

Year 25 • No. 6

Saturday, July 26, 2025

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Here&There...at Saratoga

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

Names of the Day

Saturday

Feral, second race. Owned by Tommie Lewis and James Chambers, the 2-year-old colt is by Volatile out of Love This Kitty.

Majestic Arc, third race. The 6-year-old gelding is out of Parabolique.

Lavender Disaster, ninth race. Peter Brant's 3-year-old filly is out of Café Americano, which must mean somebody messed up the order at the coffee shop.

Sandman, 10th race. Everybody had fun with the Metallica "Enter Sandman" stuff during Triple Crown season, but the 3-year-old Jim Dandy starter is out of Distorted Music so somebody got creative.

Sovereignty, 10th race. The Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes winner – and 2-5 Jim Dandy favorite – is out of Crowned.

Name of the Day

Sunday

Blast Furnace, 10th race. The 4-year-old gelding is out of Aliquippa, a Pennsylvania town home to the Jones and Laughlin Steel Company from 1905 to 1984.

By The Numbers

3: People wearing pointed birthday hats at the Morning Line Kitchen during training hours Thursday morning.

5: Seasons with at least \$100,000 in earnings for Gun It, who makes the 56th start of his career in Saturday's first race. The 9-year-old Tapit gelding has won eight races, and placed in another 23.

11: Horseshoes on the antenna of a pickup truck parked on the Oklahoma side Friday morning.

1: Bellboot scooped up by a tractor driver on the Oklahoma training track at 11:10 Friday morning.

35,159: More career mounts for Stewart Elliott than his son Christopher (as of Friday morning).

18: Men replacing divots on the Mellon Turf Friday morning.

4: Autographs attained by Paul Millson in his annual Baseball Hall of Fame spree at the Albany Airport so far this year.



Samantha Decker

Zooming. Freedom's Way (3, Luis Saez) rallies around Vesting on the way to victory in Wednesday's sixth race.

Signs of the Day

Lukas Lane.
Saratoga Bus Depot.
Elmer's Gap.
Scooter, G. R. Arnold II.

License Plates of the Day

FILLYS, New York.

Worth Repeating

"Would it *really* be an upset, though?"

Trainer Jeremiah Englehart,
on if he was ready to upset the Jim Dandy with Mo Plex

"Oh, I'm not worried about him."

Erma Scott when told she was holding up Sean Clancy driving through the Oklahoma Thursday morning

"You all are really studying. What are you studying?"

Jockey Kendrick Carmouche, rolling up to members of The Special's editorial team Thursday morning

"He's unbelievable. He's working horses for me at 6 o'clock tomorrow morning. He goes to Colonial, jumps in the car, I've never seen anyone work like him. Seven days a week, all he wants to do is ride."

Trainer Derek Ryan about jockey Paco Lopez and his schedule

The Saratoga
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Here&There...in Saratoga

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

Worth Repeating

"How we doing superstar?"
Security guard Jonathan
Levy working Union Avenue
Tuesday morning



"I ride a lot of good sprinters but he's the best horse."
Jockey Paco Lopez after winning the Vanderbilt on Book'em Danno

"Who wasn't there that night? It might have been the only bar that was open."
Owner Sean Flanagan, reminded of last year's
closing night gathering at 9 Maple by Capital OTB's
Seth Merrow and the Daily Gazette's Mike MacAdam

"I just told him, that's one of the Clancy crew right there."
Trainer Jimmy Ferraro to Dr. Edward Messina, spotting The Special's Tom
Law parked in a golf cart overseeing paper delivery Wednesday morning

"I feel sorry for all the people still in bed."
Trainer Eddie Barker, enjoying the beautiful cool morning Wednesday

"It's like working one of those hamster wheels."
Trainer Dave Duggan, still out there following
his horses on foot around the backstretch Thursday morning

"I'd have named the Smithwick winner Easter Rebellion since he's by Fracas out
of Irish Question."
Reader Steven Price, auditioning to be Name of the Day editor

"We started coming to Saratoga the same year you did."
Racing fans Jack and Mary Dixon Hutcheson,
visiting from Virginia since The Special's first year 2001

"You have a blessed day, young man."
Hotwalker at Carlos David's barn Thursday morning

"Fighting the fight."
Trainer Phil Bauer when asked how it was going Thursday morning

"Good to be back."
Lyndsay Delello, assistant for Rusty Arnold,
on returning Saratoga for the summer

"We've turned to training dogs."
Trainer Brendan Walsh while looking at two Labrador Retrievers
in the back of Trish Moseley's and Jeff Hooper's car Friday morning



Hannah Bonczkowski

Child's Play. Saratoga jockeys get up close and personal with fans of all ages at the track.

"This looks serious."
Trainer Mark Casse as The Special's Sean Clancy
stood with Brendan Walsh outside his barn Friday morning

"You never know around here."
Jockey Victor Espinoza as unexpected rain fell Friday morning

"I need to get there."
Irish trainer Patrick Harty about Saratoga

"We got a firm 'I don't know.'"
Trainer Jack Fisher on a veterinarian diagnosis Friday morning

"Of course. You've known me since I was 14."
Archie St. George when asked about advertising in The Special

"Why would you go anywhere else?"
Owner Sean Flanagan when asked if Saratoga would be the location of
his Chancer McPatrick's next start

"At the quarter-pole I was making my Travers plans for that horse and all of a
sudden he just flattened out."
Trainer Chad Brown on Curlin Stakes third Strategic Focus

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With Phil Bauer

From the Little Guy Stable Tour (Fireball Shot in 2018) to a Stable Tour standard, Phil Bauer returns to Saratoga with his usual select string for Rigney Racing.

The stable nailed its first target with a \$50 upset in the Grade 2 Honorable Miss Sunday. The heat is off. In six starts, the stable has notched a win, two thirds, a fifth, a sixth and an eighth.

"It's all icing on the cake now. That was a big deal the other day, not only was it such a big win, but if you can get that first one out of the way, everyone breathes a little easier," Bauer said. "You add some pressure and stress to yourself by coming up here. There's been years where you come up and feel like you're loaded and there's been years where you feel like you need things to bounce your way."

Easy question. Which is it this year?

"We'll see. We're maybe right in between. We've got a few good bullets but overall, you're going to need some help here and there," Bauer said. "If you come up with realistic expectations...we've never come up here expecting to win six races or four races, that's crazy. If you win one or two and everyone else runs well, you've got to go home happy."

Bauer brought 15 horses (including the lead pony) to Saratoga and left 15 at Churchill Downs.

"I appreciate all the accolades that I get up here, but it boils down to opportunity and the horses," Bauer said. "Mr. Rigney has given me both. It's a lot of fun playing with horses who have a tremendous amount of quality. It's proven the last five years for us, it's all about stock and a good owner who will give them time. It has a tremendous positive ripple effect."

Bauer walked his traditional two-barn triangle near the maintenance shed inside Horse Haven with The Special's Sean Clancy Friday morning.

Halina's Forte: The meet is made. The daughter of Mitole provided Rigney and Bauer with their first graded stakes score at Saratoga when she upset the Honorable Miss Sunday. The Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July yearling graduate pushed her earnings to \$526,450.

"This is Halina's Forte. Newly crowned Grade 2 winner. That was the goal this year when we turned her out last year, was to swing at some graded stakes. Having already been a stakes winner and graded stakes placed, we thought let's swing at them and see if the ball bounces our way. Lucky enough in her sec-



Samantha Decker

Halina's Forte put the Bauer barn on the board with a stakes win in the Honorable Miss.

ond start of the year she put things together. I'm curious to see how she runs in her next, to see if she's taken that big a step forward or if it was just a perfect storm. We'll nominate to the Ballerina and keep an eye on it, see how it comes up. The big hitters will go there but it might be a similar pace scenario. We'll see. I thought 10-1 was a fair morning line. She disappointed me in her first race off the bench but sometimes they'll fool you. Churchill has been hard to get a gauge on this year because everything is working so fast. The strip has been too fast in the morning and the afternoon, so I think horses are maybe getting across it easier than you think and presenting themselves as further along than maybe they are. Racing never hurts, she seemed to get enough out of it and came up here and was doing well for it. Glad she was able to get the win. It will be a big time ripple effect for us. Mr. Rigney has about 20 mares now, we are constantly cycling in ones like her and replacing the ones that just don't have the credentials. She'll make her way down there at some point. We are just now producing the type that you would like to buy. That being said, you can test the waters of the market, if they're not to your liking, you have no problem keeping them. We are selling one (Hip 150, a colt by Not This Time consigned by Denali Stud) across the street for the first time, from a mare we raced. It's her first foal. I'm excited to see where things are trending, both on the breeding farm and racing. It's been a lot of fun the last few years."

Twirling Good Time: The daughter of Twirling Candy hasn't raced since finishing 12th at Keeneland in April.

"Won her first start at 2 and I don't think she's hit the board since. Just been one thing after another with her. Gave her the winter off for the last time. This is her last go round. We'll see if she can put things back together. Sometimes they just don't, you look back, 'Was it an easy group?' There seems to be more clarity after the dust settles. She just hasn't done it since then. She's had some excuses,

she had some ankles, went for surgery. She's had a vacation two or three times. Now, we've done everything for her. If she can't return to that level, then, maybe she's not good enough to join the broodmare band. It's a shame because she's probably one of our prettiest fillies. We'll see."

Kalahari Dreams: The son of Country House broke his maiden at Churchill June 1, finished ninth at Ellis Park July 3 and fifth with Jose Ortiz here July 19.

"He had a case of seconditis, he always seemed to run well enough but couldn't get the win. We castrated him. He won his first start after that and then just ran so bad at Ellis that you couldn't imagine it. I wheeled him back quick up here. He ran a spotty race the other day. He broke quick, faded out the back and then re-rallied. Jose came back and said he lost his rhythm midway through the race. Maybe knowing that, you'll ride him different next time. Maybe. I don't know. We've chased him 6 furlongs, two turns, seven eighths. He's just one of those horses where maybe you have to ask him for it as opposed to him giving it to you. He fits in this 1X level. The winner was clear cut and we were there, a length or so from second. We'll give him some more time and try him again. One of the only Country Houses you'll see."

Mighty Madison: The daughter of Nyquist finished second twice at the meet last year. She aims for her first start since finishing second in a stakes at Mahoning Valley in November. She breezed three times at Churchill and went a half-mile here July 12.

"She's just coming back so I don't know where she'll land. Hopefully there will be a race for her, a 3X. She's kind of a temperamental child so I wanted to

Continued on Page 8

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Future

JOURNALISM
SIERRA LEONE
TAPPAN STREET

Stable Tour -

■ Continued from page 6

keep her with me. That's why she made the trip, not necessarily because we had a race picked but more so because I need to keep eyes on her."

Legadema: The gray daughter of Arrogate won the Goldfinch Stakes at Prairie Meadows and finished third in the Grade 3 Fasig-Tipton Dogwood at Churchill in September to finish her 3-year-old season. She's breezed 11 times at Churchill in preparation for her 2025 debut.

"She's been scratched three times in a row. She's been entered in three stakes spots. We've been fighting a foot all year with her. I said, 'Send her up here.' Hopefully a change of surface is the key. Churchill has been a hard strip this year. She's had a good week so far. We'll give her a breeze this weekend and see where she goes. She's got a good female family and a graded stakes place filly in her own right. She's been a workmate for Halina in the past, hopefully, when we finally do get her started at 4, she's another one who maybe will take a step forward."

Claire's Run: Daughter of Speightstown earned a trip to Saratoga with a win against maidens at Churchill in June. She finished sixth here July 19.

"She was our first disappointment of the meet, I thought she would run really well last Saturday. Really can't find any excuse out of it. We've had horses in the past that shipped up here and have just run terrible and then they've been able to settle in and actually come back and win. Hopefully this is one that can replicate that."



Samantha Decker

Legadema eyes a Saratoga start.

Delightful Claire: A two-time graduate of Fasig-Tipton sales, the daughter of Thousand Words finished third in her debut at Churchill June 8.

"She's pointing for a race August 2. She seems to have some ability, so we are excited to get her in the entry box up here. She had a good gate drill the other day, probably have a little maintenance half (today) and run the following weekend. Real long, stretchy filly who maybe will want to go two turns at some point, but I thought second start seven eighths would be good for her."

Claireita: The unraced daughter of Gun Runner breezed steadily from October to April before missing three months and returning to the work tab July 5.

"She's been probably the most frustrating horse I've had in this past year and a half. She has a world of ability but every time you get her up to a half mile, she makes you slow down. She came off the truck and popped a splint. We'll take care of that and get her back going. She's worth being patient for, sometimes they just make you wait. Fair Grounds wasn't her gig this year, she had a hard time hold-

ing weight, so we turned her out and then she popped a splint out of the first breeze back. I guess if you're going to have an issue it might as well be minor like that. She's pretty good, I've just got to get her in a rhythm. Mr. Rigney is a long-term thinker. If you don't give them the time, they'll make you and he's excellent about it. He gives some of these horses a little more longevity."

Yaupon-Fiftyplustip colt: Purchased as a weanling, the New York-bred colt nears his debut.

"He's getting close. He'll work out of the gate (today) and we'll see where we go. He got sick on us in Kentucky, so we lost a week, once that happens you start to spin your wheels a little bit. Big, long pretty thing. Hopefully he'll start piecing things together and get a start against state-breds before the meet is over."

Tony the Pony: The best team player in the barn.

"We actually brought him up here last year. He's been one hell of a purchase. Great pony, good babysitter. No matter who sits on his back he's good for whatever you need him to be. I don't think he was much of a racehorse, but he makes a hell of a pony."

Princess Madison: A veteran of the Stable Tour, the chestnut filly won here last summer and finished third here Wednesday.

"It was a big ask for her the other day, coming back on short rest from Ellis. I thought it was a tough ask for her to win but I was proud of the way she ran. We were just a neck away from second. You would think coming back in that condition next time, third start off a layoff, she would be pretty tough. I would like to see her get back to the form

Continued on Page 10

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08.02	HALL OF FAME POSTER SIGNING 11 a.m. at Saratoga Race Course- Jockey Silks Room - Complimentary	
08.02	HALL OF FAME MEET AND GREET 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at The National Museum of Racing - Complimentary Admission	
08.09	PARTNERSHIP AND SYNDICATE MEET AND GREET 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at The National Museum of Racing- Complimentary Admission	
08.09	ADA GATES PRESENTATION- THOROUGHBRED RACING'S FEMALE FARRIER 11 a.m. at The National Museum of Racing- Complimentary Admission	
08.16	25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SARATOGA SPECIAL 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the National Museum of Racing - Complimentary Admission	
08.18	CASINO NIGHT BENEFITING NMRHOF AND THE PDJF 6 p.m. at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame	Tickets:
08.22	TRAVERS EVE WINE AND CHEESE- BECOME A MEMBER! 6 p.m. at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame	Join Us:
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08.30	CHILDREN'S SATURDAY MORNING SOCIAL 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the National Museum of Racing - Complimentary Admission	

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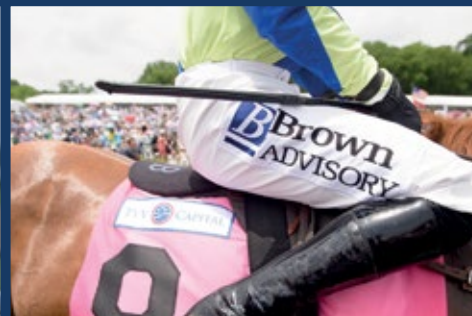
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Above: Algernon M. Talmage (British, 1871-1939)
The Epsom Derby, 1931 (detail)



Samantha Decker

Eddie Fabian walks Mighty Madison at the Bauer barn Friday.

Stable Tour -

■ Continued from page 8

she showed at 3 when she was really good. We were fortunate enough to get her Grade 2 placed last year so that will go a long way for her. Being by Speightstown, she's a young mare who should continue to improve the family. She's got a lot of leg and scope to her. We'll just wait for the two other than, give her ample time this time."

Our Starry Night: Second in his debut at Churchill in May, the son of Maclean's Music came back to finish sixth at Churchill June 15.

"I just got a little impatient with him. Drew the AE in his second start so I entered him back going two turns, thinking he could handle it. It was a little too much to ask. He wasn't ready for the first turf sprint maiden for older boys. I was surprised there wasn't anything in between it so just waiting on a race to pop up for him. If he runs back to his first race, he should be tough."

Medaglia d'Oro-Princess Julia colt: A \$975,000 purchase from Taylor Made Sales Agency at Fasig Tipton's Saratoga sale of selected yearlings last summer, the bay filly has Bauer thinking big.

"We bought her across the street last year. Fingers crossed, knock wood, she lives up to her price tag. She's one who has done everything right and has blown you away with her mind more so than anything, she handles everything very well. She's going to breeze out of the gate (today) and hopefully she'll hit the starting gate within a few weeks. Really nice filly."

Johny's Rendezvous: Son of Ghostzapper exits a second at Ellis Park July 4 and looks to break his maiden here this summer.

"Just beaten a nose down there at Ellis. That was his second start off a layoff. Coming into his third start the way we want. He's going to run on August 8. He's a hardy little horse. He ran here last year, his issue last year was he was too keen, he would never take a breath. Maturity has helped that a little bit. He showed in his start the other day. Hopefully that still comes together. That will be the key to his success."

Little Prankster: The 5-year-old mare made the Stable Tour way back in 2023 when she won two races at the Spa. Stakes placed in 2023, she owns four wins and four seconds for \$412,279. The daughter of Practical Joke failed to threaten and wound up eighth in the Honorable Miss.

"She's way better than she ran the other day. We'll find a good spot to bring her back. She's black-type quality. It was more circumstance than anything. She got squeezed back, in the mud. Her two races when she's behind horses she hasn't performed to what she is, we'll try to get creative in her next start. She bounced out of it really well. She's one being stakes placed, we're hoping for a stakes win. Big powerful filly. I might MTO her in that next spot. I can't throw her back in the Ballerina. Most likely, she'll get on a van unless they write some kind of crazy condition because she won her 3X right before she came up here. It makes you feel good as a trainer when they have such a brutal outing, and they come back and still have a good demeanor and a happy attitude. It makes you feel better for putting her through it. She's a neat filly and has a cool back story. She got a real bad leg infection. She missed over 500 days, came back and hit the winner's circle. Another testament to the owner for being willing to invest so much time and effort in getting one back."



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The Hunters

Quartet takes aim at favorite Sovereignty in local Travers prep

BY TOM LAW

John Shirreffs pinned his binoculars to his face a half-hour before sunrise Friday morning, facing the lit up Saratoga Race Course grandstand in the distance. Training hours were still at least 15 minutes away, so his gaze wasn't on Baeza, the colt he'd brought back to upstate New York from Southern California for another run at Sovereignty in today's Grade 2 Jim Dandy Stakes.

Shirreffs also wasn't looking for Sovereignty, who went about his usual routine on the final morning before the 9-furlong Jim Dandy back at Bill Mott's barn on the Oklahoma Training Track. Two days earlier, Mott and Shirreffs shared some space near the five-eighths pole during training hours, a Hall of Famer and should-be Hall of Famer surely going back-and-forth about their players for Saratoga's prep for next month's Grade 1 Travers Stakes.

"Oh no, we're not going there," Shirreffs joked Thursday morning while he watched training from yet another spot a quarter-mile up the track near the 7-furlong chute.

Shirreffs, like his other three colleagues in the \$500,000 Jim Dandy, freely admits they're in tough against the Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes winner.

"He needs to step forward," Shirreffs said of Baeza, the 3-1 second choice behind the 2-5 morning-line pick. "And he's been moving forward. As soon as you're not moving forward, really have to assess. ... Having said that, he's up against a very talented horse. ... But we're here and you know the percentage of favorites that win."

Mark Casse sends out Arkansas Derby winner Sandman, seventh behind Sovereignty in the Kentucky Derby before a third in the Preakness Stakes.

"He's a really nice horse. Our horse needs to improve to be competitive with him," said Casse, who skipped the Belmont Stakes to prepare Sandman for a summer campaign featuring the Jim Dandy and hopefully the Aug. 23 Travers.



Samantha Decker

Sandman looks to jump into the 3-year-old picture with a Jim Dandy win.

Jeremiah Englehart sends out the New York-bred Ohio Derby winner Mo Plex, 2-for-2 at Saratoga. The son of Complexity owns five wins in eight starts – three in open company – but still steps up as a 10-1 outsider.

"Now he has this test of taking on the top 3-year-olds in the game," Englehart said. "I'm confident that he can run his race and if he's good enough, then he's good enough. I don't look at it like, 'We need this, or we need that to happen in order to win.' Let him run his race."

Hill Road, winner of the Grade 3 Peter Pan two starts back, looks to do what he couldn't do and finish ahead of Sovereignty and Baeza in the Belmont Stakes seven weeks ago. He's 12-1 on the morning line for trainer Chad Brown.

Baeza also returns for another run at Sovereignty, his third attempt at the candidate for Horse of the Year and champion 3-year-old male. Shirreffs saddled Baeza to a third in the Kentucky Derby, after drawing in the day before, and another third in the Belmont June 7 at Saratoga.

The son of McKinzie returned to Santa Anita Park after the Belmont. Shirreffs being Shirreffs, he made some adjustments after plenty of analysis.

"There were so many nuances and things that aren't tangible, but in his training prior to the Belmont he would be pulling up at the three-eighths pole," Shirreffs said. "He'd gallop around then pull



Hannah Bonczkowski

Continued on Page 14

Baeza gets cleaned up for the Jim Dandy.



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 SPENDTHRIFT

Jim Dandy -

■ Continued from page 12

up at the three-eighths. I just got the feeling that he was doing his best galloping on the wrong part of the race-track. Since then, we've made sure he finished his gallop down the lane not on another part of the racetrack. That was the main thing."

Shirreffs changed exercise riders back home, hoping that would do the trick for the colt owned by C R K Stable and Grandview Equine.

"The rider that was on him before had him just a little too collected at all times," he said. "I wanted someone that wouldn't collect him too much going to and from the racetrack. I thought that maybe a little bit longer rein, finishing at a different place on the track and really focusing on staying in the bridle."

Baeza ran fairly close early in the Belmont Stakes under Flavien Prat before dropping back to sixth of eight on the backstretch. Prat needed to encourage Baeza with an aggressive hand ride heading into the far turn, and he got within a half-length of a



J.J. Zamaiko Photography
Mo Plex rolls to victory in the Ohio Derby.

rallying Sovereignty approaching the quarter pole. Sovereignty accelerated from that point, taking aim at Journalism and a tiring Rodriguez, while Baeza rallied from fifth and 3 1/2 lengths back.

Sovereignty drew off in the stretch to win by 3 lengths over Journalism, who finished 3 1/2 lengths in front of Baeza.

"Prat said he broke OK and then he had to kind of jerk him a little bit, pull him up, check him," Shirreffs

said. "Then he said down the backside the horse dropped the bit. He wasn't picking it up for him. You saw in the race he started riding him pretty hard at the half-mile pole. The horse has to take the rider, has to help the rider a little bit. I thought we could adjust things and he would be a little more strategic. That the horse, not the rider, would put himself in a better position strategically. That's what we're seeing."

Shirreffs breezed Baeza five times

between the Jim Dandy and Belmont, including the first three in company with the Grade 1-placed maiden Westwood. Two works were bullets, and his final two were a 6-furlong drill in 1:12.40 July 11 and a 5-furlong move in :59.80.

Hector Berrios rode Baeza in those workouts and returns on the \$1.2 million Keeneland September yearling today. Berrios rode Baeza in three straight starts – two maiden races and a second to Journalism in the Grade 1 Santa Anita Derby – before Prat rode him in his Triple Crown races.

Prat committed to ride multiple graded stakes winner Nysos for Bob Baffert in today's Grade 2 San Diego Handicap at Del Mar, before Shirreffs decided on the Jim Dandy for Baeza, thus the change back to Berrios.

"There are a lot of good riders up here but then we'd change riders again," Shirreffs said. "Do you get a rider that's familiar with the track? That's a real plus. But familiar with the horse is also a real plus. What are you going to do? You've got to make a choice. Hector hasn't ridden here but he's ridden on other tracks. I

Continued on Page 16

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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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Jim Dandy -

■ Continued from page 14

was just thinking, if he's riding out of a chute it might be a different story, but he's riding on the oval. He's a very good rider."

Owned by D. J. Stable, St. Elias Stable, West Point Thoroughbreds and CJ Stable, Sandman runs for the first time in 10 weeks. Casse said the time away proved beneficial for the \$1.2 million graduate of the 2024 OBS March sale.

"He's doing great," Casse said. "He's picked up some weight, which was one of the things that we tried. Is he totally cranked up? Maybe not, but I think he's going to give a good showing. We're going to try blinkers on him, which could work, or it could backfire. I've seen it backfire. It'll probably make him a little more aggressive early, so we're probably going to be a little closer to the pace. There's not a lot of pace in the race. We'll see. Hopefully, that doesn't affect his finish."

Casse hopes Sandman, who reunites with his Arkansas and Ken-

Alvarado, Sovereignty eye another major win

Junior Alvarado knew — or thought he knew — last year, when he rode Sovereignty for the second time. The Into Mischief colt finished second going a mile at Aqueduct last September, and the jockey called Dan Pride of owner/breeder Godolphin.

"This is our Derby horse for next year."

And here we are. A month after that maiden loss, Sovereignty won the Street Sense Stakes to close his juvenile campaign.

He started 2025 with a win in the Fountain of Youth and a second (without Alvarado, out with a shoulder injury) in the Florida Derby, then ran down Journalism in the Kentucky Derby to make Alvarado look like a prophet. Five weeks after that, Sovereignty again caught Journalism in

tucky Derby jockey Jose Ortiz, will have his mind on business with the new equipment.

"He just seems to lose focus," Casse said. "Even when he won the Arkansas Derby, he started wandering. We breezed him in them (blinkers). I had a long talk with Jose about it. Jose thought we could try. We worked him, he worked good. Obviously, our main goal is the Travers. He's got to give us a good performance on Saturday, or we'll look elsewhere. I think the Jim Dandy is a good learning experience, so we'll see how it affects him. We can always pull them off for

the Travers."

Englehart hopes to make the Travers via the Jim Dandy, something the Richie O'Connell-trained Thunder Rumble did back in 1992 as the last New York-bred to win the Jim Dandy. Mo Plex won his first start out of the Empire State in the June 21 Ohio Derby at Thistledown, earning his spot in today's field.

"He looked like he was going to be the type of horse where you've got to give him a shot against the best 3-year-olds in the country," Englehart said.

Owned by R and H Stable, Mo Plex also reunites with Manny Fran-

the stretch and won the Belmont Stakes.

"I've never had a doubt with him, I always knew what he was," the jockey said after a second classic victory. "I'm glad I was right."

Trained by Bill Mott, Sovereignty gets back in the starting gate in today's Grade 2 Jim Dandy against four opponents led by Baeza, third in the Derby and Belmont. Somebody will have to run the race of their life to beat the 2-5 favorite, who breaks from the outside post and won the Belmont over the track June 7. That day, Alvarado felt confident throughout.

"I never had a doubt. Do I do it this early? Do I wait a little longer? Do I wait to see what everybody else is going to do?" he said. "I was so loaded, I wasn't worried. It takes a good horse who is helping you for you to do all that. I've never had that feeling in such a big race."

co. He rode Mo Plex to victory in the Bay Shore Stakes in mid-April at Aqueduct and for his half-mile breeze in :48.84 last Friday at Saratoga.

Englehart likes his chances, Sovereignty or not.

"He's uber-competitive," Englehart said of Mo Plex. "He seems like he's always trying. Whether it's a morning workout or a race in the afternoon, he's giving it his all . . . I'm actually pretty confident. He's going to run his race. Whether or not he's going to be good enough to win, we'll find out."

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Longshot Love

Morley optimistic about Pookie's chances

BY JULIA REEDY AND ALEC DICONZA

LAKE GEORGE STAKES PREVIEW

Pookie comes into today's Grade 3, \$175,000 Lake George Stakes as one of the longest shots at 20-1 on the morning line, but the 3-year-old daughter of War Front is number one in trainer Tom Morley's heart.

"I could talk for hours about Pookie," Morley said emphatically Thursday morning.

Despite the high praise, Pookie hasn't exactly been dealt the best hand.

"She's been very unlucky in that she has been precluded from running three times now," Morley said. "Two races have been rained off the turf that she's been in, and then she was (supposed to be) in the Boiling Springs at Monmouth, but Monmouth shut the doors to NYRA horses, so she couldn't run in the Boiling Springs either."

Owned by VinLaur Racing Stable and West Paces Racing, Pookie made her debut on the turf at Saratoga Race Course last August, and broke her maiden in her second start at Aqueduct two months later. Since then she's finished sixth in the Tepin Stakes and

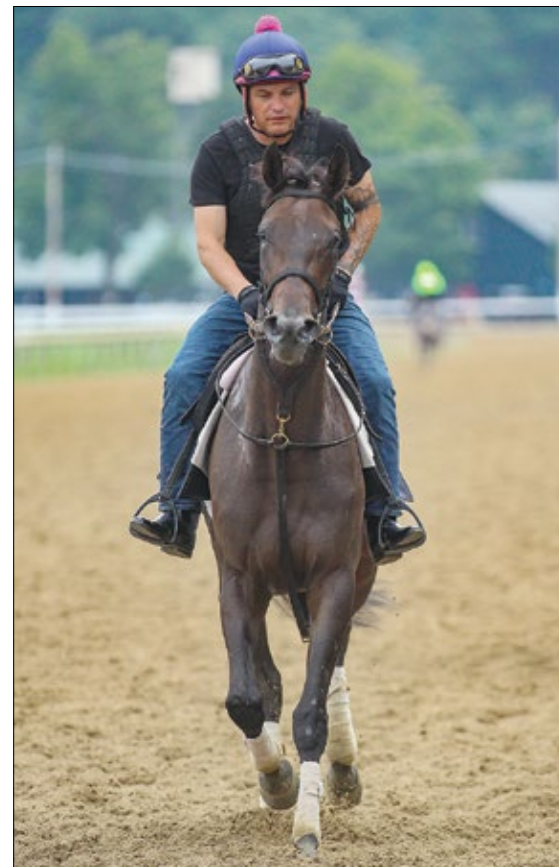
fourth in an allowance at Aqueduct. The attempt to run in the Boiling Springs in late June was derailed when Monmouth officials banned NYRA horses due to the strangles outbreak in Saratoga last month.

Pookie steps into graded company today against a familiar foe in the Chad Brown-trained Lavender Disaster, who finished 2 3/4 lengths ahead of her in the late May allowance at Aqueduct.

"It's been a frustrating start to the campaign for her, but she's training fabulously," Morley said. "It's been a little stop-start, but she's a very straightforward filly. Lavender Disaster, who beat her (by) a couple of lengths, is 5-2. If we've improved from our first start of the year, I think we've got a shot."

Dylan Davis will take the mount for the fourth consecutive time from post seven.

Fellow Lake George longshot Reining Flowers



Olivia Witkowski

Continued On Page 20

Pookie looks to spring an upset in today's Lake George.

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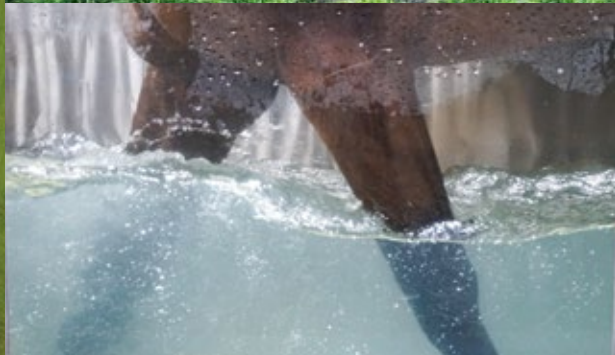
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Lake George -

■ Continued from page 18

also gives her connections optimism. The daughter of Midnight Storm breaks from the inside post in the 1 1/16-mile stakes on the inner turf for 3-year-old fillies. Owned by Four G Racing, Reining Flowers comes in off a third in the Penn Oaks June 27.

"She's been training really well," said Daniel Ortiz, assistant to his brother John Ortiz. "She loves it up here. She broke her maiden here last year, so she's very familiar with the course. I'm really happy with how she's come out of that last race."

Reining Flowers turned in two works on the dirt since her last start, breezing half-miles in :49.66 July 13 and :51.25 July 20. Ortiz pointed to Reining Flowers' pedigree as an indicator of her potential as a successful turf filly.

"We always had high hopes for her because her sister, Crown Imperial, same thing, she's a really good grass horse," Ortiz said. "She won a stakes at Kentucky Downs. Once we got (Reining Flowers) into the barn, we



Olivia Witkowski

Reining Flowers represents John Ortiz in the Lake George.

knew ideally what we wanted to do with her. She's shown the same exact heart as her sister, which is more than we can ask for. She's tiny, but she has the heart to make up for it."

The Lake George serves as an-

other opportunity for the Kentucky-bred to prove she belongs among other top fillies in her division. Hall of Fame jockey John Velazquez takes the return call, giving the Ortiz team more reason for optimism.

"She's a filly that always runs with her competition, and I think that she's been training so well that once she gets in the starting gate, it's all up to her," Ortiz said. "We're very confident and grateful for John Velazquez to be riding her. He knows her really well. He's worked her a couple of times, and he knows the filly. Once it's just the two of them on the track, it's whatever they want to do."

Classic Q is the 2-1 morning-line favorite from post five. Trained by Mark Casse, the daughter of Classic Empire exits a front-running score in the Wild Applause at Saratoga July 3. She will be ridden by Jose Ortiz for the fourth straight time.

"I thought she ran well," Casse said. "I've said all along that her best race is sitting off the pace, but there was no pace, so we went to the lead.

Chad had a horse (Lavender Disaster) in there that kind of made her work early and then she settled down. She finished, they got to her and she fought them off. If you watch after the race, she galloped out in front.

"Her best race was the race at Churchill when she beat older fillies in an allowance race. That day, she laid off the pace. We'll see what happens. There's not a whole lot of speed in this race again."

Lavender Disaster, third in the Wild Applause, enters as the 5-2 second choice with Irad Ortiz Jr. taking the mount. The two-time winner in four starts is joined by stablemate Play With Fire, who finished second in the Wild Applause. The latter breaks from post 10 under Manny Franco.

Aterradora finished fourth in the Grade 3 Regret, ahead of Classic Q, and seeks her second win for trainer Mike Maker. Graham Motion trainee Pretty Lavish finished second behind Play With Fire in the Hilltop at Pimlico before another second in the Boiling Springs. Daisy Flyer, Princess Attitude and Good Long Cry complete the field.

Kay Cup is entered for the main track only.

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SARATOGA ENTRIES

Saturday, July 26.

1ST (12:35PM). \$68,000, CLM \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

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

1	.....1	.....Gun It	.....M. Franco	.....I. Kantarmaci	.....5-1
2	.....2	.....Loco Abarrio	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....W. Walden	.....5-2
3	.....3	.....Lost in Rome	.....K. Carmouche	.....R. Samsundar	.....15-1
4	.....4	.....Otto the Conqueror	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....S. Asmussen	.....8-5
5	.....5	.....Friar Laurence	.....L. Saez	.....L. Rice	.....4-1
6	.....6	.....Honorary Degree	.....F. Villaobos Gonzalez	.....E. Jones	.....30-1
7	.....7	.....Cold as Hell	.....L. Rivera, Jr.	.....M. Giangulio	.....6-1

2ND (1:07PM). \$100,000, MSW, 2 YO, 6F

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

1	.....1	.....Vino Vici	.....D. Davis	.....T. Pletcher	.....6-1
2	.....2	.....Amador	.....J. Velazquez	.....T. Pletcher	.....8-1
3	.....3	.....Exhibition Only	.....L. Saez	.....R. Rodriguez	.....15-1
4	.....4	.....Soldier N Diplomat	.....J. Ortiz	.....S. Asmussen	.....8-5
5	.....5	.....Accost	.....M. Franco	.....C. Brown	.....6-1
6	.....6	.....Further Ado	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....B. Cox	.....5-2
7	.....7	.....Forever Man	.....V. Espinoza	.....T. Proctor	.....12-1
8	.....8	.....Feral	.....L. Rivera, Jr.	.....K. McPeck	.....15-1

3RD (1:40PM). \$36,000, CLM \$17,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

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

1	.....1	.....Profitability	.....J. Alvarado	.....M. Ferraro	.....15-1
2	.....2	.....Broderick	.....D. Davis	.....P. Reynolds	.....15-1
3	.....3	.....Vigano	.....L. Luzzi	.....N. Zito	.....8-1
4	.....4	.....Brave Buck	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....L. Rice	.....3-1
5	.....5	.....John the Baptist	.....L. Saez	.....R. Falcone, Jr.	.....15-1
6	.....6	.....Middle Market	.....M. Franco	.....C. Brown	.....2-1
7	.....7	.....Dialbolico	.....L. Rivera, Jr.	.....P. Quick	.....12-1
8	.....8	.....Tarpaulin	.....J. Ortiz	.....B. Russell	.....5-2
9	.....9	.....Majestic Arc	.....R. Maragh	.....L. Shivmangal	.....30-1

4TH (2:13PM). \$120,000, AOC \$100,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 11/8M

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

1	.....1	.....Arthur's Ride	.....J. Alvarado	.....W. Mott	.....4-5
2	.....2	.....Trademark	.....J. Velazquez	.....V. Oliver	.....6-1
3	.....3	.....Film Star	.....J. Ortiz	.....L. Rice	.....7-2
44StrappedI. Ortiz, Jr.R. Rodriguez10-1
55Big Blue LineD. DavisR. Dutrow, Jr.9-2
66KucharJ. RosarioR. Rodriguez12-1

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5TH (2:45PM). \$50,000, CLM \$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	.....AE	.....Basic Truth	.....E. Ellingwood	.....R. Keithan	.....30-1
1a	.....AE-MTO	.....Fly'n Frisbee	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....R. Keithan	.....30-1
2	.....1	.....Cousin Ed	.....D. Davis	.....J. Abreu	.....8-1
3	.....2	.....Hard Par	.....J. Rosario	.....R. Handal	.....6-1
4	.....3	.....Messi the Magician	.....O. Hernandez Moreno	.....L. Shivmangal	.....30-1
5	.....4	.....Mackville	.....J. Gomez	.....W. Potts	.....20-1
6	.....5	.....Unbroken Chain	.....S. Bridgmohan	.....M. Giddings	.....6-1
7	.....6	.....Side Eye	.....L. Saez	.....M. Maker	.....5-1
8	.....7	.....Nano Man	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....J. Kimmel	.....9-2
9	.....8	.....Korrongo	.....J. Ortiz	.....P. Reynolds	.....4-1
10	.....9	.....Koctel War	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....A. Sano	.....5-1
11	.....10	.....Ready Set Twirl	.....M. Franco	.....R. Rodriguez	.....10-1
12	.....AE	.....Wecallefuncoupons	.....A. Worrie	.....J. Englehart	.....20-1
13	.....AE-MTO	.....Dark Magic	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....L. Rice	.....7-2

6TH (3:17PM). \$95,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 11/16M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....2	.....Roagna	.....J. Castellano	.....H. Bond	.....8-1
1a	.....AE-MTO	.....Crimson Queen	.....K. Davis	.....H. Bond	.....8-1
2	.....1	.....Bunny Honey	.....E. Cancel	.....C. Englehart	.....20-1
3	.....3	.....Island Fox	.....L. Dettori	.....A. DeVaux	.....12-1
4	.....4	.....Tongue Twister	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....C. David	.....5-2
5	.....5	.....Sail With the Wind	.....K. Davis	.....J. Englehart	.....8-1
6	.....6	.....Second Chance	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....D. Schettino	.....20-1
7	.....7	.....Widdershins	.....J. Gomez	.....A. Chichakly	.....30-1
8	.....8	.....North End Lady	.....D. Davis	.....B. Tagg	.....6-1
9	.....9	.....Lady Jasmine	.....L. Saez	.....C. Englehart	.....15-1
10	.....10	.....Royal Bobbie	.....J. Ortiz	.....L. Rice	.....8-1
11	.....11	.....Bertrille	.....L. Rivera, Jr.	.....B. Brown	.....15-1
12	.....12	.....Bryant and Cooper	.....M. Franco	.....C. Brown	.....9-2
13	.....AE	.....Summer Whirl	.....L. Saez	.....H. Motion	.....5-1
14	.....AE	.....Capital Gal	.....J. Rosario	.....J. Abreu	.....15-1
15	.....AE-MTO	.....Dream On Cara	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....G. Rodriguez	.....6-1

7TH (3:52PM). \$100,000, MSW, 2 YO, F, 6F

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

1	.....1	.....Alpenglow	.....L. Saez	.....J. D'Angelo	.....8-1
2	.....2	.....Tennessee Belle	.....J. Rosario	.....J. Ortiz	.....6-1
3	.....3	.....Caradise	.....L. Luzzi	.....M. Friedman	.....30-1
4	.....4	.....Vajra	.....J. Ortiz	.....R. Brisset	.....5-2
5	.....5	.....Belarosa	.....R. Maragh	.....R. Rodriguez	.....20-1
6	.....6	.....Come On Get Happy	.....K. Carmouche	.....M. Nevin	.....15-1
7	.....7	.....Tommy Jo	.....J. Velazquez	.....T. Pletcher	.....4-1
8	.....8	.....Immortalize	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....B. Cox	.....5-1
9	.....9	.....Academia	.....M. Franco	.....C. Brown	.....5-1
10	.....10	.....Lolly Poppin	.....J. Alvarado	.....W. Mott	.....15-1

8TH (4:28PM). \$95,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

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

1	.....1	.....Very Stormy	.....J. Castellano	.....B. Levine	.....20-1
2	.....2	.....Stewie	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....J. Begg	.....5-1
3	.....3	.....Vekinda	.....M. Franco	.....G. Weaver	.....4-1
4	.....4	.....Blamicker	.....A. Worrie	.....C. Englehart	.....8-1
5	.....5	.....Leo's Reward	.....L. Saez	.....D. Donk	.....12-1
6	.....6	.....Roofers	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....M. Friedman	.....6-1
7	.....7	.....Bustin Away	.....K. Coa	.....M. Ferraro	.....10-1
88Sir KartriteJ. AlvaradoJ. Englehart8-1
99Kenny BeJ. OrtizD. Duggan7-2
1010On the HillK. DavisH. Bond8-1

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SARATOGA ENTRIES

9TH (5:04PM). \$175,000, STK - THE LAKE GEORGE PRESENTED BY SURFSIDE, 3 YO, F, 11/16M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....1	.....Reining Flowers	.....J. Velazquez	.....J. Ortiz	.....15-1
2	.....2	.....Pretty Lavish (IRE)	.....J. Castellano	.....H. Motion	.....12-1
3	.....3	.....Daisy Flyer	.....J. Lezcano	.....G. Arnold II	.....12-1
4	.....4	.....Lavender Disaster	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....C. Brown	.....5-2
5	.....5	.....Classic Q	.....J. Ortiz	.....M. Casse	.....2-1
6	.....6	.....Princess Attitude	.....J. Alvarado	.....V. Oliver	.....15-1
7	.....7	.....Pookie	.....D. Davis	.....T. Morley	.....20-1
8	.....8	.....Aterradora (IRE)	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....M. Maker	.....10-1
9	.....9	.....Good Long Cry	.....L. Saez	.....G. Weaver	.....20-1
10	.....10	.....Play With Fire	.....M. Franco	.....C. Brown	.....4-1
11	.....AE-MTO	.....Kay Cup	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....J. Abreu	.....1-1

10TH (5:41PM). \$500,000, STK - THE JIM DANDY PRESENTED BY MOHEGAN SUN, 3 YO, 11/8M

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....1	.....Baeza	.....H. Berrios	.....J. Shirreffs	.....3-1
2	.....2	.....Sandman	.....J. Ortiz	.....M. Casse	.....6-1
3	.....3	.....Mo Plex	.....M. Franco	.....J. Englehart	.....10-1
4	.....4	.....Hill Road	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....C. Brown	.....12-1
5	.....5	.....Sovereignty	.....J. Alvarado	.....W. Mott	.....2-5

11TH (6:16PM). \$90,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 11/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	.....2	.....Night Jasmine	.....J. Rosario	.....H. De Paz	.....6-1
1a	.....AE	.....Just One More	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....H. De Paz	.....6-1
2	.....9	.....Sasseti	.....J. Ortiz	.....H. Bond	.....10-1
2b	.....AE	.....Amazing Gracer	.....K. Davis	.....H. Bond	.....10-1
2c	.....AE-MTO	.....Morgana's Moment	.....J. Ortiz	.....H. Bond	.....10-1
2x	.....AE-MTO	.....Patience N Grace	.....K. Davis	.....H. Bond	.....10-1
3	.....1	.....Off Script	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....W. Walden	.....9-2
4	.....3	.....Tahila	.....D. Davis	.....M. Clement	.....6-1
5	.....4	.....Will of a Womanne	.....J. Velazquez	.....T. Morley	.....8-1
6	.....5	.....Nonna Lynne	.....M. Franco	.....C. Brown	.....6-1
7	.....6	.....On a Summer Day	.....J. Lezcano	.....J. Pregman, Jr.	.....15-1
8	.....7	.....Reina Noche	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....J. Antonucci	.....20-1
9	.....8	.....Hello Beauty	.....L. Dettori	.....J. Sistierson	.....5-2
10	.....10	.....Starship Pegasus	.....J. Castellano	.....M. Nevin	.....8-1

12TH (6:49PM). \$55,000, MCL \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 11/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	.....1	.....McHale	.....J. Lezcano	.....M. Hennig	.....15-1
2	.....2	.....Laird of Magnolia	.....J. Rosario	.....A. Arriaga	.....30-1
3	.....3	.....Captcha	.....R. Santana, Jr.	.....P. Antonacci	.....15-1
4	.....4	.....Suspiciously Named	.....V. Espinoza	.....E. Pringle	.....30-1
5	.....5	.....Chucky Our Law	.....G. Ashton	.....G. Galligan	.....50-1
6	.....6	.....Majestic Michael	.....K. Carmouche	.....A. Green	.....8-1
7	.....7	.....Fateful Lightning	.....M. Franco	.....B. Cox	.....2-1
8	.....8	.....Majorca	.....L. Saez	.....J. Sharp	.....5-1
9	.....9	.....Battle Drum (FR)	.....I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....T. Pletcher	.....6-1
10	.....10	.....Hedge the Risk	.....D. Davis	.....C. Brown	.....9-2
11	.....11	.....Got Stripes	.....J. Ortiz	.....C. DeVaux	.....12-1
12	.....12	.....Ski Bum	.....L. Luzzi	.....T. Proctor	.....15-1
13	.....AE-MTO	.....Nantz	.....K. Carmouche	.....L. Rice	.....7-2
14AE-MTODark DevilL. SaezR. Rodriguez4-1
15AE-MTOFreedom MakerJ. LezcanoL. Rice5-1

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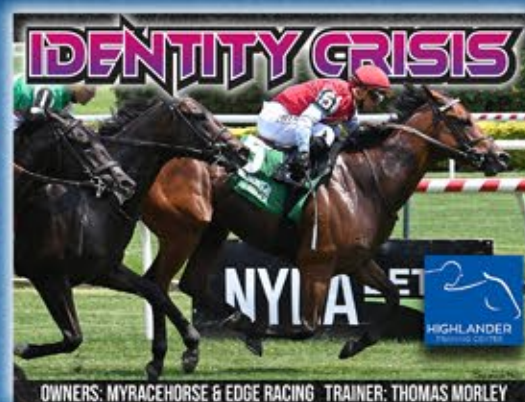
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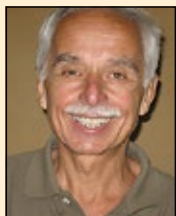
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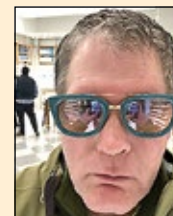
John Shapazian



Tom Law



Charles Bedard



Rob Whitlock



Jessica Paquette

Race	John Shapazian	Tom Law	Charles Bedard	Rob Whitlock	Jessica Paquette
1	Otto The Conqueror Loco Abarrio Gun It	Otto The Conqueror Loco Abarrio Friar Laurence	Gun It Friar Laurence Cold As Hell	Loco Abarrio Otto The Conqueror Gun It	Gun It Cold As Hell Otto The Conqueror
2	Further Ado Soldier N Diplomat Accost	Further Ado Soldier N Diplomat Amador	Feral Exhibition Only Vino Vici	Further Ado Forever Man Soldier N Diplomat	Further Ado Amador Feral
3	Brave Buck Middle Market Tarpaulin	Brave Buck Tarpaulin Vigano	Brave Buck Dialbolico Middle Market	Middle Market Dialbolico John The Baptist	Tarpaulin Brave Buck Middle Market
4	Arthur's Ride Film Star Trademark	Arthur's Ride Big Blue Line Film Star	Strapped Big Blue Line Film Star	Big Blue Line Trademark Arthur's Ride	Trademark Arthur's Ride Big Blue Line
5	Dark Magic Koctel War Hard Par	Side Eye Koctel War Hard Par	Korrongo Unbroken Chain Cousin Ed	Unbroken Chain Side Eye Cousin Ed	Hard Par Cousin Ed Koctel War
6	Dream On Cara Tongue Twister Bryant And Cooper	Bertrille Tongue Twister Royal Bobbie	Summer Whirl Tongue Twister North End Lady	Tongue Twister North End Lady Bertrille	Tongue Twister Island Fox North End Lady
7	Vajra Academia Alpenglow	Immortalize Tennessee Belle Tommy Jo	Vajra Academia Tommy Jo	Come On Get Happy Immortalize Tennessee Belle	Immortalize Lolly Poppin Academia
8	Vekinda Kenny Be Sir Kartrite	Vekinda Sir Kartrite Kenny Be	Roofer Vekinda Blamicker	Blamicker Kenny Be Bustin Away	Vekinda Stewie Leo's Reward
9	Kay Cup Classic Q Play With Fire	Classic Q Play With Fire Good Long Cry	Kay Cup Classic Q Play With Fire	Pookie Daisy Flyer Lavender Disaster	Reining Flowers Classic Q Pretty Lavish
10	Sovereignty Mo Plex Sandman	Sovereignty Baeza Sandman	Baeza Mo Plex Hill Road	Baeza Mo Plex Sovereignty	Sovereignty Baeza Sandman
11	Hello Beauty Nonna Lynne Off Script	Night Jasmine Off Script Hello Beauty	Hello Beauty Nonna Lynne Off Script	Off Script Tahila Hello Beauty	Will Of A Womanne Tahila Sassetti
12	Nantz Hedge The Risk Fateful Lightning	Battle Drum Fateful Lightning Majorca	Hedge The Risk Fateful Lightning Laird Of Magnolia	Got Stripes Majorca Hedge The Risk	Majorca Fateful Lightning Chucky Our Law
2025 Records	32/120, (-\$73.10)	38/119, (-\$23.60)	31/119, (-\$50.30)	24/121, (-\$64.10)	22/121, (-\$97.50)

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

#1 SIRE of GSWs from 3YO crop & % GSWs from 3YO crop

Bred off a
\$40,000
stud fee

SIRE	GSW (b. 2022)
Not This Time	7
Into Mischief	6
Nyquist	4
Medaglia d'Oro	4
Vekoma	4

*7/23/25 TDN 2022 Crop Report

SIRE	% of GSWs (b. 2022)
Not This Time	5.98
Medaglia d'Oro	5.33
Collected	4.11
Into Mischief	4.00
Nyquist	3.39

*7/23/25 TDN 2022 Crop Report



“
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unbelievable
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- Steve Asmussen, Hall of Fame trainer
of Epicenter, Cogburn, and Magnitude

NOT THIS TIME



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STALLIONS

Cajun Flavor

Smoken Wicked wins for Louisiana

BY ALEC DICONZA

Finding a better way to spend a wedding anniversary than by winning at Saratoga Race Course might be difficult. Toss in that the horse, trainer, jockey and owners are all from Louisiana, and you're looking at quite the party in the winner's circle. And the win came in the Grade 2, \$200,000 Amsterdam Stakes.

"This is the best way to celebrate," said Murray Valene, commemorating 33 years with his wife, Gerri, after winning the Amsterdam with his Valene Farm's Smoken Wicked.

Bred in Louisiana, Smoken Wicked cost Valene \$38,000 as a yearling. The son of Bobby's Wicked One – who is owned by a friend of Valene's and stands at the Louisiana Center for Equine Reproduction – has exceeded

AMSTERDAM STAKES RECAP

his purchase price in career earnings. His dominant 5 3/4-length victory in the 6 1/2-furlong Amsterdam earned a \$110,000 payday and boosted Smoken Wicked's earnings to \$551,392.

"This is the first runner out of that stallion, and the first winner," Valene said. "Maybe we've got another stallion developing here."

Bet down to 5-2 from his 6-1 price on the morning line, Smoken Wicked raced in second behind 8-5 favorite Macho Music through the first half-mile. Despite attending quick early fractions of :22.09 and :44.76, Smoken Wicked had enough left for the stretch drive and took the lead out-

Continued On Page 30



Olivia Witkowski

Smoken Wicked streaks to victory in Friday's Amsterdam.

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Amsterdam -

■ Continued from page 28

side the quarter pole.

Under Brian Hernandez Jr., Smoken Wicked built a 3 1/2-length gap at the eighth pole and widened his margin from there. Gunmetal finished second with Gate To Wire third and Macho Music fourth. Smoken Wicked finished the Amsterdam in 1:15.64 for trainer Dallas Stewart.

“It was pretty textbook,” Hernandez said. “He broke sharp and put me in a great spot. I was able to kind of track off the favorite the whole way, and when I called on him, he spurted on. When he switched leads turning for home, I figured it’d take a really good horse to run him down, but I didn’t expect him to win by (5 3/4 lengths) like he did.”

Smoken Wicked won his first graded stakes in the Amsterdam. The colt now sports a record of five wins in 13 starts. His open-length victory Friday did not surprise Stewart.

“He looked that dominant in the paddock,” he said. “I thought he would run really well, but Macho Music is just a dominant, great horse. He (Smoken Wicked) ran a great race. He really performed well today. I’m very happy.”

Smoken Wicked’s unique all-Louisiana connections added to Hernandez’s reasons for celebrating the Amsterdam victory.

“It’s always special winning these graded races, especially here at Saratoga, but this one is even a little more special with the horse being Louisiana-bred and we’re all from Louisiana,” he said. “To be able to bring a Louisiana-bred up here and let him win a graded race, it’s huge.”

Smoken Wicked’s win offered some redemption for his third



Dave Harmon

Dallas Stewart (right) and Murray Valene (second from right) accept the trophy after Smoken Wicked’s Amsterdam score.

in the Grade 2 Saratoga Special last year at the same track, where he received a tough trip.

“It’s a special deal when you can come up here and win,” Valene said. “Normally, we’ll come up with a Louisiana-bred and just about every meet I’ve been here for the last maybe 10 years. I’ve won with Louisiana-breds in allowance races. He ran in the Saratoga Special, and he got bumped around. We didn’t know if maybe he (the winner, Showcase) was going to come down or not. But, he probably could’ve won that race, too.”

Stewart said Smoken Wicked could return for the Grade 1 H. Allen Jerkens Memorial going 7 furlongs on the Travers Day card.

— Additional reporting by Julia Reedy

Saratoga Leaderboard

Through Friday

Trainers..... 1st

Chad Brown.....	9
Todd Pletcher.....	9
Linda Rice.....	7
Miguel Clement.....	6
Joe Sharp.....	6
George Weaver.....	5
Steve Asmussen.....	4
Mark Casse.....	4
Tom Amoss.....	3
Melanie Giddings.....	3
Ilkay Kantarmaci.....	3
Bill Mott.....	3
Wesley Ward.....	3

Jockeys 1st

Irad Ortiz Jr.....	24
Jose Ortiz.....	18
Flavien Prat.....	9
Joel Rosario.....	9
Ricardo Santana Jr.....	9
Kendrick Carmouche.....	8
Luis Saez.....	8
Manny Franco.....	7
Jose Lezcano.....	5
Dylan Davis.....	4



Round Table Conference on Matters Pertaining to Racing

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NEW YORK CITY
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1953

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OGDEN PHIPPS	The Jockey
JOHN HAY WHITNEY	The Jockey
MARSHALL CASSIDY	Racing
JOHN P. CAMPBELL	Track M
CYRUS S. JULLIEN	Track
LUKE O'BRIEN	P
ROBERT F. KELLEY	I
ALEX BOWER	
A. B. HANGCOCK, JR.	
CLIFFORD LUSKY	
E. BARRY RYAN	
SOL KUTCHUCK	
PRESTON BURCH	
HIRSCH JACOBS	
FRANK ORTELL	
J. SAMUEL PERLMAN	
TED ATKINSON	

2024 Round Table Conference on Matters Pertaining to Racing

(Click down for agenda)



Watch on YouTube

(Click on presenter name for biography. Transcripts will be available soon.)

Welcome	Stuart S. Jersey III Chair, The Jockey Club
Activities of The Jockey Club	James L. Gagliano President and COO, The Jockey Club
Safety Run First	Meghan Rodgers Senior Vice President of Public Affairs, National Thoroughbred Racing Association
Update from California	Gary Fenton Chair, Thoroughbred Owners of California
The Present and Future of California Racing	Dr. Divine Benson Chief Veterinary Officer, SST Racing
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Closing Remarks	

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Dave Harmon

Killy Start drives to victory in Friday's second race.

Role Change

Schauer enjoys first Spa victory

Steven Schauer captured his first win as a trainer at Saratoga Race Course in Friday's second race. Schauer previously found himself in the winner's circle – for nearly two decades – as an owner with The Players Group.

Schauer took an interest in training a few years back.

"I was coming in the mornings to see what it was like, and just started watching, learning, watching, learning," he said. "My wife came to me and said, 'you've been doing this so much now. You have all the support and staff that is willing to teach you ... why don't you do it?' So, I learned and finally took the leap."

The leap paid off when the 7-year-old Upstart mare Killy Start gave Schauer his ninth career win from 34 starts in the second. Irad Ortiz Jr. rode Killy Start to her neck victory over Echo In Eternity.

"I was not very confident going into this race because this is a mare that finds trouble," Schauer said. "I needed to have a top pilot to navigate any possible problems. She is 7, so she has been around the block. She knows

FRIDAY RACING RECAP

when she is going to do it and when she is not, but we are very happy with her today. She is really a sweetheart."

- *Hillary Robertson*

- Accelerated News made news in the opener, a maiden special weight for New York-breds going 6 1/2 furlongs on the main track.

"I was a little nervous," winning trainer Melanie Giddings admitted. "It was her first time on the dirt today, actually. I've had her for about a month now, and I just said, 'She's been working phenomenal, I don't know why you haven't tried her (on the dirt). She's bred for dirt, and it's a little nerve wracking when you haven't tried it yet, but she sure showed what she does in the morning.'"

The 4-year-old daughter of Accelerate raced twice on the turf and twice on Gulfstream Park's synthetic track in four prior starts for prior trainer Lisa Lewis. She finished fourth in her most recent effort on the turf at Aqueduct

Continued On Page 34

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Friday -

Continued from page 32

May 25. Lewis didn't bring a string to Saratoga for the summer and the filly was transferred to Giddings.

Accelerated News trained well on the dirt, giving Giddings encouragement for her first run for the barn. Fourth early under Shaun Bridgman, Accelerated News swung to the outside on the far turn and into the stretch with Miss Im Pulsive, Our Preferred Pal and Lady Angelina to her inside. Accelerated News took command in the stretch and went on to a 12 3/4-length win over Our Preferred Pal.

Giddings' hopes for the New York-bred's ability on the dirt proved fruitful.

"We really love her," she said. "We'll see how she comes out of this. She's such a nice little filly, we'll let her go through the conditions and see where she takes us."

- Darby O'Brien

- Tony Dutrow sent out his first winner of the meet when Parade Ring

triumphed in the fifth, a \$50,000 maiden claiming event going 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf. The 4-year-old Irish-bred filly by Night Of Thunder finished 3 3/4 lengths ahead of Linda Rice trainee New Issue.

"It's very difficult no matter what to win up here, no matter what kind of race," Dutrow said. "I love Saratoga and I love Belmont Park. They're both very tough places to win. I told plenty of people when they asked me the same question of coming up here, (how I felt going) into the meet. I said, 'Look. I don't know how many of them will win or if any of them will win, but we have a good barn that's going to run well.'

"You can run fourth or fifth up here and run well. You can come out here after the race and watch the replay, finish in fourth, get beat by a length, but your horse ran great, but look who beat you."

Dutrow won't have to answer to anyone this time, nor will he need to watch the replay to see who beat him.

- Julia Reedy

- Time To Dream bolstered trainer Todd Pletcher's string of strong 2-year-old starters at the meet with a winning debut in the seventh, a 1-mile maiden for fillies on the turf.

"(She was) obviously a beautiful yearling," Pletcher said. "Mike (Repole) reached out and paid \$750,000 for her. It's one that we had high hopes for. She's a very professional filly, she's trained really well coming up to this and we were optimistic we were going to see her perform the way we thought she might be capable of."

Purchased by Repole Stable at last year's Fasig-Tipton's Saratoga sale of selected yearlings, the filly is out of Street Sense mare Wild Silk. She's a half-sister to multiple stakes winner Red Carpet Ready.

"When we were first up here in the spring the Oklahoma track was pretty deep and demanding," he said. "It seemed like we were having some horses struggling with it a little more. She was not one of them, but we did work her the one time on the turf. Not This Time is such a versatile stallion, it seems his runners can do just about anything. We thought she really breezed well on the turf, and she felt like a filly we didn't want to rush into a maiden dirt race. We were just waiting for this."

Ridden by Jose Ortiz, Time To

Dream rallied through the lane to cruise past frontrunner Maiora in the final sixteenth. She won by 2 1/4 lengths in 1:36.56 over the firm turf.

"I felt she was making some good progress, and then it looked like she kind of had to ... not slam on the breaks, but kind of be put on hold for a few strides," Pletcher said. "It's impressive to see her regroup and then deliver a big run. It speaks to her talent."

- Darby O'Brien

- Valerie Clement earned an emotional first win as an owner in the nightcap, a \$50,000 maiden claiming event going 1 1/8 miles on the turf. The wife of the late trainer Christophe Clement started owning horses herself in the last two months, after her husband passed away from metastatic uveal melanoma in late May. Dividend Recap, a 4-year-old filly trained by Clement's son Miguel Clement, won by 4 3/4 lengths under Joel Rosario.

"Saratoga is, of course, a very special place because you have horses coming from many different states," Valerie Clement said. "I know it's always difficult to win at Saratoga, so to have my first ever winner be in Saratoga, it's a lot of fun. It's also a racetrack my husband always enjoyed. It makes it great. Trained by Miguel and with a jockey like Joel Rosario, it makes a whole team. It's back to finish all the dreams my husband had. We stick with each other, have a strong family and do the best we can. We all miss him, there's no doubt about it. It's tough every day to understand how he left us, but we're doing the best and today's a beautiful day."

Coming off a 20-month layoff, Dividend Recap positioned herself in fifth early and edged closer to the leaders nearing the far turn. At the top of the stretch, the New York-bred found a seam between Professor Grace and Addagirl Addie before rolling home to win her third career start in 1:48.83.

Clement enjoyed sharing her first victory with close friends and family. Her journey in racing is far from over, she said.

"I'm looking forward to carrying on all the projects Christophe had," Clement said. "It's wonderful when you have so much closeness, you enjoy the sport fully."

- Alec DiConza

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Good Vibes

Chancer McPatrick shows grit in another Saratoga stakes score

BY TOM LAW

Sean Flanagan felt good about how Thursday might go after checking in with Alysse Jacobs in the Horsemen's Relations office at Saratoga Race Course.

"It's very, very similar," Flanagan said, thinking back to celebrating Chancer McPatrick's victory in the Grade 1 Hopeful Stakes on closing day of the 2024 Saratoga meeting. "Not just because I'm standing here with you guys, but Alysse in the box office, she gave me the same box that she gave me for the Hopeful."

Looking at those box tickets, Flanagan could only think one thing.

"This is good karma here," he said. "I sat in the same seat. It's a very, very similar feeling. That day was a dry, fast track if I recall. He got the job done."

Chancer McPatrick got the job done again Thursday, putting away a more ballyhooed stablemate in deep stretch and withstanding a hard bump from another foe just before the wire to win the \$135,000 Curlin Stakes. Irad Ortiz Jr. rode the multiple Grade 1-winning son of McKinzie for trainer Chad Brown and Flanagan Racing.

Chancer McPatrick, the 4-1 second choice in the field of six, won by a head over So Sandy with the winner's 3-5 favored stablemate Strate-

CURLIN STAKES RECAP

gic Focus another half-length back in third. Chancer McPatrick improved to 3-for-4 at Saratoga, with the lone defeat in the Grade 1 Woody Stephens Stakes going 7 furlongs on a muddy track on Belmont Stakes Day last month. He won the other two starts at Saratoga – the Hopeful and a July 27 maiden race – on fast tracks.

"I feel like I just won the Travers," Flanagan said after winning the Curlin, restricted to 3-year-olds who had not won a graded sweepstakes at a mile or over in 2025. "It's a very important prep race for the Travers. I don't know if we'll end up being in the Travers or not. Just to win it, against some very good horses, I know that (Strategic Focus) was ... everybody was looking at that horse like a monster and he's probably a serious contender in the Travers."

"I'm just so happy to see him bear down and stick his neck out in the last 10 yards of the race. He was very brave."

Chancer McPatrick's win came after the Woody Stephens defeat and another as the 5-2 favorite in the Grade 1 Blue Grass in early April at Keeneland, a loss that knocked him out of consideration for the Kentucky Derby.



Samantha Decker

Chancer McPatrick (center) digs in against So Sandy (left) and Strategic Focus late.

A victory in the 9-furlong Curlin always brings about the question of whether the Grade 1 Travers Stakes, going 10 furlongs for \$1.25 million is in play. The likes of Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes winner Sovereignty, other runners from today's Grade 2 Jim Dandy and possibly Preakness and Haskell winner Journalism await.

Whether that's on the table will be out of Flanagan's hands, by choice.

"None. None. Zero," Flanagan said of the input on where Chancer McPatrick might wind up next. "I'll just shake my head and say, 'That's a good idea.' You have to trust your

trainer to do the right thing by the horse. He'll make the right decision. Whether we cut back in the Allen Jerkens or go in the Travers, I don't know. I say, 'We'll make decisions,' but he'll make the decisions."

Brown won his sixth Curlin and third in the last five years. Horseplayers and rival horsemen figured he might do it with Strategic Focus, who crossed the finish first and three-quarters of a length in front of stablemate Malarchuk in a June 6 allowance-optional only to be disqualified for interference late.

Continued On Page 37



"Troy Mulligan saves me hours of work and days of worry. Now, I can watch the horses again."

– Sean Clancy, Riverdee Stable

TROY H. MULLIGAN, CPA

LEXINGTON, KY

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Curlin -

■ Continued from page 36

Pegged at 6-5 on the morning line and bet down against five foes following the scratches of longshots Uncaged and Just A Fair Shake, Strategic Focus stayed close behind Crudo and So Sandy in the early stages of the Curlin.

Crudo, winner of the Sir Barton Stakes on Preakness Day and last of eight in the Belmont, carved out fractions of :24.27 and :48.32 heading toward the half-mile pole.

Flavien Prat, riding Strategic Focus for the first time after being Chancer McPatrick's only rider for his previous seven starts, let Strategic Focus roll up toward Crudo on the far turn.

Crudo still led by a tenuous half-length through 6 furlongs in 1:11.59. Strategic Focus went by the leader before reaching the quarter pole and opened a few lengths on the tiring Crudo and Chancer McPatrick and So Sandy, who stayed on while a few paths off the rail.

Ortiz stayed busy on Chancer McPatrick while Jose Ortiz kept So Sandy on task inside the eighth pole. Strategic Focus couldn't sustain his momentum inside the sixteenth pole as Chancer McPatrick and So Sandy drew alongside. Those two exchanged a quick bump just before the wire, Chancer McPatrick responded and stuck his head out at the finish to win in 1:49.71.

"The race changed in an instant there turning for home," Brown said. "I thought my other horse was just going to run off the screen. He galloped past the leader, and it looked like he got to the eighth pole and just stopped. Then here comes Chancer and it was a good battle down to the wire. It seemed like when he got bumped, it emboldened him to come back."

Irad Ortiz agreed, feeling like Chancer McPatrick responded positively to the incident.

"It was not a lot of contact; it was one good bump very close to the wire," he said. "I was looking for him (So Sandy) because my horse loves to fight and his horse changed leads I think and reacted. We had contact, but it worked out good."

Chancer McPatrick improved to 4-for-8 overall, adding the three Sara-

toga wins to his score in the Grade 1 Champagne Stakes last fall that made him one of the main players in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile at Del Mar. He finished sixth, missing out on an Eclipse Award and didn't return for his 3-year-old debut until March 8 in the Grade 3 Tampa Bay Derby. He finished second, beaten 3 1/2 lengths by Owen Almighty, then lost the Blue Grass to put the Derby dream on ice.

Brown rebooted Chancer McPatrick in the Curlin, stretching him back out after toying with the idea of keeping him sprinting in Friday's Grade 2 Amsterdam at 6 1/2 furlongs. Now he'll have to consider stretching out some more for the Travers.

"I'm glad that we actually chose this," he said. "What's proven is that he really likes a dry Saratoga track now. He's 3-for-3 on a dry track at Saratoga. He showed a lot of heart, as he did in his previous two starts on dry tracks at Saratoga - they were very courageous efforts in his maiden and the Hopeful . . . Surely our dream would be to try to get him out to a mile and a quarter and hope for dry weather on Travers Day if he's a horse-for-course."



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Girl Power

Proctor Street wins second at Spa to match dam for Moseley, Walsh

Brendan Walsh trainee Proctor Street won Thursday's eighth, finishing 2 lengths ahead of Chad Brown trainee Tax Implications. The Patricia Moseley homebred came off a nine-month layoff in June with a second at Churchill Downs.

"We were feeling good," Walsh said of his pre-race confidence level. "We always liked this filly. Last year, she just went the wrong way on us a little bit, but we gave her a break and she was doing great. She ran very well in her comeback race this year, and we figured that she'd come up and win a good race today. It was good to see her do what she did."

The 4-year-old daughter of Street Sense and the Moseley/Walsh Grade 2 winner Proctor's Ledge settled near the back after swinging wide into the first turn, advanced five wide into the stretch, then kicked on outside the eighth pole to edge clear by 2 lengths over Tax Implications in the \$115,000 allowance going 1 1/16 miles on the turf.

"I wasn't surprised," Walsh said. "I trained her mom. She won the Lake George and the Lake Placid here as a 3-year-old (in 2017), and she was

THURSDAY RACING RECAP

a very, very good filly. So I think this one's got it from her."

Walsh likes to keep it in the family – with his horses and their connections – and goes back to his earliest days as a trainer with Moseley as they teamed up to win a Gulfstream Park maiden special weight with Sandcastle on March 2, 2012.

"I had my very first winner ever for her," Walsh said. "She was one of my first owners. She's been a big supporter. She's always had a few horses with me ever since, and they've been big supporters of mine. You never forget the people who started you out."

Proctor Street won for the third time in five lifetime starts while pushing her career earnings to \$175,750.

- Julia Reedy

- Three-year-old Lotus Petal took the fourth, a \$50,000 maiden claimer, going 1 1/16 miles on the inner turf. The daughter of Tourist has made five previous starts including a third in her debut here last August. Since then, the filly finished mid-pack in maiden spe-



Dave Harmon

Zakat rolls to victory in the seventh for jockey Chris Elliott.



Dave Harmon

Proctor Street (right) draws off late in Thursday's eighth.

cial weights at Aqueduct, Churchill Downs, and Gulfstream Park.

Trainer Jena Antonucci selected Thursday's race to give Lotus Petal the opportunity to run against easier competition.

"We just wanted to give her a little bit of class relief," she said. "She has been running so hard and so honest. Her numbers keep getting better, she just kept getting beat that same little bit."

Lotus Petal broke smoothly for Ricardo Santana Jr. and settled behind pacesetter Bossy Dish heading into the backstretch. Going into the far turn, Lotus Petal eased up on the leader before overtaking the 22-1 longshot inside the eighth pole. Nearing the wire, McKinzie's Glory made a rally from mid-pack but Lotus Petal held on by a nose in 1:42.64 for New Phoenix Stable.

"We loved where she was coming into this. We just needed the race to set up for her," Antonucci said. "Today, we gave her a little class relief so she could learn how to win. That's what she has done today, and Ricardo gave her a picture-perfect ride." Antonucci continued.

- Hillary Robertson

- The last month has been chaotic for Set, a 4-year-old gelding owned by Gary Barber and Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners. After finishing a close second in his 2025 debut, the Mark Casse trainee suffered from a bout of colic, sending him to the sidelines and forcing him to scratch two weeks

ago at Saratoga. It only took days, though, for the son of Oscar Performance to recover and on Thursday, he returned with a 1 1/4-length win in the fifth to improve his record to three wins in eight starts.

"He was amazing. He spent a couple days over at Rood and Riddle, and then he came back and he looked great," said Casse of the Henning Road veterinary clinic. "They did a good job . . . He came back pretty quick, but he's big, kind of a butterball. He can take it a little. He was good."

The winner of last year's Cutler Bay Stakes at Gulfstream Park, Set dashed to the lead from the inside post on the way to taking his five rivals from gate to wire in the 5 1/2-furlong turf optional claimer for New York-breds. Setting fractions of :22.59 and :45.26, he had plenty left turning for home and opened a 2 1/2-length lead at the eighth pole. Vacation Dance made a late bid to cut the margin in half at the finish, but Set's victory was never in doubt. He finished in 1:02.20 under Dylan Davis.

"He had a little more speed than I thought," Casse said. "I was really proud of him. He came from our training center in Ocala. First race back, it was a strong race. You always wonder how much that's going to take out of him, but he was also at the clinic. But, we gave him plenty of time and he was happy. He ran a good race."

- Alec DiConza

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Thursday -

■ Continued from page 38

• It's not every day a horse shares his name with a Stanley Cup winner.

But Bobrovsky made his name-sake, the Florida Panthers goalie Sergei Bobrovsky, proud in the third, an auction maiden for 2-year-olds going 6 furlongs on the main track. The colt won with gusto in his second start for owners Dale Romans and Steve Berg.

"That race under his belt made the difference," said Romans, also the winning trainer. "It was experience. The horse that beat us last time had two races. (Bobrovsky) knew what he was doing today. He ran to the wire."

In his first start at Churchill Downs in June, Shake And Rattle beat the son of Daredevil by a nose, but the colt wasn't letting anyone by him Thursday. Breaking from post five under Irad Ortiz Jr., the Kentucky-bred hustled to the lead, raced alone nearing the far turn, 6 lengths ahead of Waitin'onasunnyday and Imagine John. The winner increased an already comfortable lead as they entered the stretch and cruised to the wire to triumph by 10 1/2 lengths over Waitin'onasunnyday in 1:11.31.

Romans was rife with confidence heading into the race. The trainer loves owning Thoroughbreds, and buys one or two each year. Purchased for \$37,000 at Keeneland September as a yearling, Bobrovsky gave Romans enough confidence to name him after a player on his favorite hockey team.

"I feel good about him," Romans said beforehand. "He's a good horse. We thought he would win that day, but he got nailed on the wire. Hopefully that race will move him forward."

He wasn't wrong. As for what's next for the impressive 2-year-old, another start at Saratoga this summer is not out of the question.

"There's a chance," Romans said. "We'll see. There are some good races up here."

- Darby O'Brien

• Spitfire gave trainer Kenny McPeck his first win of the meet in the opener, a 6-furlong auction maiden for 2-year-old fillies. The daughter of McKinzie, a \$60,000 Keeneland November purchase as a weanling by

owner Arindel Farm, scored by 3 1/4 lengths under Kendrick Carmouche.

Nearly nine months removed from his sixth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf, Noble Confessor broke his maiden in his seventh start in Thursday's second. The Todd Pletcher trainee won the 1 3/16-mile turf maiden by a half-length for owner/breeder St. Elias Stable.

Klaravich Stable and Chad Brown teamed up for two wins, starting with a 7-length blowout by Collect The Data in the sixth. Coming off an 18-month layoff proved to be no problem when the daughter of Upstart sprinted through the 6-furlong allowance for New York-breds in 1:09.95. Irish-bred Right To Win won the nightcap, a \$35,000 claiming event going 1 1/8 miles on turf, by three-quarters of a length.

Ilkay Kantarmaci notched his third victory of the meet with 18-1 Zakat in the seventh. Ridden by Christopher Elliott, the 3-year-old colt by McKinzie - sire of Chancer McPatrick, the winner of Thursday's Curlin - stalked the pace set by Henry's Hope before making the lead just outside the eighth pole and holding on to win by three-quarters of a length.

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All Heart

Steeplechaser digs in late to win Grade 1 by a nose for Brion barn

BY ALEC DICONZA
AND HILLARY ROBERTSON

Historic Heart – affectionately known as “Harry” by his connections – made up for lost time when he won Wednesday’s Grade 1, \$150,000 A. P. Smithwick Memorial at Saratoga Race Course by a nose for trainer Keri Brion and jockey Danny Mullins.

The Irish-bred son of Fracas last completed a race a little more than two years ago when he finished second in the 2023 Smithwick.

“That was special,” Brion said in the winner’s circle. “We’ve always loved him, we’ve always thought he was a top-class horse, but obviously it’s not been easy getting here. He had some issues and the owners were always very patient and good about it. He ran in an apprentice race in April to just get a run, and it was fine, but the rider fell off of him two from home.”

That race, where he stayed on his feet despite diving at the second-last fence but lost Declan Carroll, was apparently enough of a prep because Historic Heart missed another opportunity to run here during the Belmont Stakes Racing Festival in June because he was on an extended layoff list.

None of this mattered to the 8-year-old, who prepped at Maryland’s Fair

A. P. SMITHWICK MEMORIAL RECAP

Hill Training Center and delivered his best American race for Paul Willis’ Atlantic Friends Racing.

“He’s just been training so good and he just had so much heart, and he always had,” said Brion. “I knew if he got in a battle, he’d be tough to get by just off of pure will, and he proved that today.”

Historic Heart settled in second behind stablemate Kitten Around early in the 2 3/8-mile journey, with Zarak The Brave following in third. The three favorites – Awakened, Proven Innocent and Brion’s third entrant Jimmy P – bided their time toward the back of the field.

The running order remained steady as the octet made their first two laps around the inner turf. Two jumps from home, Historic Heart put pressure on Kitten Around, overtaking the pacesetter rounding the final turn.

Meanwhile, Proven Innocent started passing horses to put himself within 2 lengths of Historic Heart at the top of the stretch. A winner here in June, he matched strides with Historic Heart at the eighth pole, but the latter dug in and wouldn’t let his rival go by. Historic Heart won by in 4:37.46. Zarak The Brave finished



Dave Harmon

Historic Heart (right) fights off Proven Innocent near the finish of the A.P. Smithwick

third, followed by Who’s Counting. Jimmy P and Awakened came in fifth and sixth, respectively.

“He ran out of trainer here, but where he ran out of trainer, his heart kept him going,” Brion said about Historic Heart as she watched the replay of the stretch battle.

A top jockey in Ireland in town for the Grade 1, Mullins said the trip aboard Historic Heart went according to plan.

“The tactics of the race worked out quite nicely for me today,” he said. “As is always, Keri and Paul and all the owners and syndicates put great faith in me to make decisions that I feel are best to win. Sometimes that doesn’t come up, but we make every decision in the horse’s best interest

and winning the race. I got a bit of freedom going out there and thankfully we’ve delivered today.”

Historic Heart was the first horse to race in the United States for Atlantic Friends, which Willis started to campaign horses in England. An English native who lives in New Hampshire, he had his first American runner when Historic Heart came over in 2021 after winning three races with Nigel Hawke in England.

“It means more than anything,” Willis said, with a glass of celebratory champagne in his hand. “This is the first horse that we ever brought to America. He’s won a couple of times over here. He’s been very, very unlucky the last year and a half, two

Continued On Page 41

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Smithwick -

■ Continued from page 40

years. We got him back and he's just not quite been ready. Then, Keri had him in absolutely tip-top condition . . . I'm thrilled for Danny, thrilled for Keri, thrilled for Atlantic Friends Racing and the horse. He's just the nicest monster you could come across. He's a star . . . That's my third Grade 1 win and I'm just super excited. I've had my three Grade 1 jumps winners over here, but we've never had one with Atlantic Friends Racing, and he's our favorite . . . He's won six races for Atlantic Friends. We've never had a horse win six races."

The win marked a significant victory in Mullins' career, as well.

"It is my first grade one win at Saratoga, which makes today extra special," he said. "I rode this horse two years ago in this race and got second, so it feels fantastic to come out

and win. All the credit goes to Keri and the team. I am the one that gets to smile in the photos, but it's the back team, the trainer, the owners, the stable staff that put in the hard work and make it happen."

Mullins (who won a U.S. Grade 1 with Mr. Hot Stuff in 2017) celebrated with a flight back to Ireland, racing

at Wexford Thursday and Kilbeggan Friday before getting ready for the Galway Summer Festival next week and a return trip or two to Saratoga.

A former assistant to retired Hall of Fame trainer Jonathan Sheppard, Brion won the first two jump races of the meet after scoring with Blue Creek a week earlier.



Dave Harmon
Historic Heart flies a fence
on the way to a Grade 1 win.

"You can't script it," she said. "Obviously, I learned from Jonathan Sheppard and he was probably the best to ever do it. I'm just trying to be half of what he was, and I'm doing all right. This is super special. I'm really lucky to have great owners and great horses."

And the owners of Historic Heart, Brion said, are one of the best. Many of the approximately 20 shareholders were at Saratoga to watch the gelding prevail in one of the meet's biggest

races for hurdlers.

"These owners are the best in the game," Brion said. "You see how enthusiastic they are, they have been so patient and so great about it. They deserve this today, it's what horse racing is all about, doing right by the horses and them rewarding you. This is a great example of that."

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Brother Act

Despo's Dream delivers for Abreu

The five-day stretch from July 19-23 was kind to the Abreu brothers.

Jorge Abreu won the second Grade 1 of his career last week when Scottish Lassie dominated the Coaching Club American Oaks, and Wednesday, his brother Fernando Abreu earned his first victory of the 2025 Saratoga Race Course meeting in the seventh race with Despo's Dream.

"It's special to get off the duck," Fernando Abreu said. "You're always looking for that first one to continue."

Paterpop Racing's Despo's Dream broke well under Flavien Prat and dashed to the lead. The 4-year-old daughter of Mitole controlled the pace rounding the far turn, but turned for home with the looming threat of Elegant to her outside. Despo's Dream dug in, repelling that rival before holding off the late runs of Daisy

WEDNESDAY RACING RECAP

Duke and Beira to win by a neck. The now four-time winner in 19 starts finished the 7-furlong starter allowance in 1:24.84.

"I thought she was going to get passed at the quarter pole, but she's game when she's on the lead," said Abreu, who worked as an assistant to the late Hall of Famer Allen Jerkens for 19 years. "Last time, we tried to rate her and it didn't work. Today, Flavien said he was going to put her straight on the lead. She was game the whole way."

- Alec DiConza

- Gardiner made a winning Saratoga debut in the fourth, a \$75,000 starter allowance going 6 furlongs on the dirt. Trained by Joe Sharp, the son



Dave Harmon

Despo's Dream (center) scores in Wednesday's seventh race.

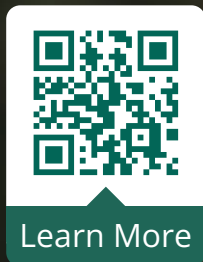
of Audible came off a six-month lay-off in May and hasn't finished worse than second since.

"We were really confident," Sharp said. "Last time, he came back on a short rest after a big win off the lay-off. He came back in three weeks and ran a really good second. I cost him running back too quickly there, so we

gave him an extra couple of weeks, and he had two nice works over the main track."

The 3-year-old Kentucky-bred was brushed at the break by Muazarah and tracked that rival closely down the backstretch before swinging four-

Continued On Page 43



Second careers
take time.

*Some ex-racehorses learn
new skills right away.
For others it takes
months, even years,
before they're ready.*



Wednesday -

■ Continued from page 42

wide in the upper stretch. Gardiner dug in late under Jose Ortiz to defeat Trust Issues by 2 3/4 lengths.

"He was really happy, and I was happy with the speed drawing inside of us," Sharp said. "It worked out because I do think he's a little better with a target, and Jose did a really good job."

Gardiner's victory improved Sharp's win tally from five to six through Wednesday.

"It's one of those meets where you have to pinch yourself," Sharp said. "We're very grateful. Every day, we're just trying to win another race. It is nice to get a few behind you, because it seems that when you start off a meet well, it ends up being a very good meet."

- Julia Reedy

- No one would fail to remember Gone And Forgotten after the fifth. The 7-year-old mare notched her second win this month, taking the starter allowance by a length for trainer Ilkay Kantarmaci. Gone And Forgotten added her win to a score in a \$12,500 claiming event July 13.

John Witte and Morris Kernan Jr. claimed her from trainer Linda Rice and Winning Move Stable out of that victory. Kantarmaci had lost the mare to Rice in May and her reintroduction to his shredrow was a thrill.

"She's my baby," Kantarmaci said. "I had her for a long time, and I knew the race was good for her. Six furlongs is a little short, a mile is a little long. Seven was perfect. It was a good pace today and she got the job done."

The daughter of Bustin Stones settled into fourth early, between Talkin In Cursive and Open Soul Autism up the backstretch. Gone And Forgotten made progress as the field headed into the stretch, only to rally in the final sixteenth and dig in under Flavian Prat. The New York-bred prevailed by a length over runner-up Problematica, adding the starter-allowance on the main track to her resume.

Unlike fans, Kantarmaci had no worries during Gone And Forgotten's stretch run.

"I kind of knew when she was coming up," he said. "Flavien (Prat) gave her a great ride. I'm so happy."

Kantarmaci said he planned to give Gone And Forgotten a freshening after a busy few months. She improved to 3-for-10 on the season with a pair of seconds. Gone And Forgotten also won for the 14th time in 45 career starts Wednesday.

- Darby O'Brien

- Weigh The Risks rewarded her backers in the second, when the Chad Brown trainee dusted five rivals in the 7-furlong allowance-optional by 7 3/4 lengths.

In the third, Gasoline made first run at early leader Suerte and drifted to the center of the track at the top of the stretch, but the son of Curlin had

enough left to outduel the ground-saving Manta Rey and win the 9-furlong \$20,000 claiming event by a half-length for Carlos David.

After 12 straight defeats, Freedom's Way finally got the job done in the sixth, a 1 3/8-mile allowance-optional on the turf. The 6-year-old gelding by Declaration Of War sat third in the early stages, made his bid around the final turn and kicked home to win by 1 1/2 lengths for trainer Eddie Kenneally.

All Class dominated the eighth by 5 3/4 lengths, putting Rice in a tie for the lead in the trainer standings after Day 10. The daughter of Kantharos, who Rice also owns, finished the 6 1/2-furlong allowance-optional in 1:16.98 under Kendrick Carmouche.

Miguel Clement notched his fifth win of the meet in the nightcap when King Puck broke his maiden by 3 lengths. Owned by Waterville Lake Stable, the 4-year-old gelding raced second early behind Light Fantastic before sneaking through on the rail and drawing off under Joel Rosario. He finished the 5 1/2-furlong turf sprint in 1:02.80.

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Emphasis speaks for Betz, program with debut win at Spa

BY JOE CLANCY

Of all the potential business models in Thoroughbred racing, buying a horse you bred and sold to breed to a horse you bred and sold might be pretty far down the list.

Don't tell Bill Betz, who did just that to produce recent Saratoga Race Course debut winner Emphasis.

With various partners, the Kentucky horseman bred the 2-year-old by sending broodmare Connie And Michael to first-year stallion Yaupon in 2022. Look it up if you want, but Betz and partners bred Emphasis and his sire and dam. But sold all three.

"I'm not sure that's a good long-term plan, but you have to have some system, right?" he said with a laugh Wednesday. "I don't know if the pattern is there that the best ones we breed, I end up buying them back, but we've done it a few times, and it's worked out."

The Betz connection to Emphasis goes back to Detect, a broodmare purchased for \$70,000 at Keeneland November in 2005. Bred by Claiborne Farm, the daughter of Devil's Bag produced Grade 3 winner Senor Rojo in 2006, the Grade 1-placed Connie And Michael in 2007 and Grade 2 winner High Ridge Road in 2012. Connie And Michael sold for \$80,000 as a yearling, won twice, finished second in the 2010 Mother Goose and was retired in 2011. In foal to Uncle Mo, she sold for \$375,000 to Betz's Avocet Bloodstock in 2014. Her foals since have sold for \$2,975,000 as yearlings and include Grade 3 winner Curly Jack.

"She showed all kinds of promise, but had an injury that slowed her career," Betz said. "I bought her back because we always thought a lot of her.



Samantha Decker

Emphasis cools off after winning his debut at Saratoga July 19.

We bred Yaupon as well, so it was a mating we put a lot of time and effort into. Hopefully, we got it right – strengthening the weaknesses without weakening the strengths."

That's every breeders' aim, but Betz might be on to something as the speedy Yaupon and the more distance-minded Connie And Michael combined to produce a foal who made an immediate impression.

"He came out beautiful as a foal, and grew up to be a beautiful yearling," Betz said. "It's a bumpy road, but hopefully he'll improve and go on to be significant. He would have all the attributes you think he would need physically. Plus he was always an aggressive, wanting-to-do-more kind of a yearling. He was always looking for something to do and was very eager."

At the sale, he caught plenty of attention and agent Jacob West won a battle to land the bay colt for \$625,000 for Repole Stable and Spendthrift Farm. Like Betz, West and the buying team of Alex Solis, Jason Litt and Madison Scott appreciated Emphasis physically and were encouraged to make sure they looked at the offspring of Yaupon

(whose sire Uncle Mo was campaigned by Repole) at Keeneland September.

Emphasis made the list because of his body structure, and passed further evaluation from Repole pedigree advisor Ed Rosen. Spendthrift, which stands Yaupon, offered to team up before the bidding started and West raised his hand last.

"We all land on the same horses," West said of high-end yearling buyers. "I always say the difference between me or five other agents buying one is that I appraised the horse for more. There might have been some people turned off by a freshman sire, but we weren't. We try to buy the athlete that matches up with the pedigree."

Emphasis went to Eisaman Equine in Florida for his early lessons and did his part. The reports were positive, if rather basic:

- January: Nice mover, nice horse, will have first little work next week.
- March 5: Every time he works, he gets a little better.

Continued on Page 45

Keeneland -

■ Continued from page 44

• April 1: To trainer Todd Pletcher at Palm Beach Downs.

“Every note from there is that he’s doing very well,” West said, pulling up various entries from this spring. “He had 10 works before he ran so Todd had a pretty good line on him and was happy with him. When he started having his gate breezes that’s when you knew he might have some real ability.”

Workouts are just that, workouts, but Emphasis made the notes look good when he made his debut July 19. Breaking from post four in a field of eight, he veered to his left for several strides but kept motoring and made the lead for Ricardo Santana Jr. The dark bay colt covered the first quarter-mile in :22.87, got a half in :46.08, shucked Handsome Linc in the stretch and won by a length over Keeneland September graduate Growth Equity with favorite Stradale (another son of Yaupon) third in 1:11.83 for 6 furlongs.

Officially bred by (take a breath) Betz, J. Betz, Burns, B. and K. Canetti, C. Kidder, et al, Emphasis covers plenty of bases at Betz Thoroughbreds as the group includes Bill Betz’s brother Jim, Jim’s brother-in-law (Canetti), Lexington, Ky. veterinarian and breeder Chuck Kidder and Colorado resident Brent Burns who got involved in horses via Betz client Rob Marcocchio who died in 2019. Call Emphasis a group project.

“I can’t do what I do without all their expertise and input,” Bill Betz said, mostly serious. “They’re all good guys and part of the fun of the business is the involvement and the fun that gets shared. That’s been the



Samantha Decker

Emphasis comes off the turn in his debut score.

philosophy on the farm. I try to direct the operations that bring people in to get them involved. Most of them are not professionals in the horse business, but that doesn’t mean it’s not fun for them. That’s a fascinating part of the business.”

They might have more to celebrate,

as half-brother to Emphasis – by Life Is Good – heads to Keeneland September this year as part of a 25-horse Betz Thoroughbreds consignment.

“There’s nothing like having a half-brother win at Saratoga right before you’re going to sell,” Betz said. “Usually, it happens the day after.”



Hall of Fame Weekend 2025

August 1st and August 2nd

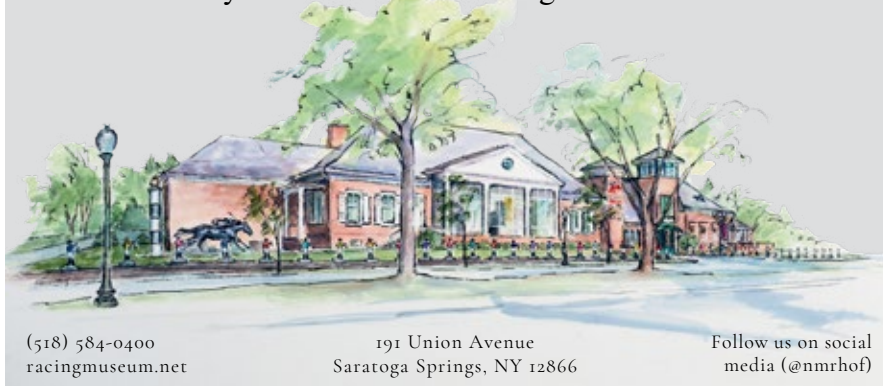
August 1st:

10:30 a.m.- Hall of Fame Ceremony at the Fasig Tipton Sales Pavillion

August 2nd:

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.- Meet and Greet at the Museum

11 a.m. to 12 p.m.- Poster Signing in front of the Jockey Silks Room at Saratoga Race Course



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Father & Son

Stewart and Lilibeth Elliott pulled their son's 2010 Toyota Tundra into a little gas station off the highway last Thursday. Somewhere near the New York border, on their way from Kentucky to Saratoga, they cued the third race on the phone and watched the Rick Violette Stakes.

"People were looking at us because we were yelling like maniacs," Stewart Elliott said.

The Elliotts' son, Christopher, settled Leon Blue in second, split horses in the stretch and staved off favorite Smooth Breeze by a neck to upset the New York-bred 3-year-old turf stakes. It was Elliott's first stakes win at Saratoga.

"Great, the best feeling ever," Christopher Elliott, 19, said Friday morning. "When I hit the wire, it was unreal. It's hard for a bug to get a mount in stake races, to win one here at Saratoga...it's a big accomplishment for me. I love it here. It's the place to be. I want to try to stay here in New York, make a name for myself here. If possible. I feel like I've done pretty good so far, I just want to keep riding here and keep showing my face, keep winning and start riding for some bigger outfits and see what happens."

Leon Blue provided Elliott with his last win as an apprentice. A week later, Zakat provided his first win as a journeyman.

Son pulled within 5,726 wins of Dad.

The 20th winningest jockey in history, Stewart Elliott is enjoying a three-week break between the Lone Star Park meet and the Remington Park meet. The Canadian-born veteran will be here for his once-in-a-lifetime horse Smarty Jones' induction into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame Aug. 1 and back to work by Aug. 8.

"Here's the deal. My weight is good. I still feel good. And my business is good," Elliott, 60, said. "I ride a lot for Steve Asmussen. I've been the leading rider out there for the last few years. Until things change, we'll just ride it out. A little more. I used to

CUP OF COFFEE



By Sean Clancy

go year to year, now, I go meet by meet."

It was at a Del Mar meet when Christopher Elliott decided he wanted to be a jockey. His dad won a big race, and the kid got the bug. He had ridden ponies growing up, played basketball and baseball but from that day forward, there was only one path.

"I didn't really think about being a jockey until I was like 14 years old. That's when I started thinking about it," Christopher said. "From there, I was watching the races and watching my dad ride all the time."

Dad didn't have much choice.

"Whatever he wanted to do, I never pushed him one way," Stewart said. "He decided that's what he wanted, and we went from there."

Christopher moved to Ocala when he was 16 to gallop horses for his uncle, Richard Bracho. It was sink or swim.

"He got dropped a couple of times in Ocala," Stewart said. "I figured he would lose interest, they go through phases but, no, it's been with him, and he's been wanting it ever since."

One easy one to hack led to one easy one to gallop and away he went.

"I loved it. That sparked it for me," Christopher said. "My dad was cool about it. He said, 'If it's what you want to do, try it, see how you like it and go from there.' And that's what I did."

Stewart Elliott had a few rules. At least in his head, maybe not on the table.

"If he doesn't have the talent, then forget it. Do something else," Stewart said. "It looks like he's got some talent, he wants it, and he keeps improving. I said, 'You can have a great future. You're off to a good start, just keep going and hopefully things will go for you.' The thing for me is the danger, no one wants to see their kid get hurt, but at the same time, if that's what he wants to do, what do you do?"

You share a jocks' room at Lone Star Park when your kid starts riding in 2024. You watch every race he rides live or at least on replay. You call him every day and talk about every race. And, sure, you drive a hand-me-down pickup to Saratoga to pick up his tires and rims off a boat trailer and take them home to your farm in Kentucky.

"We're proud of him, he's doing well, it's exciting," Stewart said. "Yeah, I see a little bit of me in him. A little bit."

Christopher rode five races at Saratoga Friday. He'll ride three at Del Mar Saturday, four at Saratoga Sunday, two at Finger Lakes Monday, three at Saratoga Wednesday.

"I like it. I like to ride every day if I can. Keeps me going. I just want to win, the more horses the better," Christopher said after riding 11 horses Friday morning. "This is what I chose to do, and I want to try to have the longest career I can. My dad has been doing it for 45 years now, since he was a young kid. I want to try to do the same thing if I can. If I'm fortunate enough to, then it would be great."

And to win a stakes at Del Mar?

"It would be very cool," Christopher said "Full circle. That's where it all started for me. It was very cool, just because all the owners were there, everyone was so excited, my dad had a big smile on his face. Just one of those cool feelings that you get after something good happens. Five years. It went by quick."

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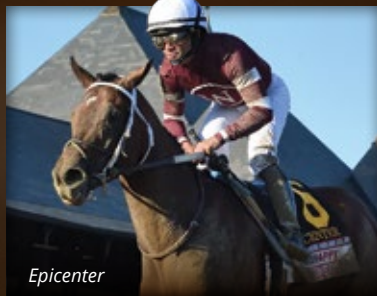
Cavalieri



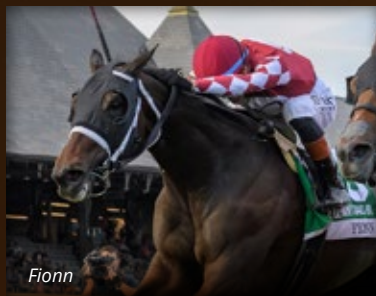
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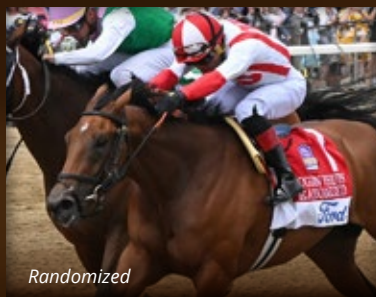
Forte



Leslie's Rose



Life Is Good



Randomized



Ruling Court



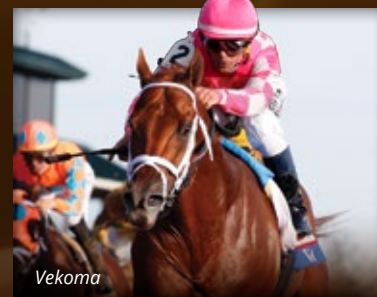
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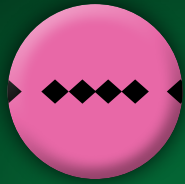
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