

Year 25 • No. 1

Thursday, July 10, 2025

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Here&There...in Saratoga

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

Names of the Day

Ready Set Twirl, second race. The 3-year-old gelding, bred by Machmer Hall and co-owned by Rudy Rodriguez and Carrie Brogden, is by Twirling Candy out of Amazing Peyton. NFL quarterback Peyton Manning began many a play with a, "Ready, set . . ."



Social Hour, second race. Another Machmer Hall-bred who has passed through several owners including yearling purchasers CHC, Siena Farm and WinStar Farm, the 3-year-old gelding is by Practical Joke out of Rumandice.

Keto Drink, sixth race. Magic Cap Stable's 2-year-old filly is out of Wonder Brew. For the healthy out there, keto-friendly drinks are water, coffee (black), tea (unsweetened), almond milk, coconut milk and . . . dry red wine, vodka, gin, tequila and rum are generally OK in the low-carbohydrate, high-fat diet.

Two Bits, sixth race. EGL-One Racing's 2-year-old filly is out of Spare Change.

Spinning Colors, eighth race. A Name of the Day staple, the De La Rose contender is by Hard Spun out of Kaleidoscope.

Short Shift, ninth race. The 5-year-old mare is by Nyquist (named for Swedish hockey player Gustav) out of Split Time.

Names of the Day Friday

Bourbon Serengeti, second race. The 4-year-old filly is by Distorted Humor out of Tanzania Road.

Incantation, third race. The 5-year-old Ascendant Farm homebred is by Frank Conversation out of Strange Magic.

Make Haste, seventh race. The British-bred, 2-1 in the Coronation Cup Stakes, is out of Quick March.

Slapinthe face, ninth race. The Niall Brennan Stable homebred is by Oscar Performance out of Lost Innocence.

Griffin's Wharf, 10th race. The 3-year-old son of Constitution, owned by Rainbow's End Racing Stable, is named for the site of the Boston Tea Party.

T-Shirt Slogans of the Day

Got horse?
Print Ain't Dead.



Samantha Decker

Wild Kingdom. You never know what you'll see on the backside in the morning.

By The Numbers

1: Pick-up truck loaded with Christmas decorations at the intersection of Route 50 and Marion Avenue Monday afternoon.

1: Fishing boat on a trailer parked inside the Oklahoma Training Track Wednesday morning, just across from The Special office.

3: Consecutive Preakness winners sold at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale - National Treasure, Seize The Grey and Journalism.

83.6: Million dollars wagered on the four-day July 4 Racing Festival at Saratoga Race Course last week, more than double the 2024 figure at Aqueduct.

30: Owners titles for Seth Klarman's Klaravich Stable after it won the sixth straight Belmont spring-summer meet title.

27: Wins for Chad Brown to top the trainer standings at the Belmont meet.

43: Wins for Flavien Prat to top the rider standings at the Belmont spring-summer meeting that ran from May 1 through July 6. Prat also led by purses earned with \$4,047,540.

222: Yearlings cataloged for the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga select sale August 4-5.

52,156: Total paid attendance for the July 4 Racing Festival.

9,570,925: Dollars in on-track handle for the July 4 Racing Festival.

Question of the Day

Posed by Tom Amello, on a visit to The Special office Tuesday: "What's the one word, could be multi-syllabic if you want, of wisdom you would give as you get to 25 years of this endeavor?"

Joe Clancy and Tom Law hesitated, and Amello answered his own question - "Persistence."

He's not wrong.

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Here&There...in Saratoga

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

Worth Repeating

"You've come a long way from the first couple years, that's for sure."

Agent Ron Anderson on the 25th season of The Special



"It's a challenge but we're getting through it."

Joe McMahon after McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds lost two barns and other smaller buildings to a fire Saturday

"This one is for D.W.L."

Trainer Dallas Stewart, paying tribute to the late D. Wayne Lukas after winning the Hanshin Stakes in June at Churchill Downs with Will Take It

"This one is for D.W.L."

Trainer Mike Maker doing the same after winning the Anchorage Overnight Stakes in June at Churchill with Pin Up Betty

"I'll be your junior life coach. Whatever you need, come see me."

Racetracker John Wayne Eastwood, meeting members of The Special's editorial team for the first time Tuesday morning

"I like it. Good neighbors, too."

Bruce Brown, settling into a new spot on the Oklahoma between Jimmy Ryerson and Tom Proctor

"Wouldn't be close to opening day if I didn't come by so you could abuse me."

Handicapper and storyteller Tom Amello, stopping by The Special office Tuesday; he handed out his share of abuse too

"Right on time."

Trainer Todd Pletcher, as The Special's Tom Law walked into his office Tuesday for an interview

"The depth of quality found at Saratoga is second-to-none. From catalogs of just 200 or more yearlings, Saratoga has produced six individual Grade 1 winners in the last year as well as three consecutive Preakness winners."

Fasig-Tipton President Boyd Browning Jr.

"Makes you think of the Chief."

Trainer Lauren Robson, while swishing flies from the back of eight-time winner Nantasket Beach Tuesday morning

"Watch this move, rookie."

Tom Law, jumping from The Special's golf cart to Mark Hennig's golf cart for a story Wednesday morning



Samantha Decker

The A Team. Pletcher exercise riders Danny Wright (left) and Juan Suarez get ready to ride two more stars in the Stable Tour.

"You'll be able to see this from the Oklahoma."

Tom Law as The Special set up a new TV Monday morning

"It's on me if they don't."

The Special's Tom Law, asked if the 2025 interns were going to make it

"Already? It hasn't even started."

Miles Clancy on The Special's intern woes Monday morning

"Live and in living color."

Exercise rider Eddie King Wednesday morning

"Good paper, man."

Trainer Mitch Friedman on The Special's 25th season

"You have to be ready for every race."

Trainer Jose D'Angelo, on the competitiveness of Saratoga

"I'll buy the old ones. I don't care."

Friedman on missing the Thoroughbred Racing Calendar

Signs of the Day

MOTT SPOT, on the wooden stand near the wire of the Oklahoma.

BARKER LANE, outside a Clare Court barn.

SLOW CAT CROSSING, outside Barclay Tagg's barn.

MY WEEKLY PLANNER, on John Ortiz's tack room door.

"Give me a minute."

John Fahey, asked if he had a Worth Repeating Tuesday morning



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THE SARATOGA SPECIAL

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THE 104TH
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Selected Yearlings AUGUST 4-5



With Todd Pletcher

Everyone remembers their first Saratoga winner, horseplayers to horsemen. Even North America's all-time money-winning trainer and eight-time Eclipse Award winner.

"I think it was Reality Road," Todd Pletcher said Tuesday afternoon, correctly selecting that winner from back in his first season as a trainer in 1996. "Then I went from Reality Road at the beginning of the meet and didn't win another race until Travers Day. I won two with Plymouth Rock and Dustin's Dream. It was a long stretch. That felt like forever."

Pletcher sent out 26 starters at that year's meet, which lasted 29 days from July 26 to Sept. 2.

"We won three that year, 12 the next year and then we won the meet the third year with 20," Pletcher said of the first of his record 14 training titles at Saratoga.

The most recent title came during the spectator-free 2020 meeting. Pletcher doesn't bring up the titles unless pressed and didn't make any bold predictions during an hour-long visit in the middle of a busy afternoon while members of his team finished up afternoon chores.

"The common theme is the 2-year-olds," Pletcher said. "It's that time of year when they start to get ready. We've talked about this before. You can, as you're training them, compare them to their stablemates. It's not really until you start running them that you get to compare them to the pool. Sometimes you can be deceived a little bit. When you have one outworking a stablemate, that unfortunately turns out not to be any good. Then it can work the reverse way. You can think, 'Oh, this one's not quite as good as that one.' That one turns out to be really good. And then the other one's pretty good himself."

Many of the runners in Pletcher's main shedrow on the Oklahoma Training Track are better than good, including arguably North America's leading older horses in champion and Grade 1 winner Fierceness and multiple Grade 1 winner Mindframe, along with Grade 1 winners Locked, Can-died and Leslie's Rose.

Pletcher won his 200th Grade 1 last year when Fierceness won the Travers Stakes at Saratoga. He's tacked on three more since – Locked in the Santa Anita Handicap in March and Mindframe in the



Samantha Decker

Trainer Todd Pletcher checks Grade 1 winner Mindframe, with groom Martin Estrada, before training Wednesday.

Churchill Downs Stakes in May and Stephen Foster in June. He's also won the Spinaway six times, Adirondack five times, Hopeful four times and Saratoga Special twice, those being the marquee juvenile stakes on the slightly reconfigured summer calendar after Saratoga hosted the July 4 Racing Festival that included the Sanford and Schuylerville. He's won those two eight and six times, respectively.

"I always say, our success at Saratoga depends on the 2-year-olds," Pletcher said. "Right now, I feel like we have a pretty imbalanced stable. Our 3-year-old crop was disappointing. Three-year-old fillies and colts. But, we're lucky. We have some really nice older horses. Hopefully, we've got some 2-year-olds. That 3-year-old crop is in the middle. Tip Top Thomas winning the Indiana Derby the other day, that was a bright spot. But for the most part, it's been a disappointing 3-year-old crop."

The annual lead-off Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour of the season with The Special's Tom Law featured the discussion of more than three dozen runners. Most appear here and others will be featured in the Member Content section at thisishorseracing.com.

We promised to go as rapid fire as possible for this year's Stable Tour, despite the depth of the stable, with a request to "start at the top."

"Who are you going to start at the top?" Pletcher asked.

Recent brilliance won out, with Mindframe leading off over Fierceness. They flip spots from last year's Stable Tour.

Mindframe: Repole Stable's and St. Elias Stable's Maryland-bred 4-year-old by Constitution improved to 5-for-7 with victory over Sierra Leone, First Mission and Mystik Dan in the Foster. He also won the Grade 1 Churchill Downs going 7 furlongs in May. The only defeats were close seconds in last year's Belmont Stakes and Haskell Invitational behind Dornoch. "I actually think his Churchill Downs Stakes was a little bit, almost overlooked because obviously the huge weekend and the Derby takes center stage. That was a big effort. It turned out to be a really key race where a lot of horses have come out of there and come back and run really well. He showed the versatility to win a Grade 1 at 7 furlongs and then a mile on the eighth. I've always felt like good horses can do that; really good horses can do just about everything from seven-eighths to a mile and an eighth in this case. But still, you don't see it happen that often. Maybe you see 2-year-olds that are able to win a Grade 1 at 7 and then go on stretch out. He's an older horse and it's a pretty special accomplishment. His talent and versatility is really outstanding. He's one that we've always felt could be special. It's cool to see him do it. He showed it as a 3-year-old, obviously, to finish second in the Belmont and the Haskell in his third and fourth starts. Then he had some time and came back to step it up even another notch as a 4-year-old. It was what we felt like he would do and we're happy to see him do it."

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#1 RANKED YEARLING SALE

BY % OF GRADE 1 WINNERS*



THE 104TH SARATOGA SALE

Selected Yearlings

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Stable Tour –

■ Continued from page 6

Fierceness: The champ. Last year's Travers winner and the 2023 champion 2-year-old male brings 6-for-11 record with two seconds and a third for Repole and the Coolmore team, with a bankroll of \$4,515,320. Son of City Of Light finished second to Raging Torrent while down inside last time out in the Grade 1 Metropolitan Handicap after record-setting win in the Grade 2 Alysheba on Kentucky Oaks Day at Churchill Downs. "I was worried about the Wilson Chute. The beginning of that race reminded me a bit of the Holy Bull, where he didn't jump great, and then Johnny had to hustle to get to the first turn and then they were banging around a little bit. He ended up getting into the position we wanted to, but not the way we wanted to get there. A similar thing. Like Johnny said, Frankie rode his horse exactly like Johnny would have ridden him if he were riding. He was just going to go and he came over and then we had to check over heels and then try to squeeze in between Raging Torrent and White Abarrio. Again, we got to the position we wanted, but had to use him and get banged around a little bit to do it. Whatever rhythm that took him out of, he just wasn't able to deliver the same punch. Sealed racetrack, all those things, plus coming off a huge effort in his first start, maybe had a little bit of a bounce factor. It wasn't a bad race, it just wasn't his best. Hopefully, we see him get back to his best in the Whitney."

Time for a sidebar/Q&A about the stable stars . . .

So, the Whitney is the target for both?

"Fierceness, for sure. Now we have the question of, do we want to run them against each other? The answer is, ideally, no. But at the same time, you have to look at each individual horse and try to manage them the best you can. Is it in Mindframe's best interest to run in the Whitney? Is it his best interest to get a little more time and wait for the Jockey Club? We'll just have to let him guide us through the next couple of weeks."

Does having the same owner help in that regard because you're not feeling pressure from multiple owners?

"Mindframe is 50 percent Repole and 50 percent St. Elias. Fierceness is 100 percent Repole. Generally, St. Elias deferred to Mike's judgment on those situations. We'll continue to play it by ear for a little bit, but we have to keep all the options open for now."

That's a good problem to have.

"It is. Hopefully, it continues to be a problem."

We were just talking in the office about Fierceness and Mindframe. We were curious if you've ever worked them together.

"I was thinking about that actually the other day, if I ever did or if I ever would. I probably won't and I don't think we have. I did work Malathaat and Nest together at Keeneland. Their penultimate work before the Breeders' Cup Distaff (in 2022). It went great, but it was still like one of those things where you ask, 'Are you sure this is the right thing to do?' They were such kind fillies that I knew they weren't going to do too much. And it turned out to be a good race for both (Malathaat won, Nest was fourth) . . . Another thing I was thinking about was,



Samantha Decker

Tools of the trade at the Pletcher barn.



Samantha Decker

Todd Pletcher's barn area on the Oklahoma side will be busy this summer.

maybe it was Real Quiet and Silver Charm, and Bob Baffert worked two of his Derby winners a mile together. I remember reading about him saying how nervous he was doing it.

Wow. Derby winners from back-to-back years working in company. That's strong.

"Yeah, that is strong."

Maybe like seeing Sovereignty working with Arthur's Ride here on the Oklahoma.

"That was pretty good. It's one of those things when you start thinking about who you're going to work some of these horses in company with. It takes a good horse to actually benefit the really good horse. You can't just throw just anyone in against them because it then becomes a solo work instead of a team work. . . . Usually, you've got to make sure you have an understanding owner that has the other horse. They might call you up and say, 'I saw my horse work with Fierceness today.' It'd be one of those things where, 'Sometimes you've got to be a good stablemate and we'll return the favor to you someday,' right?"

Reminds me of when Neil Drysdale had Bodyguard working with Fusaichi Pegasus during his run-up to the 2000 Kentucky Derby. He was a great work horse with him, but was like a punching bag.

"Sometimes those horses are super valuable to have in your barn."

Antiquarian: Centennial Farm's Grade 2-winning son of Preservationist finished second in the Grade 3 Blame May 31 at Churchill and second in the Grade 2 Suburban here July 4. "He ran well. He was a jump away from getting there. The track was playing a little bit unusual on the Fourth of July. It seemed like route speed was holding up, even though the horses weren't necessarily finishing very fast. They were still . . . no one was gaining on them and closing late. It was a good effort, back-to-back good efforts."

Locked: Winner of the Grade 1 Big 'Cap three starts back, 4-year-old Gun Runner colt finished fourth in the Alysheba and third in the Suburban for Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and Walmac Farm. He's won five of 10 and earned \$1,746,825. "Because of the way the track was playing, we tried to keep him a little closer than he probably really wants to be. But again, no one was making up any ground, so we didn't have a bad trip. It just might not be the trip that he prefers. We had a little bit of trouble getting him back to that Santa Anita Handicap race. That was a monster performance. Sometimes those races take you a little while to fully recover from. I still think he's a really good horse. We've just got to get him back to his best."

Is it the travel sometimes or just the big effort or just maybe a combination?

"It's a combination of all those things. That race, he was really wide on both terms. It was just a huge performance. I've seen it over the years. You'll have a horse that you feel like he's back to himself, he's fully recovered, he's training great and sometimes you don't know until the eighth pole if they still have all that energy left. I'm not down on the horse. He's one of the best of his generation and we feel like we can get him back to his best."

Tip Top Thomas: James Bakke's and Gerald Isbister's 3-year-old Volatile colt broke his maiden on last year's Travers Day card — beating the eventual Kentucky Derby and Belmont winner Sovereignty in the process. Tip Top Thomas finished second in the Grade 1 Champagne before a freshening then returned to win two of three this year including the Grade 3 Indiana Derby July 4 at Horseshoe Indianapolis. "Big effort. I did look back and he broke his maiden here last year and Sovereignty was in there. Obviously, it turned out to be a pretty significant, key maiden race. He's a little bit of a tricky horse to ride. He's got a light mouth and doesn't want to be taken hold of. The fractions were pretty fast in Indiana, but I think that's the way he wants to be ridden. We just let him do his thing. That was a courageous effort against more seasoned horses. They took turns, making a good run at him and he was able to fend them off. We're leaving all options open. Maybe a race like the Smarty Jones might make sense. If he would do well there, then maybe the Pennsylvania Derby. We'll see. I don't think he's quite ready to step up to a mile and a quarter. The Travers would probably be a little bit too much of an ask at this stage."

Major Dude: Spendthrift Farm's multiple graded stakes-winning 5-year-old son of Bolt d'Oro sports 7-4-4 record in 23 starts and earnings of \$1,206,647. He finished third in the Grade 3 Poker going 1 mile here June 5. "I'm going to try

something a little different with 'The Dude' and go to the United Nations (July 19 at Monmouth Park). I'm going to try a little stretch out. I mean, he won going a mile on an eighth and I feel like that could potentially open up a lot of options for him. So, we'll give that a try."

Candied: Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners' and Bobby Flay's Grade 1-winning daughter of Candy Ride, a \$165,000 purchase out of the 2022 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July yearling sale, won the Allaire du Pont Distaff in mid-May at Pimlico. The winner of four of 11 and \$1,253,488 scratched from the Grade 1 Ogden Phipps June 6 at Saratoga. "She's going to go to the Molly Pitcher at Monmouth (July 19). She had a good comeback race in the du Pont. She might get on track there. She won the Lady's Secret at Monmouth last year. It felt like the Molly Pitcher made sense for her. . . . We scratched her from the Phipps. It felt like we needed a little more time."

Leslie's Rose: Eased in the Ogden Phipps, Whisper Hill Farm's Grade 1-winning daughter of Into Mischief owns three wins in nine starts and earnings of \$633,800 was eased late in the Grade 1 Ogden Phipps here June 6. "Unfortunately, it absolutely poured, literally, as we were getting ready to go over. It was almost identical to what happened when we ran her in the Kentucky Oaks. We tried to convince ourselves that it was maybe the Churchill's sloppy track that she doesn't like, but I think now we know it's just slop in general that she doesn't like. I remember Oaks week, the filly was training like she normally does. She's a pretty ambitious filly every morning and puts a lot into her gallops. The Tuesday before the Oaks, we had a sloppy track for training and she was just off the bridle. I was like, 'This filly just hates the slop,' and then, sure enough. We might go in the Shuvee with her."

And hope for a dry track when that rolls around July 18.

Yes, and if it's not, we'll scratch and wait for another day."

Grand Sonata: Whisper Hill's homebred 6-year-old son of Medaglia d'Oro finished eighth in the off-the-turf Grade 3 Belmont Gold Cup June 6 at Saratoga. A multiple graded stakes winner and earner of \$2,124,935 won last year's Grade 2 Kentucky Cup Turf. "He's also going to go back to the United Nations. He was beaten a whisker there last year. He seems to like Kentucky Downs as well. We'd like to show up there again. . . . He broke his maiden off-the-turf. The temptation to try him on the dirt was there, but watching him train, I was always like, 'Well, I know he's better on the turf, but maybe if we're going to try it, this is the right scenario.' But yeah, it was not."

Capture The Flag: Winner of the Grade 2 Mac Diarmida three starts back finished off the board in his next two starts and is headed out of the stable. "He's actually going to be offered in the Keeneland November breeding stock sale."

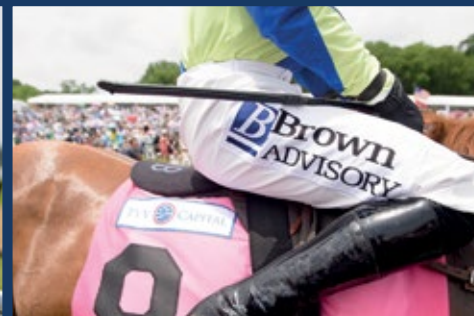
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Stable Tour –

■ Continued from page 8

Miss Justify: The winner of last year's Wilton Stakes early in the meet sports a 5-for-9 record. A \$200,000 purchase out of the 2023 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale, 4-year-old daughter of Justify finished fourth last time in the Grade 2 Bed o' Roses June 6 at Saratoga. "She's another one that could try the Shuvee. She's been a solid campaigner. Ways And Means was too much that day. I thought she put up a good fight. We're trying to find her ideal distance. It's somewhere between a mile and a mile and an eighth. We're going to keep an eye on the Molly Pitcher and the Shuvee here to see which spot seems to make the most sense."

Crudo: Bobby Flay's and James Ventura's 3-year-old son of Justify won the Sir Barton two starts back and was eighth last time in the Belmont Stakes. "He's going to breeze (Wednesday, half in :49.76 on the main track). Right now, he's pointing for the Curlin (July 24). In retrospect, I thought that we probably were asking him too much, too soon on three weeks' rest. But I was looking at the race, and Rodriguez was the only speed in there. I thought, 'Man, I don't enter, and for some reason Rodriguez doesn't show up, could we potentially be loose on the lead, controlling the pace?' That was the thought process behind it. It was just a little too much. He didn't quite have the seasoning like the other ones."

Uncaged: Sixth in the Grade 3 Peter Pan and seventh in the Belmont Stakes, WinStar Farm's and Repole Stable's 3-year-old son of Curlin will look to improve on 2-for-5 record when he runs next July 24. "We're going to try the Curlin with him as well."

Gate To Wire: Donegal Racing's Grade 3-placed son of Munnings won the Swale at Gulfstream in February before off-the-board finishes in three graded stakes. "He's pointing for the Amsterdam (July 25). He's a horse that if we catch the right pace scenario and the track is playing the right way, he's a come-from-behind sprinter and we need a proper setup. (He won here last year) going 5 1/2 on the turf. Then he won the Swale, ran competitively in the Woody Stephens on Belmont Day. We had a respectable fourth in the Pat Day Mile on Derby Day. It just needs a good setup."

River Thames: WinStar Farm's New York-bred son of Maclean's Music placed in the Grade 2 Fountain of Youth and Grade 1 Blue Grass Stakes before a sixth in the Preakness Stakes. "He was sent to WinStar. He's getting a little bit of a freshening. We'll see him back this fall."

Grande: Repole's Wood Memorial runner-up scratched out of the Kentucky Derby by state veterinarians with a hoof issue. He'd won two straight to start his career at Gulfstream. "He's in Ocala getting a little bit of refreshing. We'll also see him in the fall."

Disruptor: Owned by Repole, Spendthrift and partners, 3-year-old son of Gun Runner broke his maiden by 9 1/4 lengths March 1 at Gulfstream before a fifth 28 days later in the Grade 1 Florida Derby. "He's in Ocala also. Nice horse. We were kicking around the idea of where we were going to run him and then he just wasn't moving well out of his last breeze. We huddled up and decided we're going to miss these major races in July and August. Let's just regroup and focus on a fall, winter campaign. He's a pretty talented horse. I look forward to getting him back."

Prince Valiant: Red Oak Stable's 3-year-old New York-bred by King For A Day won the Times Square division of the New York Stallion Series two starts back before a third in the Mike Lee Stakes June 4 at Saratoga. Taking a breather at GMP Farm in Schuylerville. "After that race, there wasn't a whole lot on the calendar for him. Just getting a little freshening; obviously a New York-bred so there are races for him. He's cool and turned out to be a pretty solid horse. We trained King For A Day, too, and he's off to a decent start at stud."



Samantha Decker

Fierceness eyes a start in the Grade 1 Whitney.

Classic Catch: Runner-up in the Excelsior Stakes in early April at Aqueduct left the stable this month after winning three of 20 starts and earning \$458,233. "He's actually at Fasig-Tipton right now. . . . We had him pointed for the Monmouth Cup and depending on what happens with the sale, he might still be heading that way."

The pre-Stable Tour research didn't include looking at the sales catalog.

"You might not have seen him in the catalog. He was a late addition."

Scrap the Monmouth Cup. He sold for \$340,000 to KGS at Tuesday's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July horses of racing age sale.

Crupi: Another veteran, Repole and St. Elias graded stakes winner hasn't been out since finishing fourth in the Excelsior Stakes April 5 at Aqueduct. "He's also getting a break. He's had a pretty steady campaign. I'm not a thousand percent sure what we'll do with him. There's been some interest in him as a stallion and I think it depends on which way that goes. He's going to be in good shape to come back if they decide to keep him going or I suppose if they get a stallion deal that they're happy with, then he might go that direction. He's been a solid citizen. Good, cool horse."

Hot List: English-bred 2-year-old daughter of Too Darn Hot makes debut in today's sixth, a 5 1/2-furlong turf maiden, for Repole. "She's been training well. She has some natural speed. She ended up in the far outside draw, but hopefully gets away alertly."

Always Ready: Repole homebred 2-year-old daughter of Practical Joke finished fourth, beaten 10 1/4 lengths, in her debut going 5 furlongs May 3 at Aqueduct. "She's entered for Thursday and Saturday and actually landed on the AE both times. Her one start at Aqueduct was an OK effort. Switching to the grass and hopefully that improves her a little bit."

Endorse: Repole's 3-year-old daughter of Curlin finished third in debut June 6 at Saratoga, beaten 5 1/4 lengths by Ragtime. Entered in today's seventh, a 9-furlong maiden. "She's coming off a decent debut. Mott's filly, Ragtime, came back and won over the weekend so that flattered the race a bit. We're stretching out to two turns now, which I think is what she wants. We're expecting a good run from her."

Ragha: Shadwell Stable's 3-year-old Curlin filly finished second twice and third once in four starts. She's also entered in today's seventh. "She's been a little bit frustrating because I think there's more talent there than she's shown. Even with the blinkers on, she's just been a little bit green. I thought she worked very well here the other day, so I can see her making a move forward."

Tapit's Legacy: Tapit colt cost \$550,000 in March and makes debut for Spendthrift Farm and Epic Horses in Saturday's first, a 6-furlong maiden on the main track. "This horse has been training pretty well. He's a real big colt, but has a

pretty good turn of foot and has been sharp away from the gate. It looks like a typical salty Saratoga maiden race on paper. Saturday maiden at Saratoga. That's what you'd expect."

Grand Gala: Repole's homebred daughter of Practical Joke out of the Speightstown mare On The Good List makes debut in Saturday's sixth, a 5 1/2-furlong on the turf. "We thought she improved on the turf. We worked her on it and she moved up on it. We're hoping she breaks sharply. It seems to be the key in these 5 1/2-furlong races."

Especially if the turf stays as firm as it is.

"I'm surprised at how firm it was. Especially, since it's been such a rainy spring and winter. I know it gets firm in late July and August, but I was a little surprised at that this past weekend."

El Razeen: Shadwell's homebred 4-year-old son of English Channel enters Saturday's Grade 2 Bowling Green off a second in April 24 allowance on the turf at Keeneland. He's 2-for-8 with two seconds. "He was really getting good at the end of last year and we freshened him up with the idea that it seems like the English Channels as they mature, get better. He had a good comeback race at Keeneland. We'd entered him back here in the race during the Belmont Festival and it rained and came off the turf. We decided to just wait for this. He's a promising horse."

ising horse."

Tucson: WinStar's and Rock Ridge Racing's 4-year-old Constitution colt looks to bounce back from eighth in Manhattan June 8 in Saturday's Bowling Green. "That just didn't work last time, with the race postponed and then backed up to a mile and an eighth. He's a little better going further. Now it's a little longer, and we'll see if he can step up."

Bulldoze: Repole's 3-year-old Nyquist colt finished fifth in the 1-mile Pennine Ridge on Belmont Day. "That was an off-the-turf situation that we took a shot. We always felt like he's a little better on the grass. I don't know if a mile and eighth is quite long enough for him. He's a bit of a grinder. We'll see."

Illuminare: Centennial Farm's 4-year-old City Of Light colt returns in Saturday's 10th, a salty 7-furlong allowance-optional. He's won three of five and hasn't been out since an eighth in the Grade 3 Mr. Prospector in late December. "There's a lot of stuff going on there. That's a nasty race. It's a tough one, but what are you going to do? You don't have many conditions left. But he's been training well, so hopefully he comes back with a good race."

Class President: WinStar's 2-year-old Uncle Mo colt breezed six times at Saratoga after shipping from owner/breeder's training center in Kentucky, including 5 furlongs in 1:01.85 July 6. "He's been training well. I would think end of this month, beginning of August, he should be ready. We've been happy with the way he's been breezing."

Franklin Delano: Joe Allen's homebred 2-year-old by Liam's Map out of the War Front mare Battle Flag breezed a half-mile from the gate on the main track in :49.56 July 5, his seventh work at Saratoga. "He's another one that has been training well. He's got turf on the bottom side of his pedigree, but so far, he's been training well in the dirt. If he continues to do that, we'll probably give him a try on the dirt at the end of the month, beginning of August."

Scope: Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, Bridlewood Farm and Robert LaPenta spent \$400,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga select sale for son of Gun Runner. He's breezed six times, including a half in :49.25 July 6. "Big, leggy colt. He's probably middle of August. He's a good-minded colt and has been training well."

Emphasis. Repole spent \$625,000 last September for son of Yaupon out of 2010 Mother Goose Stakes runner-up Connie And Michael. He breezed on the main track for the first time July 4, going 5 furlongs in 1:03.77. "He's OK also. He had a good gate work (half in :49 June 27). He could be in a maiden race July 19 or July 26."

Continued on Page 12

2025 September & Fall Meet Stakes Schedules

September Meet

SEPTEMBER 11 – 28

IROQUOIS (GIII)

"Breeders' Cup Dirt Dozen"

Runs Saturday, September 13
Closes August 27
\$300,000
Includes \$75,000 from KTDF
Two-Year-Olds
One Mile, Dirt

POCAHONTAS (GIII)

"Breeders' Cup Dirt Dozen"

Runs Saturday, September 13
Closes August 27
\$300,000
Includes \$75,000 from KTDF
Fillies, Two-Year-Olds
One Mile, Dirt

LOCUST GROVE (GII)

Runs Saturday, September 13
Closes August 27
\$400,000
Includes \$100,000 from KTDF
Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Up
One Mile and One Sixteenth, Dirt

LOUISVILLE THOROUGHBRED SOCIETY (Listed)

Runs Saturday, September 13
Closes August 27
\$300,000
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF
Three-Year-Olds & Up
Six Furlongs, Dirt

OPEN MIND (Listed)

Runs Saturday, September 13
Closes August 27
\$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 20
Closes September 3
\$175,000
Includes \$65,000 from KTDF
Fillies, Three-Year-Olds
One Mile and One Sixteenth, Dirt

BOURBON FLIGHT

Runs Saturday, September 20
Closes September 3
\$300,000
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF
Three-Year-Olds
One Mile and Three Sixteenths, Dirt

HARRODS CREEK

Runs Saturday, September 20
Closes September 3
\$300,000
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF
Three-Year-Olds
Seven Furlongs, Dirt

DOGWOOD (GIII)

Runs Saturday, September 20
Closes September 3
\$300,000
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF
Fillies, Three-Year-Olds
Seven Furlongs, Dirt

ACK ACK (GIII)

Runs Saturday, September 27
Closes September 10
\$400,000
Includes \$100,000 from KTDF
Three-Year-Olds & Up
One Mile, Dirt

LUKAS CLASSIC (GII)

Runs Saturday, September 27
Closes September 10
\$500,000
Includes \$100,000 from KTDF
Three-Year-Olds & Up
One Mile and One Eighth, Dirt

Fall Meet

OCTOBER 26 – NOVEMBER 30

RAGS TO RICHES (Listed)

Runs Sunday, October 26
Closes October 8
\$200,000
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF
Fillies, Two-Year-Olds
One Mile and One Sixteenth, Dirt

STREET SENSE (GIII)

Runs Sunday, October 26
Closes October 8
\$200,000
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF
Two-Year-Olds
One Mile and One Sixteenth, Dirt

BET ON SUNSHINE (Listed)

Runs Saturday, November 1
Closes October 15
\$300,000
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF
Three-Year-Olds & Up
Six Furlongs, Dirt

DREAM SUPREME (Listed)

Runs Saturday, November 8
Closes October 22
\$300,000
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF
Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Up
Six Furlongs, Dirt

RIVER CITY (GIII)

Runs Saturday, November 8
Closes October 22
\$300,000
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF
Three-Year-Olds & Up
One Mile and One Eighth, Turf

CHILUKKI (GIII)

Runs Saturday, November 15
Closes October 29
\$300,000
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF
Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Up
One Mile, Dirt

COMMONWEALTH TURF (GIII)

Runs Saturday, November 22
Closes November 5
\$300,000
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF
Three-Year-Olds
One Mile and One Sixteenth, Turf

CARDINAL (Listed)

Runs Thursday, November 27
Closes November 12
\$300,000
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF
Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Up
One Mile and One Eighth, Turf

FALLS CITY (GIII)

Runs Thursday, November 27
Closes November 12
\$400,000
Includes \$75,000 from KTDF
Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Up
One Mile and One Eighth, Dirt

MRS. REVERE (GII)

Runs Friday, November 28
Closes November 12
\$300,000
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF
Fillies, Three-Year-Olds
One Mile and One Sixteenth, Turf

CLARK (GII)

Runs Friday, November 28
Closes November 12
\$600,000
Includes \$100,000 from KTDF
Three-Year-Olds & Up
One Mile and One Eighth, Dirt

KENTUCKY JOCKEY CLUB (GII)

2026 Kentucky Derby Points Race
Runs Saturday, November 29
Closes November 12
\$400,000
Includes \$75,000 from KTDF
Two-Year-Olds
One Mile and One Sixteenth, Dirt

GOLDEN ROD (GII)

2026 Kentucky Oaks Points Race

Runs Saturday, November 29
Closes November 12
\$400,000
Includes \$75,000 from KTDF
Fillies, Two-Year-Olds
One Mile and One Sixteenth, Dirt

ED BROWN

Runs Saturday, November 29
Closes November 12
\$225,000
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF
Two-Year-Olds
Six and One Half Furlongs, Dirt

FERN CREEK

Runs Saturday, November 29
Closes November 12
\$225,000
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF
Fillies, Two-Year-Olds
Six and One Half Furlongs, Dirt

CHEROKEE MILE

Runs Sunday, November 30
Closes November 12
\$250,000
Includes \$50,000 from KTDF
Three-Year-Olds & Up
One Mile, Dirt



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To nominate, call 502.638.3806 or 800.928.3372

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

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

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Above: Algernon M. Talmage (British, 1871-1939)
The Epsom Derby, 1931 (detail)

Stable Tour -

■ Continued from page 10

Ted Noffey: Spendthrift Farm spent \$650,000 last September for son of Into Mischief, then came up with a clever name after the farm's general manager. "The horse is all right. He's a candidate for the same races as Emphasis. I guess the name came from when someone read an article or something and inadvertently called Ned Toffey Ted Noffey. That's where it comes from. They all thought it was hilarious and named him that. That's the way Ned was explaining it to me. I haven't quite figured out if he likes it or not.

*I'm sure he didn't like it when he read the article.
"I know I wouldn't."*

Nonna's Love: Repole's homebred half-sister to Fierceness broke her maiden in second start June 12 at Aqueduct. Daughter of Caravaggio is out of the winning Stay Thirsty mare Nonna Bella, also campaigned by Repole and Pletcher. "Maybe we'll see her later in the meet. That whole family is Mike's foundation family. It's been pretty neat to see it continuing to grow."

Reside: Repole's homebred New York-bred 2-year-old colt by Vino Rosso won debut June 12 at Aqueduct. "He's not going to make many headlines down the road. I think he was in the right place at the right time. That kind of thing."

Angel Gift: Repole spent \$300,000 for daughter of Connect at last year's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale. She won her debut June 8 at Saratoga. "We were originally going to run her back in the Schuylerville but she got a temperature on us. We're looking at the Adirondack now (Aug. 3). I was very happy with her debut the Sunday after the Belmont."

Fraudster: A \$400,000 purchase by Leland Ackerley Racing in March, 2-year-old daughter of Charlatan is entered in Saturday's second. "She's been training well. War Front mare. I don't know if dirt's going to end up being her favorite surface, but she's trained certainly well enough on it to see how she does."

Tommy Jo: Spendthrift's 2-year-old Into Mischief filly has seven works at Saratoga, including a pair on the main track led by a half in :49 from the gate July 6. "Nice filly. She's been training well, maybe a race on July 19 or 26."

Not This Time-Wild Silk filly: A \$750,000 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga select sale purchase by Repole, she's out of the unraced Street Sense mare Wild Silk. "She's waiting for a maiden race on the turf on July 18. We thought she took a step up when we breezed her on the grass."

Uncle Mo- Always Shopping filly: The first foal out of multiple graded stakes winner was headed to Saratoga soon after eight works on the Belmont Park training track. "She's probably a little bit away. She's actually shipping out from Belmont (Wednesday). Could run next month."

Curlin-Cavorting colt: The sale topper. Half-brother to three-time Grade 1 winner Clairiere cost \$5 million at last year's Keeneland September yearling sale and is the fourth foal out of a multiple Grade 1 winner. "He literally just arrived three days ago. He came up from Whisper Hill in Florida. He was with Todd Quast. Nice horse, really scopey. Kind of what you'd expect based on the price tag. Looks the part. I was not involved in the purchase of him, but everyone on the grounds knew who he was at the sale."

Sale-toppers come with a little added, I don't know if pressure is the right word, but expectations. You'd rather have them than not have them, right?

"Given the choice? Yes."



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Samantha Decker

Gate To Wire won the Swale Stakes in February for Donegal Racing.

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Saratoga Wishes

Horsemen, community ready for 2025 meeting

BY ALEC DICONZA AND JULIA REEDY

There's nothing quite like Saratoga in the summer, especially when Broadway is abuzz with locals, tourists and everyone in-between. Some stay for the entirety of the Saratoga Race Course meet and then some; others just a weekend.

Whether they're racing enthusiasts or unencumbered visitors with a penchant for shopping and relaxing by the lake, one thing is guaranteed: there's something for everyone in Saratoga. And if you haven't found it yet, look no further than the shop windows of downtown Saratoga Springs' most beloved small businesses.

"The summers are big for downtown business owners," said Shane Zanetti, who works part-time at the gift store Dark Horse Mercantile. "It's really busy, and we see a lot of the same people. They come back every summer to look at different things in the store that they're familiar with and what's new."

Zanetti pointed to a red barber's chair at the front of the store, complete with the head of a dapple grey horse at the helm. The small price tag attached to the front of the antique item reveals a not-so-small asking price of \$10,000, but Zanetti explained that the hefty cost doesn't deter patrons from taking a genuine interest in the fixture or others like it.

"We sold a big casino wheel for \$15,000 a couple of years ago, and we had a jockey slot machine [that worked] when you pulled his arm," Zanetti said. "It's always fun to see if we can sell one of those cool, historical antique items to somebody."

Further down and across the street is Dark Horse Mercantile's sister store, Impressions. Maddy Zanetti, Shane's sister, is co-owner of both.

"Summer is our biggest time of the year, so we're always preparing for it," Maddy Zanetti said. "We're hoping to be very busy, and we're looking forward to a good summer. We had a good Belmont Stakes, and last week's July 4 Racing Festival was better than we thought it would be."

With the meet now under way, Zanetti's and other business owners' wishes may come true. Jamie Mastroianni, who owns and operates the city's go-to spot for all things running, walking and



Samantha Decker

Saratoga Race Course - and Sandman - are ready for the start of another summer season.

movement related, iRun LOCAL, with her husband Anthony, shares that enthusiasm.

"We hit our 10-year anniversary last year and had a big party, so we've [now] hit our 11-year mark as a business," Mastroianni said. "It's exciting when you see people come back that say, 'I get my On Clouds here every single summer, and we're back [for more]. We really invite people to come in, whether they're walking or running or just on their feet all day.'"

Even those who aren't attached to any local businesses — or the track itself — get excited for the summer season.

"My favorite part of the summer is coming up here," said Sarah Harmon, a New York City ballet dancer in town for a performance this week at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. "We always get an Airbnb, and stay in a cute little house. We feel like we're part of the city for a week."

Horsemen stabled at Saratoga Race Course for the 40-day meeting that starts today and runs through Labor Day, Monday, September 1, also share a common goal.

"We're hoping to win some races," Charlton Baker said. "That's the most important thing. We've got a



Hannah Bonczkowski

If you hit a big bet at the track this weekend, Dark Horse Mercantile would be happy to sell you a classic mini barber chair.

Continued on Page 16

Conquered.

No. 1 Freshman at F-T July

Avg.

JACKIE'S WARRIOR	\$177,500
Jack Christopher	\$162,778
Epicenter	\$150,000



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WARRIOR**

First Warriors descend on F-T Saratoga Select...

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Wishes -

■ Continued from page 14

lot of maidens, so we're hoping to break some maidens."

Baker has fond memories of Saratoga, with Moonlight Song's back-to-back victories in the John Morrissey topping his highlight reel.

"My favorite memory at Saratoga is bringing a horse off a year layoff to win the John Morrissey for the second time," he said. "He won the year before, and then he came back and won it the next year."

Graham Motion has a mixed bag of memories at Saratoga. Between daylight victories and nose defeats, he's experienced some major highs and lows through the years. He mentioned Bullsbay's win in the 2009 Whitney as one of the highlights of his career at Saratoga.

The Diana, though, has not been as kind.

"My losses in the Diana stick out to me," Motion said. "I think I've been beaten necks and noses like four times in the Diana. It's a race that I won with Jonathan Sheppard when I



worked for him. It was always a race that I looked at."

Saratoga's eight-week proper meeting runs on a Wednesday to Sunday schedule, with the exception of opening week from today through Sunday and closing week from Wednesday to Labor Day.

The meet features 64 stakes worth more than \$20 million in purses, including 18 Grade 1s. The highlights include Whitney Stakes Day August 2, Alabama Day August 16, Travers Day August 23 and Jockey Club Gold Cup Day August 30. Along the way the meet features major stakes in every di-

Continued on Page 18



Tod Marks (2)

Moonlight Song gave trainer Charlton Baker (left) a Saratoga memory in 2016.

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The advertisement features a background image of a horse sale event. A brown horse is being presented on a stage. In the background, a digital display shows "Onsale Hip 251 \$125,000". Two men are seated at a podium behind the horse. The overall design is modern with a blue and yellow color scheme.

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Bonuses awards based on a four-tiered system that assigns points based on Maryland purse equivalents. See Mdhorsemen.com for a point system chart.



Maryland Horse.
MarylandThoroughbred.com

Wishes -

■ Continued from page 16

vision at various distance, including a plentiful slate of juvenile events.

Jeremiah Englehart comes into the 2025 meet confident in his 2-year-olds.

“We’ve got a great group of 2-year-olds,” he said as he watched horses work on the Oklahoma Training Track Wednesday. “I train mostly New York-breds, and I’m kind of excited about this group. You basically want everyone to stay healthy and have a great meet.”

Some of Englehart’s best memories of Saratoga come from more than 30 years ago when he worked with his father, trainer Chris Englehart.

“We had a filly by the name of Iron Tizy that won up here in the 90s,” he said. “I was ecstatic. I ran the horse, I drove here from Finger Lakes with my dad. We won the race and then we couldn’t get her on the trailer for an hour and 45 minutes after the race. We were literally shooing her with a broom. The memory of winning that race was great, but you also remember trying to load her on the trailer after the race. It was pitch black, we couldn’t get her on. That’s something that always sticks out.”

Horsemen have also adjusted to the slightly re-configured Saratoga schedule. The Schuylerville Stakes, which almost always opened the meeting, was run during the July 4 festival, along with the



Samantha Decker

Raging Sea is ready for the 2025 Saratoga season. Are you?

Sanford Stakes.

Those shifts also altered the schedules of the next major juvenile stakes, the Grade 3 Adirondack for fillies and Grade 2 Saratoga Special, to sooner in the meet than usual and to the August 2 Whitney Day card.

“Historically, this year being different, the Schuylerville was always the Opening Day stake,”

said Todd Pletcher, who holds a record 14 training titles at Saratoga. “We were fortunate enough to win that a number of times and now it’s already been run.

“Back when it was a shorter meet, you wanted to get that first win out of the way. You didn’t

Continued on Page 20

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Wishes -

■ Continued from page 18

want to look up mid-meet and be on the duck. Those concerns are not as prominent as they used to be during the really short meet when it was just four or five weeks. Back then they'd open maybe Friday and the Schuylerville was that day and the Sanford on Saturday. We had pretty good luck in those races over the years and it helped us get off to a good start. That's one difference between then and now."

Mark Casse enters this season off a successful July 4 Festival and hopes to match his success from last year when he won 15 times in 53 starts. Casse reminisced Wednesday morning about spending his teenage years in an RV in the Fasig-Tipton parking lot with his father, and winning the Fourstardave with Got Stormy in 2019 following just a seven-day layoff.

"My dad would sell horses at Fasig-Tipton," he said. "We had an RV, and we would park it in the parking lot. Fasig-Tipton would let us. We didn't have a car, so I would have breakfast every morning at the cantina there, and then my dad and I would walk downtown and wait for the Racing Form to come out.

"It's always special to win here. I reminisce sometimes when I'm over by the paddock. Of course, the paddock is different now. We used to saddle out in the trees, and I would sit on the steps near the riders and I would

get their autographs."

Heading into the meet, Casse sits 10 wins shy of 4,000 career victories. It is more than possible that he could meet that milestone at Saratoga this summer.

"To think when I started that I could ever win 4,000 races, it takes not just a team, it takes a village," Casse said. "I'm proud. I have 10 people that have been with me over 30-some years, so it's big. It's not a goal that I set. My goal is just always to try to do the best we can. It's been tough here because I love Saratoga. Saratoga is my favorite place, and there have been some years that it has bit me in the butt. I cherish every success, every win."

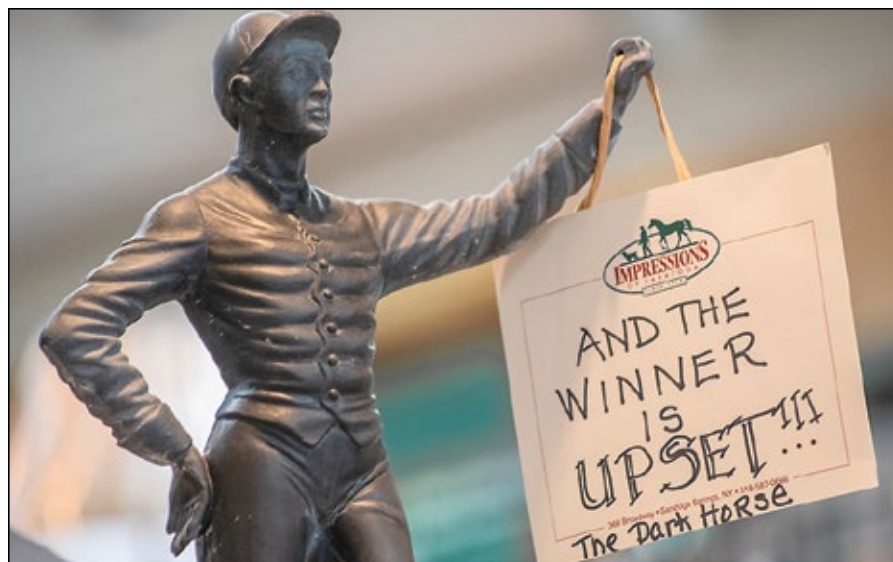
Jockey Kendrick Carmouche already enjoyed two graded stakes victories at Saratoga this year, winning the Grade 1 Manhattan with Deterministic during the Belmont Stakes Racing Festival and the Grade 2 Suburban with Phileas Fogg during the July 4 Racing Festival. He hopes to keep it going this summer.

"My goals are to make it out safe, win some races and enjoy Saratoga," he said. "This is the best of the best racetracks in the world."

Trainer Mark Hennig, who recalled coming to Saratoga in 1984 while working for Neil Howard and winning the Schuylerville with Weekend Delight, shared his colleagues' sentiments.

"Just get through healthy," Hennig said. "Everything else will take care of itself. It always does."

- Additional reporting by Tom Law.



Hannah Bonczkowski

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 GRAND NATIONAL HURDLE
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 JENNY WILEY

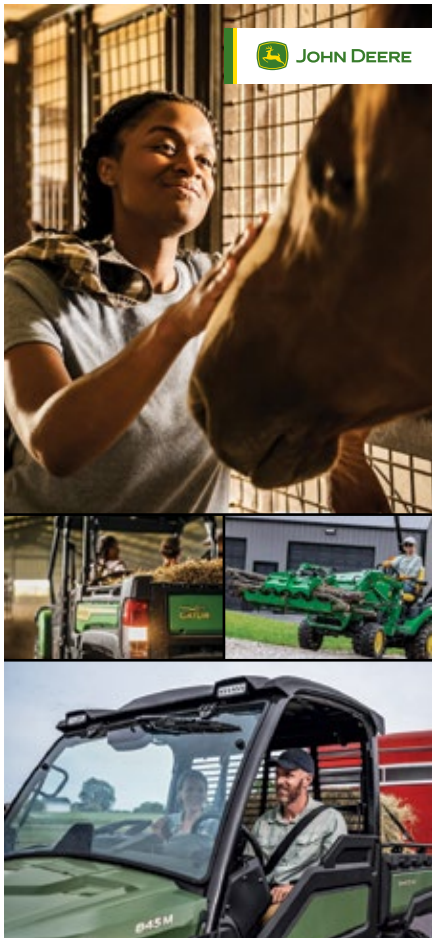
JOE HIRSCH TURF CLASSIC (2)
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Maggie Kimmitt

Heredia (outside) trains with Laurelin on the turf course at Fair Hill in Maryland.

On Her Schedule

Back to work after injury, Heredia eyes 1-mile stakes

BY ALEC DICONZA

Heredia shipped to Graham Motion's barn at the Fair Hill Training Center in Maryland from Europe more than a year ago, but an injury prevented the English-bred daughter of Dark Angel from starting in the United States until just two months ago.

"She came over to me the fall of the previous year, so over a year ago now," Motion said of Wathnan Racing's mare. "I believe I worked her a time or two and we had an issue that we had to stop her for, a soft-tissue issue that we had to give her some time. Because of the quality that she is, we gave her extra time and didn't want to rush her back."

The patience paid off when Heredia returned with a solid third in the Grade 3 Beaugay at Aqueduct, in which the 6-year-old briefly held the lead in mid-stretch before being run down by winner Dynamic Pricing. Since then, Dynamic Pricing won last month's Grade 1 Just A Game at Saratoga Race Course.

Heredia has won six of 14 starts and looks to add another in today's \$135,000 first division of the De La Rose

DE LA ROSE STAKES PREVIEW - DIVISION 1

Stakes, a 1-mile stakes on the inner turf for fillies and mares who have not won a graded stakes in 2024 or 2025. This year, 16 horses entered the De La Rose, causing the race to be split into two divisions. Heredia will race in the first, the fifth race, as the 3-1 morning-line favorite.

Plans for Heredia's starts this year have changed several times, but Motion is happy with his decision to run her in the De La Rose.

"I originally considered running her at Keeneland, and then we decided to go to Aqueduct, where she ran very well," Motion said about finding a race for Heredia to make her seasonal debut. "I then, off that race, wanted to run her in the Just A Game, but the way the turf came up that day, we got so much rain. The turf was so soft. I just didn't want to risk running what I think is a really top-class filly on ground that was not the best, especially coming off a soft tissue injury. So, we chose and then kind of circled this race as our next start."

Motion liked what he saw from Heredia early and is confident the distance will suit. Heredia earned the biggest

Continued on Page 23

Heredia -

■ Continued from page 22

victory of her career in the Group 3 Atalanta at Sandown Park at 1 mile in 2023.

"I was really impressed with all of her works in Florida," Motion said. "She does everything very easily. I hope I have her fit enough. Because of the interrupted schedule, maybe she's missed a work here or there, but this is a good opportunity for her and the mile is a good distance for her."

Manny Franco rode Heredia in the Beaugay and picks up the mount again. They break from post four in a field of eight.

Resolute Racing's and Miller Racing's In Our Time will break from the outside for trainer Saffie Joseph Jr. The 5-year-old daughter of Not This Time exits a subpar sixth in the Sand Springs at Gulfstream in March, but finished second in the Grade 3 Honey Fox and third in the Grade 2 Pegasus World Cup Filly and Mare Turf Invitational prior to that. Joseph hopes the break he gave the mare will help her return to form.



Hannah Bonczkowski

In Our Time breaks from the outside.

"She's doing well. We gave her a little break," Joseph said. "We backed off of her and freshened her after her last race. She seems to look really well, carrying a lot of weight. Hopefully, she can rebound to her

best race. That's probably the tougher division of the two."

In Our Time will be ridden by Luis Saez at 4-1 on the morning line.

Deep Satin will try to rebound from her fifth in the Grade 3 Old Forester Mint Julep at Churchill Downs for trainer Cherie DeVaux and jockey Jose Ortiz. She breaks from post two and is 7-2 on the morning line.

Les Reys makes her 2025 debut after winning her stateside debut last fall for the late Christophe Clement in the Winter Memories at Aqueduct. The filly now trained by Miguel Clement then finished fifth in the Grade 2 Valley View at Keeneland.

The field also includes Alluring Angel, who makes her first start for trainer Bill Mott after finishing fourth in the Grade 3 Noble Damsel last year for Chad Brown; Edict, who finished second in the Beaugay for trainer David Donk and sixth in the Grade 1 New York; and Way To Be Marie, who finished fifth in the Grade 3 Gallorette at Pimlico on Preakness Day.

On Command is expected to scratch for trainer Amelia Green. Weigh The Risks and Maggy's Palace are entered for the main track only.

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Dave Harmon

Spinning Colors, winning here last month, seeks her third win of 2025.

Legacy Mare

Spirit of owner, breeder Parsons lives through Spinning Colors

BY TOM LAW

Owner/breeder Bill Parsons loved a day at the races.

That's not surprising considering his multi-decade and successful involvement in racing, but Parsons' time at the track wasn't exclusive to a day when a horse he owned and/or bred took a spot in the starting gate.

"Our relationship went back quite a ways. We were very close," trainer Mark Hennig said of Parsons, who passed away at the age of 81 in February 2024. "He was a neat guy, very smart, loved the game, loved the people. He's just one of those guys that, on a random afternoon, he had a box at Belmont. He'd be there. He'd just

DE LA ROSE PREVIEW - DIVISION 2

go up and he'd happen to be there. We wouldn't be running one, but he'd have a hot dog and a beer watching the races."

Spinning Colors carries Parsons' passion and hot dog and a beer-loving legacy today on Opening Day of the 2025 Saratoga Race Course meeting. The 5-year-old Hard Spun mare, bred by Parsons and David Howe, runs in the second division of the \$135,000 De La Rose Stakes for fillies and mares on the turf.

Spinning Colors races for Bourbon

Continued On Page 25

ALL SARATOGA REPORTS,
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De La Rose -

■ Continued from page 24

Lane Stable, Jared Henry's HGS Thoroughbreds and Hennig, Bourbon Lane and HGS bought the mare from Parsons' estate, with Howe staying involved as a partner with Bourbon Lane. Hennig came in later for a minority interest, "in remembrance of Bill."

Mike McMahon, who heads up Bourbon Lane with Jamie Hill, started working with Parsons in the early 1990s after first meeting the attorney when he campaigned horses with Leo O'Brien. McMahon jumped at the chance to buy Spinning Colors privately in early 2025 after she raced for Parsons' estate and Howe last summer and fall. He set up the deal to also include Hennig.

"We were going to sell the filly, and his wife, Terry, and his partner, David Howe, were like, 'we really want Mark to keep training her. He's always loved her,'" McMahon said. "We have always all loved this filly, which is not atypical for the good ones, right?"

Spinning Colors' first start for the new ownership group wound up not being a start at all, after her December 28 1-mile allowance-optional at Gulfstream Park was declared a no-contest after a runner in the race stumbled and lost her jockey running through the stretch the first time. Spinning Colors led early in that race – a style she's since



NYRA Photo

Breeder Bill Parsons (center, dark blazer) enjoyed a win with Spinning Colors at Belmont Park in 2023

employed for success – before "finishing" fourth.

Spinning Colors won two months later, taking a similar 1-mile turf event on the lead before coming back to finish seventh after leading early again in the Sand Springs. Hennig gave the New York-bred mare a short freshening before she returned to win the Mount Vernon Stakes on the opening card of last month's Belmont Stakes Racing Festival at

Saratoga Race Course.

John Velazquez rode Spinning Colors to her 2 1/2-length win that day and returns today from post 8 at 10-1 on the morning line. McMahon and Hennig know Parsons would have loved the Mount Vernon and the opportunity to showcase one of his

Continued on Page 26

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De La Rose -

■ Continued from page 25

homebreds on Opening Day at Saratoga.

"He just loved the romance of the racetrack, the old-style beer, hot dog, Racing Form guy," McMahon said. "He would have had a blast. He would have had so much fun. And he was a real entertainer. He would have probably done one of those, 'how do I get the cork out of the bottle?' tricks for us. He would have had a joke and he would have been laughing loudly and waving his arms."

A graduate of Yale University and Columbia Law School, Parsons was a partner at Davis Polk and Wardell law firm from 1977 until his retirement in 2000. He specialized in trusts and estates and was a pioneer of the firm's pension and trust investment practice, according to his obituary. Parsons also served on the New York Backstretch Employees' Pension Trust, among many other organizations outside the racing industry that included The Episcopal School in the City of New York and as a senior warden at St. John's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring Harbor, New York.

Parsons, who stood 6-6 and played several sports throughout his life including tennis and squash, was also remembered for that sense of humor and talents playing the piano. He'll be on the minds of those who knew him best today when Spinning Colors runs in the 1-mile turf stakes.

"She's been very sentimental for us," Hennig said. "She was my 1,500th winner here in 2023. She won up here last year. That happened after he had died. She's won up here three years in a row. Sort of like a modern-day Fourstardave. ... We took some pictures when she won here last year, we all got together and took a picture with a hot dog and a beer because that would be Bill at the races."

Movin' On Up is the 6-5 morning-line favorite for the second division of the De La Rose, which is restricted to fillies and mares which have not won a graded sweepstakes in 2024 and 2025. Ken Ramsey's 4-year-old daughter of Accelerate drops down in class after finishing third in both the Grade 3 Mint Julep and the Grade 2 Churchill Distaff Turf Mile.

"I thought she ran well," Jo-

seph said of her efforts at Churchill Downs. "In both trips, she kind of got her momentum stopped and she still ran back on. She's capable of winning a race like this."

Joseph chose the De La Rose for Movin' On Up in the hopes of avoiding some of the division's most formidable players running in other upcoming turf stakes. Movin' On Up won the Sand Springs by 3 lengths three starts back at Gulfstream.

"Just trying to get away from the heavy heads, try to win a stake with her again," Joseph said. "It's a very tough stake. It should probably be a graded stakes, too. Anything at Saratoga is tough, and hopefully she runs her best race."

Irad Ortiz Jr. takes the call on Movin' On Up from post four.

The field also includes 7-2 second choice Ozara, who finished third in the Grade 3 Eatontown Stakes at Monmouth Park last out for trainer Miguel Clement. The three-time stakes winner breaks from post one under Dylan Davis.

Fun With Flags finished fifth in the Miss Liberty at Monmouth last out and will aim to give both trainer Chad Brown and jockey Flavien Prat a fast start to their Saratoga meets.

Charlottesapproval runs for trainer Mark Casse and won her 2025 debut in an allowance-optional at Woodbine. Do Gooder finished eighth in the Grade 1 Just A Game but earned two victories over the turf at Gulfstream this spring for trainer Jena Antonucci. Poca Mucha won last year's De La Rose by 14 1/4 lengths, but that edition was rained off the turf. Storm Miami is expected to scratch after running at Horseshoe Indianapolis last weekend. Bernietakescharge, Zadorsky and Prides Crossing are entered for the main track only.

*Additional reporting
 by Alec DiConza.*



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THURSDAY SARATOGA ENTRIES

Thursday, July 10.

1ST (1:10PM). \$95,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 11/8M

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

1	.....1	Royal Bobbie.....	J. Ortiz	.....L. Rice	.....8-1
2	.....2	Ah Ca Ira.....	F. Prat	.....J. Abreu	.....4-1
3	.....3	Chasing Daylight.....	R. Maragh	.....R. Rodriguez	.....5-1
4	.....4	Rodeo Star.....	M. Franco	.....I. Kantarmaci	.....8-1
5	.....5	Sweet Anniversary.....	K. Coa	.....M. Ferraro	.....7-2
6	.....6	Purpose.....	J. Castellano	.....H. Bond	.....8-1
7	.....7	Grace Reformed.....	C. Elliott	.....J. Guerrero	.....9-5

2ND (1:44PM). \$63,000, SOC \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	.....1	My Life Story.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....M. Maker	.....4-1
1a	.....AE-MTO	Social Hour.....	Rider TBA	.....R. Dutrow, Jr.	.....4-1
2	.....2	Epitaph.....	J. Alvarado	.....G. Contessa	.....10-1
3	.....3	Billionaires Row.....	J. Velazquez	.....M. Trombetta	.....12-1
4	.....4	Alexis Zorba (GB).....	L. Saez	.....M. Trombetta	.....6-1
5	.....5	Korrongo.....	R. Maragh	.....P. Reynolds	.....10-1
6	.....6	Ready Set Twirl.....	M. Franco	.....R. Rodriguez	.....8-1
7	.....7	Devil in Disguise.....	F. Prat	.....G. Weaver	.....4-5
8	.....AE-MTO	Brave Buck.....	K. Carmouche	.....L. Rice	.....4-1

3RD (2:18PM). \$38,000, CLM \$17,500, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 6 1/2F

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

1	.....1	Santagata.....	V. Espinoza	.....R. Johnston	.....12-1
2	.....2	Book of Wisdom.....	F. Prat	.....R. Rodriguez	.....6-1
3	.....3	Five to Two.....	D. Davis	.....L. Rice	.....7-2
4	.....4	Harlan's Bond.....	L. Luzzi	.....I. Kantarmaci	.....8-1
5	.....5	My Two Sophia's.....	C. Elliott	.....G. Sacco	.....2-1
6	.....6	Dashing Della.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....M. Arenas	.....6-1
7	.....7	Bam's Bliss Kiss.....	L. Rivera, Jr.	.....D. Duggan	.....3-1

4TH (2:52PM). \$68,000, CLM \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 6F

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

1	.....1	Majestic Return.....	K. Carmouche	.....M. Giangiulio	.....3-1
2	.....2	Talkin in Cursive.....	M. Franco	.....I. Kantarmaci	.....12-1
3	.....3	Equus.....	C. Elliott	.....W. Potts	.....15-1
4	.....4	Proud Foot.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....F. Abreu	.....4-1
5	.....5	Always Angels.....	V. Espinoza	.....W. Potts	.....8-1
6	.....6	Olga.....	F. Prat	.....C. David	.....9-2
7	.....7	All Class.....	J. Ortiz	.....L. Rice	.....8-5

5TH (3:27PM). \$135,000, STK - THE DE LA ROSE, 4 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....1	Alluring Angel (GB).....	J. Alvarado	.....W. Mott	.....6-1
2	.....2	Les Reys (FR).....	J. Rosario	.....M. Clement	.....9-2
3	.....3	Deep Satin.....	J. Ortiz	.....C. DeVaux	.....7-2
4	.....4	Heredia (GB).....	M. Franco	.....H. Motion	.....3-1
5	.....5	Edict (ARG).....	J. Velazquez	.....D. Donk	.....8-1
6	.....6	On Command.....	K. Davis	.....A. Green	.....20-1
7	.....7	Way to Be Marie.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....R. Atras	.....8-1
8	.....8	In Our Time.....	L. Saez	.....S. Joseph, Jr.	.....4-1
9	.....AE-MTO	Weigh the Risks.....	M. Franco	.....C. Brown	.....6-5
10	.....AE-MTO	Maggy's Palace.....	Rider TBA	.....J. Ryerson	.....5-1

6TH (4:02PM). \$100,000, MSW, 2 YO, F, 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	.....10	Hot List (GB).....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....T. Pletcher	.....6-1
1a	.....AE	Always Ready.....	F. Prat	.....T. Pletcher	.....6-1
2	.....1	Keto Drink.....	J. Alvarado	.....C. McGaughey III	.....10-1
3	.....2	Mermaid.....	K. Davis	.....A. Dutrow	.....15-1
4	.....3	Cooperation (FR).....	D. Davis	.....A. Delacour	.....8-1
5	.....4	Sadie Earp.....	V. Espinoza	.....W. Ward	.....8-1
6	.....5	Aporia.....	F. Prat	.....M. Clement	.....4-1
7	.....6	Gracie's Delight.....	J. Rosario	.....W. Ward	.....3-1

8	.....7	So It Begins.....	J. Lezcano	.....T. Proctor	.....12-1
9	.....8	Inspire Courage.....	K. Carmouche	.....M. Clement	.....6-1
10	.....9	Cy Fair.....	J. Velazquez	.....G. Weaver	.....8-1
11	.....AE	Delightful Darling.....	J. Ortiz	.....M. Casse	.....7-2
12	.....AE	Chrysalism.....	M. Franco	.....H. Motion	.....5-1
13	.....AE	Two Bits.....	J. Velazquez	.....A. Green	.....8-1
14	.....AE-MTO	Bet the Gray.....	Rider TBA	.....T. Amoss	.....4-1

7TH (4:35PM). \$100,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 11/8M

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

1	.....1	Lobby Rendezvous.....	J. Ortiz	.....M. Shirer	.....10-1
2	.....2	Endorse.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....T. Pletcher	.....8-5
3	.....3	Reality Star.....	M. Franco	.....C. McGaughey III	.....9-2
4	.....4	Absolute Honor.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....S. Joseph, Jr.	.....20-1
5	.....5	Lost Horizon.....	F. Prat	.....C. Brown	.....4-1
6	.....6	Resurge.....	J. Rosario	.....W. Mott	.....7-2
7	.....7	Raghba.....	J. Velazquez	.....T. Pletcher	.....12-1
8	.....8	All the Feels.....	L. Saez	.....D. Gargan	.....15-1

8TH (5:10PM). \$135,000, STK - THE DE LA ROSE, 4 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	Ozara (IRE).....	D. Davis	.....M. Clement	.....7-2
2	.....2	Do Gooder.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....J. Antonucci	.....12-1
3	.....3	Poca Mucha.....	J. Lezcano	.....W. Mott	.....12-1
4	.....4	Movin' On Up.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....S. Joseph, Jr.	.....6-5
5	.....5	Fun With Flags (IRE).....	F. Prat	.....C. Brown	.....6-1
6	.....6	Storm Miami (IRE).....	K. Carmouche	.....B. Walsh	.....15-1
7	.....7	Charlottesapproval.....	J. Castellano	.....M. Casse	.....6-1
8	.....8	Spinning Colors.....	J. Velazquez	.....M. Hennig	.....10-1
9	.....AE-MTO	Bernietakescharge.....	R. Maragh	.....D. Schettino	.....9-5
10	.....AE-MTO	Zadorsky.....	L. Saez	.....D. Beckman	.....5-2
11	.....AE-MTO	Prides Crossing.....	Rider TBA	.....C. Brown	.....7-2

9TH (5:44PM). \$58,000, STR \$20,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	.....1	Spiritual Lady.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....G. Charlerie	.....8-1
2	.....2	Looks First.....	K. Carmouche	.....R. Samsundar	.....12-1
3	.....3	Killy Start.....	L. Saez	.....S. Schauer	.....7-2
4	.....4	Short Shift.....	M. Franco	.....B. Cox	.....4-1
5	.....5	Our Liberty Belle.....	C. Elliott	.....W. Potts	.....3-1
6	.....6	Despo's Dream.....	F. Prat	.....F. Abreu	.....9-2
7	.....7	Problematica.....	J. Ortiz	.....L. Rice	.....6-1
8	.....8	Spring Magic.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....R. Rodriguez	.....10-1

10TH (6:19PM). \$36,000, CLM \$17,500, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	.....7	Handle On You.....	F. Prat	.....R. Rodriguez	.....6-1
1a	.....11	That'sthefactjack.....	R. Maragh	.....D. Schettino	.....6-1
2	.....1	Dream On Cara.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....G. Rodriguez	.....10-1
3	.....2	Blue Eyed Scout.....	J. Rosario	.....H. De Paz	.....9-2
4	.....3	Eastern Star.....	J. Gomez	.....D. Donk	.....20-1
5	.....4	Just Words.....	L. Luzzi	.....J. Ryerson	.....15-1
6	.....5	Brooklyn Dantz.....	V. Espinoza	.....M. Arenas	.....15-1
7	.....6	Best Impression.....	J. Lezcano	.....P. Serpe	.....3-1
8	.....8	Rock Harbor.....	C. Elliott	.....J. Ferraro	.....6-1
99	Toxic Girl.....	K. CarmoucheJ. Jimenez10-1
1010	Focus Pocus.....	L. SaezR. Rodriguez8-1
1112	Bella Voce.....	D. DavisL. Rice10-1

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Thursday, July 10 • Saratoga Race Course

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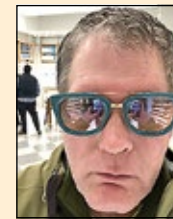
John Shapazian



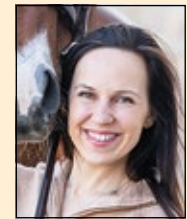
Tom Law



Charles Bedard



Rob Whitlock



Jessica Paquette

Race	John Shapazian	Tom Law	Charles Bedard	Rob Whitlock	Jessica Paquette
1	Sweet Anniversary Chasing Daylight Rodeo Star	Grace Reformed Ah Ca Ira Purpose	Grace Reformed Ah Ca Ira Purpose	Rodeo Star Chasing Daylight Sweet Anniversary	Rodeo Star Chasing Daylight Grace Reformed
2	Devil In Disguise Dubb entry Alexis Zorba	Devil In Disguise My Life Story Alexis Zorba	Devil In Disguise Dubb entry Korrongo	Devil In Disguise Dubb entry Korrongo	Billionaires Row My Life Story Devil In Disguise
3	My Two Sophia's Bam's Bliss Kiss Five To Two	Five To Two Bam's Bliss Kiss My Two Sophia's	Dashing Della My Two Sophia's Five To Two	Bam's Bliss Kiss Book Of Wisdom My Two Sophia's	Five To Two Harlan's Bond Bam's Bliss Kiss
4	All Class Olga Proud Foot	Proud Foot All Class Majestic Return	Always Angels Talkin In Cursive Olga	Olga All Class Proud Foot	Equus Talkin In Cursive Olga
5	Weigh The Risks Les Reys Heredia	Heredia Deep Satin Edict	Deep Satin Way To Be Marie Weigh The Risks	Maggy's Palace In Our Time Heredia	Edict Deep Satin Heredia
6	Bet The Gray Sadie Earp Gracie's Delight	Delightful Darling Cy Fair Hot List	Cooperation Cy Fair Gracie's Delight	Bet The Gray Gracie's Delight Keto Drink	Cy Fair Hot List Keto Drink
7	Endorse Resurge Lost Horizon	Resurge Endorse Reality Star	Reality Star Endorse Lobby Rendezvous	Endorse All The Feels Absolute Honor	Resurge Endorse Reality Star
8	Bernietakescharge Movin' On Up Charlottesapproval	Ozara Movin' On Up Charlottesapproval	Movin' On Up Ozara Storm Miami	Bernietakescharge Movin' On Up Fun With Flags	Charlottesapproval Spinning Colors Ozara
9	Our Liberty Belle Despo's Dream Short Shift	Short Shift Despo's Dream Our Liberty Belle	Killy Start Despo's Dream Our Liberty Belle	Short Shift Our Liberty Belle Despo's Dream	Short Shift Our Liberty Belle Problematica
10	Blue Eyed Scout Best Impression Rock Harbor	Blue Eyed Scout Handle On You Best Impression	Best Impression Rock Harbor Blue Eyed Scout	Imperio entry Focus Pocus Dream On Cara	Focus Pocus Rock Harbor Best Impression
2024 Records	122/409 (-\$145.90)	114/412 (-\$109.90)	102/406 (-\$126.10)	96/410 (-\$162.20)	70/400 (-174.20)

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

Full Cup

Trainer D'Angelo points two fillies to Friday turf sprint stakes

BY SEAN CLANCY

Jose D'Angelo remembers his two firsts.

Driving his truck and trailer for the first time, with Jim Dandy hopeful Jesus' Team in the back, the second-year trainer ventured from Monmouth Park and pulled into Saratoga for the first time.

"Everyone talked to me about Saratoga, I only know Saratoga from TV," D'Angelo said. "It was special. If you watch the replay, he looked the winner. It was a good experience."

Jesus' Team finished third, 1 ½ lengths behind Mystic Guide back in 2020 and D'Angelo made a plan. He'd be back. A year later, Jesus' Team finished eighth in the Alydar. A year after that, still based at Monmouth, D'Angelo sent Domineer and Stuck On Kitten to win races at Saratoga.

"I learned, you have to bring your best horses, it's tough," D'Angelo said. "You have to be smart and bring the right horses. We would love to win every race we run, but we know everybody brings their best arms for every race."

In 2023, D'Angelo brought his first string to Saratoga, winning one race from 17 starts. He was back for more in 2024, winning two races and further wedging his foot in the Saratoga door. This year, he hopes he's here for good. And he hopes to get started early with an entry in the Grade 3 Coronation Cup, the feature on Friday's card. The \$175,000 stakes, the seventh race at 4:45, attracted seven 3-year-old fillies. Cloe, second choice at 5-2, and Spirited Boss, co-fourth choice at 6-1, return from finishing second and third in the Soaring Softly at Saratoga. D'Angelo didn't hesitate in running the fillies when the June 8 stakes was rained off the turf.

"Both fillies work good on the dirt, that's why I decided to run the

CORONATION CUP PREVIEW

last time," D'Angelo said. "Cloe was coming off a little bit of a layoff, she looked like the winner turning for home, at the end she just tired. Spirited Boss closed hard, she covered a lot of ground at the end and had a nice gallop out."

Owned by Lugamo Racing Stable, Cloe made two starts for Victor Barboza Jr. before joining D'Angelo's team this spring. Switched to the turf, the daughter of Tiz The Law won the Melody of Colors Stakes at Gulfstream before shipping to Santa Anita to finish third in the Grade 3 Seniorita Stakes. D'Angelo added blinkers for the Soaring Softly and keeps them on for the Coronation Cup.

"First time with blinkers, she responded very well," D'Angelo said. "I had put blinkers on her to work but not to run. Later, at California, she looked like she needed the blinkers. I like her chances Friday."

Irad Ortiz Jr. has the return call.

Spirited Boss won two Florida-bred races for owner/breeder Tag Stable this winter before taking the Sanibel Island at Gulfstream Park in March. The daughter of Street Boss came back to finish second in the Honey Ryder. She broke poorly and rallied to be third in the Soaring Softly. John Velazquez returns.

"If she breaks comfortable, she'll have a better race," D'Angelo said. "Johnny V. knows her better, now we are on the grass and I've taken her many times to the gate, I think we'll be live with both of my fillies."

The 35-year-old trainer didn't hesitate to run his fillies on the dirt and has seen only positive signs since.

"It's hard to explain but it can take more out of one horse than the other, but to me, you have to use that as a workout," D'Angelo said. "Both of my fillies, I ran them there, I gave



Hannah Bonczkowski

Cloe represents trainer Jose D'Angelo in Friday's Coronation Cup.

15 days with no breezing, now two workouts, easy, one on the grass, they're ready to go."

So is D'Angelo, bedding down 20 horses inside Horse Haven on the Oklahoma side of the Saratoga backstretch and planning on improving from his 2-for-35 stance last season.

"This year, I have better 2-year-olds. The first one is running this week, I'll run probably three of four more by the end of the meet," D'Angelo said. "I'm sure I have better horses than last year. I feel like I'll have a good meeting over there. Less runners but more quality. I'm looking to get better horses and go to the best races. That's the game plan."

D'Angelo plans on bringing stakes winners Gabaldon, Bentornato and Howard Wolowitz to Saratoga this summer. Gabaldon won the Royal Palm Stakes in his debut last year

before finishing second in the Windsor Castle at Royal Ascot. The son of Gone Astray returned with a third in the Texas Glitter in March and is entered in an allowance race at Gulfstream Park Sunday. Bentornato, winner of the Grade 2 Gallant Bob and second in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Sprint in 2024, has posted three breezes in his return. Howard Wolowitz, winner of the Grade 1 Aristocrat Franklin-Simpson at Kentucky Downs last season, hasn't run since finishing 10th in the Turf Sprint at the Saudi Cup in February.

"It's going to be an exciting summer. Hopefully I learn more and be right. This game, if you're 20%, you are good. In any other sport, you would be the worst," D'Angelo said. "Every time that I run a horse at

Continued On Page 31

Coronation Cup -

■ Continued from page 30

Saratoga, I don't know the morning line, but in my mind they are ready to go and win. That is what I am trying to do, that kind of hitting. Everybody wants to have a horse there, but I just like to just win there."

Tracy Farmer's Abientot is the 7-2 third choice on the morning line for trainer Mark Casse and jockey Dylan Davis. She finished ninth in the Grade 3 Mamzelle last out, but Casse is confident she'll run better in the Coronation Cup.

"She comes from last. She's training real well, she likes it here," he said. "Her last race, we tried to keep her close and she did not run. Dylan knows her well, she'll be coming from way back. Hopefully, they set some pace for her. She'll run good. She'll come running."

A daughter of Not This Time, Abientot will be going for her second graded stakes victory after she won last year's Grade 3 Matron at Aqueduct. Casse thought enough of Abientot to run her in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf after the Matron, but a less-than-ideal trip cost her a chance to show her true ability.

"It was an experiment," he said. "She'd come off of sprinting, I didn't want to run her five-eighths against the colts, so we tried long and she had just a horrific trip. I wouldn't blame that one on her at



Hannah Bonczkowski

Abientot tries to duplicate her win here last summer.

all. At some point, I may try running her again two turns."

Abientot, the lone graded stakes winner in the field, will break from post six Friday under Dylan Davis.

Make Haste is the 2-1 morning-line favorite. The daughter of Blue Point trained by Miguel Clement

exits a 4 3/4-length win in an allowance-optional at Gulfstream in April. She will break from the rail under Flavien Prat.

Gata Brazil won the Stormy Blues at Laurel last out at 13-1 for trainer Brittany Russell. She sits at 6-1 on the morning line from the outside post. Italian Soiree (12-1) tries her first turf sprint in the Coronation Cup after three unsuccessful tries on the turf going longer. Trained by John Terranova, she'll break from post two.

Laurice (12-1), a debut winner here last year and most recently fifth in the Mamzelle for George Weaver, completes the field from post four. You'll Be Back, Twirling Beauty and Flat Out Time are entered for the main track only.

Additional writing/reporting by Alec DiConza.

•••

Hey Jose D'Angelo, what about your first-time starter Throckmorton in the first race Saturday?

"He's gifted and talented. He's the kind of horse, you teach him something and the next week he does better and better and better. He does everything perfect. The gate, gallops inside, outside. A good horse, a smart horse.

"I really like our chances. I know we have the post position one, he will have to start running. I am very confident that he's going to break well and have a good race. He is well prepared. He is the kind of horse who tells you, 'Hey, I am ready to run.'"

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Debut Time

Dr. Agne will be first U.S. starter for champion Lady Eli

BY ALEC DICONZA

Champion mare Lady Eli did not get along with many people during her racing career, but she did get along with Cherie DeVaux.

DeVaux, then an assistant to trainer Chad Brown, stayed by Lady Eli's side throughout her battle with the often deadly disease laminitis starting in July 2015. The two formed a bond that not many can say they shared with the accomplished daughter of Divine Park.

"I was a big part in her acute battle with laminitis," DeVaux said this week at Saratoga Race Course. "I was at Belmont Park where she first stepped on a nail, had the laminitis and had her aftercare for that. I was there throughout that whole process. I was with her basically 24 hours from the beginning of that process and had a pretty special relationship after that. She was notoriously not nice, and through that process of us just having to tolerate each other, she had a special tolerance for me. It was not ever going to be warm and fuzzy, but she respected me and I was just always in awe of her."

Before developing laminitis, the Brown-trained Lady Eli proved herself to be the clear best 3-year-old turf filly in the country. In 2014, she won

FRIDAY RACING PREVIEW

her debut at Saratoga as a 2-year-old before adding the Grade 3 Miss Grillo and the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf to her fast-growing collection of victories. In 2015, she kept her undefeated streak alive winning the Grade 3 Appalachian, the Wonder Again and the Grade 1 Belmont Oaks Invitational for Sol Kumin's Sheep Pond Partners.

The laminitis did not end her life or racing career. Thirteen months after being diagnosed, Lady Eli returned to racetrack and won the Grade 1 Flower Bowl in her second race off the layoff. A close runner-up finish in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf followed. In 2017, Lady Eli won the Grade 1 Gamely, the Grade 1 Diana and the Grade 2 Ballston Spa to earn the Eclipse Award for champion turf female. She retired with 10 wins in 14 starts and earned \$2,959,800.

"When she came back to be a racehorse, it was just such an amazing feeling to get to work with her and to get to be part of that process, as well," DeVaux said.

Eight years after her retirement, a colt named Dr. Agne will be the first offspring of Lady Eli to run in the U.S. when he debuts in Friday's sixth



Samantha Decker

Dr. Agne represents his champion dam Lady Eli in his debut Friday.

for 2-year-olds on the turf. DeVaux – now training on her own – trains the colt for Kumin's Madaket Stable, Twin Brook Stable and Belladonna Racing. He's named for one of the doctors who played a major role in helping Lady Eli recover from laminitis.

Lady Eli's other two foals, including the two-time winner HMS Endeavour, both spent their careers overseas.

Dr. Robert Agne visited and cared for Lady Eli weekly while she dealt

with laminitis. Working with Dr. Bryan Fraley, Agne talked to Brown, DeVaux and the rest of the team on a day-to-day basis about Lady Eli's recovery.

"Dr. Agne came from Saratoga," DeVaux said. "He was from Lexington and he came down to Rood and Riddle to set up that satellite podiatry division here. Dr. Fraley flew in from Lexington. She (Lady Eli) required a lot of follow-up care, as these cases do, especially when they're acute. Dr.

Continued On Page 33



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Dr. Agne -

■ Continued from page 32

Agne, because of his geographic location, saw her every week while Dr. Fraley in the interim was coming every other week. They were consulting back and forth with us almost daily, but Dr. Agne was coming up every week. I got pretty close with him, he was a very nice guy. Really soft spoken. He obviously had a wealth of experience.”

Tragically, Agne was killed in 2015 when a car hit him while he was riding his bicycle. He was just 54 years old. The accident took place less than two weeks after Lady Eli returned to the races, thanks in large part to his efforts in helping her recover. DeVaux expressed a desire to have a horse be named after Agne, and all of these years later, her wish came true.

“We had gotten to know each other as one does, and he was talking about how he was kind of getting ready to retire,” DeVaux said. “He loved taking up cycling, and subsequently he was killed while cycling. I had made an offhand remark to Chad when we were talking about it, and I was quite upset. I just said, ‘Well, we just have to name a horse after him, one of her (Lady Eli’s) babies.’ I was not thinking about training, was not thinking about anything. Now, for it to come full circle and I get to be the one that gets to do that, it’s pretty emotional.”

While it would be difficult to live up to the standard set by Lady Eli, DeVaux is optimistic that Dr. Agne will see some success on the race-track. The son of Into Mischief will be ridden in his debut Friday by Jose Ortiz, who has been aboard the colt in morning training.

“The colt has been very exciting as far as talent goes, but I brought Jose Ortiz in just to make sure that what I was seeing in his training also was kind of the fact, so I made sure to bring a second opinion in and he also validated what I was seeing on the track,” DeVaux said. “He likes him quite a bit.”

DeVaux laughed as she mentioned a playful argument between brothers Irad and Jose Ortiz about who would ride Dr. Agne.

“It was a little brotherly quarrel because Irad had ridden Lady Eli, but Jose had been on him, and he works

a lot of our 2-year-olds and helps us quite a bit in Kentucky,” she said.

DeVaux doesn’t necessarily expect Dr. Agne to win right off the bat, but she is hopeful that the colt will showcase some of his talent Friday. He is the 5-2 morning-line favorite from post two.

“I don’t really expect any of my 2-year-olds to win (first time),” she said. “They’re babies. I just hope that he has a good showing of himself and something we can move forward from. We’re building careers, and they’re just 2-year-olds. He acts pretty precocious, so I just hope he has a good showing of himself.”



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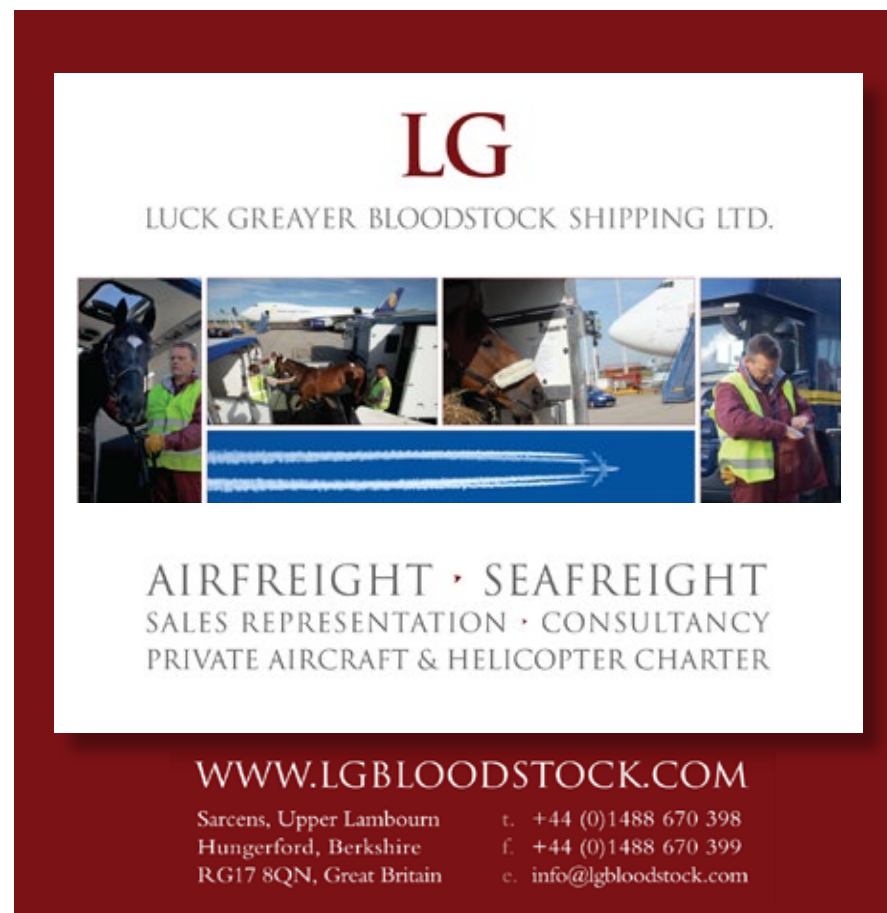
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FRIDAY SARATOGA ENTRIES

Friday, July 11.

1ST (1:10PM). \$38,000, CLM \$17,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

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

1	.....1	.....Golden Purchase	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....B. Levine	.....2-1
2	.....2	.....Because the Night	.....I. Lezcano	.....M. Arenas	.....8-1
3	.....3	.....B D Saints	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....G. Sciacca	.....7-5
4	.....4	.....Solo Empire	.....F. Prat	.....R. Rodriguez	.....3-1
5	.....5	.....Stjames	.....K. Davis	.....R. Sells	.....12-1
6	.....6	.....Bernie Goes Boom	.....J. Gomez	.....R. Rodriguez	.....10-1

2ND (1:44PM). \$60,000, CLM \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 6F

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

1	.....1	.....Peak of Chic	.....A. Hernandez	.....M. Moore	.....3-1
2	.....2	.....She's Cool	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....R. Rodriguez	.....4-1
3	.....3	.....Bedtime Story	.....C. Elliott	.....R. Johnston	.....6-1
4	.....4	.....Bourbon Serengeti	.....J. Ortiz	.....R. Dutrow, Jr.	.....2-1
5	.....5	.....City Blocks	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....E. Barker	.....6-1
6	.....6	.....My Flicker	.....C. Lopez	.....P. Capuano	.....4-1

3RD (2:18PM). \$95,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

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

1	.....1	.....Eric From Miami	.....C. Elliott	.....W. Potts	.....5-2
2	.....2	.....Toga Dan	.....F. Prat	.....J. Abreu	.....4-1
3	.....3	.....Swift Magic	.....E. Cancel	.....G. Weaver	.....7-2
4	.....4	.....Pineapple Man	.....K. Carmouche	.....M. Nevin	.....4-1
5	.....5	.....Aelfgar	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....R. Sells	.....5-1
6	.....6	.....Incantation	.....J. Castellano	.....H. Bond	.....4-1

4TH (2:52PM). \$100,000, AOC \$45,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 1/16M (TURF)

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

1	.....1	.....Collaboration	.....J. Ortiz	.....L. Rice	.....1-1
1a	.....7	.....Red Burgundy	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....H. De Paz	.....1-1
2	.....3	.....Carmen's Candy Jar	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....T. Pletcher	.....5-2
2b	.....5	.....Slightly Busy	.....M. Franco	.....A. Green	.....5-2
3	.....2	.....Snowy Evening	.....J. Castellano	.....D. Donk	.....12-1
4	.....4	.....Bobby M's Girl	.....L. Saez	.....D. Duggan	.....10-1
5	.....6	.....Bernt Again	.....R. Maragh	.....D. Schettino	.....12-1
6	.....8	.....Brocknardini	.....F. Prat	.....G. Weaver	.....3-1
7	.....AE-MTO	.....Nolita	.....J. Alvarado	.....W. Mott	.....6-1
8	.....AE-MTO	.....Krystalheir	.....Rider TBA	.....M. Coffey	.....20-1
9	.....AE-MTO	.....Army Gal	.....J. Lezcano	.....L. Rice	.....3-1
10	.....AE-MTO	.....Walk With Me	.....R. Maragh	.....D. Duggan	.....6-1
11	.....AE-MTO	.....Racing Colors	.....J. Gomez	.....N. Follett	.....10-1
12	.....AE-MTO	.....Malu	.....K. Carmouche	.....L. Rice	.....9-5

5TH (3:27PM). \$95,000, CLM \$100,000, 3 YO, F, 7F

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

1	.....1	.....Always Practical	.....J. Lezcano	.....L. Rice	.....7-2
2	.....2	.....Madeline's Promise	.....J. Alvarado	.....D. Romans	.....3-1
3	.....3	.....Ragtime Sizzle	.....M. Franco	.....I. Kantarmaci	.....8-1
4	.....4	.....Low Key	.....J. Ortiz	.....T. Amoss	.....5-2
5	.....5	.....Lady Orient	.....D. Davis	.....T. Amoss	.....3-1
6	.....6	.....Another Cleeshay	.....J. Rosario	.....G. Contessa	.....6-1

6TH (4:02PM). \$100,000, MSW, 2 YO, 1M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....5	.....British Invasion (IRE)	.....D. Davis	.....M. Clement	.....7-2
1a	.....6	.....Honoree	.....J. Velazquez	.....C. McGaughey III	.....7-2
2	.....1	.....Signatory Man (IRE)	.....L. Saez	.....B. Walsh	.....3-1
3	.....2	.....Dr. Agne	.....J. Ortiz	.....C. DeVaux	.....5-2
4	.....3	.....A Million Dreams	.....J. Lezcano	.....K. Rice	.....12-1
5	.....4	.....Epic Desire	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....T. Pletcher	.....6-1
6	.....7	.....Jet Off	.....E. Cancel	.....G. Weaver	.....10-1
7	.....8	.....Orbit	.....J. Castellano	.....M. Casse	.....6-1
8	.....9	.....Helio	.....J. Alvarado	.....W. Mott	.....15-1

7TH (4:35PM). \$175,000, STK - THE CORONATION CUP, 3 YO, F, 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	.....1	.....Make Haste (GB)	.....F. Prat	.....M. Clement	.....2-1
2	.....2	.....Italian Soiree	.....L. Saez	.....J. Terranova II	.....12-1
3	.....3	.....Cloee	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....J. D'Angelo	.....5-2
4	.....4	.....Laurice	.....J. Alvarado	.....G. Weaver	.....12-1
5	.....5	.....Spirited Boss	.....J. Velazquez	.....J. D'Angelo	.....6-1
6	.....6	.....Abientot	.....D. Davis	.....M. Casse	.....7-2
7	.....7	.....Gata Brazil	.....M. Franco	.....B. Russell	.....6-1
8	.....AE-MTO	.....You'll Be Back	.....Rider TBA	.....T. Amoss	.....7-5
9	.....AE-MTO	.....Twirling Beauty	.....R. Maragh	.....R. Handal	.....5-1
10	.....AE-MTO	.....Flat Out Time	.....Rider TBA	.....G. Weaver	.....8-1

8TH (5:10PM). \$55,000, MCL \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....Dew	.....J. Alvarado	.....G. Contessa	.....6-1
1a	.....2	.....Stanley Cat	.....J. Rosario	.....G. Contessa	.....6-1
2	.....3	.....Sounds Like Fun	.....J. Castellano	.....J. Pregman, Jr	.....9-2
3	.....4	.....Munson	.....J. Ortiz	.....T. Amoss	.....4-1
4	.....5	.....Dark Devil	.....L. Saez	.....R. Rodriguez	.....7-2
5	.....6	.....Klimt Master	.....F. Villa Pino	.....E. Jones	.....30-1
6	.....7	.....Holy Dancer	.....L. Luzzi	.....N. Zito	.....30-1
7	.....8	.....Gallo de Fuego	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....D. Romans	.....3-1
8	.....9	.....World Fair	.....F. Prat	.....R. Moquett	.....7-2

9TH (5:44PM). \$100,000, AOC \$45,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	.....3	.....Rhetorical	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....W. Walden	.....1-2
1a	.....12	.....Set	.....D. Davis	.....M. Casse	.....1-2
2	.....6	.....Shared Success	.....J. Ortiz	.....H. Bond	.....12-1
2b	.....7	.....Rabaja	.....J. Rosario	.....H. Bond	.....12-1
3	.....1	.....Seaver	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....B. Brown	.....30-1
4	.....2	.....Baron of Sealand	.....L. Saez	.....D. Gargan	.....20-1
5	.....4	.....SlapintheFace	.....M. Franco	.....A. Dutrow	.....8-1
6	.....5	.....Neural Network	.....J. Gomez	.....I. Kantarmaci	.....30-1
7	.....8	.....Cable Ready	.....R. Maragh	.....L. Dixon	.....30-1
8	.....9	.....Ocala Dream	.....J. Castellano	.....B. Levine	.....20-1
9	.....10	.....Laurel Valley	.....F. Prat	.....M. Maker	.....6-1
10	.....11	.....Born Dancer	.....K. Carmouche	.....M. Nevin	.....10-1
11	.....AE-MTO	.....Get a Job	.....Rider TBA	.....S. Asmussen	.....9-2
12	.....AE-MTO	.....Rock the Weekend	.....K. Davis	.....L. Shivmangal	.....8-1
13	.....AE-MTO	.....Whittington Park	.....Rider TBA	.....F. Abreu	.....2-1
14	.....AE-MTO	.....Mighty Atlas	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....W. Potts	.....3-1

10TH (6:19PM). \$110,000, AOC \$100,000, 3 YO, 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	.....1	.....Papiamento	.....J. Castellano	.....D. Beckman	.....20-1
2	.....2	.....Asbury Park (GB)	.....F. Prat	.....C. Brown	.....2-1
3	.....3	.....Simulate	.....J. Alvarado	.....W. Mott	.....15-1
4	.....4	.....Griffin's Wharf	.....J. Velazquez	.....T. Morley	.....30-1
5	.....5	.....Assertiveness	.....M. Franco	.....T. Pletcher	.....10-1
6	.....6	.....Without Caution	.....J. Lezcano	.....C. DeVaux	.....15-1
7	.....7	.....Fond Farewell	.....L. Saez	.....W. Walden	.....8-1
8	.....8	.....Hands of Time	.....J. Rosario	.....M. Clement	.....15-1
9	.....9	.....Souper Times	.....D. Davis	.....M. Casse	.....8-1
10	.....10	.....Handsome Pants	.....K. Carmouche	.....K. McPeck	.....20-1
11	.....11	.....Strate Cash	.....J. Ortiz	.....C. DeVaux	.....6-1
12	.....12	.....King of Ashes	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....B. Walsh	.....5-1
13	.....AE	.....Thirteen Colonies	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....P. Antonacci	.....15-1
14	.....AE-MTO	.....Pretty Capable	.....Rider TBA	.....T. Amoss	.....3-1
15AE-MTOSoontobekingE. CancelG. Weaver5-2
16AE-MTOJerry's OutRider TBAR. Rodriguez4-1

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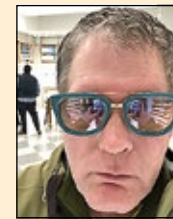
John Shapazian



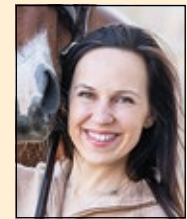
Tom Law



Charles Bedard



Rob Whitlock



Jessica Paquette

Race	John Shapazian	Tom Law	Charles Bedard	Rob Whitlock	Jessica Paquette
1	Solo Empire B D Saints Golden Purchase	Golden Purchase Solo Empire Because The Night	Solo Empire B D Saints Golden Purchase	Solo Empire Golden Purchase B D Saints	Golden Purchase Because The Night Stjames
2	Bourbon Serengeti My Flicker Peak Of Chic	Bourbon Serengeti She's Cool City Blocks	City Blocks Peak Of Chic Bourbon Serengeti	Bourbon Serengeti She's Cool Bedtime Story	Peak Of Chic Bourbon Serengeti She's Cool
3	Toga Dan Pineapple Man Eric From Miami	Swift Magic Pineapple Man Toga Dan	Pineapple Man Aelfgar Eric From Miami	Eric From Miami Incantation Swift Magic	Incantation Swift Magic Eric From Miami
4	Schwartz entry Army Gal Brocknardini	Brocknardini Red Burgundy Snowy Evening	Malu Schwartz entry Repole entry	Army Gal Brocknardini Carmen's Candy Jar	Carmen's Candy Jar Snowy Evening Collaboration
5	Lady Orient Always Practical Madeline's Promise	Low Key Lady Orient Always Practical	Always Practical Ragtime Sizzle Another Cleeshay	Lady Orient Low Key Always Practical	Ragtime Sizzle Low Key Another Cleeshay
6	Signatory Man West Point entry Dr. Agne	Orbit British Invasion Jet Off	Epic Desire Jet Off West Point entry	Orbit Jet Off Dr. Agne	Dr. Agne Signatory Man Orbit
7	You'll Be Back Make Haste Cloe	Make Haste Cloe Spirited Boss	You'll Be Back Make Haste Spirited Boss	You'll Be Back Make Haste Italian Soiree	Spirited Boss Laurice Make Haste
8	Gallo de Fuego World Fair Contessa entry	World Fair Dark Devil Sounds Like Fun	Gallo de Fuego Dark Devil World Fair	Munson World Fair Gallo de Fuego	Holy Dancer Munson World Fair
9	Barber entry Whittington Park Slapintheface	Mighty Atlas Barber entry Laurel Valley	Whittington Park Barber entry Slapintheface	Rhetorical Seaver Laurel Valley	Set Laurel Valley Rhetorical
10	Jerry's Out Asbury Park Fond Farewell	Asbury Park Fond Farewell Souper Times	Jerry's Out King Of Ashes Asbury Park	Fond Farewell Asbury Park Assertiveness	Souper Times Griffin's Wharf Asbury Park
2024 Records	122/409 (-\$145.90)	114/412 (-\$109.90)	102/406 (-\$126.10)	96/410 (-\$162.20)	70/400 (-174.20)

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



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The Saratoga 25 Special Through The Years

Remembering 2001



Year 1. 2001.

The office was at 260 Broadway. In an out-of-business aerobics studio with bars and mirrors on the walls, folding tables, metal chairs and pizza box towers. Like a stakeout.

The masthead read long on opening day. It read a lot shorter by closing day.

Joe Clancy, Sean Clancy, Paul Wasserman, Susie Alexander, Pete Fornatale, Frank Scatoni, Kelly Sullivan, Dave Harmon and Tod Marks were some of the survivors.

Vic Zast wrote a guest column. Muck and Terry Smith produced a comic strip.

Point Given won the Travers. Bobby Frankel said that Flute was reincarnated.

Lido Palace upset the Whitney. John Velazquez, with a mustache, won five in a day.

Earlie Fires, Richard Mandella and Holy Bull led the Hall of Fame induction.

A Storm Cat colt sold for \$3.3 million. Travers Day had three stakes.

City Zip, Hap, With Anticipation, You, Jump Start, Five Star Day, Shine Again, Cashier's Dream and Came Home were some of the stars.

Twenty-five

Day after day. Set after set. Horse after horse. Story after story. Race after race. Summer after summer. This right here in your hand has been in my head. The Saratoga Special, a daily newspaper covering it all for the six weeks at Saratoga.

It's been in there, rocking and banging and needing to get out. And now it's out.

Will it work? I'll tell you in six weeks.

That was how the first Cup of Coffee started. Wednesday, July 25, 2001. Year 1. No. 1.

Eight months retired from being a steeplechase jockey, concussions still ringing as I tried to start over at 31, I had somehow convinced my old college roommate Paul Wasserman, who was out of work and had nothing to lose and my older brother Joe, who had a newborn and a lot to lose, to start a racing newspaper.

Paul found cheap rent in an out-of-business exercise studio in the back of the Palio Building on Broadway. A big bronze statue of a horse stood out front, that had to be an omen. We taped a sheet of paper on the door. In black and white letters, it read simply The Saratoga Special. That was our shingle. The smallest shingle. And the biggest shingle.

How's that line go? We didn't know what we didn't know. I had recruited college interns and quickly learned that creative writing at Skidmore didn't translate to journalism at Saratoga. Four wannabe Alice Munros walked out the door and never came back. We lost another writer early when he refused to leave the press box. It was bare bones.

Tod Marks, Dave Harmon, Frank Scatoni, Pete Fornatale, Susie Alexander, Kelly Sullivan, Daniel Burns, Bill Corey, Tom Coyle and a few other family and friends stayed the course that year. Thank you, Sam and Andrea, you stayed forever.

The first advertisers in the first edition deserve commemorative bricks. Cooper Horse Vanning, Trackmen Golf Club, Beresford Gallery, The Lodge, Lyrical Ballad, Hoffberger Insurance, Celt-

CUP OF COFFEE



By Sean Clancy

ic Treasures, Point Given! Collectibles, Doug Fout, The Parting Glass, Triple Crown Custom Blankets, Cromwell Insurance, Fasig-Tipton, Grayson Jockey Club and Nutramax Laboratories. Most of them paid. Some of them are still in business.

In that first issue, we interviewed Mike Lakow about filling races, Bill Nader about lowering the takeout and Neil Howard about what it's like to win at Saratoga. We chatted with Joe Orseno about Macho Uno's 3-year-old debut and Tony Dutrow about Touch Love pointing for the Schuylerville. We walked Broadway and caught up with Impressions' Marianne Barker, the chief of police Robert Flanagan and Heather Hibbard, the receptionist at the Adelphi, about summers in Saratoga. We ran three pages of Calendar of Events because we had one extra page and Joe explained how a newspaper had to be in multiples of four. That one still confounds me.

We were in deep. Joe designed all the pages, and I wrote most of them. It was the year I became a writer. Out of pure necessity. Every day, we wondered if we could pull it off, like, really wondered if it was going to work. We felt an obligation to make it work, we had told people it was going to work and now it had to work. Every night was a war as we drove the newspaper on disks in shifts to Staffield Printing in Clifton Park. Jan picked up the first one on the way to work. Paul delivered the second, slept on a pile of cardboard boxes until the late-night pressmen woke him up with a thump of

newspapers ready to be delivered back to Saratoga. He would throw them at my feet poking out from under a table on the office floor. We missed a few 4:30 deliveries to The Paper Lady but never missed 5:30 at the Morning Line Kitchen.

We published several eight-page editions during the season. Yeah, eight pages. A trainer threw one at a delivery boy and said, "This isn't a paper. It's a pamphlet." He had a point. But I'll never forgive him.

Undeterred, we kept going. We started with six papers a week, Wednesday through Monday, every racing day. Halfway through, we stopped doing Monday editions. Just stopped. No one noticed. We charged \$1 a copy, then stopped somewhere along the way, too. Charlie Boden was the last reader to give a dollar for a copy a few years later.

We began a subscribers' list in issue three. Tom Voss Stable, Chuck Simon, Mark Hennig, Ken Ramsey. I think they gave us \$35 each. We added The Reading Room, Lisa Lewis, Toadie Taylor, Lynn Whiting, Carl Nafzger, Al Stall, Ronnie Ebanks and the Saratoga Sleigh Bed and Breakfast in the fourth. By the 35th, the list ran half the page of Here & There.

Six weeks. 35 editions.

There were glimmers that it might work.

We ran two-page spreads with Laura Hillenbrand about Seabiscuit (thanks Pete), Bobby Frankel about Flute, Allen Jerkens about Shine Again and Gary Stevens about Travers favorite Point Given.

The advertisers started to change. Claiborne, Lane's End, Gainesway, Eaton Sales found their spots between McSorley's, Leo O'Brien Stable, Richard Hutchinson and a couple named Jill and Rich. And then Sam Slater saved the day, the meet, the paper with The Heart Award, in Memory of Mrs. Miles Valentine.

Joe wrote the cover story in the first issue. The best line? "Welcome. To a town. A newspaper. An attitude."

We've tried to honor that ever since. Here's to 25 years of Saratoga, 25 years of The Special.



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