Velazquez	.....T. Pletcher	.....8-1
4	.....3	.....Caesar's Ghost	.....J. Davis	.....E. Caramori	.....50-1
5	.....4	.....El Rezeen	.....D. Davis	.....T. Pletcher	.....9-2
6	.....5	.....Vintage Vino	.....J. Lezcano	.....L. Rice	.....8-1
7	.....6	.....Bourbon Outlaw	.....E. Cancel	.....M. Hennig	.....15-1
8	.....7	.....The Jackal	.....J. Alvarado	.....C. McGaughey III	.....6-1
9	.....9	.....Four Top	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....M. Maker	.....12-1
10	.....10	.....De La Cruz	.....T. Gaffalione	.....C. Clement	.....5-1
11	.....AE	.....Il Siciliano	.....J. Velazquez	.....A. Sano	.....15-1
12	.....AE-MTO	.....Glint	.....R. Maragh	.....R. Ribaldo	.....4-1

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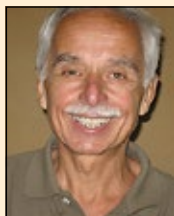
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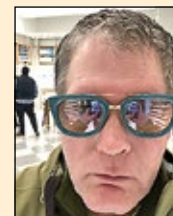
**John Shapazian**



**Charles Bedard**



**Tom Law**



**Rob Whitlock**



**Jessica Paquette**

Race	John Shapazian	Charles Bedard	Tom Law	Rob Whitlock	Jessica Paquette
<b>1</b>	Clever Again Nudge Helicity	Nudge What Me Worry Insubordination	Profound English Law Clever Again	English Law Helicity Clever Again	Clever Again Profound English Law
<b>2</b>	Jacobson entry It Takes Heart Everlys Girl	Jacobson entry Everlys Girl It Takes Heart	It Takes Heart Jacobson entry My First Love	It Takes Heart Jacobson entry My First Love	Self Isolation My First Love It Takes Heart
<b>3</b>	King Puck He Has It All Call Bob	Nano Man King Puck Clancy Fancy	King Puck He Has It All Nano Man	King Puck Outtawaterbury He Has It All	He Has It All Outtawaterbury King Puck
<b>4</b>	Silver Satin Boss Tweed On the Hill	Silver Satin Bad Larry Boss Tweed	Silver Satin Fast Buck Freddy Freeddale	Fast Buck Freddy Boss Tweed On the Hill	Silver Satin Boss Tweed On the Hill
<b>5</b>	Safalow's Mission Bobby The Tank Jacobson entry	Jacobson entry G Munning Bobby The Tank	Safalow's Mission Bonne Chance Xcellent Men	Safalow's Mission Vin Santo Jacobson entry	Bobby The Tank Assertive Attitude Bonne Chance
<b>6</b>	Reconcile Girls Weekend Reflexivity	Low Society Masterof The Tunes St. Benedicts Prep	Parola Sicura Reflexivity Golden Rocket	Parola Sicura Reflexivity Riley Jean	Parola Sicura Reconcile Riley Jean
<b>7</b>	Authentic Gallop Social Hour Be Real	Social Hour Authentic Gallop Ranger Battalion	Be Real Incentive Pay Filoso	Ranger Battalion Track Ranger Perfect Force	Cooper Track Ranger Be Real
<b>8</b>	Federal Judge Gun It Arro Smash	Gun It Midnight Trouble Costa Terra	Federal Judge Arro Smash Full Screen	Federal Judge Arro Smash Midnight Trouble	Midnight Trouble Federal Judge Gun It
<b>9</b>	Major Dude Belouni Atone	Cooke Creek Rice entry Major Dude	Major Dude Belouni Andthewinneris	Major Dude Atone Andthewinneris	Cash Equity Major Dude Signator
<b>10</b>	Oversubscribed Sweet Rebecca Manama Gold	Goa Oversubscribed Sweet Rebecca	Manama Gold Sweet Rebecca Vive Veuve	Gavea Oversubscribed Pounce	Gala Brand Magic Cross Oversubscribed
<b>11</b>	Thorpedo Anna Candied Leslie's Rose	Thorpedo Anna Intricate Leslie's Rose	Thorpedo Anna Candied Leslie's Rose	Candied Thorpedo Anna Intricate	Thorpedo Anna Intricate Candied
<b>12</b>	Brown entry Artempus El Rezeen	Il Siciliano Four Top Brown entry	Factor Analysis De La Cruz The Jackal	Four Top The Jackal Factor Analysis	El Rezeen Artempus De La Cruz
<b>2024 Records</b>	<b>19/72, -\$51.20</b>	<b>16/69, -\$31.50</b>	<b>19/72, -\$27.00</b>	<b>18/72, -\$8.20</b>	<b>10/70, -\$24.70</b>

Figure in parentheses is the total return on a \$2 win bet on each top selection. Race totals vary if all three selections scratch.





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# Knowledge

## Travers-bound Unmatched Wisdom stays perfect for Klaravich, Brown

BY TOM LAW

Chad Brown didn't want any pace pressure. Shug McGaughey wouldn't have minded just a little.

Turns out there wasn't really any in Friday's Curlin Stakes and the Brown-trained Unmatched Wisdom enjoyed his time on the lead all the way to his third victory in as many starts. The 2-5 favorite in the field of five for the stakes for 3-year-olds which have not won a graded sweepstakes at a mile or more in 2024, fended off a challenge from the McGaughey-trained Corporate Power in the stretch to win by a length. The son of Cairo Prince also punched his ticket to next month's Grade 1 Travers Stakes, where he'll try to become just the second Curlin

### CURLIN STAKES RECAP

winner to take Saratoga's signature stakes for sophomores.

Unmatched Wisdom, a \$450,000 purchase by Seth Klarman's Klaravich Stable at last year's OBS March sale, also became Brown's fifth Curlin winner.

"He had some more seasoning today," Brown said. "He got that final piece of fitness that he's going to need as he's playing catch up with this very deep 3-year-old crop."

The Travers field – as of this writing Friday night – could feature another up-and-comer in Mindframe,

*Continued On Page 32*



Samantha Decker

Unmatched Wisdom (right) sets up shop on the lead early in Friday's Curlin Stakes.

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## Curlin -

■ Continued from page 30

Belmont Stakes winner Dornoch, Preakness winner Seize The Grey, 2023 champion 2-year-old male Fierceness and others bound for today's Grade 1 Haskell at Monmouth Park or next Saturday's Grade 2 Jim Dandy at Saratoga.

Brown's four other Curlin winners didn't win the Travers. Artorius (2022), Highest Honors (2019) and Connect (2016) all finished sixth, while Street Life (2012) finished 11th. Brown acknowledged the tall order ahead of the lightly raced colt, who came into the Curlin with a maiden victory at 1 mile and allowance-optional score at 9 furlongs.

"If he's going to step up to the Travers from here, he's going to have to get considerably faster again," Brown said. "He got a good, hard race out of (the Curlin). I like that it was a close race at the end, and he had a blow out of it. There's only so much I can do with him in the morning. He's a brilliant workhorse but he needs to get his final pieces of fitness from the race."

Flavien Prat put Unmatched Wisdom on the lead from the break, leading the field into the first turn and to the opening quarter-mile in :23.58 with the mildest pressure from 39-1 longshot Catire Vizcaya. That same rival stayed 1 1/2 lengths back up the backstretch and to the half in :48.37, not threatening a bit and struggling to keep pace.

Javier Castellano, aboard Corporate Power, tried to make a race out of it around the far turn and inched the Sir Barton Stakes winner within a half-length of the leader as they passed 6 furlongs in 1:12.66. Corporate Power closed to within a long neck of the leader at the quarter pole before Unmatched Wisdom cut the corner and opened up again.

"I had to chase a little bit given the slow fractions," Castellano said. "On the turn, I thought the race was between me and him. I had to encourage my horse a little bit early and it might have cost me the win."

Unmatched Wisdom stayed straight through the lane and won in 1:50.70. Corporate Power started to make up a little ground again inside



Dave Harmon

**Unmatched Wisdom scores in the Curlin.**

the final 50 yards but came up short. Timeout finished 3 lengths behind in third with Django, Elephants Ear and Catire Vizcaya completing the field.

"I look forward to the next race against the winner," Castellano said.

McGaughey praised Castellano's ride, while acknowledging the perceived speed bias on the main track through the first seven days of the meet.

"Horses don't come back right now, no pace," McGaughey said. "I was pleased the way Javier on the turn said, 'Let's go see what happens.' I was pleased. Disappointed we lost but pleased with the effort."

Bred by a partnership that included the Estate of Harvey Clarke – who campaigned multiple graded stakes winner Cairo Prince – Unmatched Wisdom originally sold to Mark Casse's Quantum Investments for \$25,000 late in the 2022 Keeneland September yearling sale.

"He's got a good eye," Brown said of Casse. "(Unmatched Wisdom) was a little hidden gem at Keeneland. They pinhooked him, and we were lucky enough to buy the horse. We provided a handsome profit for them. He showed a lot of ability at the 2-year-old sale."

Offered as Hip 499, Unmatched Wisdom breezed an eighth in :10 over the synthetic track at the OBS training center and became a coveted offering at the three-day sale that featured more than 800 horses.

He brought the co-28th most expensive bid of the sale, with Klarman thinking the colt could be a turf or a dirt horse.

"In our heads, that horse might fall through the cracks at the sale a little bit," Klarman said. "He didn't completely fall through the cracks, but fell enough to where it was within our range."





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# 'The Best'

## Swinbank and partners cheer victory with Governor Sam

Reagan Swinbank cherished the chance to visit the winner's circle after Swinbank Stable's and Bregman Family Racing's 2-year-old Governor Sam won the opener Friday at Saratoga Race Course.

The Improbable colt broke sharp from the rail en route to a gate-to-wire score in his second start going 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf.

"To win at Saratoga in any race, whether it's a \$10,000 claimer or a 2-year-old exciting race, it's just the best," Swinbank said. "The winner's circle at Saratoga is one of the hardest places to get to and it's just exciting. It's so hard and everything goes into it. The trainers, the backside workers, everything to get a horse ready and to just see a performance like that race

### FRIDAY RACING RECAP

1, horse 1, winner, it's great."

Trained by George Weaver, Governor Sam spurted clear early and opened a 4-length lead in midstretch. He crossed the finish 2 1/4 lengths ahead of his competition in 1:02.41.

"He's got great natural gate speed and he controlled the race the whole way, no problem," Weaver said.

Governor Sam sold for \$275,000 at the OBS April sale to Bregman Family Racing, which is led by Houston Astros third baseman Alex Bregman. Swinbank was later invited to partner in the colt.

*Continued On Page 36*



Dave Harmon

Governor Sam stretches for the finish of Friday's first race.

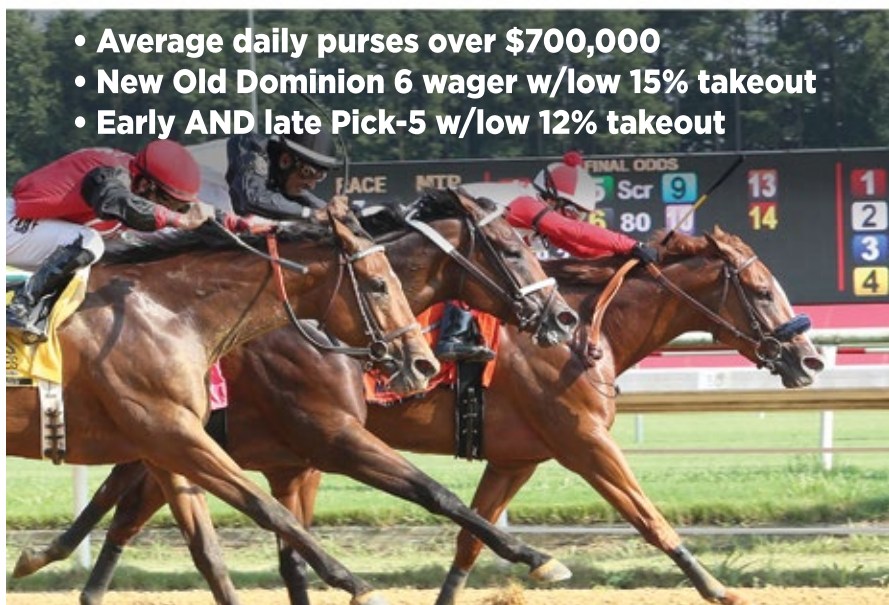


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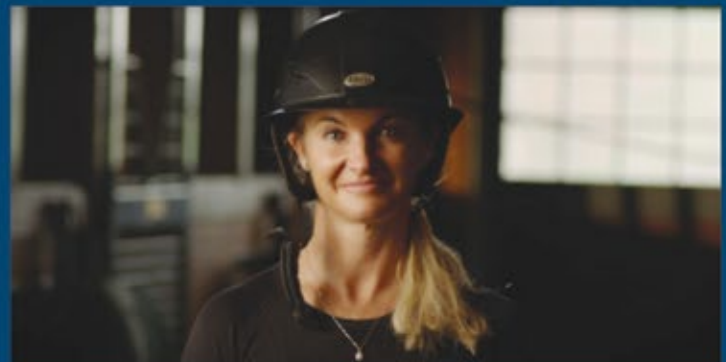
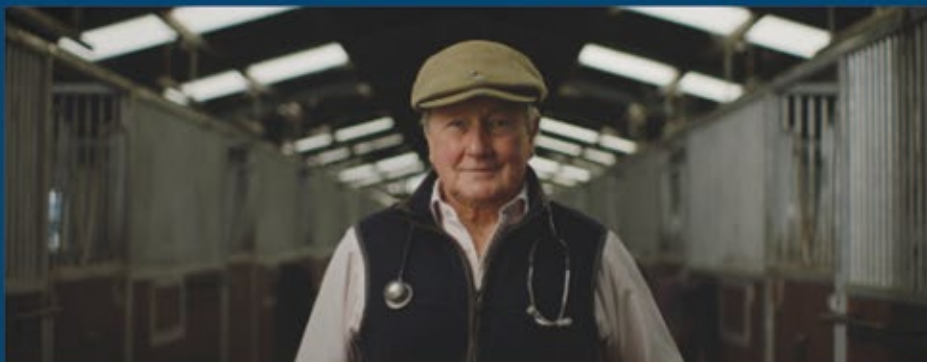
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# Friday -

■ Continued from page 34

“Alex and his team, and Mr. Weaver, picked the horse out,” Swinbank said. “I’m from Houston, Texas. I’ve known Alex for years, so they signed the ticket and then called us. We partnered on a few horses and he called us, said ‘Bought this colt, we think he’s going to be a fast, turf sprint, early type,’ and we said ‘We’re in.’”

Governor Sam’s first start came in the Royal Palm Juvenile Stakes May 11 at Gulfstream Park, a stakes for 2-year-olds trying to earn a berth into the Royal Ascot meeting. Weaver had success in the race last year with No Nay Mets, as well as in the equivalent race for fillies with eventual Royal Ascot winner Crimson Advocate. While it didn’t work out for Governor Sam, who finished sixth, all it took was some experience and time to get him ready for a big win.

“I kind of had to rush him into the race,” Weaver said. “Now he had a race under his belt and he was able to have everything exactly like he wanted.”

Weaver said the August 16 Skidmore Stakes at 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf was a “a definite possibility” for Governor Sam’s next start.

- Alec DiConza



Dave Harmon

Ori heads for home with a wire-to-wire win in the fifth.

• Ori led from start to finish in the fifth, a \$75,000 maiden claimer on the turf. Trained by Michelle Nevin, the 3-year-old Hard Spun filly broke her maiden in her second start for owners Tom McCrocklin and Kallenberg Farms. Ori’s first start was a distant fifth in an off-the-turf maiden June 27 at Aqueduct.

“Her first race I felt like she just needed the experience,” Nevin said. “It came off the grass, but we

stayed on the grass today, so it was all good.”

Under Kendrick Carmouche, the 10-1 Ori flew out from post nine and took command. Ori led by 2 1/2 lengths through the first half-mile and held on to win by the same margin over Positive Carry.

“She’s been training really forward,” Nevin said. “I told Kendrick she is very sharp today, he said if she breaks good, I am going to go.”

- Fin Maroney

• Rigney Racing’s Princess Madison followed up her victory last month at Churchill Downs with another in the eighth going 6 furlongs.

The 3-year-old Speightstown filly drove hard in the stretch under jockey Jose Ortiz to win by three-quarters of a length over the Bill Mott-trained Roswell.

“We’ve been pretty high on this filly from Day 1,” winning trainer Phil Bauer said. “It just took a few races for her light bulb moment to come on, and she continues to progress in the right way. We knew it was a good cast here today and I think we answered a lot of questions of quality, and you know, [we’re] glad that she ran to her training. We were pretty, pretty excited to bring

Continued on Page 37



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Dave Harmon

Kendrick Carmouche finds the photographer while winning the last on 25-1 shot Aunt Yola.

## Friday -

■ Continued from page 36

her over and then for her to run like that, it just puts a smile on your face.”

- Julia Reedy

• Defending champ Irad Ortiz Jr. won four races to seize command of the riding title race with 11 winners through the first seven days. Ortiz won the early double on Governor Sam and It's Hot In Here, the sixth aboard New York-bred first-time

starter Under Who's Radar and the ninth on Root Cause. He leads Flavien Prat, who guided Unmatched Wisdom to victory in the Curlin Stakes, 11-8. ... Chad Brown trains Unmatched Wisdom, It's Hot In Here and Root Cause. He sits atop the trainer standings with six wins, one more than Mike Maker. ... Friday's card, which featured the Saratoga tumbler giveaway, attracted a crowd of 28,418 and an all-sources handle of \$19,610,732. ... Horseplayers will be eager to dig into today's card, which features a pick six carryover of more than \$154,000.

### Saratoga Leaderboard

Through Friday

#### Trainers

Chad Brown.....	6
Mike Maker.....	5
Todd Pletcher.....	4
Mark Casse.....	4
Cherie DeVaux.....	3
Horacio De Paz.....	3
Jeremiah Englehart.....	3
Bill Mott.....	3

#### Jockeys

Irad Ortiz Jr.....	11
Flavien Prat.....	8
Tyler Gaffalione.....	7
Jose Ortiz.....	7
Javier Castellano.....	5
Kendrick Carmouche.....	4
Dylan Davis.....	4
Manny Franco.....	3
Joel Rosario.....	3
Ramon Vasquez.....	3

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# Keep It Simple

## Morley, Cancel engineer NYSS stakes win for The Big Torpedo

Tom Morley met with Eric Cancel before the races Thursday to talk strategy.

The trainer and jockey were teaming up a few hours later with heavy favorite The Big Torpedo in the \$150,000 Cab Calloway division of the New York Stallion Series Stakes. Cancel knows the New York-bred son of Big Brown; he'd ridden him in five straight starts including two victories. Morley knew Cancel knew the colt.

The meeting didn't last long.

"Let's not overcomplicate it," Cancel told Morley, then followed suit and guided The Big Torpedo to his second straight Stallion Series victory. The 1-2 favorite in the field of seven won all the way on the lead by 4 1/2 lengths over Courtly Banker with Fidelightcayut third. That 1-2-3 finish nearly matched the NYSS Spectacular Bid a little more than a month ago during the Belmont at the Big A meeting when The Big Torpedo and Courtly Banker finished 1-2 and Fidelightcayut finished third.

"I like the fact that Eric took no prisoners today," Morley said. "It was a very good ride and a very good performance to go that fast early and then quicken up as well."

Owned by Thomas Albrecht, Vincent Fusaro and James Klein and bred by Dean and Patti Reeves' Reeves Thoroughbred Racing, The Big Torpedo improved to 3-for-8 and collected \$82,500 to pad his bankroll to \$320,900.

Foaled at Irish Hill Century Farm in Stillwater and out of the Empire Maker mare U. S. S. O'Brien, The Big Torpedo set strong fractions of :23.99, :46.97 and 1:10.64 while building a 2 1/2-length lead over Courtly Banker turning for home.

The Big Torpedo, a 10-length winner in a mid-January maiden at Aqueduct and placed against open company in the Woodhaven Stakes two starts back, rolled home from there. He widened his lead to 4 lengths

### THURSDAY RACING RECAP

in midstretch and won in 1:35.01 over the course labeled firm. Courtly Banker, a son of Central Banker campaigned by Sacketoga Stable and trainer Barclay Tagg, finished 3 1/4 lengths clear of Fidelightcayut, a son of Leofric campaigned by RT Racing Stable and Hablan Los Caballos and trained by Juan Avila, for second.

Albrecht and his partners, along with Dean Reeves, relished the latest victory.

"That's my sixth stakes win, but my first at Saratoga," Albrecht said on the way to the Carmen Barrera Room with Morley's wife Maggie and others.

Reeves, who bred the colt after campaigning U. S. S. O'Brien to a record of 3-2-2 in 11 starts with \$143,140 in earnings. A \$130,000 buy at the 2012 Keeneland September yearling sale, U. S. S. O'Brien was later offered in foal to Mucho Macho Man but not sold on a \$55,000 bid at the 2019 Keeneland November breeding stock sale.

Albrecht and his team bought U. S. S. O'Brien through Conor Foley's Oracle Bloodstock in foal to Maclean's Music for \$40,000 at the inaugural Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July breeding stock sale in 2021. The Big Torpedo was already born at that point – he's a March 30, 2021 foal – and U. S. S. O'Brien had also produced Mucho Macho Man fillies Mi Pebeta (2020) and Hang On Honey (2019). The latter is a winner and U. S. S. O'Brien is also the dam of the unraced 2-year-old New York-bred Maclean's Music colt O'Brien's Song, who was bred by Albrecht, Fusaro and Klein and offered but not sold on a \$28,000 bid at last year's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred sale.

"What a thrill, this is my first winner at Saratoga as a breeder," Reeves said. "When we bred the mare we



Dave Harmon

The Big Torpedo gears down while winning Thursday's Cab Calloway.

weren't that familiar with the New York breeding program but we've learned a lot about it since, and it's been good to us. Just the other day we got a check for something like \$20,000 for one of the races (The Big Torpedo) won, and no doubt we'll be getting another soon."

- Tom Law

- Stop Giggling may have been bumped at the start of Thursday's second race, but the Bruce Levine-trained filly had the last laugh as she finished first in a time of 1:10.88, a length ahead of the Linda Rice-trained favorite She's Always Rosie.

"I felt great [going into today] because Bruce made me feel great," owner Jason Provenzano of Flying P Stable said. "Bruce told me, 'Jason, she is training with Up Her Sleeve. They are both training amazing right now.'"

On July 4, Up Her Sleeve finished fifth at Monmouth Park, a good indication of what Stop Giggling might be capable of in the starter allowance.

"I looked at the odds and the only thing that bothered me was Kendrick [Carmouche] on the inside with some speed. So I told Ricky [jockey Ricardo Santana Jr.] this morning, 'Look, I think we're as fast, but she has her little tendencies to not break so good. If you just break, and try to get her involved, we'll go from there.'"

Santana made his move along the upper stretch, battling Princess Becca and She's Always Rosie. By the time the McCracken filly reached the final furlong, the outcome was clear. She didn't have time for funny business, ousting Carmouche and She's Always Rosie by a length.

As for the name, you can bet there's a story there.

"My wife has a two-cocktail minimum when we go out, because after two cocktails, she's giggling like you are right now," Provenzano said to an unconsciously giggling writer. "To the point where I want to shake her a little bit. So we always joke, and my thing is, 'Can you stop giggling? Can you stop giggling?' And then I said, 'You know, that would be a great name for a horse: Stop Giggling.'"

- Julia Reedy

- Mark Casse continued his early success in the sixth, not only winning with Abientot but also finishing second with Will Reign in the 5 1/2-furlong maiden special weight for 2-year-old fillies on the grass. The victory marked Casse's fourth of the meet and gave him 16 victories so far with 2-year-olds this year.

"I've tried to bring some of our better young horses here, unless you see me bringing a New York-bred,

**Continued On Page 39**



# Thursday -

■ Continued from page 38

which I bring my New York-breds, but if you see me bringing them, that means they've shown us something where I feel like they deserve a shot up here," Casse said. "Doesn't always work. I think that was maybe our 16th 2-year-old winner this year, so we have an extremely strong bunch of young horses."

Abientot settled in mid-pack early under Dylan Davis, swung wide off the far turn, and made a charge at the frontrunners to make the lead with about a sixteenth of a mile to go. She was quick enough to hold off Will Reign, a daughter of Casse's 2019 Preakness winner War Of Will, to break her maiden by a 1/2-length for owner Tracy Farmer.

"I really like the filly that won," Casse said. "I expected her actually to run a little better first time, but she ran good. Ran better today. And then Will Reign, I was proud of her. She's by War Of Will, so that's a little extra special for us."

Casse always had a high opinion of Abientot and Will Reign, picking up the training duties after both sold at the Keeneland September yearling sale last year.

"I just thought they were athletes," he said. "It's funny, when I look at horses, it doesn't matter whether they're big, small, tall, long. I just look for athletes and pedigree, and both of them are athletes."

Abientot finished fourth going 6 furlongs on the turf at Aqueduct in her debut. The experience helped the daughter of Not This Time get to the winner's circle Thursday.

"It's a huge advantage, and it's why I try to get starts into them," he said. "I figure for a horse that hasn't started, they need to be about 15 percent better than a horse that has started."

- Alec DiConza

• Smokin' Hot Kitty romped in the opener, a 1 1/8-mile allowance-optional on the dirt. Trained by Horacio De Paz, the 5-year old daughter of Kitten's Joy had to be backed out of the gate, but once reloaded broke in front for Kendrick Carmouche. The 2-1 favorite traveled comfortably down the backstretch with 21-1 shot Lavon right on her shoulder. Putting



Dave Harmon

Proctor Street (1) and Grayosh battle to the finish of Thursday's ninth race.

Lavon away around the far turn, the winner coasted down the stretch with no challenge from anyone else in the seven-horse field.

"Not that easily" De Paz responded when asked if he expected her to win. "I didn't know how she was going to handle the distance, but she just enjoyed it; she likes Saratoga."

Owned by America's Pastimes Stable, Liberty House Racing, and Mic Duff Stable, Smokin' Hot Kitty won at Saratoga for the third consecutive year.

- Fin Maroney

• Jeremiah Englehart trainee Hey Toby fended off fellow New York-bred Very Stormy to seal Thursday's final race. Carmouche rallied the 4-year-old gelding down the stretch, just as it looked like Very Stormy was set to pass.

"He was in the race, but I knew whenever he switched leads it would be up to me to help him finish the last eighth of the mile," Carmouche said. "I don't think the other horse wanted to pass, but right place, right time."

In his last race at Belmont at the Big A, Hey Toby was pulled up in the stretch and transported off the track in an equine ambulance.

Despite the incident, owner Marshall Gramm was confident going into Thursday's race.

"He's a talented and fun horse, and we put him in the right spot today," Gramm said. "We thought he'd run back to his initial effort, first off the claim, and he ran big and dug in."

"I'm so proud of what he did today, and proud of the work that Jer-

emiah Englehart and his whole team have done."

- Julia Reedy

• Proctor Street got up just in time in the ninth, a 1 1/16-mile allowance

optional on the turf. Owned and bred by Patricia Moseley and trained by Brendan Walsh, the 3-year-old filly improved to 2-for-2.

Breaking from the rail, she settled for Tyler Gaffalione toward the back of the field, and dropped all the way back around the far turn. At the top of the stretch she started picking off the field. With just under a furlong to go, she hooked up with the leader Grayosh, battling to the wire and getting her nose down first.

Moseley responded with a smile, when asked if she was surprised by the late kick.

"Sort of yes . . . she did it in her last race at Horseshoe, but in this company? Yes I was."

Proctor Street is out of Moseley's mare Proctor's Ledge who won the Lake George and Lake Placid stakes here in 2017 and went on to win the Grade 2 Churchill Distaff Turf Mile.

"Proctor's Ledge died in March," Moseley said. "This is her only filly so this was very special."

- Fin Maroney

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# Promise Kept

## My Shea D Lady lives up to early opinion with stakes win

Joe McMahon met up with long-time Florida pinhooker Tony Bowling before Hip 268, a filly from the first crop of his family farm's stallion Solomini, went through the ring at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga fall mixed sale.

"This is a really nice horse," McMahon told Bowling, admitting later that he practically "had to beg him to buy her."

Bullish on offspring of the Grade 1-placed son of Curlin – obviously so considering he embarked on the difficult task of making a stallion in New York – and in need of some quick cash at the time of the sale, McMahon was particularly high about this filly.

"She was the best foal in his first crop," McMahon said. "I loved her from the day she was born."

McMahon still loves the filly out of Teuflesberg mare Lady Berg even though neither he nor Bowling own the 3-year-old now named My Shea D Lady. A \$25,000 purchase out of the Saratoga sale and later pinhooked by Bowling for \$100,000 at last year's OBS April sale, My Shea D Lady continued her upward ascent Wednesday with an off-the-pace victory in the \$145,500 Statue of Liberty division of the New York Stallion Series Stakes at Saratoga Race Course. Javier Castellano rode the filly for owners Shea D Boys Stable of Dennis Jr., Dennis Sr.

### WEDNESDAY RACING RECAP

and Danny Shea and trainer Carlos David. She won by 1 3/4 lengths over Sohana for her second stakes win and triggered a 1-2 finish for runners by Solomini, all with McMahon watching from his front row clubhouse box.

"That was great," McMahon said on the way to the winner's circle to meet the Sheas, David and the filly bred by McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds.

The lone stakes winner on dirt left in the field of five after scratches – including the post time scratch of Cap Ferrat on the advice of the track veterinarian – My Shea D Lady took up a tracking spot in second while odds-on favorite Sohana and Flavien Prat took the lead.

Sohana, a winner on dirt two starts back in May and fourth in the Cupecoy's Joy division of the NYSS in mid-June, clicked off a moderate first quarter-mile in :23.92 before quickening the tempo a bit to the half in :46.98.

"I broke and wanted to make sure to put my horse in a forward position," Castellano said. "It was a small field, not a lot of speed. I wanted to put myself in a place to keep track of the speed horse. My horse, she likes to look around a little bit, but I didn't



Dave Harmon

### My Shea D Lady rolls to victory in Wednesday's feature.

want to be too close to another horse and get her to engage too early."

Sohana still led by 2 1/2 at the quarter-pole and through 6 furlongs in 1:11.81 with My Shea D Lady continuing her run after going wide on the far turn.

My Shea D Lady cut the deficit turning for home, took over at the three-sixteenths pole and spurred away to lead by 1 1/2 lengths in mid-stretch. My Shea D Lady cruised home from there, 1 3/4 lengths in front of Sohana, who finished 7 clear of Baroness Bourbon in third. Tour Jete and Amy's Light completed the field. My Shea D Lady covered the mile out of the Wilson Chute in 1:38.27.

My Shea D Lady picked up \$82,500 for the victory, boosting her

bankroll to \$465,000 and giving the Shea family plenty of reason to relish the Saratoga experience.

"We're small potatoes in this big world but when we can come up here and win a race, it's fantastic," said Dennis Shea Jr., who is based in Jupiter, Florida.

The Statue of Liberty came off the grass after heavy rains saturated the Saratoga area Tuesday afternoon, followed by more rain before Wednesday's card. My Shea D Lady's connections wanted to run the filly on grass again – she'd finished a close fifth in the Cupecoy's Joy division of the NYSS in June – but were happy for the surface switch. My Shea D Lady

**Continued On Page 41**

## FITS THE JILL

# Broodmare Prospect

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	Empire Maker, 00 dk b/	Unbridled, 87 b	Fappiano, 77 b
Fits the Jill		Toussaud, 89 dk b/	Gana Facit, 81 ch
Foaled in Kentucky	Jaded Glory, 12 b	Smart Strike, 92 b	El Gran Senor, 81 b
		Jade Queen, 03 ch	Image of Reality, 76 b
			Mt. Prospect, 70 b
			Classy 'n Smart, 81 b
			Giant's Causeway, 97 ch
			Jade Flush, 91 ch

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1st dam  
Jaded Glory, by Smart Strike, 199. Winner at 2 and 3, \$104,410. Dam of 4 foals, 3 to race, 3 winners – Slime Queen (f. by Karakontie [JPN]), 193. 6 wins, 4 to 6, placed at 7, 2024, \$198,163.  
Fits the Jill (f. by Empire Maker), 184. See below.  
Jade Empire (f. by Empire Maker), 186. Winner at 3, \$30,969.

2nd dam  
Jade Queen, by Giant's Causeway, 1107. 3 wins at 3, \$293,232, 2nd Fairway Flyer S. [L] (1850, \$15,300), Fairy Garden S. -R (AQU, \$14,020), 3rd Flower Bowl Invitational S. [G1] (1842, \$50,000), Under the Reders [G] (L, 000), etc.  
Slime Queen, by Karakontie, 193. 6 wins, 4 to 6, placed at 7, 2024, \$198,163.  
Fits the Jill (f. by Empire Maker), 184. See below.  
Jade Empire (f. by Empire Maker), 186. Winner at 3, \$30,969.

## FOR SALE



# Wednesday -

■ Continued from page 40

won the \$500,000 Fifth Avenue division of the NYSS on the dirt last December at Aqueduct, and turned in solid performances in New York-bred stakes on the NYRA circuit during her juvenile campaign.

"I'm really glad it came off, although I wanted to try her two turns and wanted to see if she can handle it on the turf," David said. "The first time [on the turf] we went 6 furlongs, she did it well. We were hoping we would finish in the money, but she didn't run bad, just a little short and it was quick. We're hoping maybe more distance she'll be able to relax and come back. But I was hoping it would come off because I think she handles better the one turn."

- Tom Law Bellacose cruises in a New York-bred 2-year-old filly maiden.

Bellacose got her career started on the right foot in a maiden special weight for New York-bred 2-year-old fillies going 5 1/2 furlongs on the main track. The daughter of Audible owned by Christopher Dunn, Blue Tarp Racing, Chris Mara, Greyhound Stables, Arthur and Nicholas Sgroi, Jonathan Sacks and Corrin Genovese delivered a 10 3/4-length victory.

"It was our first time racing [her], we love her," Genovese said. "We absolutely love her."

Even though she went off as the distant second choice at 6-1, Bellacose showed a lot of promise in her morning preparations, according to trainer Jeremiah Englehart.

"She's been the type of filly that will work with whoever you put her up against," he said. "I've worked her with a couple horses that might've been a little more green than her and you kind of keep her with. If you ask her to pick it up with another horse, she can do that as well, too. She's been one of those fillies, she's got attitude. I usually like the fillies that have attitude. They usually transfer to the afternoon."

Bellacose rushed to the lead under Manny Franco after a solid break from the gate and simply ran the competition off their feet. Sprinting through fractions of :22.20 and :45.92, she looked like she'd be pretty difficult to catch at the top of the stretch before running away in 1:05.08.

"I told Manny, 'Don't be surprised if she does show speed,'" Englehart said. "She's very similar to a filly I had last year, Lady Arwen, who's by Audible. Manny said even at the top of the stretch, she was looking around so much he knew he had a lot of horse left. And then when I saw him look back after the one came up alongside him, that kind of gave me some confidence, too."

Englehart has had a pretty good start to the meet, particularly with 2-year-olds. He won the Grade 3 Sanford Stakes with Mo Plex Saturday and followed that with the romp by Bellacose and a win by 4-year-old Hey Toby Thursday. Englehart was quick to pass along the credit.

"The whole team back at the barn, these guys come to work every day," he said. "I'm very lucky."

- Alec DiConza and Julia Reedy



Dave Harmon

The seventh race was named in honor of Barbara Glynn, a racing fan who celebrated her 80th birthday at the track Wednesday. Her birthday isn't until Aug. 30, but the party was on nonetheless.

"It is great," Glynn said of the celebration. "I come here at least once a week and my children wanted to do this for me, my son and daughter. So we're at the 1863 Club."

Glynn moved to Saratoga from New Jersey just more than a decade ago and has loved the track ever since.

"I follow the jockeys and the horses," she said with a smile.

And who is her favorite jockey?

"Irad," she said emphatically of five-time meet champion. When it came to her favorite horse, she wasn't as sure.

"There's a lot of them, I don't know," she said. "American Pharoah, Cody's Wish."

As for the race, Deck Of Cards notched her fifth win in a row and sixth from nine starts. The 5-year-old chestnut mare by Nyquist dominated the 7-furlong starter allowance by 6 3/4 lengths for M and M Racing and Jordan Rubenstein, trainer Mike Maker, and jockey Ramon Vazquez. Maker also won the third with Malu.

- Alec DiConza

John Velazquez extended his Saratoga winning streak to 35 seasons in the opener with Fade To Grey. The Hall of Famer posted his first Saratoga win in 1990 and has won here every year since. Trained by Todd Pletcher, Fade To Grey scored by 2 3/4 lengths in her second lifetime start. Velazquez made it a double when he steered the Pletcher-trained Value Area home in the fifth. The 3-year-old More Than Ready filly scored by a just-in-time nose for Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and Gary Lewin.

Hue won an off-the-turf \$50,000 maiden claimer in the sixth for trainer Brad Cox. Florent Geroux rode the 3-year-old daughter of Ghostzapper . . . Linda Rice took the last, another off-the-turf maiden claimer, with Maturity Date for owner Martin Schwartz. Irad Ortiz Jr. rode the winner . . . Wednesday's A.P. Smithwick Memorial steeplechase was moved to Sunday's first race due to rain.

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# Jumping Again

## Seven hurdlers return for rescheduled Gr. 1

BY JOE CLANCY

Once more, with feeling.

The seven steeplechasers entered in Wednesday's rained-out Grade 1 A.P. Smithwick return for the second attempt at the race Sunday, adding a few days to what were supposed to be quick Saratoga sojourns.

The only changes are the post positions, with the top three morning-line choices – Abaan (9-5), Pickanumber (5-2) and L'Imperator (5-2) drawn outside in the first of 11 races at 1:10 p.m. Abaan and L'Imperator will be familiar to Saratoga fans as they won here on the flat for trainers Todd Pletcher and Chad Brown, respectively. The horses ran on the same day in 2021 – with Abaan taking a maiden on the turf and L'Imperator finishing third as the favorite in the Grade 2 Bernard Baruch Sept. 6.

Still owned by Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and Daigneault Thoroughbreds, Abaan rides a four-race winning streak for the South Carolina-based Bernie and Kate Dalton and has lost just once in five hurdle starts since converting last year. The 7-year-old has been rained out of two planned starts – the Grade 1 Beverly Steinman during the Belmont Stakes Racing Festival in June and the Smithwick Wednesday. He did not make the rescheduled Steinman, won by L'Imperator at Aqueduct.



Tod Marks

Before he became a steeplechaser, L'Imperator scored on the turf at Saratoga for Irad Ortiz Jr. and trainer Chad Brown.

Abaan did his best running from the front as a flat horse – including scores in the 2-mile Allen Jerkens in 2021 and 1 1/2-mile Grade 3 McKnight in 2022 – but has changed tactics to sit off the pace over jumps. The son of Will Take Charge also gave the Pletcher team trouble in the paddock before races.

“They tell me he’s been behaving well before the race, which was not always the case,” Pletcher said. “He could get bad. We had a routine with him that we used. It usually worked out. We’d take him out first and then take him all the way to the backside and get away from the crowd. That kind of thing. I haven’t seen his races, but I’ve talked to a few people and they said he settles and comes from off

the pace now. We had success when we put him on the lead.

“I’m not surprised that he’s doing well,” said Pletcher. “He’s obviously a big, long-striding horse that wants to stay. It’s just, I guess, a matter of how well he jumps. I’ll be rooting for him.”

Sold by Madaket Stable, Wonder Stable and Robert LaPenta to Hudson River Farm at Keeneland November in 2022, L'Imperator exits a Grade 1 win over jumps at Aqueduct last month – his third score in 10 starts as a steeplechaser. Bred in France, L'Imperator won three times there before joining Brown's barn in 2020. He started once

*Continued on Page 43*



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# Sunday -

■ Continued from page 42

that summer, then returned off a year layoff to win at Saratoga in August 2021. Third in the Baruch, he won the Grade 2 Fort Marcy and Presious Passion Stakes in 2022 before going to the sale.

Like Pletcher, Brown isn't surprised by his horse's success at something new for trainer Arch Kingsley.

"I'm so happy that he's found himself a, I say second career but that sounds like he's off the track; he's still a racehorse," Brown said. "He's reinvented himself. I've seen that in the past with a couple horses of ours and it's really neat to see them go on. He's stayed sound and is really making a name for himself. I'm living my steeplechase training career through him."

Like Abaan, L'Imperator did some of his best work on the flat as a front-runner, but prefers to sit and stalk over hurdles. Off the Fort Marcy win, the son of Holy Roman Emperor tried Grade 1 company in the 2022 Manhattan, but finished seventh behind stablemate Tribhuvan.

"He was on his way, we thought, but just didn't quite develop the way we wanted," Brown said. "I'm genuinely happy the horse has made a name for himself because he showed a lot of ability and the current connections have done a wonderful job developing him to get to that level. We'll be watching."

Pickanumber has won four of his last five in England, before being purchased by U.S. connections Leipers Fork Steeplechasers and trainer Leslie Young. West Newton, Freddy Flint-

shire, Going Country and Ziggle Pops complete the field.

• Sunday's card also includes the Grade 2 Shuvee for older fillies and mares on the dirt as the fifth race. Favorite Shotgun Hottie drew the rail while looking for her seventh lifetime win for Omar Aldabbagh and Jeff Ganje. In 10 starts since joining the Cherie DeVaux barn, the 5-year-old Gun Runner mare has won four including scores in three stakes. She exits a second in the Grade 2 Fleur de Lis at Churchill Downs June 29. Paco Lopez, aboard for all four wins, takes the call again.

"Paco does a great job of getting her to relax," DeVaux said after a win in Pimlico's Allaire du Pont Distaff in May. "He has really good hands and he sits quietly on horses, and I think for her it's a key to what makes her run the way she did."

Second choice Raging Sea (7-5) looks for her fifth win in 10 starts while coming off a fourth in the Grade 1 Ogden Phipps at the same distance here June 8. Alpha Delta Stable's 4-year-old Curlin filly opened 2024 with a win in the Doubledog-dare at Keeneland in April. Flavien Prat rides from post three. Misty Veil (4-1) eyes a repeat of her 8 1/2-length romp in the Lady Jacqueline at Thistledown June 22 for Resolute Racing and trainer Mike Maker. RT Racing Stable's Just Katherine breaks from the outside at 9-2 for trainer Jose Jimenez. The Justify filly finished second in the Grade 2 Bed O Roses at Aqueduct June 15 and was also entered in today's Monmouth Park's Molly Pitcher. Venti Valentine (12-1) comes off a win against fellow New York-breds in the Critical Eye for trainer Jorge Abreu here June 9.

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# Winning Team

## Kimchi Cat delivers win for Amoss, Politi

BY JOE CLANCY

“Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships.”

Michael Jordan wasn't thinking about Thoroughbred yearlings when he wrote that in his book, “I Can't Accept Not Trying,” and he definitely wasn't factoring in the chances of finding success in 2-year-old maiden races at Saratoga Race Course.

But the concept applies, and trainer Tom Amoss put it to good use at the 2023 Keeneland September yearling sale and it's paying off with horses such as Kimchi Cat, who ran away from seven rivals in a \$100,000 maiden special weight at Saratoga July 14.

“We did something different this year at Keeneland that we haven't done before because we actually had a bigger presence, than we've ever had at the Keeneland Sales,” Amoss said. “We put together a buying team. The team in the past had just been myself and Julie Cauthen, and we are still on that team, but I added three other people to get a lay of the land.”

The lineup expansion came out of necessity. Keeneland's catalog typically includes more than 4,000 horses, so more trained eyes can only help the process. Amoss routinely shops the September sale, but had more interest than usual last year from longtime client Greg Tramontin.

“Greg decided to get involved in a bigger fashion than he has, and I presented the idea to him, and he was all for it, so we went ahead and did it,” said Amoss, whose purchases included 16 yearlings for Tramontin, six for Politi and three others signed for by the trainer.

They're off and running.

Lady Orient won her debut at Ellis Park July 13. The next day, Kimchi Cat followed suit after finish-



Dave Harmon

**Two-year-old filly Kimchi Cat streaks to victory at Saratoga Sunday.**

ing second in her debut. Third in his debut, Black Dog looks like a contender in a Saratoga maiden race Sunday.

Three others have placed, and Amoss is already thinking about the 2024 sale.

“It's been exciting because it has started off well,” he said. “We're excited, and we're hoping that this can carry over to where we do it again this year.”

Kimchi Cat cost \$185,000 from the Beau Lane Bloodstock consignment as part of Book Two, selling early on the fourth day of the sale. The daughter of Twirling Candy and the winning mare Winter Dawn caught the Amoss team's attention with her conformation, though nobody's sure who found her first.

“It's like a songwriter, nobody gets credit for the song sometimes, the group gets credit for the song,” Politi said. “That's how it was, actually, because everybody brought all kinds of horses, and everybody then went back and looked at the horses. So even

when somebody went and shortlisted a horse, all of them went back and looked at every horse.”

Politi recalled having two horses on his list the day Kimchi Cat sold. One, a Curlin filly with a deep pedigree including a full-sister with a graded-stakes placing, sold for \$700,000 – well past the budget. Kimchi Cat couldn't match the pedigree – her two siblings of racing age had yet to start – or the final price.

“Her dam broke her maiden in Saratoga and could really run, but didn't have black type,” Politi said. “That's who you want to buy. You want to buy a dam that had ability and never got the black type. I mean, if you can afford the dam that had ability that got the black type, sure. But that's where you can get a bargain.”

Amoss and company liked plenty about the filly, however.

“She was athletic,” he said while walking toward her stall Thursday morning. “She's still kind

*Continued on Page 45*



# Keeneland -

Continued from page 44

of on the small side and has a little bit of an immature look, but what she definitely has is balance. She's a very balanced horse."

Seeing her in person for the first time in months, Politi agreed.

"You see her every day," he said to Amoss. "I think she's changed a lot in a couple of months. She's super pretty. She's gorgeous, man. She's grown a lot."

The owner is convinced the team approach helped find the dark bay.

"The obvious horse, everybody's on," he said. "The consignors will highlight their obvious horses and the big consignors will make sure that everybody sees their obvious horses. It's impossible to make it to them all so you need a team. And then you need really good eyes. I feel like I have a good eye. These guys do it all the time. They're the experts."

Bred in Kentucky by Coffee Pot Stable, Kimchi Cat went to Highlander Training Center in Texas for

early work and breezed for Amoss at Keeneland in May.

She finished behind 5-length winner Viggiedal at Churchill Downs in June and aimed for Saratoga. From the inside post, she took a bump from a rival early, then seized the race through fractions of :22.03 and :45.94 while a length clear. She widened in the stretch and won by 3 1/2 lengths in 1:06.04.

Saratoga maiden wins produce lofty aspirations, and Politi is no different though he'll enjoy the moment too.

"I have a bunch of friends who are non-horse racing people that follow horse racing a little bit and they were like, 'Oh, you won a race?' " he said. "I'm like, 'You don't understand. That was opening weekend Saratoga, maiden special weight filly race.' That's what every owner is trying to do.

"Would I love her to go on and do more things? The answer is yes. But the truth is, you do all this so you can lie awake in the middle of the night and dream. It's 100 percent why you do this - so you can lie awake and dream about stuff."

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# Tsk Tsk

Clifford Nass says multitasking is a fallacy. But yet we try.

Nothing tests the Stanford professor's theory like working in racing. And working from home.

Still in Virginia, I worked from the home office – the family room couch – Friday. Deadline Friday.

It starts early. And will surely end late.

I nail Wordle in four tries. A double double letter.

A big glass of water. Make that two. Then coffee. One cup, trying to set a limit.

The farm checklist. Four horses. One goat. One cat. All still standing.

The daily overnight email purge comes first. Racing Post Horse Tracker notices. Equibase trainer notifications. Madeline Rowland jockey notifications (back when I contemplated becoming a jocks' agent). New York Times. Old Ox Brewery. MLB Morning Lineup. I can't start the day with unread emails. Done.

Scan a few websites. Racing Post. George Baker. New York Times. Facebook and Twitter just to see if the world collapsed overnight. It hasn't, despite a Microsoft software glitch. I gratefully tap my iMac and iPhone.

Reader Shawn Meyers hits me with the first text. Suggestions for the Readers' Club Podcast. Riley, Norm, Miguel. Noted.

The race watch list starts with a handicap at Newbury at 8:50 a.m. The races come hard and fast. Newbury to Newmarket. Pontefract to Penn National. A multi-tasker metronome.

Gaelic Arc dominates a handicap chase at Killarney. Look him up quick. Probably too old.

Fold the horse laundry and three fly masks.

Make an egg sandwich. Eggs, tomato and basil from the Oak Spring CSA, or as I like to say, Rokeby Stable. Yeah, that Rokeby Stable. Just down Mill Reef Drive, next to the airstrip. Not a horse in sight, sadly, but you can't beat the eggs, tomatoes and basil.

West Paces' Keith Mason calls about advertising.

We hash it out.

I wade into the Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour with Phil Bauer. I wish Equibase had "close" spelling technology as I type Arrow Smash...Aro Smash... Arrowsmash. Ah, right, Arro Smash. He was in last year's tour. It's only taken me a week to finish the Stable Tour. Put a line through that.

Danielle Hodsdon calls about turf options for Pietrelcina. Like always, the Jenga game of book races, extras, mismatched entry days, on and off the turf and a gaggle of Mid-Atlantic options. The phone cuts out. We try again. And again. Aim at Laurel and hope for the best.

I text Jack Fisher about a jockey for Far Hills. It's three months away.

The fourth goes to the start at Haydock. Story Horse is on my list. Where is he? He wins. I don't bet.

With that in mind, I blow two bucks on an exacta of Moogie and Mrs Twig at Newbury. Don't get a rooting moment. Wedding. Funeral.

I text Maggie Sweet about a haircut in Saratoga. Fusion. Ah, that's right.

Find a photo and a pedigree for Fits The Jill and work on ad design. Anyone looking for a broodmare?

Check the Fasig-Tipton Digital Sale, leave it on my laptop and the beeps (bids!) surprise me. I silence it, still days before crunch time.

Todd Wyatt calls from the road. King Tsunami runs in the third at Penn. I better check on my license. National Racing Compact, as always, comes through. Fully licensed through 2026.

I watch Hodsdon win with 7-year-old Beyond The Pale at Laurel. I think of his dam, Rowdy, winning her debut at Saratoga in 2004. I look her up, yeah, there it is, \$22.40. You never forget the scores.

Note Graham Motion's first-time starter in the first at Saratoga, like the rest of the world. Test Score. I wonder which horse has the most "Horse Tracker/Stable Mail" notifications in history. I remember putting Stradivarius on my "Horse Tracker" on the Rac-



By Sean Clancy

ing Post site. I look back at my notes, "Impressive, beautiful mover." Some things are easy.

Watch a 2-year-old race at Gulfstream, the favorite rolls to the lead before a needless whip blows it up.

I read Tom's text about finishing the CCA Oaks preview. I read it. Wow, he gets up early when I'm not around. Good job.

I bet 5 bucks on Awesome Entry at Woodbine, root him home. Miss the exacta as Mike Trombetta's horse fades.

Watch two Chad Brown droppers battle hard in the second. I wonder if that helps or hurts the quality of the product?

Joey texts a question about the Bauer Stable Tour. Accounted or encountered? Take your pick.

I miss Masoun at Down Royal. Check that later. Receive a text from steeplechase jockey Conor O'Farrell. He's here for the summer, wants to meet. Hey, come on down, you can prove the CCA Oaks preview. I check his name for spelling, I find it three ways.

Blow three bucks betting first-time starter Empower in the Victoria. Pretty horse. Mensa gallops. I should have had the double but got distracted.

Unmatched Wisdom wins the Curlin. I check The Special Handicappers. Shap, of course. And Robert Whitlock. At least they didn't hurt the ROI.

Annie texts me for our Netflix account information. She and Miles are in Crete watching Netflix. The vacationer's multitask.

Boots Malone goes to the lead in the Hoover at Belterra. I think of Mike Hushion's favorite movie. I look for the DVD of the black and white classic. The horse finishes second. The DVD has gone missing.

Book'em Danno and Little Ni put on a thriller in the Jersey Shore. They weren't multitasking.

And that's my word count. Now, I need to focus.

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