

Year 26 • No. 2

The *Saratoga*

Saturday, July 18, 2026

Special

Saratoga's Racing Newspaper since 2001

Diana Day

Brown sends four stars to Grade 1

Jeremiah Englehart Stable Tour • Entries & Handicapping
Casse filly wins De La Rose • Mr Percy takes jump feature

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Here&There...in Saratoga

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

Names of the Day

Spiced Up, fourth race. The Juddmonte homebred is out of Cardamon. The 4-year-old colt is a full-brother to Marjoram.

Fifth And Chestnut, seventh race. The 2-year-old filly is by Constitution. The United States Constitution was signed at Independence Hall, at Fifth and Chestnut streets in Philadelphia, in 1787.

Elevated, seventh race. The 2-year-old filly is by Flightline out of Slam Dunk.

Gadget Play, ninth race. Spendthrift Farm's 3-year-old is by Into Mischief out of Golden Domer. Be wary of trick plays when you take on Notre Dame.

License Plate of the Day

DEWPUB, New York. Saratoga Dew has a bar?

By The Numbers

76: Golf score (four over par) of steeplechase jockey Graham Watters at SPAC Thursday morning, a few hours before he won the Jonathan Kiser Memorial aboard Mr Percy.

1: Washington Wizards jacket in the Oklahoma stable area Friday morning.

53: Consecutive years of at least one day of racing at Saratoga for Tim Jones.

61: Hall of Famers scheduled to be in attendance at the Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony in Cooperstown July 26.

Worth Repeating

"My eight-hour drive is going to feel like 3 1/2."

Trainer Neil Morris, a Virginia resident, after winning Thursday's first race

"People always say, 'You come up here, it's like a vacation.'"

Capital OTB's Seth Merrow to Daily Racing Form's Dave Grening (neither is on vacation in Saratoga)

"There's no thinking to riding a race out there. You go out and get a position, then you sit and hold your breath for two minutes. Like, that's it. The golfing takes your mind off it."

Steeplechase jockey Graham Watters, now 2-for-2 at the meet, on golfing (instead of overthinking) before riding a race



Dave Harmon

Horse Huggers. Jockey Graham Watters embraces owner Jeff LeHew after winning Thursday's Jonathan Kiser hurdle stakes with Mr Percy (who was thrilled).

"Here's to the next 26. You're off to a great start."

Longtime reader Nancy H. Miller about The Special's 26th season

"Loved, loved, loved Jane Hill's column."

Longtime reader Charlie Boden (the last man to pay \$1 for The Saratoga Special)

"I hate to say it but I thought the same thing, 'Where's The Special?' The Special, it's my bible of Thoroughbred racing."

Harness driver Wally Hennessey after the first edition of The Special hit the newsstands Thursday morning

"They smell good."

The Special's Joe Clancy while delivering Fasig-Tipton Select Sale catalogs to the office Thursday

"Are you Mr. Special?"

Loyal reader to Tom Law, checking paper racks in the grandstand late Thursday morning

"It doesn't get any better. There's nothing good about getting old."

Trainer Dale Romans, talking with trainer Mark Casse's 19- and 27-year-old exercise riders

"If you want quotes for The Saratoga Special, just stay around here."

Trainer Mark Casse

The Chief

"I used to try to walk War Command, he would shove me right into the wall all the time. I had an old drunk, that horse would put his ears up and walk along beside him and never bother him. There's no one like a drunk. He was a sprinter most of his life. He was one of those kind of horses if you trained him to go long, he would go long. If you lightened up on him, ponied him and jogged him for a while, then jar him an eighth of a mile, he'd sprint. I had a couple of horses like that, Sing Sing was like that. All you had to do was let him know. Back then, I never rated a horse. I'd always tell them, 'Let him run.'"

— Trainer Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015

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With Jeremiah Englehart

Jeremiah Englehart allowed doubt to creep in last week.

"I went from, probably the day before, wondering if I was going to win a race during the meet," Englehart said Wednesday morning, watching a set train on the Oklahoma Training Track not far from his usual spot across Fifth Avenue in the Oklahoma Annex. "I thought I had a good shot with Kyle's Mom. That didn't work out when he finished third as the favorite.

"Then Neigh Baby turned out to be a pleasant surprise the very next race. ... He was kind of an in-between. The racing office kind of hustled me into the race. I had a different race planned for him, but his race, the distance was about right."

Neigh Baby won a maiden special weight at 6 1/2 furlongs July 5 to put Englehart on the board and ease some of that doubt. Bellacose added a second win for Englehart and his team a week later and with more runners to come – including a pair today late in the card – the vibe feels much more positive around the Annex.

The stable leans heavy on young horses, including a draft owned by the Legion Racing-led Saratoga 1864 partnership group. In addition to Legion, the partners consist of several owners that include Ken Ellis' Echo Racing, Rich Flaherty, Susan Naylor, Art Berry, Stephen Lovelette, Jonathan Sax's and Corinne Genovese's GenSax Racing and others.

"Last year they were the Saratoga group and the year before that we just called it Legion Racing New York Group," Englehart said. "We came up with the name this year because 1863 was the first year of racing in Saratoga and 1864 was actually the first year of racing on the track track, where it's located now."

They're far from the only group of owners with runners in the barn, with several longtime supporters and other newcomers in the mix.

"I'm blessed as far as clients go or associated with here in the barn," Englehart said.

Englehart, the winner of 1,911 races since taking out his license in 2003, went through the Saratoga contingent Wednesday morning with The Special's Tom Law and Taylor Barraclough.



Samantha Decker

Jeremiah Englehart oversees a big string at the Oklahoma Annex on Fifth Avenue.

Fitton Field: Owned by the Saratoga 1864 group, 2-year-old Yaupon colt cost \$300,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale. He's breezed six times at Saratoga, including a half in :48.56 on the main track July 5.

"He has all the tools. He's kind of a kid still. He hasn't really figured out how to be competitive yet. I'm not sure if he's not turf. It seems like I'm finding out that a lot of these horses this year might be turf, synthetic. He's a horse that we're kind of excited for, probably will make like the second or third book up here."

Seismic Activity: Another member of the Saratoga 1864 group, 2-year-old daughter of Epicenter finished seventh in her debut Thursday going 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf.

"Really pretty Epicenter filly that we bought out of the same sale. We feel like she's going to be grass. I don't think she's going to want to sprint on the grass. She's going to want to go further. Just giving her this race to start off with. She's going to be a horse that's definitely going to want to have more, more distance. I always listen to what Maggie says in the paddock, and Acacia, to kind of get a gauge on where I think they are and where they think they are with just looking at them. She's got a chance to be a pretty nice filly, she's just going to develop. I don't feel like the goal with her is 'let's go out and try to win this race first time.' Obviously we want to win every race, but I think watching her mature along through the races, if she closes in and does some running, it's going to set her up for her next start and starts after that."

Father Rick: A \$195,000 purchase out of the 2025 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale who later brought \$225,000 in March, 2-year-old Drain The Clock colt breezed a half in :50.55 Friday on the main track in his fifth work in Saratoga.

"He's for Mike Levin and Legacy Racing. Most likely will make the third book up here. Kind of really like big, pretty Drain The Clock. The Drain The Clocks look like they've been pretty precocious, at the sales and what they've done kind of early on. Hopefully this guy develops into what we think he can be. Kind of a big colt."

Mindee's World: Legacy Racing's 2-year-old daughter of Yaupon cost \$210,000 in April. She finished fourth in a maiden race at Saratoga June 4.

"We ran her up here Belmont Week. I actually thought that she was going to run very well. She ran OK. She kind of surprised me because she's been very quick out of the gate and she's been very quick early. That race, she kind of just stayed where she was. Kendrick (Carmouche) rode her and said, 'she was just kind of feeling things out.' He didn't feel like she gave him everything that she had. We'll run her back in the second or third book up here. There's a race Aug. 1 for her to come back in. She should be very tough depending on who's in that next that next race. She's doing well."

Harlow Drive: Legacy Racing spent \$120,000 for daughter of Maclean's Music at last year's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred sale.

"I actually really like this filly. I'm not 100 percent sure if she's dirt or turf. My rider and I go back and forth on her every week when she breezes. This week she was dirt, so that was good music to my ears. She's a pretty talented filly. I'm looking forward to getting her to the races. There's a race possibly for her Aug. 9, which is turf, so now I might have to change that. I'll probably start her on the grass first. She's a filly that we're kind of high on."

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Stable Tour –

■ Continued from page 6

Annexperience: Now a three-time member of the Englehart Stable Tour, Legacy Racing's 4-year-old Instagrاند sports a record of 2-4-1 in nine starts with \$173,400 in earnings. A \$165,000 buy out of the 2024 Fasig-Tipton Midatlantic May sale, he bids for third win in today's 10th, a 1-mile state-bred optional claimer on the main track.

"We are going to put him back on the dirt. Kendrick really wants to run him a mile and an eighth or a mile and a half. But we got him in going a flat mile. I don't know, maybe he'll show up. He kind of surprised me. I thought his last race on the turf, he would have ran a lot better. He had that big number on the sloppy track that he won the 1X New York-bred race (April 25 at Aqueduct). We're going to give him a shot now on the dirt. He'll probably make a fool out of me and run really well on the dirt. I wasted all this time on the turf with him. He's doing really well. Hopefully he gets to run his race on Saturday and gets us to the winner's circle."

Neigh Baby: Owned by Greyhound Stable, Blue Tarp NY Racing, MCM Racing, Christopher Dunn, Foamy Tap Stables and WGAS Two, 3-year-old Omaha Beach colt put the barn in the win column with victory at 14-1 July 5.

"He had a really good setup. Jaime (Rodriguez) did a fantastic job with him that day to get that win. He's still eligible for the starter allowance, so I can come back and run him back in the starter and hopefully run well. Getting that win with him up here was pretty special. . . . Just a really good group on that horse. It's a lot of fun with people like that. It's very rewarding. A lot of people like winning at Saratoga, but it's special when you can win for a group like that. It's been a long process to get them there."

Nevah Bettah: Greyhound and Dunn spent \$18,000 for Global Campaign gelding at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale.

"I actually think he's going to be, by the end of the year, one of my best 2-year-olds. We had his half-sister (Jess Ez Girl) up here last year, and she had to be euthanized because of a hock infection. She went over to the clinic and didn't make it back. I saw him down at the sale, with Legion. We really liked him. He's a very immature horse. He's going to be a late bloomer. We're pretty close to getting to be able to start working him back here. We're just waiting for his knees to close a little bit more. I'm really excited for him and for that group."

"I say that he could be the best, but trust me, I'm usually always wrong. In the year I had Mo Plex, I said Iron Max and another one that didn't make it were the best. Iron Max made it to the races. . . . Erica sent me this picture of the other horse. He did win, but it wasn't a race. He won a sporting event. Late Night Boss, he won his first horse show. So, he got a win. They sent me a photo. Those are two that I thought were going to be better than Mo Plex and of course I was wrong. I'm probably putting the hex on Nevah Bettah right now. He's one of those horses who's got a real pretty way of getting over the track. Kind of excited for him. The fact that it was only an \$18,000 purchase too kind of makes it that much better. Those are the diamonds in the rough that you try to find. Being a half-brother to the filly that we really liked last year by Rock Your World, just makes it much more special."

Wildest Dreams: Karl and Kim Seitz's 2-year-old Drain The Clock filly cost \$40,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale. She finished fourth in her debut going 5 1/2 furlongs June 18 at Aqueduct.

"She got pretty tired, pretty green, but I think like her best races are going to be in front of her here pretty soon. She's a filly that I thought she could have been easily that first-out winner, but sometimes the circumstances of the race, there was a real strong headwind coming down the stretch which kind of made her get tired even more so than she was going to get. Coming out of that race, she's going to be one a nice New York-bred filly. Hopefully she can win next



Samantha Decker

Wildest Dreams finished fourth in her debut at Aqueduct.

out and then maybe make the Seeking The Ante."

Cadillac Mary: Owned by Englehart, Ashley Durr, Jesse Englehart and Austin Reed, 2-year-old filly by Golden Pal cost \$5,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred sale.

"Travis (Durr) and I bought her last year. We were kind of shocked that's all we had to spend for her. She ran third first time out (June 12). She caught a really nice field. If I'm not mistaken, George Weaver's filly (Ghost Me) came back to win a stakes at Woodbine on July 12. . . . And then Graham Motion's filly (Mary's Gunna Run) came back and (finished third July 10 at Saratoga). Cadillac Mary just had a horrendous trip. Those are going to be two nice horses. That's my kind of price right there. That's what I can afford. She's going to want to go further too. I might have to run her back 5 1/2 on the turf one more time before I can get a long New York-bred race to go. She's one that I co-own with my cousin Austin, my brother and we named her after my grandma Mary Reed, who used to drive nothing but Cadillacs. They were always used. She never bought a new Cadillac.



Coglianesse Photo

Pretty Boy Miah started in the Preakness for the Englehart stable.

She would always just find them used and we called her Cadillac Mary."

Plenty of Mischief: Owned by a partnership that includes Stony Point Stables and bred by Chester and Mary Broman, 2-year-old New York-bred daughter of Life Is Good is out of the stakes-placed Empire Maker mare Empire Gal. She's breezed eight times, including a half from the gate in :48.55 July 12.

"She's going to be a very, very nice filly. She kind of got outworked a couple times out of the gate when I worked her with Secret Connection, which kind of made me have to flip-flop. I ran Secret Connection first, and Plenty of Mischief will now be in the next New York-bred maiden race coming back. She's been working her way kind of to the head of the class as far as her works go. Her last gate work was good against a nice horse. Her two before that were kind of tardy, which kind of messed up the work a little bit."

Stretchin Thetruth: Legion spent \$50,000 for New York-bred son of New York sire Honest Mischief in April. Also owned by the same group behind Plenty of Mischief, he's out of the Empire Maker mare Agent Romanoff. "He's a colt that's kind of been a little bit behind some of these other ones, but I think

when we get him figured out and able to do some work, he's going to be a nice colt. There's going to be some turf influence there. He's Empire Maker on the bottom side, but definitely seems like one that's kind of might be late meet, fall type of horse."

Cartridge: New York-bred Maxfield colt cost \$75,000 out of last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale. He's out of the three-time-winning Desert Party mare Tent City.

"We had to do a throat surgery on him but since then he's been pretty spot on. I got him up to about two half-miles here before we did the throat surgery, and then he just came back. He's going to work again this weekend. He's going to want to go further. He's a big, good-looking Maxfield that we're kind of hoping will make a little splash at the end of the meet or in the fall."

Pretty Boy Miah: Three-year-old Beau Liam gelding gave Englehart and his team a shot on the big stage when he ran in this year's Preakness Stakes at Laurel Park. He finished last of 14 for owners Team Penney Racing, Echo Racing, Flower City Racing, Anthony Bruno and Christopher Meyer, but sports two wins and two placings in six starts. He finished third in July 3 allowance race here. Englehart sees that race and the Preakness as teaching tools.

"I learned that he probably doesn't want to go that far. And I also learned that I ran him back way too quick off of two big efforts. He probably needs more time in between his races. So that's what I learned.

"There's a little bit of distance limitation with him. I think seven-eighths, flat mile will be right in his wheelhouse. Ricardo (Santana Jr.) actually told us in that race he thought he had the winner measured, but he just didn't want to go that far. There's a race back for him, a 1X coming back for him going seven-eighths. He's got a chance to develop into a small stakes horse by the end this year."

How about the Preakness experience as a whole, just being a trainer and getting to be in that, in that, in that moment?

"It definitely makes me realize that I probably I don't shoot for stuff like that enough. I'm very conservative. I guess I probably feel like if I'm going to be running in the Kentucky Derby, Preakness, Belmont, et cetera, et cetera, I'd rather be 5-1 than, you know, 40-1, 80-1. But then I look at like horses like Ocelli, or other horses that have won in the past being

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Stable Tour –

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longshots. Those type of races, it's more about the experience. Of course you want to win, you want to run well, but I think with, with, you know, talking to owners and, and clients like about, you know, the week and stuff, like it was a lot of fun building up, you know, building up to it. It's strange because we deal with a lot of young horses every year, and it's a goal to develop them and try to have nice ones, but those races are pretty special."

How about Shirl and Mary Ann Penney, are they new owners for you or back in the fold?

"It started probably about 8 years ago, then we took a little hiatus from busting on each other. Actually a few years ago, I just asked him, and I don't ever say things like this, 'what made you have this guy as your trainer as opposed to me?' We went and had a nice long conversation about it. He goes, you're there on Fifth Avenue. You're working with young horses, developing horses. Owners want to come out that are local. And that's really kind of what I've done. He started that for me about four or five years ago, like really trying to concentrate on the owner experience. Being that we're right here, it's easy access, like, 'come see your horses.' We want everyone to be involved and it's kind of worked out really well. He's come back and we've bought horses together."

Bamboozie: Team Penney's unraced 3-year-old Charlatan colt worked a half from the gate in :48.55 July 12.

"Hasn't started yet but he's been working well. He was with Bruce Jackson down in Maryland. Bruce sent him up here to me and was kind of like, 'I don't really know what to expect from him,' but since he's come up here he's been one, if not my best, work horse that hasn't run yet. We're kind of looking forward. I'm not sure if he's turf or dirt either, but there are a couple spots, mid-August, that we're looking at for him. I really do think he's got a shot of being a really nice horse. He's been working like he's a real horse."

She's Fast Money: Phil Hager's Taproot Bloodstock bought 2-year-old Central Banker New York-bred filly for \$50,000 at this year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale.

"She seems like she's going to be just that. She's very fast. She's been working very well. She'll probably make a race around mid-August. She's going to make a



Samantha Decker

Two-year-old Galicat could be headed to the turf.

little noise up here when she's ready. She was a little slow out of the gate, which kind of affected her last work, but I'm expecting her to sharpen up as we get closer to her race."

Upstart-Critical Value colt: Homebred 2-year-old for Marshall Gramm and Clay Sanders – who campaigned New York-bred champion Critical Value – he's the first foal out of the Bodemeister mare who banked \$303,795.

"He just came in. He's fighting a little bit of a shin right now. I've dealt with everything here this spring. Shins, soft tissue stuff. We've already sent a bunch back to the farm. He reminds me a little bit like of his mom. He's very, I would guess, spicy. That would be the word I would use. When he starts getting into a regular pattern of coming up to the races, he'll be one that will show that he's got some talent. He likes to run and the Upstarts I've had before, they seem like they want to run. It's just a matter of A, keeping them sound; and B, keeping them healthy in the head as well. The mare side probably doesn't help that either because Critical Value was difficult to deal with at times."

Rockin Red: New York-bred 2-year-old Rock Your World colt brought \$50,000 at the 2025 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October sale and \$35,000 at this year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale. Owned by Wadhams Thoroughbred Racing and Rich Spiesman.

"I kind of like this colt. He's a Rock Your World for a new client, their first horse. . . . He's another one who was battling a shin when he first came from the sale. Now we've been able to get him going a little bit. He'll make this last book, but he's a horse that I'm kind of excited to see. He's got a real pretty way of going, loves to train. He's got a real nice mind and kind of just looks like a horse that you'd see in the winner's circle someday."

Party In The Army: Homebred for Flower City Racing, Meyer and Spiesman, multiple stakes-placed 3-year-old Army Mule colt makes his second appearance in the Stable Tour. He won one of five starts last year, placing in a pair of stakes at Finger Lakes. He won again Jan. 11, went to the sidelines and returned with a third in the Mike Lee Stakes June 3 at Saratoga.

"I was going to enter him in that 2X last week, but I just didn't love the breeze. I wasn't sure why. We went over him afterwards. I don't know if I can just attribute it to the heat that morning, because ever since then he's been spot on. I decided to skip that race."

"He developed into what I thought he would be throughout the winter. He needed a knee surgery over the winter after his last race. Dr. Patty Hogan thought that that would be good after that, gave him a really good prognosis, and he's been great. We haven't had any issues with him other than just that one work where I wasn't sure really what was going on. Like I said, kind of attributed to the heat. That New York-bred class of sprinters, that's a tough group of horses. That Mike Lee was very difficult. I think I've won that race three times, and I don't know if any of those horses would have won this year's against Sculcos Folly."

Humble Hero: Mark Stanley, who campaigned the Englehart-trained New York-bred stakes winner Tricky Temper, went to \$165,000 for this 2-year-old Olympiad colt at the 2025 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October sale. He's out of the Grade 3-winning Rock Hard Ten mare Summersault.

"Niall Brennan, he broke him this winter, sent him up here. He's actually a really nice New York-bred. Again, very immature. You look at him today and you look at him from three months from now and he's going to look completely different. He will probably make the end of the meet up here and be one that by the fall we're going to hear about. I'm not sure if he's turf either. We did take him out on the turf gallops a couple times and he seemed like he enjoyed it."

Secret Connection: Bona Venture Stable's 2-year-old Connect filly finished eighth in debut July 11. A New York-bred, she's out of the four-time-winning Flatter mare Very Charming.

"I actually thought would run very, very well first time out, but kind of got mid-pack and just stayed. She really didn't push on or encourage herself to move from where she was. I do feel like as she stretches out and is able to learn what we're asking her to do, by the end of this summer, she'll be a pretty nice filly. She was working extremely well going into that race."

Sail With The Wind: Also owned by Bona Venture, 6-year-old New York-bred Astern mare sports 3-3-4 record in 15 starts and earnings of \$237,858.

"She might be the favorite in the barn. When she came here she had some screws put in her pastern from Dr. Patty Hogan. She's stringhalt in both hocks. I tell you, hasn't missed a day of training. She's super sweet. She's won her last two races We're very excited for the Yaddo with her this year. Might give her one shot in an a-other-than before that, or go right into that race depending on how she's doing. Super excited for her and those connections for the Yaddo."

Is Bona Venture a new or returning client, too?

"You want to hear a funny story? I started training for Dan and Sarah (Collins) up at Finger Lakes when I was stabled there. Leah Gyarmati sent me a horse and the very first time Sarah came to the races up there I met her and was in the paddock. You know how you go give someone a hug or a kiss on the cheek? I went to kiss Sarah on the cheek, and like she went this way and I went this way. We kind of met in the middle, so it was more of a lip, lip, uh, exchange. I was like, 'whoa, sorry about that.' It's always like the running joke between us, like, 'I'm going this way, you're going that way.' Just super, super, super people. Hopefully we can have a couple wins for them up here. I'm blessed as far as clients go or associated with here in the barn."

Daylight Dreamer: Entered in today's finale for owners Legion, GenSax, Flash Toga Farm, Echo Racing and Lovelette. She's winless in three starts and drew post seven of nine in 5 ½-furlong New York-bred maiden special weight on the turf.

"She's from the Saratoga group from last year. Her last race kind of surprised me a little bit (11th in 6-furlong turf maiden). Kendrick was really high on her in her second in the maiden special weight down at Aqueduct. I'm going to put a line through that last race and get her back going in the right direction."

Galicat: Legion and Englehart went to \$160,000 for son of New York-based sire Galilean at the 2024 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred sale. He's out of the stakes-winning Tale Of The Cat mare Tiger Cat Lilly.

"When we get him to the grass or synthetic, toward the end of this meet or fall, he's going to be really nice. At least he trains like it, let's put it that way."

Vote Now: Owned by Rick Higgins' and Howard Reed's R and H Stable, 2-year-old Early Voting filly cost \$50,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale. She's breezed three times, but not since 3 furlongs in :37.30 June 20.

"She's a really, really nice filly that we're very excited about. She's probably going to make either mid-August or early in that late third book. When it's all said and done, she could easily become the best horse I have in the barn. She's a big filly that I don't think is done growing, and I think that's why I've had to start and stop on her. She's very, very talented."

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Pick 4

Brown barn's ticket looks tough to handle in Grade 1 turf stakes

BY JOE CLANCY

Kathynmarissa, Grade 3 winner and \$1.6 million earner with five wins. Segesta, a Grade 1 winner and fifth-generation homebred for racing royalty with \$1.5 million on her scorecard. Portfolio Duration, Grade 1 winner who is a neck and a head from being undefeated in five lifetime starts. Dynamic Pricing, Grade 1 winner with five wins and \$981,813 earned.

Pick one. OK, pick four.

Trainer Chad Brown takes that quartet into today's Grade 1 Diana Stakes at Saratoga Race Course and won't make a choice or trade places with anyone while seeking a record-extending 11th victory in the 1 1/8-mile turf stakes.

"I like my lineup, they're all different and we'll see," he said Friday morning. "I kind of like where the trips fall, they're all healthy, and I think they're settling into their campaigns at the right time."

The morning-line favorite at 2-1, Kathynmarissa makes her third start of 2026 for Michael Dubb and Michael Caruso and exits a third behind Portfolio Duration in the Grade 1 New York at 1 3/16 miles here June 5. In her seasonal debut, she captured the Grade 3 Modesty at Churchill Downs May 1.

Brown thinks that Modesty effort, her first start since August 2025, sapped some of the American



Sam Decker

Kathynmarissa is the morning-line favorite in the Diana.



Sam Decker

Segesta is part of a strong four-runner powerhouse in the Diana for trainer Chad Brown.

Pharoah mare's reserves for the New York and expects to see a return to her best in the Diana from post three for jockey Jose Ortiz.

Juddmonte Farm's Segesta, the 3-1 third choice, follows a similar form cycle as she started 2026 with a Grade 1 score in the Jenny Wiley at Keeneland in April. In her first start since November, the daughter of Ghostzapper wound up in a dead heat with Expensive Queen after a three-way stretch battle that included Medoro. Out of that effort, Segesta finished third in the Grade 1 Just A Game going a mile at Saratoga June 6.

Neither 5-year-old was disgraced in the defeats, Brown just thinks they felt the first race off the bench.

"Those two horses are pretty much in the same boat," he said. "They both ran huge races off long layoffs and both of them, I think, felt that race a little bit. They maybe could have used a little more recovery time. I see both horses coming back to those races that they ran off the layoff – what they're doing, how they're working, I see their energy level back, and I can see them settling into their campaign, third start of the year. Sometimes they run so big they just react a little bit. I had a good idea they were going to run well off the layoff. It's harder to predict how they react to that."

From post six for Dylan Davis, Segesta gets back to 1 1/8 miles, where she's won twice – the Grade 3 Matchmaker last year and the Grade 2 Wonder Again in 2024.

"She's bumping back out to the mile-and-an-eighth and she has two wins," Brown said. "They're not Grade 1 mile-and-an-eighths, but she has won

Continued on Page 14



Sam Decker

Portfolio Duration looks for her second consecutive Grade 1 win.

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 SPENDTHRIFT

Diana -

■ Continued from page 12

twice at the distance.”

Klaravich Stable's Portfolio Duration makes her debut at the distance, though she's won at every trip she's tried – 1 mile, 1 1/16 and 1 3/16. Bred in England and purchased at Tattersalls as a yearling, the daughter of Night Of Thunder won her 2025 start (a maiden at Tampa Bay Downs) and opened 2026 with a lopsided first-level allowance score. She finished second to Classic Q in the Churchill Downs Distaff Turf Mile May 2 and then won a throwdown with French invader Cankoura in the 1 3/16-mile New York at Saratoga.

“She showed a new dimension going to the lead,” Brown said. “We're trying a slight cutback, and she could still be on the lead here. Between her and Segesta, one of them could end up on the lead, but she's a pretty versatile horse. If there's some moisture in the ground, she can handle it no problem. She's been effective on firm as well, and she's got good early pace. She doesn't need to lead. She did it last time, but she's fine with a target.”



Sam Decker

Dynamic Pricing eyes the \$1 million mark in career earnings.

Manny Franco rides the 5-2 third choice from post four.

Most of Saratoga if not the East Coast would like some rain to roll in – for the flowers, the lawns, the wells, the Canadian wildfires and even the horses. Irish-bred Dynamic Pricing would do a rain dance if she could as she's 2-for-2 on yielding turf includ-

ing a Grade 1 score here last year in the Just A Game.

The 5-year-old mare, also by Night Of Thunder, opened 2026 with a fourth in the Jenny Wiley and was second in the Grade 3 Beaugay at Aqueduct May 3. Brown likes everything about her going into the Diana, other than the turf condition – though Saturday afternoon's forecast includes rain. The Diana goes at 2:46 p.m. as the fifth race.

“She's doing really well, she needs softer ground and I'm not sure when the rain will start,” Brown said. “She's way more effective on the softer ground, so for her it'd be nice if there's some weather. She needs some give in the ground. It's going to come down to the ground for her. That's her best friend and it's super firm.”

Rain or not, Edgard Zayas rides from the inside post at 6-1.

Amo Racing's Cathedral shipped over from England for the Diana and might appreciate similar conditions though she was fourth in last year's Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf on firm ground at Del Mar. The 4-year-old daughter of Too Darn Hot rides a 10-race losing streak after winning her debut in 2024, but has

Continued on Page 16



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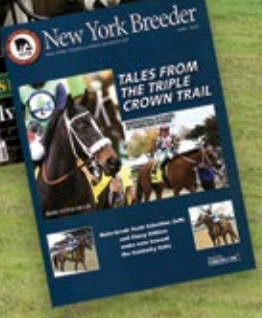


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Diana -

■ Continued from page 14

placed in a French Group 3 and a British Group 2. Ricardo Sanatana Jr. rides from post two at 6-1.

Irish-bred Ozara leads the field with eight wins and is 3-for-3 at Saratoga for Cheyenne Stable. She won her debut in 2023 for Christophe Clement and won twice here last summer for the late trainer's son Miguel – the restricted De La Rose Stakes and the Grade 2 Ballston Spa.

Those races earned her Grade 1 tries in the First Lady at Keeneland (eighth) in October and Matriarch at Del Mar (seventh) in November. The daughter of Lope de Vega opened 2026 with a victory in Monmouth Park's Miss Liberty May 30, but finished sixth after being 11th early in the Grade 3 Royal North at Woodbine in Canada June 27.

Clement said her Diana will depend on the trip jockey Jaime Rodriguez works out from the outside post.

"It's very much a tale of a trip; if she gets a good trip, she always delivers and runs well," he said. "He needs

to work out a good stalking trip, a good forward-placed trip. She can do one, two three. Every time they take her further back – Canada, draw a line; Matriarch, draw a line; Keeneland, draw a line. Every time she's at the back, she doesn't run well. Every time you're forward-placed, she runs great."

Ozara has never run farther than 1 1/16 miles, but Clement won't sweat the distance for the 5-year-old, an earner of \$667,939 since being purchased at Tattersalls as a yearling in 2022.

"She's very switched off, that's not a problem, she loves Saratoga, and as long as there's a good pace, she'll be fine," Clement said. "She just needs to be at a forward position. My only instruction to Jaime is to go forward. She's a very talented mare."

New York-bred Five G, also entered in Monmouth Park's Matchmaker Saturday, completes the field at 20-1 for Gatsas Stable, trainer George Weaver and jockey John Velazquez. The daughter of Vekoma won a Grade 2 last year and was third in the Mt. Vernon for state-breds at Saratoga June 3.



Sam Decker

Ozara seeks the ninth victory of her career for trainer Miguel Clement.

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Maryland Horse.

Chill Time

Sapphire Beach meets Cy Fair again in 3-year-old filly sprint

BY DARBY O'BRIEN

Sapphire Beach snoozed in her stall Friday morning, totally disinterested in her visitors.

"She values her naptime," said Lyndsay Delello, assistant to trainer Rusty Arnold. "I get that. She's a good eater, too. I wish they were all like her."

Eventually with a touch of coaxing, the 3-year-old No Nay Never filly crept to the front of her stall. Her ears were pricked as curiosity got the better of her. She sniffed at an offered hand, accepted some rubs on the forehead and between the ears, and reached for a nibble of some folded up past performances that, apparent-

CORONATION CUP STAKES PREVIEW

ly, looked like a great snack.

"You get on her and it's deceiving," said Delello. "I'm like 'God, she's dead in the water.' She walks with her head down, and I'm like 'is she OK?' Everyone told me, 'She's just like that, I swear.' Then she gets on the track and lights up. There's been some times on her that I've been like, 'hmm. they're not this quiet usually.' She's just real classy, real cool. You'll see her in the paddock, too. She'll be walking with her head down. But she's good, that's the way she is."

Continued On Page 20



Sam Decker

Cy Fair looks for her third graded stakes win in Saturday's Coronation Cup.

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Coronation Cup -

■ Continued from page 18

The laidback personality could be deceptive. Sapphire Beach finished first or second in five of seven starts heading into today's Grade 3 Coronation Cup Stakes. Trained by Arnold for Three Diamonds Farm, Sapphire Beach goes for her fourth win in the 5 1/2-furlong \$225,000 stakes on the turf.

Sapphire Beach broke her maiden on debut via disqualification at Churchill Downs going 5 furlongs on the main track in May 2025. She then ran fifth in the My Dear Stakes on synthetic at Woodbine and closed her juvenile season with a runner-up finish in an allowance at Kentucky Downs in her first start on turf.

"She's been getting better every time we run her," said Delello. "I don't think we've seen the best of her yet. It's always exciting to have a horse like that in the barn."

Sapphire Beach makes her fifth start of 2026 in the Coronation Cup, after winning her seasonal debut at Gulfstream Park in February. She finished fifth in the Grade 3 Herecomesthebride at Gulfstream and second by a neck in the Grade 3 Limestone at Keeneland in her next two starts – the latter ahead of Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint winner and fellow Coronation Cup runner Cy Fair.

"We were just talking about that," Delello said.



Sam Decker

Hark Theangelssing soaks up some sun.

"George [Weaver]'s filly is a super filly, obviously, but we've run with her. They kind of said, 'Oh that filly is in there,' and I said 'just do it. We've beat her. Just do it.' Hoping everything goes to plan."

Sapphire Beach prepped for the Coronation Cup with a win May 31 at Churchill Downs.

"Running here [in Saratoga] is always special," Delello said. "We're excited. The last race was super impressive, and of course the natural idea was to send her up here. Thankfully she's super easy to train and to be around. You wish they were all like that, it makes our jobs easy. She's a lot of fun. The

ultimate goal is to eventually run her at Kentucky Downs. Right now we're hoping the rain holds off. We got her here the right way and now it's up to her."

Sapphire Beach breaks from post 3 at 5-2 on the morning line with Jose Ortiz aboard.

Cy Fair, the 3-5 favorite on the morning line, returns to the site of her maiden-breaking debut for Weaver.

"She's training well," he said. "Very well."

The daughter of Not This Time scored by 3 1/4 lengths at Saratoga last July, returning the next month for a runner-up finish to Snow Face Princess in the Bolton Landing Aug. 17. She dominated in the Algonquin Stakes in early October while competing against males for the first time. She topped males again in the Juvenile Turf Sprint – her trainer's very first Breeders' Cup triumph – at Del Mar.

Cy Fair finished third in the Limestone before a victory in the Grade 3 Mamzelle during Kentucky Derby Week at Churchill Downs. Her connections hoped to run Cy Fair overseas at the Royal Ascot meeting in the Group 1 King Charles III Stakes, but the plan was scrapped.

"I just wasn't happy with her in the couple of days leading up to shipping time," Weaver said. "It was too much to go over there if you're not 100 percent happy with what you're doing. I'm 100 percent happy with how she's doing now."

Owned by Medallion Racing, Swinbank Sta-

Continued on Page 22



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Coronation Cup -

■ Continued from page 20

bles, Joey Platts and Mark Stanton, Cy Fair worked a half in :50.90 over the Oklahoma Training Track dirt July 11. Her most recent turf work came May 30, where she completed a half in :48.05. Cy Fair seeks her third graded stakes win from post 2 with John Velazquez aboard for the first time since last summer.

Hark Theangelssing makes her Saratoga debut for trainer Mike Trombetta. The daughter of Mendelssohn arrived last week from Laurel Park and bedded down in Trombetta's barn on the Oklahoma. Asked whether or not she seems to like Saratoga, Trombetta's assistant Chris Aro didn't hesitate.

"Who doesn't?" he said Friday.

Hark Theangelssing worked a half on the Oklahoma turf in :48.85 July 12.

"She's been training well," Aro said. "Jaime Rodriguez was on and he had nothing but good things to say. We're looking forward to it."

Hark Theangelssing, 3-for-5 with a win last time out in the Stormy Blues at Laurel, figures to face the stiffest competition of her career in the Coronation Cup.

"There's not a whole lot of speed," Aro said. "I know Cy Fair likes a target, so that'll be interesting if she gets the lead. This horse is very versatile. On the pace or off the pace, it doesn't really matter."

The forecast for rain and afternoon thunderstorms also doesn't concern her connections.

"If it comes off, we would run because Mychel Sanchez has ridden this horse before and has said, 'If it ever comes off, definitely take a shot and run,' " Aro said.

Three others are entered in the body of the race - Godolphin homebred Quiet Street, fifth last time out in the Grade 2 Wonder Again June 5 for trainer Bill Mott; stakes winner Cadenza, third in the Grade 3 Soaring Softly June 7 for Brad Cox; and Snow Face Princess, winner of last year's Bolton Landing and unplaced in three starts this season for Steve Asmussen. Niche and Hot Currency are entered for the main track only.

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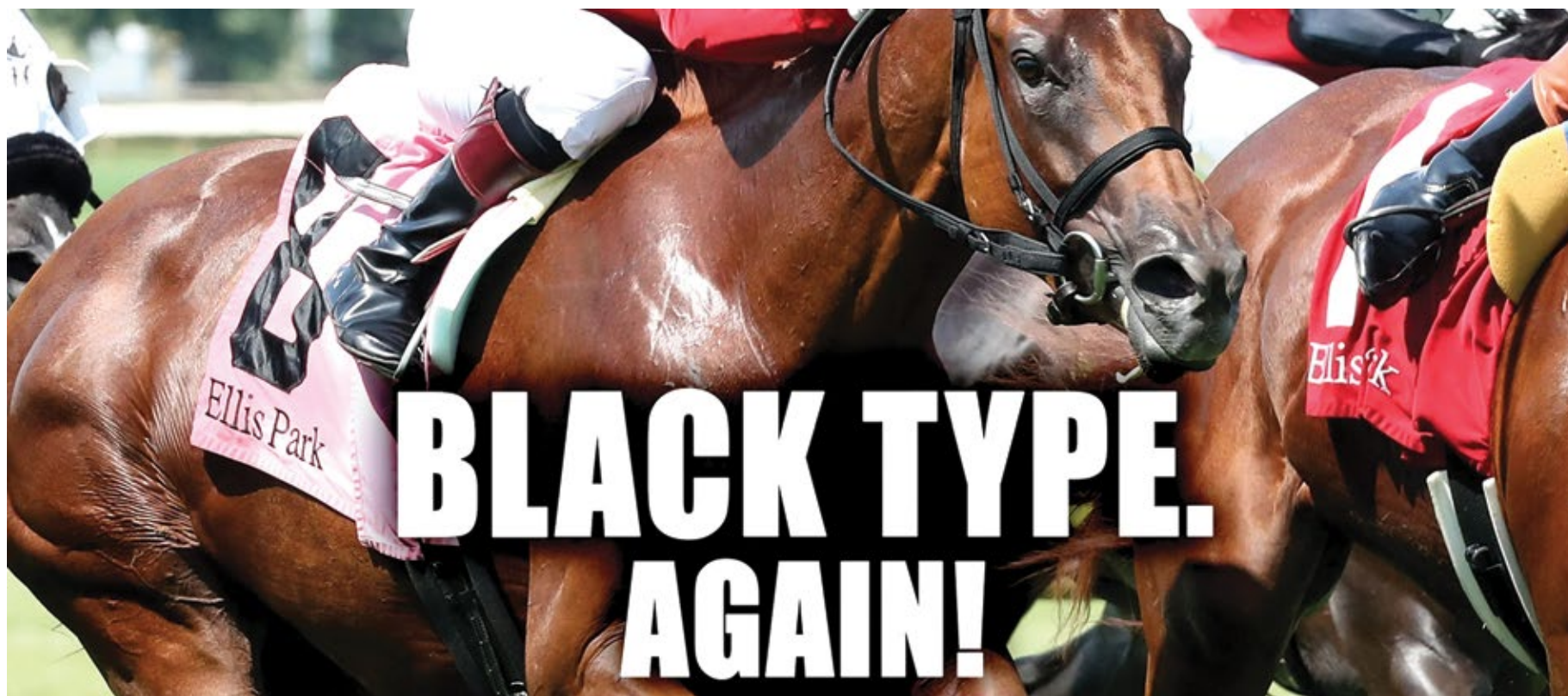


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2026 Sires by % BT Winners

Updated: July 6, 2026 10:06 AM | Data provided by [equineline.com](https://www.equineline.com)

Rank	Sire	2026 Stud Fee / Farm	Named Foals	Btms / Vtms	BtWins / % Btms	BtHrs / % BtHrs	CDWins / CTVtms	AWD	Chief Earner (Earnings)	Progeny Earnings (Avg. Earnings per line)
1	Leinster	\$7,500 Mountain View Farm, NY	54	30 / 13	3 / 10.0%	6 / 20.0%	0 / 0	6.25f	Lennila (\$142,265)	\$944,707 (\$31,490)
2	Redesdale	Moved	95	17 / 6	1 / 5.9%	2 / 11.8%	0 / 0	7.04f	Sculces Folly (\$337,090)	\$712,818 (\$41,930)
3	Honest Mischief	\$7,500 Sequel Stallions New York, NY	167	53 / 17	3 / 5.7%	6 / 11.3%	0 / 0	5.9f	Walk Away Kaye (\$142,974)	\$1,342,430 (\$25,329)
4	War Dancer	Private Mill Creek Farm, NY	270	44 / 31	2 / 4.5%	2 / 4.5%	0 / 0	6.84f	Twenty Six Black (\$170,000)	\$859,021 (\$19,523)
5	Bucchero	\$12,500 Ironhorse Stallions, NY	251	113 / 48	3 / 2.7%	6 / 5.3%	2 / 0	5.78f	Book'em Danno (\$290,000)	\$2,350,901 (\$20,627)
6	Solomini	\$7,500 McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds, NY	220	89 / 36	2 / 2.2%	5 / 5.6%	0 / 0	7.06f	Helen's Revenge (\$170,350)	\$2,592,834 (\$29,133)
7	Central Banker	\$7,500 McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds, NY	537	99 / 32	1 / 1.0%	7 / 7.1%	0 / 0	6.55f	Hot Currency (\$165,400)	\$1,838,270 (\$18,568)

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SARATOGA ENTRIES

Saturday, July 18.

1ST (12:35PM). \$115,000, MSW, 2 YO, 6F

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

1	1	.....	Got Tough.....	J. Alvarado	.....	K. LaRose	.....	12-1
2	2	.....	The Good Life.....	M. Franco	.....	B. Cox	.....	3-1
3	3	.....	Johnny Hockey.....	C. Elliott	.....	A. Arriaga	.....	30-1
4	4	.....	Powerline.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	S. Asmussen	.....	8-5
5	5	.....	Jack's Golden Goal.....	J. Rodriguez	.....	A. Arriaga	.....	6-1
6	6	.....	Let Em Know.....	J. Velazquez	.....	D. Beckman	.....	15-1
7	7	.....	Greenwell.....	J. Ortiz	.....	M. Casse	.....	2-1

2ND (1:07PM). \$65,000, CLM \$30,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 11/8M

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

1	1	.....	Bernin Hot.....	M. Franco	.....	L. Rice	.....	4-1
2	2	.....	Pineapple Man.....	R. Gutierrez	.....	M. Nevin	.....	15-1
3	3	.....	My Noble Knight.....	J. Ortiz	.....	J. Sharp	.....	9-2
4	4	.....	Spoiler.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	M. Maker	.....	3-1
5	5	.....	Reynolds Channel.....	J. Rodriguez	.....	A. Green	.....	5-1
6	6	.....	Sweetalkingbourbon.....	E. Zayas	.....	C. DeVaux	.....	10-1
7	7	.....	Brazenly.....	J. Lezcano	.....	C. Englehart	.....	5-1
8	8	.....	Power Seeker.....	R. Silvera	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	12-1
9	9	.....	Indy Rags.....	K. Carmouche	.....	M. Giangiulio	.....	10-1

3RD (1:39PM). \$70,000, STR \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

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

1	1	.....	Solo Jim.....	J. Alvarado	.....	M. Hennig	.....	6-1
2	2	.....	Sebastianthe First.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	J. Delgado	.....	8-1
3	3	.....	Dinner Royale.....	J. Rodriguez	.....	A. Green	.....	6-1
4	4	.....	Come Full Circle.....	M. Franco	.....	J. Sharp	.....	4-1
5	5	.....	Constant Chaos.....	J. Lezcano	.....	D. Duggan	.....	10-1
6	6	.....	The Toy Cannon.....	K. Carmouche	.....	L. Dixon	.....	3-1
7	7	.....	Corvus.....	E. Zayas	.....	I. Kantarmaci	.....	10-1
8	8	.....	Apollo Code.....	C. Elliott	.....	R. Handal	.....	5-1
9	9	.....	Stayfrostymyfriend.....	K. Davis	.....	G. Sacco	.....	12-1

4TH (2:13PM). \$125,000, AOC \$80,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	1	.....	Mentee.....	J. Velazquez	.....	T. Pletcher	.....	6-1
2	2	.....	Dhabab (IRE).....	K. Carmouche	.....	E. Vaughan	.....	5-1
3	3	.....	Bite and Strike.....	J. Lezcano	.....	L. Rice	.....	6-1
4	4	.....	Shape Note.....	D. Davis	.....	M. Maker	.....	7-2
5	5	.....	Spiced Up.....	J. Alvarado	.....	W. Mott	.....	3-1
6	6	.....	War Stride.....	M. Franco	.....	G. Weaver	.....	6-1
7	7	.....	Attfield.....	E. Zayas	.....	T. Morley	.....	6-1
8	8	.....	Fore Harp.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	R. Reid, Jr.	.....	12-1
9	9	.....	AE-MTO ....Vettriano.....	M. Franco	.....	L. Rice	.....	7-2

5TH (2:46PM). \$500,000, STK - THE DUNKIN' DIANA, 4 YO'S & UP, F & M , 11/8M (INNER TURF)

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

1	1	.....	Dynamic Pricing (IRE).....	E. Zayas	.....	C. Brown	.....	6-1
2	2	.....	Cathedral (GB).....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	K. Philippart De Foy	.....	6-1
3	3	.....	Kathynmarissa.....	J. Ortiz	.....	C. Brown	.....	2-1
4	4	.....	Portfolio Duration (GB).....	M. Franco	.....	C. Brown	.....	5-2
5	5	.....	Five G.....	J. Velazquez	.....	G. Weaver	.....	20-1
6	6	.....	Segesta.....	D. Davis	.....	C. Brown	.....	3-1
7	7	.....	Ozara (IRE).....	J. Rodriguez	.....	M. Clement	.....	12-1

6TH (3:21PM). \$120,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

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

1	1	.....	Tab At Zanzibar.....	M. Franco	.....	B. Cox	.....	4-1
2	2	.....	Unbroken Chain.....	K. Carmouche	.....	E. Barker	.....	12-1
3	3	.....	Rock Music.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	L. Rice	.....	12-1
4	4	.....	Caldo Candy.....	J. Rodriguez	.....	J. Abreu	.....	6-1
5	5	.....	Dr. Kapur.....	J. Ortiz	.....	S. Joseph, Jr.	.....	5-2
6	6	.....	Agoo.....	J. Velazquez	.....	D. Beckman	.....	7-2
7	7	.....	Oil Capital.....	J. Lezcano	.....	L. Rice	.....	10-1
8	8	.....	Five Wishes.....	D. Davis	.....	C. Summers	.....	9-2

7TH (3:54PM). \$115,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 6F

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

1	1	.....	Effusive.....	M. Franco	.....	B. Cox	.....	5-2
2	2	.....	Energy Flows.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	K. LaRose	.....	6-1
3	3	.....	Mel Went Home.....	D. Davis	.....	R. Medina	.....	8-1
4	4	.....	Have Hope.....	J. Velazquez	.....	T. Pletcher	.....	12-1
5	5	.....	Fifth and Chestnut.....	J. Rodriguez	.....	J. Servis	.....	10-1
6	6	.....	Cruising Again.....	K. Carmouche	.....	D. Romans	.....	9-2
7	7	.....	Elevated.....	J. Alvarado	.....	W. Mott	.....	5-1
8	8	.....	Key Colony Beach.....	M. Gutierrez	.....	D. Fawkes	.....	12-1
9	9	.....	Business Math.....	J. Ortiz	.....	S. Asmussen	.....	6-1

8TH (4:29PM). \$225,000, STK - THE CORONATION CUP, 3 YO, F , 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	1	.....	Quiet Street.....	J. Alvarado	.....	W. Mott	.....	8-1
2	2	.....	Cy Fair.....	J. Velazquez	.....	G. Weaver	.....	3-5
3	3	.....	Sapphire Beach (IRE).....	J. Ortiz	.....	G. Arnold II	.....	5-2
4	4	.....	Cadenza.....	M. Franco	.....	B. Cox	.....	8-1
5	5	.....	Hark Theangelssing.....	J. Rodriguez	.....	M. Trombetta	.....	12-1
6	6	.....	Snow Face Princess.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	S. Asmussen	.....	15-1
7	7	.....	AE-MTO ....Niche.....	D. Davis	.....	R. Atras	.....	2-1
8	8	.....	AE-MTO ....Hot Currency.....	M. Franco	.....	L. Rice	.....	7-5

9TH (5:04PM). \$115,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

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

1	1	.....	Criteria.....	J. Ortiz	.....	C. Brown	.....	5-1
2	2	.....	Sidearm.....	K. Carmouche	.....	E. Barker	.....	15-1
3	3	.....	Stimulate.....	J. Alvarado	.....	W. Mott	.....	4-1
4	4	.....	Dark Assault.....	J. Lezcano	.....	C. McGaughey III	.....	10-1
5	5	.....	Mo the Merrier.....	C. Elliott	.....	K. McPeek	.....	8-1
6	6	.....	Stirring Words.....	J. Rodriguez	.....	C. DeVaux	.....	8-1
7	7	.....	Ovechkin.....	E. Zayas	.....	M. Hennig	.....	20-1
8	8	.....	Ize a Runner.....	D. Davis	.....	C. Brown	.....	12-1
9	9	.....	Gadget Play.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	A. Stall, Jr.	.....	7-2
10	10	.....	Noble Edition.....	M. Franco	.....	B. Cox	.....	9-2

10TH (5:39PM). \$110,000, AOC \$45,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	.....	King's Leap.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	M. Ferraro	.....	15-1
2	2	.....	Berning Beauty.....	E. Zayas	.....	C. Baker	.....	10-1
3	3	.....	Annexperience.....	K. Carmouche	.....	J. Englehart	.....	8-5
4	4	.....	Dear Chairman.....	J. Rodriguez	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	15-1
5	5	.....	Whittington Park.....	M. Franco	.....	I. Kantarmaci	.....	3-1
6	6	.....	Jackson Heights.....	C. Elliott	.....	I. Kantarmaci	.....	12-1
7	7	.....	Elysian Meadows.....	J. Alvarado	.....	W. Mott	.....	6-1
8	8	.....	Three B's.....	J. Ortiz	.....	L. Rice	.....	4-1

11TH (6:14PM). \$110,000, AOC \$45,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 11/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	1	.....	El de Larry.....	D. Davis	.....	W. Bailes	.....	20-1
2	2	.....	Terminal Velocity.....	R. Gutierrez	.....	L. Bartkowski	.....	30-1
3	3	.....	Cable Ready.....	J. Lezcano	.....	L. Dixon	.....	15-1
4	4	.....	Mo Trump.....	C. Elliott	.....	M. Ferraro	.....	10-1
5	5	.....	Leon Blue.....	K. Carmouche	.....	M. Giddings	.....	10-1
6	6	.....	Conman.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	T. Morley	.....	8-1
7	7	.....	Iron Max.....	J. Rodriguez	.....	B. Cox	.....	3-1
8	8	.....	Jack and Jim.....	M. Franco	.....	H. Motion	.....	3-1
9	9	.....	Shared Success.....	E. Zayas	.....	J. Begg	.....	15-1
10	10	.....	Smooth Breeze.....	J. Ortiz	.....	J. Abreu	.....	5-2
11	AE	.....	Clear Conscience.....	J. Velazquez	.....	A. Green	.....	8-1
12	AE-MTO	.....	Beary Funny.....	Rider TBA	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	9-2

12TH (6:49PM). \$100,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	1	.....	My First Dinah.....	R. Gutierrez	.....	E. Jones	.....	30-1
2	2	.....	Aperitif.....	J. Rodriguez	.....	E. Merryman	.....	7-2
3	3	.....	Lake Ariel.....	D. Davis	.....	D. Donk	.....	10-1
4	4	.....	Red Velvet Cake.....	J. Velazquez	.....	M. Giddings	.....	5-2
5	5	.....	Galway Gurl.....	K. Davis	.....	J. Ferraro	.....	15-1
6	6	.....	Shake Em Off.....	R. Silvera	.....	M. Nevin	.....	15-1
7	7		Daylight Dreamer.....	K. Carmouche		J. Englehart		5-1
8	8		My Lil Army Girl.....	M. Franco		H. De Paz		6-1
9	9		Combat Move.....	J. Ortiz		L. Rice		7-2

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Steven Wood served as Del Mar's facilities and track manager until May 2025 when he relocated to Florida with his family to become Oak Ridge Training Center's Track Superintendent.

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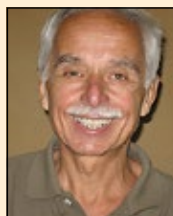


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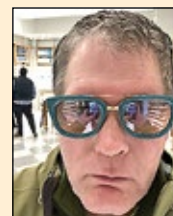
Tom Law



John Shapazian



Charles Bedard



Rob Whitlock



Jessica Paquette

Race	Tom Law	John Shapazian	Charles Bedard	Rob Whitlock	Jessica Paquette
1	Powerline The Good Life Got Tough	Greenwell Powerline The Good Life	Greenwell The Good Life Got Tough	Powerline Greenwell Got Tough	Powerline Got Tough The Good Life
2	Spoiler My Noble Knight Reynolds Channel	Spoiler Bernin Hot My Noble Knight	Brazenly Spoiler My Noble Knight	Spoiler Bernin Hot My Noble Knight	My Noble Knight Bernin Hot Indy Rags
3	Come Full Circle Apollo Code Solo Jim	The Toy Cannon Apollo Code Solo Jim	The Toy Cannon Come Full Circle Constant Chaos	Come Full Circle Constant Chaos Apollo Code	Apollo Code Corvus Solo Jim
4	Spiced Up Attfield Shape Note	Vettriano Dhabab Bite And Strike	Vettriano Bite And Strike Shape Note	Dhabab Attfield Shape Note	Attfield Spiced Up War Stride
5	Segesta Kathynmarissa Ozara	Portfolio Duration Kathynmarrissa Cathedral	Ozara Segesta Portfolio Duration	Kathynmarissa Portfolio Duration Segesta	Five G Portfolio Duration Segesta
6	Agoo Tab At Zanzibar Unbroken Chain	Five Wishes Agoo Dr. Kapur	Caldo Candy Five Wishes Unbroken Chain	Oil Capital Dr Kapur Tab At Zanzibar	Tab At Zanzibar Agoo Five Wishes
7	Effusive Have Hope Mel Went Home	Cruising Again Energy Flows Effusive	Elevated Business Math Have Hope	Key Colony Beach Energy Flows Mel Went Home	Elevated Effusive Fifth And Chestnut
8	Cy Fair Sapphire Beach Hark Theangelssing	Hot Currency Cy Fair Sapphire Beach	Hot Currency Cy Fair Sapphire Beach	Cy Fair Sapphire Beach Cadenza	Sapphire Beach Cadenza Cy Fair
9	Gadget Play Stirring Words Ize A Runner	Gadget Play Noble Edition Stimulate	Mo The Merrier Gadget Play Criteria	Gadget Play Noble Edition Criteria	Stimulate Criteria Mo The Merrier
10	Annexperience Whittington Park Elysian Meadows	Annexperience Whittington Park Three B's	Whittington Park Annexperience King's Leap	Annexperience Whittington Park Berning Beauty	Whittington Park Jackson Heights Elysian Meadows
11	Iron Max Jack And Jim Conman	Jack And Jim Iron Max El De Larry	Iron Max Smooth Breeze Shared Success	Conman Iron Max Jack And Jim	Jack And Jim Conman Iron Max
12	My Lil Army Girl Combat Move Aperitif	Red Velvet Cake Aperitif Combat Move	Aperitif Red Velvet Cake My Lil Army Girl	Aperitif Lake Ariel My Lil Army Girl	Aperitif Lake Ariel Red Velvet Cake
2026 Records	18/89, -\$61.38	20/89, -\$74.72	18/89, -\$57.12	20/89, -\$25.32	11/89, -\$78.96

Records include wins by top selections plus ROI on \$2 win bet on top selections. Race totals may vary if all three selections scratch.

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Comeback 2

Ewing makes turf debut for Casse in Grade 3 Sunday sprint feature

BY TOM LAW

Derby Fever casts its wide net every year. The infections start in the summer, hitting connections of flashy 2-year-olds, before continuing through the fall and winter leading into the minor and major preps for the spring classic.

The connections of Ewing caught it last summer, justifiably so after the son of Knicks Go blazed to two victories at Saratoga Race Course. He did everything right in a 12-length maiden romp and upended favored Obliteration in a more down-to-earth professional win in the Grade 2 Saratoga Special.

Then, everything went wrong. Entered in the Grade 1 Claiborne Breeders' Futurity at Keeneland Race

QUICK CALL STAKES PREVIEW

Course – a major steppingstone to the Breeders' Cup Juvenile – Ewing scratched with an injury. Next came surgery and rehab, a steady resumption of training first in Ocala and later at Oaklawn Park, followed by a disappointing debut in a 6-furlong stakes designed to maybe get the colt to the Grade 2 Rebel and Grade 1 Arkansas Derby.

"Of course we got Derby Fever, so we took him out there (to Oaklawn)," said Mark Casse, who trains Ewing for D J Stable, West Point Thoroughbreds and Kenneth Freirich. "The thing about him, he never really

Continued On Page 30



Sam Decker

Ewing switches to the turf after winning twice at Saratoga last summer.

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2026 September Meet Stakes Schedule

SEPTEMBER 10 – 27

IROQUOIS (GIII)

DIRT DOZEN

Runs Saturday, September 12

Closes August 26

\$300,000

Includes \$75,000 from KTDF

Two-Year-Olds

One Mile, Dirt

POCAHONTAS (GIII)

DIRT DOZEN

Runs Saturday, September 12

Closes August 26

\$300,000

Includes \$75,000 from KTDF

Fillies, Two-Year-Olds

One Mile, Dirt

LOCUST GROVE (GII)

Runs Saturday, September 12

Closes August 26

\$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 12

Closes August 26

\$300,000

Includes \$50,000 from KTDF

Three-Year-Olds & Up

Six and One Half Furlongs, Dirt

OPEN MIND (Listed)

Runs Saturday, September 12

Closes August 26

\$300,000

Includes \$50,000 from KTDF

Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Up

Six Furlongs, Dirt

SENECA OVERNIGHT STAKES (Listed)

Runs Saturday, September 19

Closes September 2

\$200,000

Includes \$65,000 from KTDF

Fillies, Three-Year-Olds

One Mile and One Sixteenth, Dirt

BOURBON FLIGHT

Runs Saturday, September 19

Closes September 2

\$300,000

Includes \$50,000 from KTDF

Three-Year-Olds

One Mile and One Sixteenth, Dirt

HARRODS CREEK

Runs Saturday, September 19

Closes September 2

\$300,000

Includes \$50,000 from KTDF

Three-Year-Olds

Seven Furlongs, Dirt

DOGWOOD (GIII)

Runs Saturday, September 19

Closes September 2

\$300,000

Includes \$50,000 from KTDF

Fillies, Three-Year-Olds

Seven Furlongs, Dirt

ACK ACK (GIII)

Runs Saturday, September 26

Closes September 9

\$400,000

Includes \$100,000 from KTDF

Three-Year-Olds & Up

One Mile, Dirt

LUKAS CLASSIC (GII)

Runs Saturday, September 26

Closes September 9

\$500,000

Includes \$100,000 from KTDF

Three-Year-Olds & Up

One Mile and One Eighth, Dirt

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September Meet: Sept. 10 - 27

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SUNDAY BOY, by
CENTRAL BANKER
 NY Stallion Series Stakes Winner at 2
 Went wire-to-wire in \$105,000
 one-mile allowance



SUNDAY
2YO PROFESSOR PLUM, by
SOLOMINI
 Came from off the pace to win
 his debut in \$115,000 MdSpWt
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Quick Call -

■ Continued from page 28

had time to grow up. ... After he ran poorly I just sent him home, decided that I'd get him ready for here."

Here is back in Saratoga, where Ewing restarts again in today's Grade 3, \$225,000 Quick Call Stakes going 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf. Ewing drew the rail in the field of 12, which will mark his turf debut if the dry weather holds and it stays on the grass.

"We're looking forward to it. Now he's grown up some, looks good and is happy," Casse said. "Obviously we've never run him on the grass so that is a question, but he's training well and we breezed him once on it and he had a bullet."

Ewing breezed a half-mile on the Oklahoma Training Track turf course July 5 in :47, second fastest of 47 that morning. He also breezed an eighth in :10.1 during the breeze show on the Ocala Training Center's synthetic surface before bringing \$585,000 at last year's OBS April sale. Ewing's older half-sister Tuscan Queen, an Ontario-bred daughter of Street Boss, finished third in the Christecat Stakes going 6 furlongs on the turf in 2021 at Belmont Park.

Casse also entered M Racing Group's unbeaten El Magnate in the Quick Call, but the Into Mischief colt wound up on the also-eligible list

with the race's preference favoring graded stakes winners, graded stakes-placed runners, non-restricted stakes winners and condition eligibility.

El Magnate would make his stakes debut off back-to-back wins, the first so impressive in mid-May at Woodbine that Casse encouraged a replay viewing session at his patio table and chairs outside his barn on the main track Friday morning.

"You've got to watch this race, it's unbelievable," Casse said of the colt Mickey Gonzalez bought as a weanling for \$500,000 with a plan to pinhook that didn't come to fruition.

El Magnate jumped at the start of the 5 1/2-furlong open maiden special weight on Woodbine's synthetic track and raced last early before regaining himself to join the back of the field. He reached contention around the turn before another mishap, clipping heels and stumbling and regaining his composure again while out in the center of the course. He won going away by 3 1/4 lengths.

"To think that he did that ... he almost went down," Casse said.

El Magnate's second race proved less eventful, a 4-length front-end score going 6 1/2 furlongs on the synthetic. He'll need some help to make a third start Sunday, but that could come with the expected scratch of the filly Cy Fair.

Trainer George Weaver indicated

Continued on Page 31



Samantha Decker

Stradale and Roberto Howell show off while training on the Oklahoma.

Quick Call -

■ Continued from page 30

Friday that he'd most likely run last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint winner against fellow fillies in today's Grade 3 Coronation Cup.

"George went in just in case it rained or something," Casse said. "Even if it rained it would have to pour. They got a six-horse field (for the Coronation Cup) and he might end up running in a three-horse field."

Weaver won't be left without a runner for the Quick Call if Cy Fair runs today. He entered unbeaten Johnny's Red Storm, winner of an auction maiden last summer at Saratoga and the Kentucky Downs Juvenile Sprint Stakes.

Owned by John Cronin Jr. and RAP Racing, the son of Twirling Candy drew post 10. He's the second choice on the morning line at 5-1 and could be the post-time favorite with Cy Fair out. Johnny's Red Storm hasn't been out since Aug. 31 and shows five breezes, including a bullet 5 furlongs July 12 in :58.60 on the Oklahoma turf.

"He's training well. He had a really fast work over here the other day," Weaver said. "I chose to go ahead and put him in the Quick Call. He's doing well, he might be a work short but that's OK."

Johnny's Red Storm, a \$60,000 purchase out of the 2024 Keeneland September sale, won his debut at the 5 ½-furlong trip last August, giving Weaver additional confidence.

"At least you know he likes it," Weaver said. "But he's run well elsewhere. He ran well in Kentucky Downs, he's



Dave Harmon

Intricate Spirit seeks his second Saratoga win.

undefeated. He's put together a good resume. I don't think he needs Saratoga to win but it's good to know that he's done it before."

The Quick Call goes as the ninth race Sunday at 5:45 p.m. Intricate Spirit, winner of the Paradise Creek last out at Aqueduct for Miguel Clement; Bobrovsky, winner of the 2025 Skidmore Stakes for Dale Romans; and the multiple stakes-placed duo of Throckmorton and Monster are also in the field.

Learntodiscover, Unwritten Rule, Longshoreman, Stradale and Rockies Balboa complete the body of the race, with Oscar's Hope entered for the main track only.

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American Pharoah-Belle de Nuit (ARG)

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Jackie's Warrior-Heavenly Hill

Bought for \$150,000, Sold for \$300,000

Not This Time-Li'l Tootsie

Bought for \$150,000, Sold for \$200,000

Olympiad-My Lady Emma

Bought for \$40,000, sold for \$100,000

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Another Time

Hall of Famers join up for front-running win in restricted turf stakes

BY SEAN CLANCY

Mark Casse knew what he wanted back in 2023. A yearling daughter of Omaha Beach consigned by Indian Creek at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Sale. Charlotte Weber was bidding. Casse was imploring. His younger brother, Justin, was watching. His wife, Tina, was counting.

"Mrs. Weber would say, 'What do you think?' I'd say, 'And one more time,'" Casse said. "Justin was telling me today that he could read my lips saying, 'One more time. One more time.'"

"Five times," Tina said. "There were five of those."

Worth every one of them. Live Oak Plantation secured the dark bay filly for \$750,000 and named her for Casse's urges. Now 4, And One More Time controlled the De La Rose Stakes at Saratoga Friday to secure the third stakes win in her 10-race career.

Hall of Fame jockey John Velazquez guided And One More Time to the front-running score, flitting away to win the \$150,000 stakes by 1 1/4 lengths over Hang The Moon and Sandtrap. Stewards called an inquiry into the stretch run but let the result stand.

Sent off favorite in the field of eight, And One More Time finished the mile on the inner turf in 1:34.36. Bred in Kentucky by Bill Harrigan and Mike Pietrangelo, the Kentucky-bred increased her earnings to \$529,672.

"We loved her," Casse said. "She's beautiful and she has an unbelievable pedigree."

And One More Time finished seventh in her career debut at Churchill Downs in June of her 2-year-old season, came here to win an off-the-turf maiden in August and tacked on the Grade 1 Nattalma at Woodbine in September. Prepping for the Breeders' Cup, she suffered a condylar fracture in her left front leg.

"We breezed her for the Breeders' Cup, she was a 'Win and You're In' and she got hurt. It went all



Dave Harmon

And One More Time (right) keeps everyone behind her late in Friday's De La Rose Stakes.

the way up her leg. She's got six screws in her leg. She was operated on in Toronto, the surgeon did a wonderful job, she was in the clinic for over 30 days. It took a long time to get her back," Casse said. "If she hadn't come back to our liking, then definitely we would have retired her, but Mrs. Weber is a sportswoman, she wants to run. As long as she could come back and be competitive, she's going to run. Was I surprised she came back? A

little bit. We took our time, we brought her back slowly."

And One More Time returned a year later to win an allowance race on the turf at Woodbine. Sent to Florida, she finished second in the Tropical Park Oaks, seventh in the Grade 2 Pegasus Filly and Mare Turf and fifth in the Grade 2 Hillsborough. In April, she won the Plenty Of Grace at Aqueduct before finishing a wide-trip fifth in the Grade 1 Just A Game at Saratoga June 6.

Casse wrote a line through that last race and aimed at the De La Rose, restricted to fillies and mares who had not won a graded stakes in 2025-26.

"Tough trip last time. She got beat a couple of lengths and had a tough trip. Wide both turns," Casse said. "Looking at the horses who had beat her before, I thought she could beat them. I told my wife and I told Johnny, 'I think we win this thing.'"

And One More Time made sure of it, bouncing out of stall two and securing an uncontested lead going into the first turn.

Under a light, long hold from Velazquez, the favorite loped through the first quarter mile in :24.32 and a half in :48.13.

"I was going to play as it is. She broke so good, so I let her go the first sixteenth, then I got her back and just tried to slow it down the best I could," Velazquez said. "The first quarter of a mile, 'OK,



Dave Harmon

Mark Casse (left) and John Velazquez put together another win.

Continued on Page 34

Rigoberto Sepulveda, Jr.

*Exercise rider
Barclay Tagg Stable*

Profile



"THIRTY-FIVE YEARS on the track. More than 35 years, I think. I come from Chile. There are a lot of people here who came from the racetrack in Chile. I never been on the horses. I learned here. It was hard for me because I don't nothing about horses. My father, he had the experience. He told me, 'You are small, you are skinny, you have to be on the horse right away.' I just jump up and keep going. It was not easy.

"My first job was with P.G. Johnson. A long time ago. '95 or '96. I work for a lot of trainers, Chad Brown, Todd Pletcher, Wayne Lukas, Bruce Levine, Leah Gyarmati, Mark Hennig. But here, I have more than 18 years. I always have a good horse. Bustin Stones, Sweet Reason. Island Fashion won the Alabama. I galloped Funny Cide. He is a very nice horse. In the beginning, he was not too tough. The first, the second race, he got tough, really tough.

"I rode some races in 2006. I started at Belmont. I rode at Aqueduct. I didn't do too good. I moved to Philadelphia and won a

couple of races, moved to Monmouth Park and won a couple of races. But it was tough. I try hard but never got the good horses. Longshot. Longshot. Longshot. I won on an 80-1 shot once. It was tough, very tough. I was riding day and night. I have family, it was difficult for me, so I decide to go back to galloping.

"I love it. Not easy this job. Every day you learn something. Every horse is different, and I try to do my best. I like to relax them a lot, I don't like them wild. I have good luck with that. I work as a white cap, too. A lot of years. I'm doing good. Thanks to God. He helps me."



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De La Rose -

■ Continued from page 32

I got her.' She put her ears like this (up). The second quarter, 'OK, that's even better.' ”

Last year's winner, Deep Satin, stalked while the rest of the field stacked. After three quarters of a mile in 1:10.95, And One More Time accelerated and opened up as Deep Satin faded and Sandtrap rallied.

Velazquez, replacing the injured Javier Castellano, deferred to his Hall of Fame comrade's previous tactics when he won the Plenty Of Grace.

“Javier did the same thing when he won on her. On the lead the first part of the race, he sat there, sat there, sat there, waited and let her run down the lane. They allowed me to do it, and it just happened to work out the same way,” Velazquez said. “Once we got to the three eighths pole, I put my hands down and she put the ears up,



Dave Harmon

And One More Time takes an immediate spot up front in the De La Rose.

that's the way I like it. At the quarter pole, I went like this (clucked), I waited until the three-sixteenths pole just to make sure because Javier rode her

the same way, I'm thinking I'm going to repeat what Javier did.”

Out with a lower back injury suffered in a four-horse spill here July 3, Castellano was on Velazquez's mind before, during and after the stakes win.

“It's bittersweet especially with Javier, because we are pretty close,” Velazquez said. “He lost a couple of

winners today, it sucks, it really does. You come over here and you have a little business that you want to maintain. Now he's hurt. I've been hurt here at Saratoga. It's the best meet. It hurts a lot. I talk to him almost every day. I saw him yesterday. I'll call him tonight. I've got to take him out for a drink or something.”

If it's up to Casse, it could be five.

“When they tell me inquiry, I have no clue what was happening, man, I'm in front and I kept her straight. They just said, 'Look, something happened behind you before the sixteenth pole.' I said, 'I'm clear of everybody.' I know she drifts a little bit, she did it with Javier, but I kept her pretty straight. I went back to my horse, I knew I wasn't getting disqualified.”

John Velazquez on the steward's inquiry



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Double Up

Boston's Phinest wins second straight

Boston's Phinest, a 4-year-old stakes-placed winner, continued her impressive 2026 campaign with her second straight victory in Friday's fifth race at Saratoga Race Course.

"It was a very exciting race. I just got a little worried there midstretch where she took that bobble," said Bruce Brown, trainer of the Honest Mischief filly for Our Sugar Bear Stable and White Owl Stable. "She's just so honest, and she's really been running better and better each start. She's a really nice filly, and it's a pleasure to have her in the barn."

Boston's Phinest added Friday's win (over males) to a victory June 28 at Aqueduct, after finishing third in her first start of 2026 May 8 at Aqueduct and second June 3 at Saratoga, all in allowance company.

Under Jose Ortiz, Boston's Phinest surged late to prevail by a nose after overcoming a brief stumble in the stretch Friday. The victory further rewarded the connections who purchased the filly for \$95,000 in last year's Fasig-Tipton February Digital Sale. She's earned \$197,175 since, more than twice her purchase price in less than a year and a half of new ownership.

"She's trained great on synthetic, so we have a lot of options when we get back to Belmont," Brown said. "Distance-wise, she can do a lot of different distances, so the future is bright for her."

- Taylor Barraclough

- Lexi's Charm rallied from off the pace to win the fourth, an auction maiden special weight for 2-year-old fillies going 5 ½ furlongs on the main track.

The first-time starter by Lexingtonian broke slow and settled near the rear until the far turn, where she kicked in and advanced. Lexi's Charm swung wide on the far turn, around front runners R Kan't Miss and Atlas A Eye before overtaking the latter inside the eighth pole to draw clear.

"I expected her to win," said winning trainer Mark Casse.

Lexi's Charm posted strong workouts in Saratoga before her debut. She breezed 4 furlongs in :48.26 July 11. She



Dave Harmon

Boston's Phinest (right) hangs on to win Friday's fifth race for trainer Bruce Brown.

also covered 4 furlongs in :47.47 July 5, the fifth fastest of 141.

Owned by Bill and Liz Poston Racing Inc. and Brad Smith, Lexi's Charm went off as the second favorite at 7-2. She stood out as one of the larger fillies in the field in the paddock, carrying herself with the composure of a more experienced runner.

"She has a lot of class," Casse said. "She'll get

nothing but better."

Lexi's Charm earned back more than her purchase price with Friday's win, worth \$49,500. She was purchased at the 2025 Keeneland September yearling sale for \$15,000.

- Shea Brown

Continued on Page 37



Dave Harmon

Lexi's Charm scores in Friday's fourth for the meet's leading trainer Mark Casse.

Saratoga Leaders

Trainers.....	Wins
Mark Casse	5
Ilkay Kantarmaci	4
Horacio De Paz	4
Brad Cox	4
Steve Asmussen	4
Linda Rice	4
Chad Brown	4
Mike Maker	4
Todd Pletcher	3
George Weaver	3
Jockeys	Wins
Flavien Prat	18
Jose Ortiz	16
Manny Franco	10
Ricardo Santana Jr.	8
Irad Ortiz Jr.	6
Tyler Gaffalione	6
John Velazquez	5
Jaime Rodriguez	4
Joel Rosario	3
Edgard Zayas	3
Through Friday	

Friday -

■ Continued from page 36

• Santorini went to the front and stayed there in a wire-to-wire win in the eighth, a 1 1/16-mile claiming race on the turf.

The 6-year-old by Twirling Candy was restless in the gate, broke well and won by a nose. Santorini made his first start in 13 months after bone bruising sidelined him since last June.

"We knew it was going to be a year," said owner Jason Provenzano. "We gave him [time] off, gave him the extra time. We knew when we had to start him back in training, we started him over at Turfway, it's a kinder track. We map it out the best we can. And then the gate breaks and who knows."

Provenzano, owner of Flying P Stable, was in the winner's circle last week when his gelding Ole Crazy Bone won the Grade 2 Bowling Green Stakes by a nose.

"Winning here is one of the things I look forward to for 10 months," Provenzano said. "Once it ends, I'm planning for the next 10 months. I was a little sour three years ago, I had one win and I'm like 'This is never going to happen again to me.'"

- Sheela Brown

• Shirl's Soul Town broke his maiden on debut in the opener, a 5 1/2-furlong turf maiden, for trainer Linda Rice. Chuck Fipke's homebred son of Speightstown settled toward the rear of the field early, saving ground around the turn before angling wide at the top of the stretch. The 4-year-old dug in in the final sixteenth to triumph by a half-length under Jose Ortiz. ... Kent Sweezey sent out Discotheque to win the second, a 7-furlong maiden claimer on the main track. Irad Ortiz Jr., making up for lost time after missing the first six days of the meet on suspension, picked up his first of four wins today aboard the son of Connect. ... Favored Ridgewood Runner triumphed in the third for trainer Michelle Nevin, a 7-furlong claimer on the main track. The Klimt gelding rallied to score by 4 1/2 lengths with Flavien Prat aboard. Joe Sharp claimed the 5-year-old for \$62,500 for Jordan Wycoff. ... Klaravich Stables and Chad Brown teamed up to win the sixth, a 1 3/8-mile turf allowance-optional, with Right To Vote, a 5-year-old son of Vino Rosso. ... Linda Rice notched her second win of the day in the seventh, a 1 1/8-mile claimer, with Antietam. Mertkan Kantarmaci claimed the son of Curlin for \$20,000. ... Favored Donna Romano capped off Irad Ortiz's four-win day with her romp in the nightcap for trainer Brad Cox. Bruce Brown claimed the Beau Liam filly for \$20,000 for Manhattan Racing Stable.



Dave Harmon

Santorini (right) fights off Presider in Friday's eighth race.

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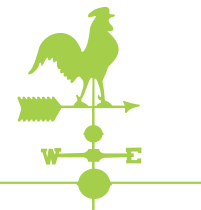
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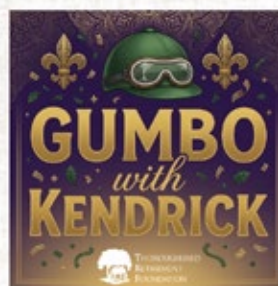


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Mr Percy jumps a fence early in his stakes win Thursday.

Dave Harmon

High Diver

Ex-O'Brien runner Mr Percy lands big one in hurdle feature

BY JOE CLANCY

On a trip to Ireland in December, steeplechase owner Jeff LeHew toured Joseph O'Brien's yard and wound up in a conversation with the trainer. LeHew's Shannon Hill Farm stable won a handicap hurdle with former O'Brien charge Naturally Nimble in South Carolina last year and added Mr Percy as a prospect for 2026.

O'Brien, a former champion Irish jockey and international Group/Grade 1 winner as a rider and trainer, teed up a quick assessment for the Virginian.

"Jeff, Naturally Nimble is a nice horse," O'Brien said, "but Mr Percy is going to make a big splash."

JONATHAN KISER STAKES RECAP

Consider Thursday's Jonathan Kiser Memorial at Saratoga Race Course a cannonball that soaked all the picnickers on the pool deck.

Irish-bred Mr Percy – a flat and jump winner for O'Brien on that side of the Atlantic – added an American stakes to his record with a half-length score over Cyber Ninja in the \$75,000 restricted stakes.

Sent off as a slight 5-2 favorite over former Bill Mott runner Cyber Ninja, Mr Percy (and everyone else) let long-shot Dr. Love set the pace and build a

Continued On Page 40

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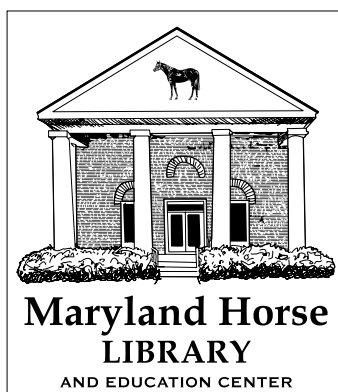
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Kiser -

■ Continued from page 38

huge lead on the second lap. Dr. Love ran out of options, and energy, at the top of the stretch as Mr Percy charged around the outside for Graham Waters. Cyber Ninja and Jamie Bargary followed, before going inside the tiring leader as Mr Percy stayed outside. On even terms at the eighth pole, they pulled 8 lengths clear from the others as Mr Percy wrestled away a slight lead with a sixteenth to go and didn't give it back. Getting three pounds from the runner-up, Mr Percy covered 2 3/8 miles in 4:36.82 while winning for the first time in the United States. Lynches Knock finished third.

LeHew, who won a 2024 hurdle stakes with his first Saratoga starter Evie's Prince, enjoyed every second of it.

"We just love this place," he said. "My wife Sondra and I have been coming here for 20 years. My father brought me up here when I was a boy. Two years ago, we started a horse here for the first time ever. My dream was to have a horse run at Saratoga. Not only did we have that dream fulfilled, but we won that race. And now two years later, we come back with a different horse and win? It's huge."

LeHew's father Larry was something of a fixture at West Virginia's Charles Town racetrack and an owner/breeder in the region for decades before he died at age 83 in 2020. Trips to Saratoga were part of the family's connection to racing.

"We came to Saratoga, just to spectate," Jeff said. "We had racehorses all of my life. I grew up at Charles Town, was there three nights a week. Our dream was to have a horse at



Dave Harmon

Mr Percy (left) keeps Cyber Ninja safe in deep stretch.

Saratoga. Unfortunately, I lost Dad before we got here. He'd have been so pleased by these wins, the one two years ago and now this one. He'd have been over the top."

Mr Percy began his career with two starts in France as a 3-year-old in 2023. Highflyer Bloodstock bought the son of Sir Percy for \$52,368 at Arqana that fall and he moved to O'Brien's dual-purpose barn. The bay gelding won maiden races on the flat and over hurdles in Ireland in 2024, added a hurdle stakes and flat handicap in 2025 then made three high-end starts - a 16th in the Galway Hurdle last July and tries in the Ebor at York and Cesarewitch at the Curragh stayers' handicaps. Future Breeders' Cup Turf winner Ethical Diamond won the former and Mr Percy was beaten just 6 1/2 lengths when eighth

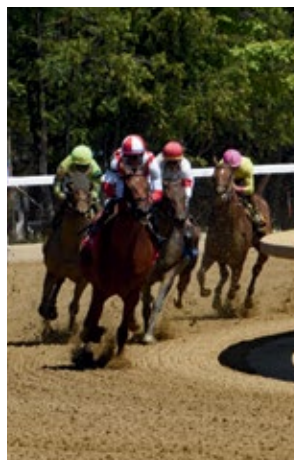
in the latter, which included 30 runners.

Trainer Neil Morris and LeHew added the Irish-bred to their stable soon after.

"We've bought horses through Anthony Bromley, who managed this horse, and done well," said Morris of the Highflyer co-founder. "Naturally Nimble came from there and they highly recommended him to race in America. They thought this horse would suit here too. They always thought highly of him. He's a good horse."

In his U.S. debut in April, Mr Percy finished third behind Cyber Ninja in a similar race and was second to the now dual Grade 1-placed Rocket One in May. The Virginia-based Morris sent the 6-year-old to Colonial Downs for a steeplechase-restricted flat race at Colonial Downs June 29, where Mr Percy finished fourth after finding traffic and trouble in the stretch. A win would have been nice, but Morris loved the race as a final tightener for the Kiser.

"The race at Colonial was not to come here short," Morris said. "He may have been able to be first or second, but he got shuffled back down the lane, beaten a length and a half. As a trainer, I was content because I'm responsible for the effort, not the outcome, so I was fine with that. It was a good springboard to come here."



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Legacy Score

Tuning In triumphs for Nielsen family

BY DARBY O'BRIEN

Jim Bond refused to budge on the track after Thursday's second race at Saratoga Race Course.

The winner's circle photo had been snapped, but he wasn't about to miss an interview alongside longtime friends. He stooped low, ducked under the rail, nearly fell over and caught his footing just in time to join Karen Kuehler and Jerry Nielsen. The son and daughter of influential and longtime New York breeders Gerald and Joanne Nielsen and the Bonds celebrated a victory by Tuning In in the 1-mile New York-bred maiden special weight.

"I've trained for their parents for years," Bond said. "We were in this winner's circle a lot over the years. Gerry's gone now. It's just an honor and a privilege to be able to come into the winner's circle with this family again."

Tuning In won as the 8-1 fifth choice in the field of six.

"He was training brilliantly," Bond said. "It's not that I was worried about his ability, it was his focus. His nickname has been Kramer ever since he was a baby. He's just a horse who needs to see things two or three times to get it. But he's a dynamic horse to be around. But saying that, you kind of have to let it be his way. You got to get along with him and talk him through it."

Tuning In's pedigree features several ties for Joanne Nielsen. She also bred his sire, multiple graded stakes winner Upstart.

Upstart earned \$1,732,780 for the late trainer Rick Violette and owners Ralph Evans and WinStar Farm. He won the 2014 Funny Cide Stakes at Saratoga before a runner-up finish in the Grade 1 Champagne Stakes at Belmont Park and a third in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile at Santa Anita Park. He later won the Grade 2 Holy Bull at Gulfstream Park at 3 and the Grade 3 Razorback at Oaklawn Park at 4.

Tuning In hustled up to race behind pacesetter Bubster early, then battled with that foe through the stretch to win by a half-length. He won in 1:38.34.

"All he had to do was be half-focused, because



Dave Harmon

Tuning In scores in Thursday's second race.

he's just shown such brilliance," Bond said. "Hopefully you'll see him back at the end of the meet. We'll see. If not, we'll go to Belmont. But I think you'll hear some noise from him throughout the fall."

- A tight-knit group made its way to the winner's circle shortly before the fifth as the field made their way onto the track. They were quiet and smiling, with someone special on their minds.

"It's for my dad," said Michael Mastropietro. "I've done it every year since he passed. This was his favorite place on earth. He came here all the time and I couldn't think of a better way to honor him."

C. Michael Mastropietro passed away in 2023



Dave Harmon

Extravanzoo scores in Thursday's fifth race, named for C. Michael Mastropietro.

after a lengthy battle with cancer. He called nearby Mechanicville home and loved going to the races at Saratoga with friends and family.

"It's great to have everyone here," a teary-eyed Mastropietro said as a friend clasped his shoulder in silent support. "These people are my family and it's great to spend the day with them. ... It's almost like my dad's here, too."

Favored Extravanzoo drew in off the also-eligible list to break her maiden in the race named for Mastropietro. Trained by George Weaver, the 2-year-old daughter of Golden Pal finished fifth in her debut at Keeneland in April. Tyler Gaffalione rode e Five Racing Thoroughbreds' Extravanzoo to a 3 3/4-length win over All Star Leigh.

Bob Edwards' e Five Racing purchased the filly for \$375,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton New York sale of selected yearlings.

- Trainer Will Walden has fillies on his brain this summer. When asked what he was most excited for from the rest of the meet after a win in the seventh with English Law, his response was quick.

"La Rascasse in the Coaching Club American Oaks next week and Movie Night in the Test," Walden said.

English Law took center stage Thursday, rallying to victory in the 1 1/16-mile claiming race on the turf for Walden's first win of the meet.

"He had a great late kick," Walden said. "I

Continued on Page 44



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Thursday, July 30th
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Thursday -

■ Continued from page 42

thought he had a little bit too much to do, but Flavien [Prat] is a phenomenal jock and the horse gave him everything he had. He got the job done.”

The son of English Channel settled toward the middle of the pack early as *Ciro Di Marzio* set the pace, leading through splits of :24.33 and :48.53. Prat angled the gelding five-wide as the field turned for home as *Coach Case* and *Chips And Fish* battled for the lead. *English Law* dug in late to win by a half-length for owners *Wachtel Stable*, *Pantofel Stable* and *Christopher Dunn*. He won for the second time in 15 starts and was claimed for \$35,000 by trainer *Mike Micelli* for *Salvatore Bartolomeo*.

Wachtel and *Pantofel* also co-owned the winner of the sixth race,

Ati Girl, along with *Gary Barber*. Trainer *Bill Mott* saddled *Ati Girl* for his second win of the meet.

• The *Kantarmaci* brothers continued their fast start to the meet with a pair of winners Thursday. *Mertkan Kantarmaci* started it off when he sent out *Kunshan Bridge* to win the third race, a 7-furlong starter-optional claimer. He also owns the 7-year-old *Protonico* gelding. *Ilkay Kantarmaci* capped the card with his fourth winner of the meet, sending out *Island Charm* in the finale, a 1 1/16-mile maiden claimer on the grass for New York-breds. *Ilkay Kantarmaci* owns the 3-year-old *Improbable* filly with *Dimitrios Perdikis*. ... *DATTT Stable*’s homebred *Chester Boy* won the fourth, a 1-mile maiden claimer on the grass, under *Manny Franco* for trainer *Miguel Clement*. *Franco* also rode *Kunshun Bridge* in the fourth and *Island Charm* in the ninth.

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English Law arrives in time to win Thursday’s seventh.

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Advice Line

The things I've learned at Saratoga...

Do it early. It's a long meet these days but it goes fast. Schedule it, make it happen. Early. Hey, John Panagot, let's get that beer Sunday and talk about the days when you had to interview Bobby Frankel for The Special. Rich, crank up the boat and make a reservation at Lago Monday. Dylan, pick a tee time for McGregor Tuesday. Tim, fire up the grill, we'll stop by after tonight's deadline.

Bring essentials from home. Soap, shampoo, toothpaste, razor blades, extra towels, yeah, that kind of stuff. Don't get here and think you'll go shopping. Before you know it, you'll be using the hand soap from the kitchen in the shower. Hey, I've done it.

Don't leave your credit card at the Paddock Bar.

Don't bet every race. Bet more less often, rather than less more often. When you don't have an opinion in a race, that's an opinion, and don't do the old \$1 four-horse trifecta box for fun. And as the old saying goes, it's OK to eat your betting money but don't bet your eating money.

If you leave a tie at home, give it away, you'll never wear it.

Don't yell for a number.

Go once around the 5-mile trail at the State Park. Run, power walk, saunter, lope, limp, whatever pace you want. And leave your phone in the car.

Sometimes you need a large Italian from Cardona's.

Occasionally, don't watch the race but watch the people watching the race.

Pick up a copy of The Special. It's free.

Send a postcard to your parents, your kids, your friends.

Catch a show at Caffé Lena. Any show, any genre, any night. They're the curators, there isn't a bad show at "the longest continuously operating folk music venue in the United States." Over the years, I've been introduced to Odetta, Dave Von



By Sean Clancy

Ronk, Pat Donahue, Ellis Paul, John Gorka, Chris Smith and song-writing lifers there. And, oh yeah, I've missed Townes Van Zandt, Patty Larkin, Ani DiFranco, Slaid Cleaves, Peter Mulvey and Tom Rush. Any of you who were here in the '60s, you missed Dylan twice. Whoops.

Making four right turns can be faster than trying to make a left turn.

Walk with the triumphant jockey from the winner's circle to the jocks' room after a big race. Even better, walk with the high-fiving, smack-talking, stop-for-every-selfie Kendrick Carmouche.

Watch the jump race.

Order the special pizza and summer salad at 9 Miles East, the tacos and an IPA from the chalk board at Henry Street Taproom and hit Hattie's at least once during the meet.

Ride your bike. Lock your bike.

Annie, Miles, Ryan, Jack and Nolan, get here. Now.

Try every vantage point, feel every vibe, at the races. Get dressed up and sit in the boxes on a stakes-filled Saturday. Take your date to lunch on the Turf Terrace, the best view of all. Cool off in the 1863 once, but only once. Pack a cooler and sling a chair to the backside on a Wednesday afternoon. Find your favorite picnic table near the Big Red Spring. Stop by the Fourstardave and catch the

late double with Paul Halloran.

Find Jane Hill and her friends (see guest column Thursday) in the cheap seats. Slide The Special through the wooden slats and reserve a green bench at the eighth pole on a sunny afternoon. Stake out a spot on the rail of the paddock to see the horses. Every person at Saratoga is where they want to be and there isn't a bad seat in the house.

Don't call it Toga.

Go to the West Side Bar and Grill and tell them Dave sent you.

Stand back and appreciate the consistency, definitiveness and longevity of John Velazquez.

Buy the book at the book signing. The author will appreciate it.

Kids, don't ask for goggles before the race.

Cross diagonally through the intersection of East and Union at the end of the day but only when the police officers give you the go ahead. Thank the police officers.

Pet a horse.

The GPS will drop you a couple of houses down the street rather than the front door of The Special on East Avenue.

Cheer on Wally Hennessey one night at the harness track.

Breakfast on the porch at the Reading Room. Casual. Try it, you'll like it, I'll treat.

Be kind to our interns. They could be industry leaders someday.

Be careful talking about the good old days while appreciating the good old days and remember, these are the good old days.

Be grateful for one more summer at Saratoga.

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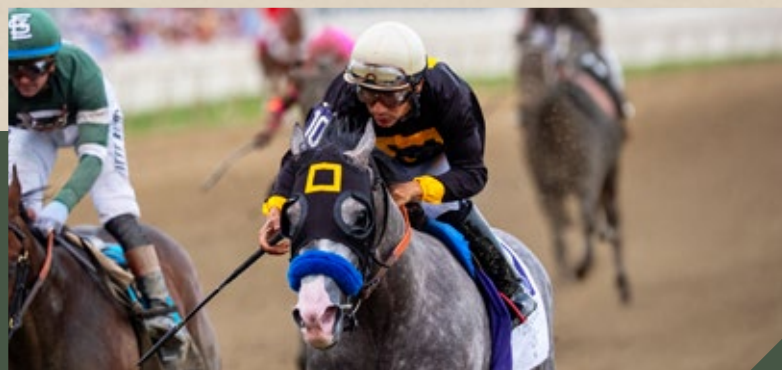
ALWAYS A RUNNER *Kentucky Oaks (G1)*



MAGNITUDE *Stephen Foster S. (G1)*



ENGLISHMAN *Woody Stephens S. (G1)*



NAPOLEON SOLO *Preakness S. (G1)*

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by G1Ws, % of G1Ws, G1SHs, % of G1SHs,
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2026 2YOs sold for up to \$725,000

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“ She continues to **AMAZE ME...**
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Trainer Mark Casse

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TDN Sire List - 2026 Third-Crop Sires YTD 7/17/26



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