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Here&There...in Saratoga

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

Names of the Day

Out On Bail, second race. The 2-year-old colt, who races for Case Chambers, Paradise Farm and David Staudacher, is by Tiz The Law out of Judge Lee.



Waitlist, fifth race. Centennial Farm's 3-year-old gelding is by Not This Time.

Spinning Colors, sixth race. Bred by Bill Parsons and David Howe, the 4-year-old filly is by Hard Spun out of Kaleidoscope. Parsons, who campaigned graded winners Merry Meadow and Summersault with Howe and served on the New York Backstretch Employees' Pension Trust board, died in March at 81.

Quite Continental, ninth race. Robert Meier's 3-year-old filly is by English Channel out of Lure Of The Sea.

Worth Repeating

"I am glad that you mentioned The Saratoga Special. That paper will keep me connected to a place that I love."

Owner Bonner Young, who isn't making the trip this summer, in an email to her friend Mary Dixon Hutcheson (who is)

"No matter what, they gallop in between the jumps."

Trainer Christophe Clement, on flat horses transitioning to jump racing

"I guess I'm getting older. I miss Jonathan Sheppard, I miss Tom Voss, I miss all the characters who are completely linked to Saratoga. They were wonderful horse-men, and also fun people to be around."

Clement, on his former neighbors in the Oklahoma stable area

"The big question is, am I working with Miguel or for Miguel?"

Clement, on the partnership with his son/assistant

"Like the city."

Harlem, at Jeremiah Englehart's barn, explaining his name

"The most important phone call of my life."

Jocks' agent Mike Sellitto waiting for a phone call about his daughter-in-law in labor Tuesday morning (Eleanor Rose was born a few hours later)

"This is Fred Flintstone. Yabba dabba doo."

Voice mail on Sean Clancy's phone (guess who's coming to town)

"The walk of shame."

Security guard at East Avenue as an exercise rider walked home alone Tuesday morning



Samantha Decker

Super Sprayer. Thorpedo Anna basks in the sun - and a shower - after her third consecutive Grade 1 win (and fourth consecutive win) in Saturday's Coaching Club American Oaks.

"You always dream and hope that they are something that they are probably not, but this fella is probably everything you could ever dream of. My dad might disagree but I think Rosallion is the best miler we have had and certainly the best since Canford Cliffs. Time will tell whether he is better."

Richard Hannon about Group 1 Qatar Sussex Stakes hopeful Rosallion at Goodwood

"Hey, it's yours three."

Deep-voiced fan from the picnic area as Thorpedo Anna (number three in your program) entered the paddock for the Coaching Club American Oaks

"That's one thing I miss for sure. I love that paper and of course I know all the cast of characters you guys write about."

Retired clocker Bob Hamlin (we miss you too Bob)

"Key To The Mint is just a name in a pedigree to me."

The Special's Tom Law, reading an email from reader Scott Kubinski, whose first trip to Saratoga was to see the 1972 Travers

"John Clay is a wonderful client. ... I've been so lucky. He only sends me a few 2-year-olds a year and every year there are stakes horses in that group. He's got a tremendous operation and I'm happy I'm one of his trainers."

Chad Brown on Clay's Alpha Delta Stable, which campaigns Shuvee winner Raging Sea

"Blazers and pants? On a Tuesday?"

The Special's Tom Law, always keeping the dress code in mind Tuesday afternoon

The Saratoga
Special
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By the Numbers

3,000: Wins for trainer Wayne Catalano after he sent out Alinalot to victory in the fourth race Sunday at Ellis Park.

1: George Thorogood and the Delaware Destroyers T-shirt at the races Saturday.

1: Member of the Saratoga press corps who played basketball for Hall of Fame coach Phil Jackson.

1: Umbrella over a sapling on Lake Avenue Tuesday morning.

1: Wooden horse sculpture on a trailer headed north on East Avenue Tuesday afternoon.

3 (at least): Rabbits racing around the hedges of the turf course during Saturday's races.

33: Cardboard boxes in The Special office Monday evening (we're packing plenty of giveaways for our Readers Club members. Have you joined yet?).

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, answers (some) and more. He's missed at Saratoga more than ever. Here's another gem from "The Chief."

"God, Sky Beauty was terrific, I didn't think she was doing good when she won the Alabama, she wasn't eating when she got up there, she was torturing me, I said, 'It doesn't seem like I should work her the way I've been working her.' Then I said, 'Well, I've never won a big race without working them like that.' She had a good work and she started eating better, a lot of good ones are like that. She worked seven eighths in 22 with Mike Smith. I told him to go in 27 because I figured jocks always go a little faster, I figured 25 would be perfect. He couldn't believe it when he came back. ... I only trained one champion. Thank God for Sky Beauty."

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

Meet a retired racehorse

Fans can pet a retired Thoroughbred every Friday through Sunday from noon to 2 p.m. at Berkshire Bank Horse Sense at Saratoga Race Course. The educational exhibit also includes fun facts about the life and career of a Thoroughbred. The family-friendly attraction is located inside Gate A and presented by Berkshire Bank.



Dell Hancock

Former Broodmare of the Year Liabe, dam of champion Blame, died July 19 at age 29

PDJF Awareness Day

Uniting with racetracks across the country to support the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund Day, riders at Saratoga Race Course will participate in a host of activities to raise awareness and funding for the PDJF Saturday. Highlighting the day's events will be a special autograph session with the Saratoga jockey colony at the Jockey Silks Room Porch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with suggested donations to benefit the PDJF. Free Saratoga Race Course posters will be available for the signing session, while supplies last.

CBA announces 'Buying The Dream'

The Consignors and Commercial Breeders Association will present "Buying the Dream," a discussion with prominent trainers.

Moderated by Jesse Ullery, the panelists consist of Steve Asmussen, Cherie DeVaux, Kenny McPeck, D. Wayne Lukas and Bhupat Seemar. These accomplished trainers will answer questions relating to their process for purchasing at public auction as well as their experiences once getting those horses to the track.

The event will be held in the Humphrey S. Finney Pavilion at Fasig-Tipton in Saratoga Springs, Tuesday, Aug. 6 from 1-2:30 p.m. The event is open to the public.

Broodmare Of The Year Liabe dies at 29

Liabe, the 2010 Kentucky Broodmare of the Year best known for producing Eclipse Award champion and Breeders' Cup Classic winner Blame, died July 19 due to the infirmities of old age.

The 29-year-old daughter of Seeking The Gold was a homebred for Claiborne Farm, in partnership with Nicole Perry Gorman, out of the Grade 1-placed Nijinsky II mare Bound, who herself was bred by and raced for Claiborne. Adele Dilschneider later assumed Gorman's place in the partnership prior to Liabe's racing career.

Trained by Frank Brothers, Liabe won six of 15 starts from 1998 to 1999. Though she never earned a stakes victory, Liabe did pick up allowance wins at Churchill Downs, Keeneland and the Fair Grounds, and she placed in the A.P. Indy Stakes at Keeneland and the Wild Flower Stakes at Lone Star Park.

Liabe retired to Claiborne Farm, where she produced five winners from six foals. All of Liabe's foals began their careers for Claiborne and Dilschneider.

Her most successful runner was Blame, a son of the late Claiborne stallion Arch, who earned the Eclipse Award for champion older male in 2010 during a campaign highlighted by a victory in the Breeders' Cup Classic at Churchill Downs. Blame won nine of 13 races and earned more than \$4.3 million, with other Grade 1 victories in the Whitney Handicap and Stephen Foster Stakes.

Blame now resides as a stallion at Claiborne Farm, where he has sired six Grade 1 winners and is the broodmare sire of 2022 champion 2-year-old colt, Forte, as well as 2024 graded/group winners Switzerland, Honor D Lady, and Tiny Temper.

Liabe earned Kentucky Broodmare of the Year honors in 2010 on the strength of Blame's season, but she continued her success the following year with Tend, a son of Dynaformer who won a pair of stakes races during that campaign.

Liabe's fillies have carried on her name in the stud book, led by Apt. The daughter of A.P. Indy produced three stakes winners: Grade 3-winning millionaire Carve, Grade 1-placed stakes winner Apropos — both by Claiborne Farm stallion First Samurai — and Group 2-placed stakes winner Sloane Avenue, by Candy Ride.

Claiborne's broodmare band currently includes Liabe's daughter Might, a full-sister to Blame, who produced a War of Will filly in 2024.

Liabe will be buried in Claiborne Farm's Marchmont Cemetery.

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STABLE TOUR

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With Christophe Clement

Willow trees, the “therapy bench,” graduate-level father/son banter, conversations in French and English (with some translation, maybe), a dose of racing history – and world-class horses – are just a few of the items in a typical morning at the Saratoga Race Course barn of trainer Christophe Clement and his assistant/son Miguel.

Between Shug McGaughey and Bill Mott in a barn Hall of Famers MacK Miller and P.G. Johnson called home, Clement completes a trifecta of quality just beyond the first turn of the Oklahoma Training Track. His horses move in every spring and stay through autumn, eschewing spillover stalls at the harness track in favor of an active second division at Belmont Park. The trainer needs six wins to get to 2,500 for his career and looks to maintain a five-year streak of cracking Saratoga’s top five trainers.

“First of all, we have a very good team of key people in the barn and it takes everyone to do the job,” Clement said of the stable’s success, crediting Miguel, longtime assistant Christophe Lorieul, Devon Dougherty and Lee Vickers. “Obviously, to be involved with your son is a great luxury. We did everything we could for him to get away. He had a different internship as far as possible from horse racing, working in banks, working for different things. I was hoping for Duke to expose him to other things instead of horse racing. But you know what? He came back and it’s great.”

Miguel wasn’t having another career and went from Duke University to the Godolphin Flying Start racing education program to stints with international trainers Mike de Kock in South Africa and Hugo Palmer in England.

“My whole life,” Miguel said, about how long he wanted to work with horses. “We work very well together, but it can be tough too. You share your victories, your upside, your moments. It’s great when you share it together. Then, the bad day is amplified by two as well . . . It weighs that much more when you both lose.”

Maybe that’s why it’s called the therapy bench, a simple-but-comfortable spot shaded by a willow between shedrows. The Special’s Joe Clancy sat down Sunday morning and talked horses. Clement came with an early question, “So, do we talk about



Samantha Decker

Big Invasion (last September) has been a part of the Clement barn for three seasons.

every horse?” Informed that The Special probably couldn’t handle that, we opted for as many as made sense while waiting for turf works.

Big Invasion. Reeves Thoroughbred Racing’s 5-year-old turf sprinter is closing in on \$1 million in earnings. He won twice at Saratoga in 2022 and was second in last year’s Harvey Pack Stakes before winning the Nearctic and coming up a neck short in the Breeders’ Cup Turf Sprint. Seven-time stakes winner exits a second, also by a neck, at Aqueduct July 4. Sunday morning, he was fresh off the van and picking some grass. “He got beat the other day and I have not recovered from it yet. He took that last race very well and we need to find him another spot. You’ve got two stakes coming up here (the Troy Aug. 3 and the Pack Sept. 2) so we will see.”

Drake’s Passage. The Shel Evans homebred won the Commentator for New York-breds here last month and was third to distance specialist Next in the Grade 2 Brooklyn July 5. The 4-year-old son of the Clement-trained Tonalist aims for the Evan Shipman Aug. 9. “He looks the most like Tonalist of the ones we have trained. He’s got the same markings, the same physical to him. He ran a very honest race the last time, he was beaten by that freak who just wins all of those races. That horse . . . don’t meet him, that’s my advice. Drake’s Passage should be very competitive in the stakes here.”

Pandagate. Owned by Adelphi Racing Club, Madaket Stable, Corms Racing Stable and On The Rise Again Stable, the 3-year-old will try to give the stable a repeat in the Albany, which Drake’s Passage won in 2023. The 2022 Fasig-Tipton New York yearling graduate won the New York Derby at Finger Lakes July 15, his first start since a third in the U.A.E. Derby in Dubai. “Is he the only horse to do

Dubai to Finger Lakes? I don’t know. He might be. He is doing great and he will be trained for one of the major dirt races at the end of the month. Obviously, the Albany (Aug. 25) is the logical spot, even if I don’t think we should take him off from any of the open-company races.”

Parnac. French-bred mare finished fifth in the Sheepshead Bay, her first start of 2024, in May and eyes the Glens Falls for West Point Thoroughbreds and Dream With Me Stable Aug. 1. Won the Flower Bowl here last year. “She needed to run. She’s improved from the race. She’s going to work this morning on the turf with another horse called Carson’s Run.” A half-hour later, the duo came off the East Avenue turn on the Oklahoma turf course. “They need to pick it up a bit . . . that’s good. That was a good work, nothing too fast but the right way.” The clockers got them in :51 for a half-mile, and Clement emphasized the 1:02 3/5 gallop out.

Carson’s Run. A Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July graduate, 3-year-old colt won twice last year – a Saratoga maiden and the Grade 1 Summer Stakes – for West Point and Steven Bouchee. At Aqueduct April 27, the son of Cupid veered out sharply on the final turn for jockey Dylan Davis and got disqualified from fourth to fifth. “It’s a very weird thing what happened to him. I don’t understand it. The only thing we’re doing now is we’re trying to keep him as balanced as we can in the last turn, so we don’t push him out.” The chestnut put that behind him by winning Monmouth Park’s Tale Of The Cat Stakes June 23 and will aim for the Hall of Fame Stakes Aug. 2 or Saratoga Derby the next day. “He was impressive at Monmouth. He won the right way coming from off the place, going away. The way he won, you think that he might want to go farther . . . do you keep him at a mile or do you go a mile and three-sixteenths?”

Continued on Page 8

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Stable Tour -

■ Continued from page 6

Roses For Debra. Eight-time winner opened 2024 by taking Keeneland's Giant's Causeway in April, then lost the Intercontinental by a head to Future Is Now here June 7. Owned by Cheyenne Stable and John O'Meara, the daughter of Liam's Map won two Saratoga turf sprint stakes last summer, and looks to repeat as the 8-5 favorite in tomorrow's Caress against Future Is Now and eight others. "We have three turf-sprinting fillies who are very good. She's a top-class filly. She got beat, but she ran very well in the June race."

Dontlookbackatall. A Pennsylvania-bred like Roses For Debra, 4-year-old Peace And Justice filly is also in the Caress. Owned by West Point, Scarlet Oak Racing and Titledown Racing Stables, she won the License Fee in May and the Power By Far at Parx Racing in June. "She won the Pennsylvania-restricted stakes last time. This is tougher, but she's also doing very well."

Gal In A Rush. Second to Dontlookbackatall in the License Fee and fourth in the Intercontinental, the 5-year-old daughter of Ghostzapper won Woodbine's Hendrie Stakes July 6. Owned by West Point, Chris Larsen and Titledown, she's won or placed in five stakes after making her debut here in 2021. "Last but not least. She is very good too. She's eligible for a stakes at Ellis Park in August, a stakes at Woodbine in August and a stakes in Saratoga. I'm not sure where she will go yet."

Deterministic. Won his debut here last summer and opened 2024 with a win in the Grade 3 Gotham to briefly get on the Triple Crown trail before back-to-back defeats on the dirt. Owned by St. Elias Stable, Ken Langone, Steven Duncker and Vicarage Stable, the son of Liam's Map finished second in his turf debut in the Manila Stakes at Aqueduct June 29 and heads for the Saratoga Derby Aug. 3. "I've always thought



Tod Marks

Christophe Clement.

he was going to be on the grass. The Manila was a touch short for him, going a mile. Robert Atlas won the race because his horse (Neat) has quite a bit more speed, but Deterministic went well. He was a little bit taken for speed from the half-mile to the quarter pole. When Dylan got him leveled off and balanced in the stretch . . . he lengthened. That's the word I was looking for. He finished very well, galloped out in front. He very much looked more like a mile-and-an-eighth, mile-and-a-quarter horse. That's the reason why we'll train him for the Saratoga Derby."

Spirit Prince. Like Carson's Run and Deterministic, a 3-year-old turf horse with stakes on the horizon. Owned by Oakwood Stable, Scott Krase, Donarra Thoroughbreds, Kenneth and Gail Beitz, the son of Cairo Prince broke his maiden in a stakes last fall and opened 2024 with a



Tod Marks

Horses walk the ring at Clement's barn on the Oklahoma side last summer.

Continued on Page 10

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Stable Tour –

■ Continued from page 8

second here in June and a third in Delaware Park's Kent Stakes. "He is a nice horse too, but maybe you just need a little bit of an easier race than the Saratoga Derby."

Silver Skillet. Twice a winner here last summer, the 4-year-old filly rides another two-race winning streak after stakes scores at Saratoga and Aqueduct. Fasig-Tipton New York yearling graduate will turn up in a New York-bred stakes at the meet for Reeves Thoroughbred Racing, Tango Uniform Racing and Steven Rocco. "She's a very versatile filly. She's won off the turf. She's won on the turf. She's won on dirt. She's eligible for the De La Rose. She's eligible for the Yaddo. She belongs to a great partnership and has been a fun filly."

Atomic Blonde and La Mehana. They exit the Robert Dick Memorial at Delaware Park July 7 and target the Glens Falls at Saratoga Aug. 1. "It's a little bit quick because unfortunately . . . it's so difficult to work together in this country, which is extraordinary when you think about it. It should be at least four weeks between these races and it's not. They could help each other. Anyway, forget that. La Mehana and Atomic Blonde could be possible for the Glen Falls, or otherwise, we'll bring them back later on. Let's not forget, we've got a race called the Flower Bowl at the end of the meet. They're both doing well and it could be a fun race. It's going to be tough, but it's OK to be tough."

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Moment's Notice. Owned by West Point, Donarra and CJ Stable, the Fasig-Tipton October graduate finished third in his debut here July 13. "We'll find another spot for him, in three or four weeks, but he ran a good race, short on dirt."

Annascaul. Don't even try to pronounce it. The Irish village in County Kerry is the birthplace of Antarctic explorer Tom Crean. Waterville Lake Stable's home-bred 2-year-old daughter of American Pharoah and \$306,000 Clement earner Epping Forest didn't make the program for her debut last week. "We're frustrated because she got excluded. She's a nice filly. I need the boss to tell me if we want to go to open company or not. She's training forwardly and it is a lot of fun because it's an owner/breeder relationship that we have had for generations."

Vespera. Owned by Reeves and Steven Rocco, 2-year-old Volatile filly breezed from the gate Sunday and is eyeing a debut. Like Annascaul, she's "training forwardly" and sitting on her first start.

Davy Crockett. "King of the wild frontier . . ." A Name of the Day candidate, 2-year-old colt bred by WinStar Farm is by Constitution out of America's Tale. "We like him. He wants to go long, probably on the grass."

Tawny Port, Far Bridge and Soldier Rising. Like the stable's turf-sprinting and long-distance distaffers, these guys just go together in distance turf races. Each is a millionaire. All three could show up in the Grade 1 Sword Dancer on Travers Day, or another major race. Tawny Port (third, beaten a neck) and Far Bridge (ninth) exit Monmouth's United Nations Saturday, while Soldier Rising looks to make his 2024 debut. "They're all very nice horses to have. Over the next two weeks, we can make a decision about who should compete in the Sword Dancer."

In June, Clement watched Soldier Rising walk on the ring and lamented a just-miss 2023 where he was second in four New York Grade 1 turf stakes – the Manhattan, Man O' War, Sword Dancer and Joe Hirsch Turf Classic. "This is a nice horse. We gave him the winter off and he's coming back now. The year has gone by quickly, so we have to get going." The Frankel gelding has breezed five times on the Saratoga turf since.



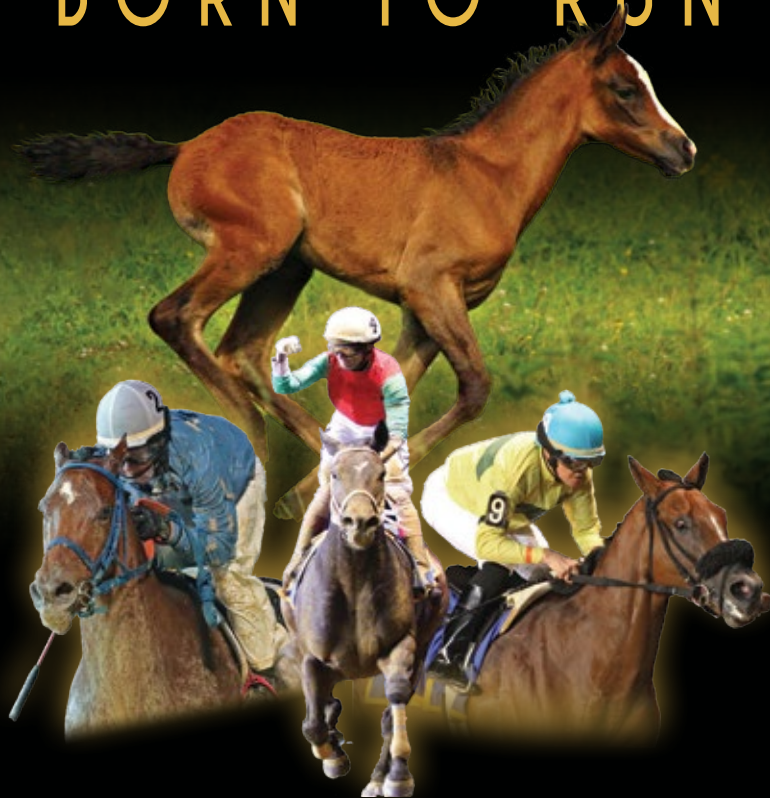
Tod Marks

Dylan Davis and Miguel Clement.

Miss City Girl. Three-year-old half-sister to multiple stakes winner City Man finished second at Aqueduct June 14, her first start since a November debut and gets back to work in Saturday's 12th race going a mile on the turf. Before she ran in June, Miguel watched her get ready to gallop and said, "We shouldn't have run her last year. She's just not made to be a 2-year-old. I'll be very disappointed if she's not competitive this year."

Betruckythangood. Twice a Fasig-Tipton graduate, 4-year-old New York-bred has won two of three this year and finished fourth in Sunday's finale a few hours after the stable tour conversation. "We got a remarkable ride from Dylan Davis last time (Aqueduct June 20) . . . Today is a different set up because it's a tougher race, but we like him. He went really, really well the last time."

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Major Exhale

Thorpedo Anna brushes off start, romps in Grade 1



Dave Harmon

BY JOE CLANCY

A half gasp, half cringe and all terrible “Ffsi-ssshw” came through the teeth of most everyone watching the start of the Grade 1 Coaching Club American Oaks at Saratoga Race Course Saturday.

Brian Hernandez Jr., aboard 1-4 favorite Thorpedo Anna as she hopped out of the gate, brushed against the right side, missed a stride and gave up 2 lengths to her three rivals, made the sound too.

“I did the same thing everyone else did,” he said. “I’m like ‘Awww . . . ----,’ but by the time I got it out she was already back on her feet and she was there for me.”

Thorpedo Anna quieted the anxious moment in less than a moment. She jumped back into stride, passed Intricate and Candied before the first turn and set up outside leader Leslie’s Rose. From there it

COACHING CLUB AMERICAN OAKS RECAP

was easy, as Thorpedo Anna drafted off the second choice until the final turn, accelerated when Hernandez asked and drew off to win by 4 1/2 lengths over Candied with Intricate third after 1:50.95 for 1 1/8 miles. Unbeaten in four starts this year, Thorpedo Anna sewed up the 3-year-old filly championship and hinted at bigger challenges for trainer Kenny McPeek and owners Nader Alaali, Mark Edwards, Judy Hicks and Magdalena Racing.

McPeek, who watched from an overflowing second-row clubhouse box packed with owners, family and friends, admitted to getting more nervous when running heavy favorites in major races and called the start “awkward.” Thorpedo Anna made sure the feeling didn’t last.

“That’s the thing about horse racing – a lot can happen, right?” McPeek said. “I’ve run heavy favorites and seen them go straight to their nose and the rider fall off. So, we’re lucky that didn’t happen.”

All four fillies loaded fine, but an unsettled Candied in post one caused a short delay. To her right, Thorpedo Anna responded.

“She got a little anxious in there, and then the one horse started cutting up, so they took a little longer than we anticipated,” Hernandez said. “Then she got a little anxious again, and right as they popped it, she just hopped up. She hopped up for half a stride, and then she took off. There was an anxious moment for two jumps, and then the third jump it was gone. Once we got into the first

Continued on Page 14

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SPENDTHRIFT

CCA Oaks -

■ Continued from page 12

turn and she got her a spot, I was like, 'OK, we're OK from here.' ”

Leslie's Rose and jockey John Velazquez cleared from post three to take the lead. Aboard Intricate, Tyler Gaffalione tried to keep Thorpedo Anna behind horses into the first turn but didn't have enough as the favorite beat him to the spot. Leslie's Rose covered the first quarter-mile in :24.28 as Thorpedo Anna sat a half-length back in second. Leslie's Rose cranked it up and was clear through a half in :47.89 and three-quarters in 1:11.80. Behind her, Hernandez waited.

“She gives you all the confidence in the world, even if the start didn't go the way you wanted it to,” he said. “Once she was there, she was cruising, cruising, cruising. Leslie's Rose was cruising along in front of her, but I said, ‘Well, if she's as good as we think she is, we'll just let her cruise to the half.’ When I got to the half, she switched leads and I asked her just to pick it up a little. She jumped on me so fast.”



Leslie's Rose made her last play early on the final turn, kicking away and building a 3-length cushion. It didn't last. Thorpedo Anna swept alongside at the five-sixteenths pole, took total command with a quarter-mile to go, changed to her right lead and moved to the rail in the stretch as Hernandez checked the infield video board. Candied tried to get into the picture but settled for second.

NYRA Photo/Chelsea Durand

Thorpedo Anna spots her three rivals some ground at the start of the 1 1/8-mile race.

Bred by Hicks, Thorpedo Anna cost \$40,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky yearling sale in 2022. She took advantage of that sales ticket, signed by McPeck, to win a restricted maiden race by 8 1/2 lengths at Keeneland last October. A 9-length allowance romp at Churchill Downs followed in November. She closed 2023 with her only defeat, a second to Intricate in the Golden Rod at Churchill. This year, the dark bay daughter of Fast Anna made like Steffi Graf with wins in the Grade 2 Fantasy, Grade 1 Kentucky Oaks, Grade 1 Acorn and now CCA Oaks while pushing her career earnings to \$1,980,663.

Engrave the 3-year-old filly Eclipse Award now while McPeck considers his next move. The Alabama comes Aug. 17, the Travers (against males) a week later. Both are Grade 1. Both are 1 1/4 miles. One would complete a 3-year-old filly Grade 1 grand slam. The other offers a chance to make real history as a filly hasn't won Saratoga's signature race since 1915.

Continued on Page 16

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SEPTEMBER 12 - 29

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
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Three-Year-Olds & Up
One Mile and One Eighth, Dirt



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SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE KHRC

CCA Oaks -

Continued from page 14

"Well, an old guy told me one time, never make a decision until you absolutely, positively have to," the trainer said. "And that's on the entry day, right? And so . . . I need to look at the numbers and I need to sort through the details. Obviously, we've got to make sure she's good to go. She's got to take us there. If she's right and ready, then like I said, we're going to consider both races and pick the right one."

Hernandez will be there either way.

"Wherever Kenny goes, I want to be there," the jockey said. "I'm lucky to be a passenger and I'm enjoying the ride. With her, yeah, it's that easy. I think it's harder for the exercise rider in the morning than it is on me in a race in the afternoon."

Danny Ramsey, who rides the stable star in the morning, confirmed that with a laugh. The 74-year-old also rode McPeek's champion Swiss Skydiver, who defeated males in the 2020 Preakness, and understands the comparisons.

"She pulls me around the track in the morning," he said of Thorpedo



Samantha Decker

Thorpedo Anna heads to the test barn after her fourth consecutive win, and third in a Grade 1.

do Anna. "She's really talented. Everybody asks me if she's better than Swiss Skydiver. I say, 'Well, I don't know. It's quick for that.' But she's something special. I felt that the first time I sat on her. If you fight her, she'll fight you back. You just got to get her to relax and go in the one pace which she would like to go in, and she'll be fine. She's pretty special to us."

And everyone else.

On the way to the winner's circle, Thorpedo Anna received a Saratoga welcome with cheers from the grandstand that followed her up the stretch afterward.

"That's awesome," said Hernandez. "It's good for racing. To watch a special filly like she is is fun. I'm glad the fans appreciate her."

Whatever comes next, McPeek will appreciate the ride and his filly's impact four years after Swiss Skydiver's Preakness achievement at an empty Pimlico due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It's just been an amazing journey," McPeek said. "We didn't give a lot for her so everything's gravy. From her 2-year-old season, everything's been gravy. She's given us a lot of gravy. Swiss Skydiver gave us this kind of experience, too, but nobody was here then. The grandstands were empty, so I'm glad people were actually able to see her."



Samantha Decker

Thorpedo Anna's namesake Anna Thorpe and her cousin Sawyer Edwards were part of the cheers Saturday.



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Lucky 7

Casse goes on winning spree, including Gr. 3 turf stakes with Pounce

BY TOM LAW

Mark Casse couldn't keep up.

He said exactly that, a full day removed from a dizzying display and an avalanche of victories to surely make his colleagues envious. The win tally reached seven, starting in the Plate Trial at Woodbine at 3:45 p.m. and ending in a turf allowance-optional at Woodbine at 6:10 p.m. The two-hour and 25-minute stretch saw another stakes win at Woodbine in the Trillium, the Grade 1 United Nations at Monmouth Park and the Grade 3 Lake George at Saratoga Race Course.

"It was crazy," Casse said Sunday, back at Saratoga after spending Saturday at Monmouth.



Samantha Decker

Pounce (white cap, center) pulls away from a crowd late in Saturday's Lake George Stakes.

"We've never had a day like that, winning seven, including four stakes."

Pounce's victory in the Lake George produced the third highest payoff of the four stakes, trailing only Get Smokin's upset in the United Nations at \$20.20. Resolute Racing's Pounce topped nine other 3-year-old fillies in the Lake George as the 5-1 fourth choice. She also ended a run of five straight

Lake George victories for trainer Chad Brown, who finished second this year with 2-1 favorite Over-subscribed and fifth with 4-1 third choice Sweet Rebecca.

Pounce, a daughter of Lookin At Lucky, added her second graded stakes victory of the season

Continued on Page 20

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Lake George -

■ Continued from page 18

for John Stewart's Resolute Racing. Stewart purchased the filly, originally campaigned by Quintessential Racing Florida and Hat Creek Racing, after her third start, and before her win in the Grade 3 Herecomesthebride in early March at Gulfstream Park, for \$370,000 out of the Fasig-Tipton Digital February sale.

With his trainer at the Jersey Shore, Stewart handled the celebrations at Saratoga, relishing his latest victory with a high-dollar purchase alongside members of his team. The smiles became wider after Stewart heard Belmont Stakes winner Dornoch won the Grade 1 Haskell. Stewart owns the Big Brown mare Puca, dam of Dornoch and 2023 Kentucky Derby winner Mage and has been actively promoting her and other members of his broodmare band.

"We're quickly accumulating a pretty big racing stable," Stewart said. "We have 43 in training right now. People the second half of the year are going to see a lot of Resolute silks on the track."

Resolute came with a two-way challenge in the 1-mile Lake George with Pounce and Sweet Rebecca, a daughter of American Pharoah purchased privately after her debut win for trainer Brendan Walsh March 10 at Gulfstream. Sweet Rebecca moved to Brown's string while Pounce stayed



Samantha Decker

Pounce and Dylan Davis return after the win.

with Casse.

"I expected them to be first and second," Stewart said. "Sweet Rebecca is a really talented filly as well. She just has to get out of her own head; she just wants to run from the very beginning. She'd be 20 lengths ahead of the other fillies if we let her. Maybe we need to do that next time."

"We liked both of them here. When you're going against Chad Brown in this territory, it helps to bring multiple horses in here if he's your trainer with one of them. You've got to do something."

Gavea took the early initiative, taking the field through opening splits of :23.88 and :47.93 with UAE Oaks winner Manama Gold giving immediate chase.

Dylan Davis, who won four races Saturday including the eighth on the Casse-trained Full Screen, kept Pounce in sixth early while racing on the outside. Gavea continued to lead around the far turn and to the quarter pole, passing 6 furlongs in 1:12.52 over the firm inner course and just a half-length in front of Manama Gold.

The field bunched up in the lane and Pounce, who came four wide, countered the move by Sweet Rebecca and rolled past at the sixteenth pole. Oversubscribed and Vive Veuve also made late runs but too late. Pounce won in 1:35.84.

"She has natural speed so I thought I would be forwardly placed on the lead or second, but I just really rode her comfortable out of the gate to get her to relax because I thought last trip she was on the engine too much, but she was able to relax," Davis said. "A lot of them went on there and were dinging it up there, so I was happy to tuck in. She started trying me down the backside, so I just allowed her to inch up and then I got into a great spot on the second turn. I was very happy there. I just waited for a spot to open up to push out and when I pushed out, she responded really nicely. She was finding more, she was actually really just getting started because she was tough to pull up after the race."

Pounce improved to 4-for-7 and boosted her earnings to \$333,249. She also ended a two-race skid, following an 11th in the Grade 2 Appalachian at Keeneland and a fading third in the Penn Oaks in late May at Penn National.

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Dave Harmon

Full Screen scores in Saturday's eighth, one of four wins on the day for jockey Dylan Davis.

4 Bagger

Big day pushes Dylan Davis up in Saratoga jockey standings

Dylan Davis proved the star of the jocks' room Saturday, winning four races including the co-featured Grade 3 Lake George aboard Pounce, to move into a tie for second in the standings through eight days of racing at Saratoga Race Course.

"Incredible," Davis said. "I'm just really happy, fortunate to be doing well and just trying to capitalize on all the horses I've been riding. Just getting lucky and trying to ride the best race I can. You never know what can happen up here, but I take it race by race and I'm happy with the great start."

Davis capped his quartet of victories aboard Shadwell Stable's El Rezen in the 12th and final race of the

SATURDAY RACING RECAP

card, a maiden going 1 1/2 miles on the turf. The 3-year-old son of English Channel, wearing blinkers for the first time, won by a half-length over Vintage Vino

"I liked that the blinkers were added and I liked that I was able to have more of an inside post," Davis said. "He was able to break well, good enough for me to wedge down into the rail and I was happy with where I was. He was taking me nicely and I was able to switch him off on the frontside, but down the backside he

Continued On Page 24

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Saturday -

■ Continued from page 22

started jumping into it again. Jackie (Davis, on Caesar's Ghost) was having difficulty, her horse was getting out a little bit, messing with her. Once she was able to start riding at the quarter-pole, her horse drifted out another path or two. I took the chance to come up the fence. He really jumped in there and responded nicely."

Davis started his big day in the sixth aboard Union Dolly for trainer Ray Handal and also won the eighth race on Full Screen for trainer Mark Casse, who also trains Pounce.

- Alec DiConza

- Cherie DeVaux kept her strong start going when first-time starter Without Caution took the opener, a 1 1/16-mile turf maiden, giving the trainer her fourth win from 10 starts.

"It's great," DeVaux said. "I have the luxury of having a lot of horses, so I try to hand pick the ones that I'm going to bring here to run. A lot of my 2-year-olds, they run and it's more that they're ready to run, not that they're ready to run their best race. I try not to take that away from them because you can't really get that experience any other way and that's valuable experience for them. So, you just try to bring the ones that you feel are

ready to handle it on this stage."

The 2-year-old son of Without Parole wound up breaking from the inside after the late scratch of Insubordination after that colt acted up, lost rider Eric Cancel and ran clockwise around the outside fence until he was caught by an outrider on the backstretch.

DeVaux took the incident and subsequent delay in stride.

"I try not to worry because I'm sitting up in the stands and that's just wasted energy for me," DeVaux said. "And then it dawned on me right when they went in the gate that now we were on the rail. That was a little worrisome, but again, there's nothing we can do about it. We'll just roll with it and obviously it worked out. He broke well and put Jose (Lezcano) in a great spot. Definitely had no issues being inside. He looked like he wasn't worried about being up in behind horses. For me, trying to be worried or nervous about things, I've learned over the years that is wasted energy."

Without Caution and Lezcano saved ground most of the way before a four-wide run into the lane. He won by 1 3/4 lengths for owner and breeder John Gunther, who also owned Without Parole with his daughter Tanya. The victory set up a potential run in the Grade 3 With Anticipation Aug. 29.

Continued on Page 25



Nano Man skips to victory in Saturday's third race for trainer John Kimmel.

Dave Harmon

Saturday -

■ Continued from page 24

"He's really trained like he's got a lot of ability," DeVaux said. "I wasn't really sure how he was going to handle all this because he is a little immature, but he handled it all well."

- Alec DiConza

• John Kimmel said Nano Man might lack size, but makes up for it in ability.

"He's a very small horse. When we got him, we shipped him in and I was like, 'How are we going to sell this horse?'" Kimmel said after the Solomini gelding won the third, a 5 1/2-furlong New York-bred maiden on the turf. "I worked him on the grass and he showed pretty well against some horses that I thought were OK. So, we put a bunch of people together to buy him and he ran OK last year. Had a small chip in an ankle. We took it out and you know, he had two runs this year and he was fit. He's been training very well the whole time he's been up here."

Under Manny Franco, Nano Man won by 1 3/4 lengths over 7-10 favorite King Puck for America's Pastime Stable, Jerold Zaro, Denholtz Stable, Sleeping Giant Stable and IEE Racing.

"The one thing that Manny said is that when he sent him and he got the lead, he didn't like that," Kimmel said. "He got to looking around. He grabbed him up and he said when he saw those two horses in front of him, he grabbed the bridle again. He was plenty fit and he finished quite well in order to hold off the favorite."

- Julia Reedy

• The sixth race, a New York-bred allowance for fillies and mares, honored 150th birthday of legendary Hall of Fame trainer James "Sunny Jim" Fitzsimmons.

"It means a lot that NYRA and Saratoga still honor him," said Paul Fitzsimmons, the great, great grandson of Sunny Jim. "We have five generations here today to celebrate. Racing is obviously a lot different than it was back in his day, so it means a lot that they still celebrate him."

Fitzsimmons trained Triple Crown winners Gallant Fox and Omaha and won 13 Triple Crown races, a record that stood for 56 years until 2013 when D. Wayne Lukas won his 14th. Fitzsimmons, honored at the National Museum of Racing during its Saturday Morning Social program, also enjoyed success at Saratoga and won 10 editions of the Saratoga Cup and eight renewals of the Alabama Stakes.

Union Dolly, a 5-year-old daughter of Constitution, won the turf sprint for trainer Ray Handal and Blue Lion Thoroughbreds, Iapetus Racing, Brown Road Racing, Diamond T Racing and Handal.

- Fin Maroney

• Incentive Pay came into Saturday unraced. The 2-year-old son of Volatile came out a winner and continued to remind

trainer Chad Brown of another of his successful runners.

"This horse reminded me of Practical Joke the first time I worked him," Brown said. "Different color and no breeding of Practical Joke, but he's the same shape, he's the same exact size. He's a cookie cutter of the horse at 2 if you just painted him bay. And he acts exactly like him. He was a gentleman horse, Practical Joke, from Day 1. He was a classy horse. He always had the maturity of a horse that was much older than he was."

Like Practical Joke, Incentive Pay won his debut at Saratoga, Saturday's seventh race, a 6-furlong maiden that featured homebreds from top outfits and six-figure purchases. Incentive Pay broke toward the back, tossed his head a couple times near the half-mile pole, before making up ground on the rail as the field rounded the far turn. He continued inside under Joel Rosario and won by 2 1/2 lengths over Dapper Moon.

The \$315,000 purchase at the 2023 Keeneland September sale also reminded Brown of Practical Joke's victory in the Grade 1 H. Allen Jerkens Stakes in 2017, under Rosario.

"Joel did such a fabulous job, particularly in the Allen Jerkens here," Brown said. "I called up his agent and said, 'I found a horse for you that reminds me of Practical Joke. I'm going to reward Joel for the job he did with that horse and give it to him.' My instructions in the paddock were, 'Hey, this horse reminds me just of that horse. I know it sounds crazy because he's not by him, don't be confused. Just ride him like him. Don't get in a hurry.'"

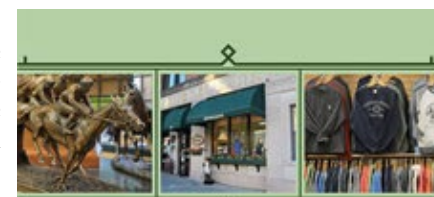
- Alec DiConza

• Spendthrift Farm's Major Dude won the ninth, a salty optional claimer going 1 1/8 miles on the turf, for trainer Todd Pletcher and jockey John Velazquez. The 4-year-old multiple graded stakes winner used a stretch rally to edge stakes winner Harlan Estate by 2 lengths. Cash Equity, second in this year's Barbados Gold Cup, finished third. while \$1.4 million earner Atone was fourth.



Samantha Decker

Major Dude rolls home in Saturday's eighth, his fifth career win.



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Gear Shifter

Former sprinter Ziggle Pops wins Grade 1 over jumps with late run

BY JOE CLANCY

As an English flat horse with Richard Hannon, Ziggle Pops won going 7 furlongs as a 2-year-old and never raced beyond a mile so it's only fitting that he became a steeplechaser.

And serious acting came naturally to Bob Newhart.

"When he first came to me, I was trying to decide whether to run him on the flat or run him over jumps," said Jack Fisher, who trains the chestnut for the Bruton Street-US partnership. "He was pretty quick."

Fisher settled on jumping, and three years after his hurdle debut Ziggle Pops became a Grade 1 winner in the \$150,000 A.P. Smithwick Memorial at Saratoga Race Course Sunday. Going 2 3/8 miles, a touch shorter than his last three English races, the son of Zoffany unleashed a closing sprinter's kick over the final furlong to catch early leader Pickanumber and win by 4 1/4 lengths in 4:32.85. Freddy Flintshire finished third as favorites L'Imperator and Abaan settled for fourth and fifth.

Third behind L'Imperator a month earlier at Aqueduct, Ziggle Pops moved forward from that 2 3/8-mile race.

"I think all he could do is really go forward just because of that racetrack experience, that sharpness, how fast

A.P. SMITHWICK STAKES RECAP

they go," said winning jockey Graham Watters. "Maybe he just took that run the last day. It worked out really well today. They went a gallop in front and he quickened. The last day, we didn't go that quick, and he did a bit too much throughout the race. Today, he was lovely and settled and jumped a bit more fluently."

The win was the fourth in eight jump tries for Ziggle Pops, who broke his maiden in May 2021. Because of tendon issues, he missed 2022 and started just twice last year, but has put together a campaign in 2024 – finishing fourth in a handicap to start the year in April, winning a handicap in May and then fashioning together two good stakes tries.

"I won a maiden special on him as a 4-year-old, and he looked like a proper horse, but then he bowed," said Watters. "This is his third season, finally, and look what he's done."

Rained out four days earlier, the Smithwick drew the same field of seven headed by rising stars Abaan and L'Imperator. The 7-year-olds, both graded stakes winners on the flat, made their first jump starts last year and have climbed the ladder – L'Imperator with the Grade 1 win at Aqueduct, Abaan with three consecutive



Tod Marks

Ziggle Pops flies a fence early in his Grade 1 win Sunday.

novice stakes victories. Irish-bred Pickanumber, a winner of four of his last five in England, made his American debut over leading trainer Leslie Young.

Pickanumber outran West Newton for the early advantage, as the favorites dropped to the back. Ziggle Pops found a spot in fourth. The real running started on the second trip through the stretch. Pickanumber led, L'Imperator pulled Jordan Gainford into the fray while wide. To the inside, West Newton made a mess of the sixth fence and nearly forced Ziggle

Pops inside a cone marking the inside of the course on the inner turf. The near melee sent the winner back to last as Pickanumber led by 2 lengths with a lap to go. Going Country sat second, followed by Abaan (inside) and L'Imperator (outside) heading toward the fourth of five turns. Watters got out from behind West Newton at the seventh jump and stayed in touch on the inside up the backstretch.

At the last fence, on the backside about three-eighths of a mile from

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Smithwick -

■ Continued from page 26

the finish, six horses left the ground within a half-length. Pickanumber led, L'Imperator and Abaan loomed. Last of the group, Ziggle Pops flew the fence on the inside and got towed into the turn. Abaan looked for room inside. L'Imperator rallied outside. Between them, Freddy Flintshire fought on.

Off the final bend, Pickanumber drifted out as Abaan and Ziggle Pops cut to the inside. Ziggle Pops outran the favorite, who had no late punch, and collared Pickanumber just as Watters dropped his whip at the eighth pole. Responding to the hand ride, the winner drew off late and won with five hand-slaps on his right shoulder.

The traffic with 7 furlongs remaining might have helped.

"West Newton missed the hurdle with a circuit to go, and I was right behind him, and got shuffled back to last place," Watter said. "But in hindsight, it was actually the best thing because I was able to get onto the heels of them, and he took me into it. If I had been maybe in fourth there, I might have got



Dave Harmon

Ziggle Pops (right) pulls clear of the field in Sunday's Smithwick.

there too soon because the other horses are going to push you along."

Campaigned in England by Bruton Street partner Charlie Noell's Merriefield Farm and Jared Sullivan's Sullivan Bloodstock, Ziggle Pops ran five times as a juvenile in 2019, winning a 7-furlong turf race at Brighton. At 3, he won on the all-weather at Lingfield going the same trip before losing his next five and heading to the United States – and a new career.

"Jared didn't want to stay in and Bruton Street bought the other part," said Noell, who owned Group 1 flat winner Tiggy Wiggy with Sullivan. "I was on a plane so I missed the race live and didn't see it until the replay. I was pretty sure we were going to be fifth or sixth. He just kept fading back and I thought it was obviously not Ziggy's day. When he got that opening, boy did he explode through that. He had some kick at the end."

Saturday's \$90,000 payday nearly doubled Ziggle Pops' lifetime flat/jump earnings to \$187,783.

The win gave Fisher his fifth Smithwick, and the barn its second Grade 1 of 2024 after division leader Snap Decision won the Iroquois in May. Unbeaten in two starts this year, he can't run at the NYRA tracks (which card four Grade 1 jump races) because of a rule prohibiting 10-year-olds. Owned, trained and ridden by the same team, Ziggle Pops made his case to be the understudy Sunday.

"Snap's a hero, but he's not around forever and we have to push on and find the next one," Watters said. "I'm not saying that Ziggle Pops is the next one. It's very hard to fill those shoes, but he's done this nicely and we're delighted with him."

Catching a Wave

Raging Sea handles Shotgun Hottie in Gr. 2

BY TOM LAW

Whether a drop in class did the trick for Raging Sea in Sunday's Grade 2 Shuvee Stakes at Saratoga Race Course can be open for debate. The 4-year-old daughter of Curlin appreciated the relief, winning the 9-furlong stakes after a non-threatening fourth last month in Grade 1 company.

Whether a so-called bias to the track – perceived at least by some to be far too favoring to frontrunners – played any role certainly can also be left for argument.

Chad Brown won't argue with the first sentiment and endorses the second.

"The track is a lot different now, which I'm very happy to see," Brown said after Raging Sea handled Shotgun Hottie in the Shuvee by 2 1/2 lengths. "The management here has really worked hard on the track to even it out a bit. It is not so fast, it is fair, you see horses winning on the charts the last couple of days from everywhere on the dirt. You have horses going wire-to-wire, mid-pack horses, and there's been some closers winning.

"That is the best track to have, if you can maintain it. We've been blessed with good weather which makes the job easier of keeping a consistent track. Inevitably, there's going to be some storms throughout the summer, that is challenging for the maintenance crew, but for right now, the track is very fair and she appreciated this version of this track versus the one a few weeks ago."

A few weeks ago Raging Sea came home fourth, beaten 4 3/4 lengths by her stablemate and multiple Grade 1 winner Randomized in the Grade 1 Ogden Phipps on the Belmont Stakes Day undercard. Randomized did all the work in the Phipps and edged champion and four-time Grade 1 winner Idiomatic by a head.

Raging Sea, who added the Shuvee to a pair of Grade 3 stakes wins, raced within a length of Idiomatic through the opening half mile but didn't quicken enough late to contend for the win. She lost a bob with champion Pretty Mischievous at the finish for third, only the second time in her nine starts that she crossed the finish worse than third.



Chelsea Durand/NYRA Photo

Raging Sea heads for the wire ahead of Shotgun Hottie in Sunday's Shuvee Stakes.

Raging Sea finished third in the Grade 1 Darley Alcibiades as a 2-year-old in 2022 but was disqualified to fourth for interference in the stretch.

Raging Sea didn't encounter any such trouble in the \$194,000 Shuvee, which attracted a field of five led by Grade 3 winner Shotgun Hottie along with stakes winners Just Katherine, Misty Veil and Venti Valentine.

The biggest trouble came via some commotion in the starting gate before the race and then at the break when Venti Valentine stumbled badly, went to her knees and nearly tossed Irad Ortiz Jr. Raging Sea and Flavien Prat avoided any trouble after the break, established position along the rail heading into the first turn before yielding the lead to Misty Veil and Just Katherine to her outside.



Dave Harmon

The Shuvee trophy presentation.

"When I saw Venti Valentine having a bad break, I asked her to get herself into the race," Prat said. "After that, I was able to stalk [along] the rail the whole way."

Raging Sea rode the inside through the opening half-mile in :48.91 and 6 furlongs in 1:13.05. Shotgun Hottie, winner of the Allaire du Pont Distaff two starts back and runner-up in the Grade 2 Fleur de Lis last time out, moved alongside Raging Sea around the far turn and the two raced as a team toward the leaders. Prat stayed to the inside of Just Katherine midway on the turn while Paco Lopez, aboard Shotgun Hottie, went to the outside in the three-path heading for the quarter pole.

Raging Sea cut the corner turning for home, passed Misty Veil on the inside and opened up by a length past the eighth pole. Shotgun Hottie needed to make up about 4 lengths from the eighth pole to the finish and didn't come much closer, finishing a clear second. Misty Veil finished third. Raging Sea won in 1:51.95 to improve to 5-for-10 and boost her bankroll to \$785,978.

Flavien just (had) another brilliant ride and decision to take the initiative," Brown said. "Our horse, on paper, could've been last early, she is not a front-running horse, but he got ahead of (Shotgun Hottie), which I think was the key decision that first turn (and) took that horse out of her preferred running style. So, in the context of almost a match race, maybe between the two on class, being positioned ahead of that horse was really a big advantage from that point forward."

Fours Wild

Franco, Prat shine on 11-race card

Manny Franco rode four winners on Sunday's card at Saratoga Race Course, including a stretch of three in a row.

Franco started his big day aboard 8-1 Sun Kissed Soiree in the fourth then won the eighth (Awesome Czech, 4-1), ninth (Immersive, 10-1) and 10th (Moore's Law, 14-1). He moved into fourth in the rider standings with nine for the meet, three behind leader Flavien Prat.

"It's great," Franco said. "Every time you win here in Saratoga is special. This is the hardest track to win a race because everybody is here, all the good riders. It's special."

Godolphin's homebred 2-year-old Nyquist filly Immersive won her debut by 2 lengths. She raced just off the pace, made an outside move on the far turn to pull alongside the pacesetter

SUNDAY RACING RECAP

Spun Candy and outlasted her and the late-running Salted in the stretch. Trained by Brad Cox, Immersive won in 1:12.60 for the 6 furlongs.

"You go with a plan, but sometimes it doesn't work and you have to play by the break," Franco said. "That's what I did today. I made sure to warm my filly up good to break clean. She broke clean and ... that was the key."

Prat matched Franco's accomplishment Sunday with four winners – Java Buzz in the third, Raging Sea in the Grade 2 Shuvee, Virgin Colada in the seventh and Hush Of A Storm in the 11th.

Hush Of A Storm capped the big

Continued On Page 30



Dave Harmon

Hush Of A Storm coasts to victory in Sunday's 12th for owner/trainer Bill Morey.

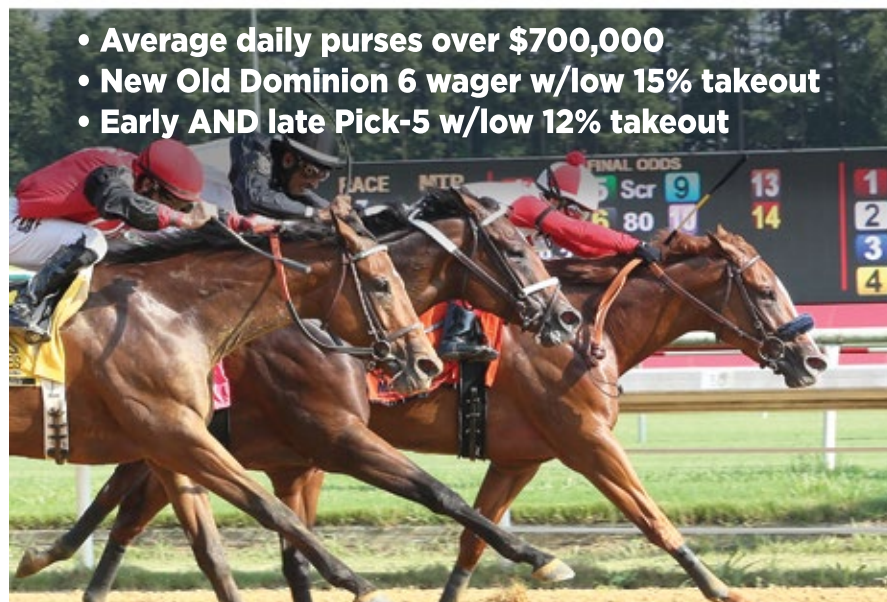


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Sunday -

■ Continued from page 29

day in the finale, a New York-bred allowance, for owner and trainer Bill Morey. The 6-year-old Creative Cause gelding trailed the field through the first half of the 1 1/16-mile turf test. Prat went to work around the far turn, swung wide and took the lead outside the eighth pole en route to winning by 2 1/2 lengths over Let's Go Big Blue.

"It's always hard to expect to win in Saratoga," Morey said. "We thought we were in with a chance. We tried to have him geared up for a big race here. I thought he needed the race last month at Presque Isle, and I thought, 'why not take a chance at Saratoga?'"

With Franco and Prat winning four apiece and Graham Watters winning the A.P. Smithwick Memorial steeplechase, Tyler Gaffalione was the only other rider to win a flat race Sunday. Gaffalione won the second on Broughty Ferry and sixth on Briterdayahead.

- Alec DiConza and Fin Maroney



Dave Harmon

Sun Kissed Soiree (right) powers away to win Sunday's fourth race.

• Sunday's card also featured an appearance by the legendary Rock and Roll Hall of Fame artist Sammy Hagar in the paddock before the Grade 2 Shuvee Stakes. In town for a concert at Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Hagar was asked to do the "Riders Up" call for the Shuvee and

happily agreed, saying that the storied racetrack is right where he wanted to be during a day in the area.

"I come to Saratoga racetrack because I have a day off here, and tomorrow night I'm playing at the amphitheater out there," Hagar said. "I had the day off, so we came in last night because I wanted to come to the race. ... I love to be around those horses, they're so gorgeous. This place is gorgeous. It's a beautiful day, what am I going to do? Sit in a hotel room or in some less-cooler place? It's an awesome place right here."

Hagar also shared a story in the paddock about the origins of his hit song "I Can't Drive 55."

Turns out, the story has direct ties to Upstate New York.

"I wrote it in Lake Placid, but I landed in Albany, New York, coming all the way from Africa," Hagar said. "I traveled for 24 hours in September 1983. I landed in Albany, I got in a rented car, and I was driving to my log cabin in Lake Placid where I had a son that was going to North Country School. We were delivering him back to school after a vacation.

"They changed the speed limit while I was gone and I was going 62 miles an hour and I got stopped. I was angry about it. I said, 'Man, I'm going 62 miles an hour,' and the (police officer) on the highway said, 'we're giving tickets for 62 miles an hour.' My hair was about down to my mid-shoulders, so of course, he didn't like the way I looked. So, he gave me



Chelsea Durand/NYRA Photo

Sammy Hagar.

a damn ticket. I was so (mad), I went back to my cabin and I pulled out my guitar. It's 4 o'clock in the morning now, I've been traveling 24 hours, and I wrote "I Can't Drive 55" right on the spot. It's a protest song. A lot of people say 'Oh, that was a good gimmick, man.' It wasn't no gimmick. It was a protest song."

- Alec DiConza

• Sun Kissed Soiree gave trainer Graham Motion and his team reason to celebrate by winning her debut in the fourth, a 1 1/2-mile maiden on the turf. The 3-year-old daughter of Medaglia d'Oro won under Manny Franco by three-quarters of a length over 2-1 favorite Jitterbug.

"Graham was saying that this is what she needed," Alice Clapham, assistant trainer for Motion, said of

Continued on Page 31

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EQUIBASE



Sunday -

■ Continued from page 30

the extended distance. “These races don’t come up very often, so when it came up it was like, ‘Well let’s take the shot and give her every chance to run well.’”

Sun Kissed Soiree raced toward the back of the pack early. She cruised down the backstretch the second time, inched closer to the leaders around the far turn and held off Jitterbug’s late run to win in 2:29.33 over the firm ground.

“Everybody at Fair Hill has been very high on her,” Clapham said. “You often wonder about going that far if they get a little tired, but Manny saved a little bit for the end. He gave her a great ride. He couldn’t have done it any better.”

- Fin Maroney

• Resolute Racing’s Virgin Colada won her debut in the seventh, closing from ninth under Prat through the first half-mile on the way to a half-length score over Running Away. Trained by Chad Brown, the daughter of More Than Ready added to the big weekend for owner John Stewart.

Resolute also owns Saturday’s Grade 3 Lake George winner Pounce and the 2-year-old Complexity riding Mensa, winner of Friday’s Victoria Stakes at Woodbine. Virgin Colada was purchased for \$110,000 at last year’s Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October sale.

“It’s just unbelievable. I mean, this is only our second 2-year-old that we purchased as yearlings to make it to the track,” Stewart said. “Chad thought that she was really good. She looks good, she’s been training well, but until they get out there with other horses and then the delay they had in the start, you know, all those things going out.

“I thought she was a little bit too far back in the pack, but she had the speed coming down the stretch. ... Really happy with how it turned out.”

Stewart and Brown have high hopes for what’s down the road for Virgin Colada.

“He thinks that there’s some big potential with her and you know, the fact that he had Flavien on her today, I think shows the kind of potential that he thinks a horse has long-term,” Stewart said. “I wouldn’t be too shocked to see her in the Breeders’ Cup.”

- Julia Reedy

Saratoga Leaders

Through Tuesday

Jockey 1st

Flavien Prat 12
 Irad Ortiz Jr. 11
 Tyler Gaffalione 10
 Manny Franco 9
 Dylan Davis 8
 Jose Ortiz 7
 Javier Castellano 5
 Kendrick Carmouche 4
 Joel Rosario 4
 Ricardo Santana Jr. 3
 Ramon Vazquez 3
 John Velazquez 3

Trainer 1st

Chad Brown 10
 Mark Casse 6
 Todd Pletcher 6
 Mike Maker 5
 Cherie DeVaux 4
 Horacio De Paz 4
 Linda Rice 4
 Tom Amoss 3
 Jeremiah Englehart 3
 Robert Falcone Jr. 3
 Bill Mott 3



Dave Harmon

Awesome Czech scores in Sunday's eighth.



Dave Harmon

First-timer Virgin Colada wins Sunday's seventh.



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Above: Comte Du Passage (French, 1838-1909)
 Race Horse and Groom, 1885 (detail)

Mr. Smith

Hall of Famer rides Spirit Wind for Joseph in Honorable Miss

Mike Smith returns to Saratoga for the first time in nearly three years. Last seen in Saratoga riding Life Is Good to finish second in the H. Allen Jerkens Stakes, the Hall of Famer returns aboard the Saffie Joseph-trained Spirit Wind in today's seventh, the Grade 2 Honorable Miss.

"It was always a dream to have Mike ride a winner for us," Joseph said. "Last time he was in Texas... and he won on her. I talked to his agent and asked if he would come and ride her again and he said yeah. We appreciate that, it is always great to have a Hall of Famer like him on your horse."

As for Spirit Wind she is the 3-1 second choice coming off a win in the Memorial Day Sprint Stakes for Mosie Miller's Miller Racing. He bought the horse privately from Jacks or Better Farm and sent her to Joseph after she won the Grade 3 Sugar Swirl Stakes in December.

"She is a filly who is very quick and sprinting is her game," Joseph said. "Six furlongs is probably her best distance. She had already come to us a graded stakes winner, so last time we took a bit of an easier route to get a win on her resume and this was the race we have been pointing towards. We like our chances obviously. She has never been in the slop,



Mike Smith.

Tod Marks

WEEK THREE STAKES PREVIEWS

that's a bit of a question mark and it looks like it's going to be sloppy tomorrow, so hopefully she handles it well, and if she does we have a very good chance."

Standing in her way will be seven others led by (2-1) favorite Munnys Gold. Trained by Todd Pletcher, the 4-year-old came off an 11-month lay-off to win an Allowance race during the Belmont Racing Festival. Before that she finished third in the Grade 1 Test. Irad Ortiz Jr. is in the irons for owners Robert and Lawana Low.

Chad Brown and Flavien Prat the meet's leading trainer and jockey team up with Accede. The daughter of Into Mischief rides a three-race win streak, including the Grade 2 Bed o' Roses last time out for owner/breeder Juddmonte Farm.

Bill Mott sends out Sterling Silver who hasn't finished better than third in her last three starts, two of which came in Grade 1 company and with trainers Tom Albertrani and Lance Rutledge. Mark Anderson's daughter of Cupid tries to improve from a third in the restricted Dancin Renee at Aqueduct in June.

Owned by Hill 'n' Dale Equine Holdings and Jarret Prussin, Clearly Unhinged looks to make it three in a row after a win in the Grade 3 Winning Colors in late May for trainer Steve Assmusen. She finished second here last summer in the Test just ahead of Munnys Gold. Originally trained by Michael McCarthy, the daughter of Into Mischief is 2-for-2 for Assmusen.

Freedom Speaks tries to halt a three-race losing streak for Carol Reitman and trainer Jose D'Angelo. The daughter of American Freedom hasn't won since the Music City Stakes at Kentucky Downs back in 2022. Making just her eighth start for her fourth



Gonzalo Anteliz Eclipse Sportswire

Spirit Wind, here winning in December at Gulfstream Park, is part of the Honorable Miss field.

trainer, the 5-year-old mare attracted jockey Luis Saez.

Two longshots for trainer Linda Rice complete the field. Everyone loves Linda won two allowance races in April and May, but finished ninth in her last start when stepping into the Grade 2 Intercontinental, her third attempt on the turf. Hot Fudge won five consecutive races from June to March before losing her last three. The daughter of Liam's Map rallied to finish third to Accede in the Bed o' Roses.

- Fin Maroney

- The Grade 3 Caress Stakes presented by Albany Medical, highlights Thursday's 10-race card. The 5 1/2-furlong turf stakes, the ninth race at 5:45, attracted the first three finishers of the Grade 2 Intercontinental and 11 other fillies and mares for its \$200,000 purse.

British-campaigned Star Guest hit the also-eligible list and Hot Fudge, Everyone loves Linda and Speedy Traveler were entered for main track only (it was raining at deadline Tuesday night).

Future Is Now, Roses For Debra and Kaufmaker clashed in a three-way photo in the Intercontinental. Maryland-based Future Is Now nailed pacesetter Kaufmaker and staved off Roses For Debra in a thriller.

Trained by Mike Trombetta for owner/breeder Larry Johnson, Future Is Now has transformed herself since jockey Paco Lopez met her at Pilmico

for the The Very One Stakes May 17.

"Her last couple of races she's run with a little bit of a different dynamic," Trombetta said. "She can sit off of a good pace and make a run at them, which maybe early on she didn't do that so well. Now, she seems to have figured that out. He noticed it when he rode her first time and was successful with her. He told me this filly would run whatever way you need her to."

Needless to say, Lopez makes the trip from Monmouth Park.

Favorite Roses For Debra drew the outside post in an attempt to defend her Caress crown from last summer. The daughter of Liam's Map stalked the pace and blitzed away from four rivals last year. Owned by Cheyenne Stable and John O'Meara, she came right back to win the Smart And Fancy over three rivals later in the meet. Yes, she faces more rivals in this year's Caress than she did in both her Saratoga stakes wins last year. Irad Ortiz Jr. takes the return call for trainer Christophe Clement.

Kaufmaker led throughout the Caress before being run down late by Future Is Now and Roses For Debra. Trained by Wesley Ward for Gregory Kaufman, the 5-year-old mare won an allowance at Saratoga on the turf last summer. The four-time winner seeks her first stakes win. Luis Saez rides for the fifth time.

The leading earner in the field, Danse Macabre makes her first start

Continued On Page 33

Stakes -

■ Continued from page 32

since finishing second in the Autumn Days at Aqueduct in November. Owned by NBS Stables and Elements Racing, the daughter of Army Mule ships from her Turfway Park base for trainer Kelsey Danner.

“She’s great to train. Easy, straightforward, loves her job,” Danner said. “She’s fit. She’s ready. I think she’ll run really well.”

Danse Macabre closed to finish second in the Bolton Landing at Saratoga in 2022. Since then, she’s never been worse than third in seven straight stakes starts. A win would catapult her over the \$1 million mark. Adam Beschizza travels for the ride.

Kerry rolls into the Caress fresh off an allowance win at Aqueduct. Trained by Joe Sharp and owned by Jordan Wycoff, the daughter of Practical Joke seeks her first stakes win at 30-1.

Secret Money won twice at same distance on the turf at Keeneland and Churchill Downs in 2023. Owned by Emcee Stable, Fortune Farm and Robert Hahn, the daughter of Good Samaritan stands at odds of 12-1.

Freedom Speaks, owned by Carol Reitman and trained by Jose D’Angelo, returned from a long layoff, finishing sixth in the Grade 3 Hendrie Stakes at Woodbine. In 2022, the daughter of American Freedom won an allowance going 5 ½ furlongs at Saratoga. She was also entered in the Honorable Miss Wednesday.



Tod Marks

Future Is Now (center), Roses For Debra (left) and Kaufymaker meet again the Caress Stakes Thursday.

Run for the Hills goes into Thursday’s race fresh off an allowance win at Saratoga July 11.

Trained by Mark Casse and owned by Gary Barber, she will once again be piloted by Jose Ortiz with odds of 12-1.

Dontlookbackatall looks to secure a third win in her third consecutive stakes start. The Clement trainee won the License Fee and Power By Far in her most recent starts. Joel Rosario rides the daughter of Peace and Justice stands at odds of 10-1.

Zeitlos, trained by Steve Asmussen and owned by Stonestreet Stables and Peter Leidel, won her last two starts, including the Roxelana Stakes on the dirt.

The daughter of Curlin finished second in her only turf try.

- Julia Reedy & Sean Clancy

• Friday’s card includes the Grade 2 Amsterdam for 3-year-olds going 6 1/2 furlongs. A field of five entered the \$200,000 stakes, including 8-5 morning-line choice Jefferson Street.

Bred and owned by Godolphin and trained by Bill Mott, Jefferson Street dominated a 6 1/2-furlong allowance during the Belmont Stakes Racing Festival at Saratoga. Junior Alvarado rides from post four.

Valentine Candy, fifth in the Grade

1 Woody Stephens and winner of the Bachelor Stakes two starts back at Oaklawn Park; and World Record, third in the Maxfield Stakes last time out at Churchill Downs, share second-choice on the early line at 3-1. Steve Asmussen, a six-time winner of the Amsterdam including a run of three straight from 2020 to 2022, trains Valentine Candy. Rodolphe Brisset conditions World Record.

The Amsterdam, which goes as the third of 10 races with post time of 2:18 p.m., also attracted the 2-for-2 Pure Force for trainer Brad Cox and jockey Florent Geroux and Donegal Momentum for trainer Tom Morley and jockey Javier Castellano.

“This is a big step up in class. From what I’m gauging, it is a very contentious field of unexposed 3-year-old colts who are trying to make a splash on the scene. I’m looking forward to it,” Morley said. “His work was absolutely beautiful over the main track. It was a half-mile by himself, Castellano came and breezed him, off in 24 and four, finished in 48 and two. He just looks like he does everything so effortlessly. You wouldn’t even know he was breezing, which is normally a sign of a good horse.”

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SARATOGA ENTRIES

Wednesday, July 24.

1ST (1:10PM). \$40,000, MCL \$20,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

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

1	.....1	.....Two Tons of Fun	.....K. Davis	.....C. Summers	.....9-2
2	.....2	.....Macaw	.....J. Ortiz	.....L. Rice	.....4-5
3	.....3	.....Hours in a Day	.....O. Hernandez Moreno	.....C. Goberdhan	.....15-1
4	.....4	.....Beach Blanket	.....J. Lezcano	.....L. Rice	.....12-1
5	.....5	.....Shakin the Belle	.....F. Prat	.....R. Rodriguez	.....5-1
6	.....6	.....Piccata Prince	.....T. McCarthy	.....J. Bernardini	.....12-1
7	.....7	.....Cowboy Luke	.....J. Lejaroux	.....A. Quartarolo	.....20-1
8	.....8	.....Conniving	.....L. Luzzi	.....C. Figueroa, Jr.	.....8-1

2ND (1:44PM). \$90,000, MSW, 2 YO, 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	.....1	.....Pandemic Hero	.....L. Saez	.....W. Ward	.....9-2
1a	.....AE-MTO	.....Resilient Hero	.....J. Torres	.....J. Jimenez	.....9-2
2	.....4	.....Sky Masterson	.....J. Alvarado	.....G. Contessa	.....12-1
2b	.....AE	.....Epitaph	.....J. Gomez	.....G. Contessa	.....12-1
3	.....2	.....Iron Max	.....M. Franco	.....J. Englehart	.....6-1
4	.....3	.....Strand Road	.....D. Davis	.....M. Catalano, Jr.	.....15-1
5	.....5	.....Leon Blue	.....J. Rosario	.....M. Giddings	.....10-1
6	.....6	.....Classic Ruby	.....R. Maragh	.....R. Rodriguez	.....20-1
7	.....7	.....Pay the Juice	.....F. Prat	.....C. McGaughey III	.....7-2
8	.....8	.....Nonno Joe	.....J. Lezcano	.....R. Rodriguez	.....8-1
9	.....9	.....Army Proud	.....T. Gaffalione	.....J. Sharp	.....6-1
10	.....10	.....Out On Bail	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....M. Maker	.....4-1

3RD (2:18PM). \$95,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 1M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....Shehanah	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....H. De Paz	.....10-1
2	.....2	.....Duckphat	.....L. Luzzi	.....J. Corrao	.....10-1
3	.....3	.....Echo in Eternity	.....J. Castellano	.....B. Levine	.....6-1
4	.....4	.....Scarlet's Dream	.....T. Gaffalione	.....P. Reynolds	.....8-1
5	.....5	.....Strong Play	.....F. Prat	.....H. De Paz	.....10-1
6	.....6	.....Mel's Baby Sister	.....D. Davis	.....M. Giddings	.....6-1
7	.....7	.....Malu	.....J. Ortiz	.....L. Rice	.....9-2
8	.....8	.....Starry Midnight	.....L. Dettori	.....J. Ferraro	.....15-1
9	.....9	.....Chasing Daylight	.....J. Gomez	.....R. Rodriguez	.....9-5

4TH (2:52PM). \$45,000, MCL \$30,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

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

1	.....1	.....Big Ego	.....J. Ortiz	.....L. Rice	.....6-5
2	.....2	.....Two Jay's Way	.....D. Davis	.....J. Ryerson	.....15-1
3	.....3	.....Triple Word Score	.....T. McCarthy	.....J. Bernardini	.....20-1
4	.....4	.....Jake's Orchard	.....J. Torres	.....S. Torelli	.....12-1
5	.....5	.....Barron's Bounce	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....L. Rice	.....3-1
6	.....6	.....Can't Stand Disco	.....R. Maragh	.....J. Ferraro	.....30-1
7	.....7	.....Four Eyes	.....L. Luzzi	.....N. Follett	.....30-1
8	.....8	.....Stanley Rough	.....J. Gomez	.....R. Dutrow, Jr.	.....10-1
9	.....9	.....Janssen	.....F. Jara	.....A. Lakeman	.....6-1
10	.....10	.....Irie Man	.....F. Prat	.....C. Baker	.....12-1

5th (3:26PM). \$60,000, CLM \$50,000, 3 yo's & up, 1 1/16M (Inner turf)

EXACTA, TRIFECTA, SUPERFECTA, PIC 3, PIC 5, DAILY DOUBLE

1	.....7	.....Internal Capital	.....J. Gomez	.....N. Moubarak	.....9-2
1a	.....10	.....Devilsgotacause	.....L. Saez	.....D. Stewart	.....9-2
2	.....1	.....Golden Purchase	.....O. Hernandez Moreno	.....E. Jones	.....30-1
3	.....2	.....Heroneandonly	.....K. Davis	.....G. Goodwin	.....50-1
4	.....3	.....Image of Quality	.....E. Cancel	.....C. Englehart	.....15-1
5	.....4	.....Bramito	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....N. Casse	.....8-1
6	.....5	.....Scat Tu Tap	.....J. Castellano	.....F. Abreu	.....3-1
7	.....6	.....Funny Uncle	.....J. Ortiz	.....M. Maker	.....10-1
8	.....8	.....Sanderson	.....M. Franco	.....C. DeVaux	.....7-2
9	.....9	.....Union Express	.....R. Vazquez	.....J. Toscano, Jr.	.....8-1
10	.....11	.....Waitlist	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....T. Pletcher	.....4-1
11	.....AE-MTO	.....Smile Mon	.....Rider TBA	.....R. Atras	.....3-1

12	.....AE-MTO	.....Mr. Papagiorgio	.....J. Ortiz	.....R. Dutrow, Jr.	.....8-1
13	.....AE-MTO	.....Andy Cant	.....M. Franco	.....M. Kantarmaci	.....8-1
14	.....AE-MTO	.....More Vino	.....Rider TBA	.....T. Pletcher	.....5-1

6TH (4:00PM). \$100,000, AOC \$45,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 11/16M (TURF)

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

1	.....1	.....Bernt Again	.....L. Saez	.....D. Schettino	.....12-1
2	.....2	.....Im Just Kiddin	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....J. Kimmel	.....5-1
3	.....3	.....Spooky Lady	.....F. Prat	.....R. Rodriguez	.....3-1
4	.....4	.....Munny Grab	.....T. Gaffalione	.....H. De Paz	.....12-1
5	.....5	.....Spinning Colors	.....J. Velazquez	.....M. Hennig	.....6-1
6	.....6	.....Can't Fool Me	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....H. De Paz	.....8-1
7	.....7	.....Overacting	.....M. Franco	.....C. Brown	.....7-2
8	.....8	.....Autumn Glory	.....J. Alvarado	.....P. Quick	.....15-1
9	.....9	.....Snowy Evening	.....J. Ortiz	.....D. Donk	.....6-1
10	.....10	.....Lady of Thoroton	.....E. Cancel	.....C. Englehart	.....30-1
11	.....AE-MTO	.....Krystalheir	.....R. Maragh	.....M. Coffey	.....6-1
12	.....AE-MTO	.....Maggy's Palace	.....D. Davis	.....J. Ryerson	.....10-1
13	.....AE-MTO	.....April Antics	.....J. Castellano	.....O. Barrera, III	.....10-1
14	.....AE-MTO	.....Cinderella's Cause	.....J. Lezcano	.....L. Rice	.....1-1

7TH (4:34PM). \$200,000, STK - THE HONORABLE MISS, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....Accede	.....F. Prat	.....C. Brown	.....4-1
2	.....2	.....Everyoneloveslinda	.....E. Cancel	.....L. Rice	.....30-1
3	.....3	.....Freedom Speaks	.....L. Saez	.....J. D'Angelo	.....20-1
4	.....4	.....Clearly Unhinged	.....J. Rosario	.....S. Asmussen	.....5-1
5	.....5	.....Sterling Silver	.....J. Alvarado	.....W. Mott	.....9-2
6	.....6	.....Spirit Wind	.....M. Smith	.....S. Joseph, Jr.	.....3-1
7	.....7	.....Hot Fudge	.....J. Lezcano	.....L. Rice	.....15-1
8	.....8	.....Munnys Gold	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....T. Pletcher	.....2-1

8TH (5:10PM). \$75,000, CLM \$40,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....Tiberius Mercurius	.....D. Davis	.....W. Potts	.....20-1
2	.....2	.....Bourbon Day	.....F. Prat	.....B. Cox	.....9-2
3	.....3	.....High Tide	.....J. Torres	.....R. Atras	.....12-1
4	.....4	.....Street Ready	.....M. Franco	.....M. Maker	.....6-1
5	.....5	.....American Diamond	.....T. Gaffalione	.....S. Joseph, Jr.	.....8-1
6	.....6	.....Safe Conduct	.....J. Lezcano	.....P. Serpe	.....15-1
7	.....7	.....Wild Banker	.....L. Luzzi	.....R. Metivier	.....50-1
8	.....8	.....Kalik	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....C. Brown	.....3-1
9	.....9	.....Bay Street Money	.....K. Carmouche	.....P. Antonacci	.....12-1
10	.....10	.....Maxwell Esquire	.....J. Rosario	.....R. Rodriguez	.....20-1
11	.....11	.....Paros	.....J. Ortiz	.....L. Rice	.....7-2
12	.....12	.....Landbiscuit	.....L. Saez	.....M. Maker	.....20-1
13	.....AE-MTO	.....Mystic Night	.....J. Ortiz	.....L. Rice	.....8-5
14	.....AE-MTO	.....Gun Maestro	.....Rider TBA	.....E. Jones	.....4-1

9TH (5:42PM). \$50,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	.....1	.....Adult Entertainer	.....O. Hernandez Moreno	.....J. Ferraro	.....30-1
2	.....2	.....Quite Continental	.....J. Lezcano	.....L. Rice	.....4-1
3	.....3	.....Holder Close	.....L. Luzzi	.....J. Ferraro	.....15-1
4	.....4	.....Lucky and Gorgeous	.....F. Prat	.....M. Giddings	.....7-2
5	.....5	.....War Terminatrix	.....J. Alvarado	.....G. Contessa	.....12-1
6	.....6	.....Tongue Twister	.....D. Davis	.....R. Handal	.....5-1
7	.....7	.....Lu's Redemption	.....R. Maragh	.....D. Duggan	.....4-1
8	.....8	.....Rookie League	.....M. Franco	.....C. Brown	.....9-2
9	.....9	.....Alotta Jays	.....J. Torres	.....D. Schettino	.....20-1
10	.....10	.....Saving Memories	.....J. Gomez	.....D. Donk	.....10-1
11AETone of SilenceT. McCarthyJ. Bernardini30-1
12AE-MTOMalibu's DynamiteL. LuzziR. Keithan6-1

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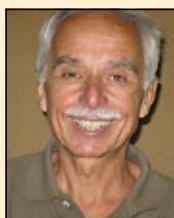
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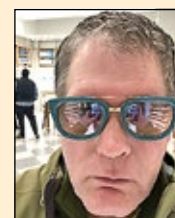
John Shapazian



Charles Bedard



Tom Law



Rob Whitlock



Jessica Paquette

Race

1	Macaw Two Tons Of Fun Shakin The Belle Out On Bail	Shakin The Belle Macaw Conniving Out On Bail	Macaw Two Tons Of Fun Conniving Iron Max	Macaw Shakin The Belle Beach Blanket Out On Bail	Shakin The Belle Beach Blanket Conniving Strand Road
2	RT Racing entry Iron Max	Leon Blue Iron Max	Pay The Juice Pandemic Hero	Ironman Army Proud	Pay The Juice Army Proud
3	Chasing Daylight Scarlet's Dream Echo In Eternity	Echo In Eternity Malu Duckphat	Chasing Daylight Mel's Baby Sister Echo In Eternity	Chasing Daylight Mel's Baby Sister Scarlet's Dream	Shehanah Mel's Baby Sister Strong Play
4	Big Ego Barron's Bounce Janssen	Big Ego Janssen Two Jay's Way	Big Ego Barron's Bounce Irie Man	Stanley Rough Big Ego Two Jays Way	Big Ego Stanley Rough Janssen
5	Sanderson Smile Mon Funny Uncle	Sanderson Smile Mon Funny Uncle	More Vino Sanderson Waitlist	Funny Uncle Mr. Papagiorgio Sanderson	Waitlist Sanderson Funny Uncle
6	Cinderella's Cause Spooky Lady Im Just Kiddin	Spooky Lady Spinning Colors Can't Fool Me	Cinderella's Cause Spinning Colors Overacting	Cinderella's Cause Overacting Spooky Lady	Snowy Evening Spinning Colors Spooky Lady
7	Munnys Gold Spirit Wind Sterling Silver	Spirit Wind Munnys Gold Sterling Silver	Munnys Gold Sterling Silver Spirit Wind	Spirit Wind Munnys Gold Sterling Silver	Accede Clearly Unhinged Munnys Gold
8	Mystic Night Bourbon Day Street Ready	High Tide Kalie Bourbon Day	Mystic Night Bourbon Day Paros	Landbisquit Mystic Night American Diamond	Bourbon Day Paros Kalik
9	Quite Continental Lucky And Gorgeous Tongue Twister	Lucky And Gorgeous Lu's Redemption Saving Memories	Lucky And Gorgeous Tongue Twister Rookie League	Quite Continental Lu's Redemption Lucky And Gorgeous	Tongue Twister War Terminatrix Lucky And Gorgeous
2024 Records	26/95, -\$40.60	20/92, -\$49.30	28/95, +\$2.30	22/95, -\$27.50	18/93, +\$14.40

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

The ROI Tracker

Late in a handicapping seminar at the Keeneland Library this spring – three days before the 150th Kentucky Derby – a hand went up during the allotted question-and-answer session.

Seated a couple rows from the front among the 75 or so who turned out for the simply named event, “Handicapping the Derby with Tom Law,” the 70-something year-old gentleman didn’t hang around the starting gate.

He fired.

“I have a question. What kind of car do you drive?”

The question asked by so many of handicapping-seminar hosts, tip-sheet sellers, radio and television watchers and even the everyday tipster at the local bar hung in the air like humidity in an old Saratoga house.

Surely, he didn’t want me to say Aston Martin, Porsche, Mercedes or even Land Rover, Audi or Lexus. He probably wanted to hear about a 2012 Mazda 3 – which I sold last year with 178,609 miles and replaced with a 2023 Mazda SUV. Or did he?

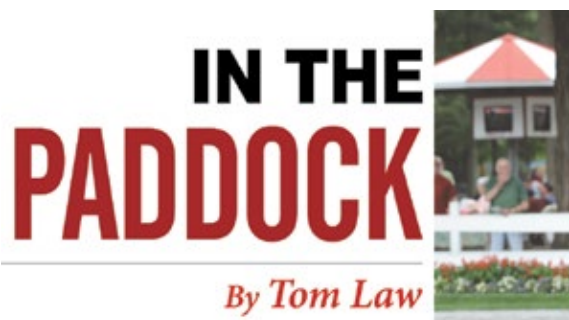
The point was made, and he didn’t need to say, “Why should we listen to your touts when you might drive a beater?”

Of course, how one spends gambling gains is probably as diverse as the crowd on a Saturday at Saratoga, or even Keeneland for that matter.

The point of this little tale from my 25th Kentucky Derby as a member of the media – first in 1998 and I’ve only missed three since – relates to something new we rolled out in The Saratoga Special this year.

If you’re a follower of The Power Grid handicapping page, you know the cast of characters who pick and prognosticate every Wednesday and Saturday here in the paper, along with other issues like Opening Day Thursday and a six-day stretch during sales week.

You know John Shapazian and Charles Bedard usually rocket from the gate, Jessica Paquette picks



plenty of bombs, Rob Whitlock keeps pace early and yours truly often struggles from the get-go.

Logistics are usually to blame for my handicapping whiffs early, not that it’s an excuse because, truth be told, there are times when hours spent analyzing a card yield few winners and a quick review sometimes produces victors aplenty. It’s truly hit-or-miss, which you know because you’re a faithful follower of The Power Grid.

We’re happy to have the Neighborhood Kitchen back as a sponsor of the handicapping page and this year we rolled out a new metric to track our handicapper’s success – or lack thereof – at Saratoga.

Change is often slow to arrive in horse racing and perhaps the same goes for The Special. We’ve fielded inquiries over the years, typically along the lines of “How come you don’t publish your ROI, that’s more useful than just keeping track of the winners.”

No doubt we didn’t do it because we never did it. We also freely acknowledge to often be “in the weeds” and unable to accomplish menial tasks, while churning out the occasional Eclipse Award-winning story. I’m looking at you Sean Clancy.

Also, we’re terrible at math

Thanks to a talented and larger staff this season – more on them in a future column – we’ve been able to designate a member of the squad to keep the tally. Alec DiConza, the veteran of our team and heading into his senior year at Shenendehowa High

School (yes, high school), maintains the score in a document he calls the “ROI Tracker.”

The final call to include a return-on-investment report into our handicapping stats came after our four-day run of papers for the Belmont Stakes Racing Festival. Four of our five handicappers finished with a positive ROI based on a mythical \$2 win bet on their top picks for the 47 races over the four days.

Even though I’m well aware the chances of “beating the meet” over 40 days at Saratoga are far different than the mostly formful stakes-heavy festival cards, when I came up with a team-best \$51.70 profit it was too much to resist.

Maybe there was a way to finish in the black for the whole meet.

Keep in mind, the ROI tracker involves the top pick in every race. That’s \$20 on a 10-race card. Example: If your four winners on the day – a decent performance for most – pay less than \$5 each, you still lose.

Terry Hill, The Special’s “oldest intern” who is taking a break this season to take care of some family matters, liked our ambitious move to add the ROI column.

“But there’s no way you’re going to finish positive,” Hill told me last weekend. “And it could get really ugly.”

Through the first 10 days of the meet – a quarter of the way through – there are some signs of ugly but also others of promise.

How do you think we’ll fare? No need to set an over-under, the baseline is break-even. Who, if anyone, hits that mark and dare we ask, who finishes in the black?

Editor’s Note: Tom submitted this column before he and Jessica Paquette clawed from a negative ROI to a positive ROI Sunday. The Special is proud of all of its handicappers. Keep it rolling.

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Any Questions?

Questions. Oh, so many questions. While we travel to and from Saratoga, while we amble the backstretch in the morning, while we host a podcast at Whitman, while we decompress at the office after a deadline, we ask a lot of questions, think of a lot of questions. Here are a few...

What about Thorpedo Anna? In a Tuesday morning conversation, I learned that three siblings (two colts and a filly) have issues in small spaces. Walking into a starting gate, a stall and even an entrance to a round pen. They don't want to do it and if/when they do, they blast through like they're being chased. How is this passed on? Does the mare pass this trait down genetically? Or does she have the issue and her foals learn it from her? We are calling the farm where they were born and raised to see if we can learn anymore. What do you think?

Why do people get offended when I ask about a possible jumper? It means your horse is sound, sane, has stamina and is trained by a trustworthy horseman.

Will people flock to the new Belmont Park? No doubt the old Belmont Park will be missed, or at least the majesty of it, but here's hoping the new one solidifies and bolsters racing in New York. When will the Breeders' Cup return to Belmont Park?

Should Thoroughbred racing take an all-star break? While watching Bobby Witt Jr. take down the Home Run Derby, rookie Mason Miller whip-saw a pitch 103.6 mph and Jarren Duran blast one out in the All-Star Game, I got to thinking about the idea of a mid-season break where all the focus goes to one track. A mini-summer racing festival, one that takes the sport to new venues (remember when the Breeders' Cup went to Lone Star, Arlington, Woodbine...) and showcases jockeys, trainers and horses. The fans vote. A new track hosts each year.

Did you know it was Dick Knapp's birthday? Happy Birthday to one of our favorite readers.

European racing built itself on racing festivals. Three, four, five days of anticipated racing at various venues. Cheltenham, Ascot, Goodwood, Long-

CUP OF COFFEE



By Sean Clancy

hamp, Galway, Chester, Punchestown... Should we be thinking about a model like this? The Belmont Racing Festival was exactly that, four days of anticipation, of urgency.

Why is there so much pavement on the backstretches of America?

Shouldn't the biggest concern for Thoroughbred racing be that the owners of many racetracks don't want to own racetracks? Oh, where have you gone R. Dee Hubbard, Richard Duchossois, Jim Moseley and the other sporting giants who put on the show?

Is there a better representative in racing than jockey Brian Hernandez Jr.?

I chatted with longtime racing secretary Rick Hammerle about condition books a few weeks ago. Horsemen say they can't find races and racing offices say they can't fill races. There's a problem. My premise is that the constant demand for full fields has ultimately led to shorter fields. Do you agree? Racetracks take entries for 25-plus races and use less than half. Horses stay in perpetual training – maintenance breeze after maintenance breeze – hoping for a race. Imagine Andy Reid preparing his players for games that most likely don't happen. The owners, who pay the bills, can't possibly plan to see their horses run because they never know when they're running. I say write fewer extras, let the book races go and it will correct itself. How big a problem is this? How do you fix it?

Will Thorpedo Anna run in the Travers?

Have you seen apprentice Pietro Moran ride at Woodbine? A lizard on a log.

Will a handicap ratings system work in Thoroughbred racing? It works in other countries and could offer another option to owners and trainers who don't necessarily want to play the claiming game. It doesn't – won't – replace the claiming game but would it offer another avenue, another opportunity for horses stuck in the shuffle of conditioned races and claimers?

Can we get on the same page with synthetic tracks?

How about Wayne Catalano winning his 3,000th race? One of my favorite headlines in The Special was "Cat 1. Bird 0." after the New Orleans-born trainer overcame bird flu. It nearly killed him but somehow didn't have a chance against a street-smart, racetracker.

Would the Hall of Fame induction ceremonies be better on a different day?

Why didn't NYRA buy the harness track so many years ago? Maybe it was never for sale, but imagine that? Of course, we like the trotters, too.

Is it safe that our horses go in both directions on the same racetrack? Joggers go clockwise. Gallopers go counterclockwise. And it's a broken clock. We try to make the game safer, sometimes simply adding layers of paperwork and oversight. Would creating jogging tracks help? Jogging hours? Walking paths? Jogging paths?

How is Chuck Simon? If you're talking to him, tell him The Special sends our love.

When Shug, Clement and Mott retire, who moves onto millionaire's row?

Have you listened to The Saratoga Special Podcast? This week's guest is Jeremiah Englehart. Have you joined the Readers Club? Why not?

Have you watched Englehart on TikTok? Wow.

How good is The Jockey Club's digital registration system? Remember looking for papers in briefcases, glove compartments, tack trunks? Remember asking agents, gamblers and touts to drop off a set of papers? Remember having to drive to a racetrack and physically put the papers into the racing office to get a date?

Will Thorpedo Anna win the Travers?

First one to answer all of these gets a prize.

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