

Year 26 • No. 3

Thursday, July 23, 2026

The *Saratoga*

Special

Saratoga's Racing Newspaper since 2001



In Step

*Kathynmarissa (3)
edges Segesta in Diana*

Kinnon LaRose Stable Tour
Entries & Handicapping
Weekend Recaps
Thursday Previews



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(RESOURCE: EQUIBASE.COM, THROUGH 7/1/26)

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Here&There...in Saratoga

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

Names of the Day

Golden Miracle, first race. The 3-year-old filly is by Improbable out of Golden Mystery

Blast Furnace, second race. The 5-year-old gelding is out of Aliquippa, the Pennsylvania town known for its 7 1/2-mile long steel plant complex (and blast furnaces) that operated from 1909 until the 1980s. A 1931 New York Times article called the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation's new blast furnace, capable of producing 1,100 tons of iron a day, the largest in the world.

Norwich, third race. The 5-year-old gelding is by Munnings and named for the English town where sporting artist Sir Alfred Munnings studied.

Question of the Day

Does anybody know C.T. and C.T. (possibly C.J.) and do you know if they're still together? Their initials inside a heart are carved into the cement at the receiving barn. Just wondering...

Pedigree Note of the Day

Juddmonte Farm's 4-year-old colt Salamis, 5-2 in the fourth race, is a half-brother to Grade 1 winner Segesta (second in last Saturday's Diana) and two-time winner Directive (entered in Saturday's Coaching Club American Oaks). They're out of Antonoe, another Grade 1 winner who was third in the 2017 Diana, and all trace back to Juddmonte's purchase of broodmare Lost Virtue in 1986. A 2-year-old full-sister to Salamis, Bridgetown Rose, is breezing at Saratoga.

Worth Repeating

"At least your head wasn't in it."

Fan to The Special's Sean Clancy after his riding helmet fell out of his car Friday afternoon



"Graham still has on his FootJoy golf glove."

Reader Jill Butler after seeing a photo of jockey/golfer Graham Watters in the winner's circle Thursday

"I feel like I'm back at Mikey's."

Assistant Lara Duggan as she picked up stones and reminisced about the old days at Hall of Famer Mikey Smithwick's barn Monday morning

"Too early in the meet to be yawning."

Trainer Todd Pletcher to The Special's Sean Clancy, who was indeed yawning, Monday morning



Sam Decker

Pony Express. Lead ponies and riders make sure the races go through, no matter the weather. This wet and wild experience happened before Saturday's second race.

"The most satisfying thing in the world."

Trainer John Terranova after harrowing his shedrow Monday morning

"It became less fun."

Former Special writer Ryan Jones, about completing 76 miles of the Vermont 100

License Plates of the Day

GRAVE YD, New York. BYANOSE, New York. 22 FLAT, New York.

The Chief

"Bill Boland rode a brilliant race on War Command. He just let him gallop along. He got to the head of the stretch and put his head in the horse's mane and smacked him twice and went in rhythm with him, by then, you know how slow you're going after 2 miles, it looked like his arms were going as slow as his legs, then the very last thing he went 'Yah' and put his head on the wire. We had him slowed down from that long work and those 3-mile gallops. It's a wonder he took it all. When I look back on it, the things that surprise me a lot in my whole life is how I thought up these things, like working them so fast, or so far, what was I thinking about? Like, War Command in the 2-mile race, I always thought a horse needed to do it in the morning if he's going to do it in the afternoon. I galloped him 3 miles one day, 3 miles the next... where did I get the idea to do that?"

— Trainer Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015

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Knightsbridge wins the G3 Monmouth Cup by 10 lengths **running a mighty 122 Beyer**, last matched by Arrogate a decade ago and only bettered since by Flightline.

At the end of his racing career, the son of **Nyquist** will join his sire and close relations **Speaker's Corner** and **Highland Falls** as a Darley stallion.

Darley

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With Kinnon LaRose

Take the wheel, kid.

That's basically what Tom Amoss said to Kinnon LaRose this winter. The 40-year veteran trainer decided to retire and hand his 60-horse stable to his 29-year-old assistant. The former basketball player grabbed the keys and revved the engine.

"I was pretty surprised. I worked for Tom for six years and had told him, 'Tom, I want to train. I want to learn how to be a trainer.' Credit to him, he took me under his wing and gave me a lot of opportunities and I made plenty of mistakes along the way," LaRose said Tuesday morning. "We had talked about it briefly but never in depth before that, he came to to me this winter and said, 'Listen, I'm going to turn everything over to you and transition my way out but at the same time still be around and advise you and help you with anything you need.'"

LaRose unveiled his first runner at Oaklawn Park April 2 as Amoss closed shop with his final runner at Oaklawn April 24. With 16 winners from 87 starts for over \$1 million, LaRose has handled the succession with aplomb. He's got plenty of help from the old guard.

"It's been good. It's certainly a lot to take on but at the same time, I'm super grateful for Tom to trust me and give me the opportunity and for the owners to stick with me and have faith in Tom and I to do this transition together," LaRose said. "I talk to Tom daily, about everything, how the horses are doing, spots where they can run, it's a luxury to have him in my corner. A lot of people go out on their own and are thrown to the wolves. To be able to have his trust and confidence, it's great."

Upbeat and affable, LaRose became a fan with family day trips to Saratoga and harness tracks in Canada from his home in Ogdensburg, N.Y. After a year at Siena College near Albany, he transferred to Sacred Heart University in Connecticut. He played basketball at both



Sam Decker

Kinnon LaRose and Midnight Still talk things over at the barn.

schools and got a degree in sport management and a master's in strategic communications and public relations from Sacred Heart.

LaRose was living in Connecticut, just graduated college and debating on whether to keep playing basketball or try something else. A spot as a guard in a European league somewhere, small. Or a new court altogether, possibly huge.

He emailed Amoss, via the trainer's website. Amoss called the next day.

Life changed.

Now, here LaRose is with 23 horses, including a dozen 2-year-olds, in Amoss' (and Pat Kelly's) old barn, nestled in the trees, in the back corner of the main track and the woods near Yaddo. LaRose has another 36 at Churchill Downs.

"It's been good, it's been a big learning curve, certainly you'll make mistakes but at the same time such is life. You just keep showing up, positive attitude every day, keep putting one foot in front of the other," LaRose said. "I think it's pretty much the same, everybody has their own little spin. I've only worked for Tom, this is obviously his way and I

don't try to change anything too much. Tom has had a lot of success, and I try to emulate that. Maybe a little spin here or there but that's just trying to learn from your horses and doing what's best for them."

LaRose walked his shedrow with The Special's Sean Clancy Tuesday morning.

Stress Relief: Joel Politi's homebred daughter of Not This Time starts the tour with a discerning white-rimmed look from her right eye. She drew off to win her 2-year-old debut by 5 lengths at Churchill Downs June 20.

"We're going to run her here in the Adirondack (Aug. 2). She's out of Littlestitious, a mare Tom used to train. Fingers crossed. Nice filly. I wouldn't say not surprised, we liked her. She got to Keeneland and was working OK, then we started working her out of the gate and I guess that's when the lightbulb turned on, she started to figure out exactly what she was doing. From there on, we really liked her."

Oscar's Hope: Owned by Michael McLoughlin, the 3-year-old son of Twirling Candy has notched four wins (two stakes) from 10 starts for \$418,684.

"Broke his maiden here last year. We ran him in the Maxfield at Churchill in his last start, a salty group, he just didn't match up. We might run him on the grass up here. We'll work him on the grass this week and see. Just try to change things up. He's doing well."

Continued on Page 8

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Stable Tour –

■ Continued from page 6

Got Tough: Highlander Training Center purchased the bay colt for \$165,000 at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July Sale. The son of City Of Light finished third in his debut at Saratoga July 18.

“He’s a big old boy. He came back good. As big as he is, we’ll be excited to give him some more ground. He’s going to run before the end of the meet for sure. Maybe seven eighths. He ran three quarters, he ran well, he was last turning for home and came flying up the rail to grab third late. That’s been him. The longer the better. He’s got a great mind to him. Doesn’t act coltish, doesn’t act studdish. He doesn’t look like he’s 2.”

Midnight Still: Double Down Racing’s Curlin colt finished third in his debut at Churchill Downs June 12 and came back here to give LaRose his first win at Saratoga July 11.

“Broke his maiden here last week and is still learning. He was green coming down the lane. We’ve liked him from day one. They liked him at the training center. He came to us at Keeneland, he was touting his hand so to speak. He ran well at Churchill first time out, just five eighths of a mile, by Curlin, he certainly wants more distance, and he acted like it last Saturday. To get off the duck in your first try. . . credit to Tom, he picked him out of the sale. The owners wanted a Curlin and he just fell into our hands. Probably see him at the end of the meet. I know they have that stake coming up quick, but we are going to wait a little bit and he’ll be running in the Hopeful. That’s the plan. He’ll be a contender. Give him seven eighths, he’ll like that extra ground.”

Vukota: Owned and bred by Roys Mansur, the unraced son of Vekoma breezed



Sam Decker

Vukota looks to make his debut at Saratoga.



Sam Decker

Oscar's Hope (left, with Winel Ramirez) and Intraosseous (Cristian Torres) get ready to train.

four times at Keeneland before a sharp gate drill here July 16.

“He came in a little later than the rest of our 2-year-olds so he might be just a step behind but he’s going to run here in probably mid-August or so. Just worked out of the gate, worked well, :59 and change. Still got some learning to do but it seems like his talent level fits up here. Big old hind end on him. We have a lot of 2-year-olds here. A lot of 2-year-olds.”

It’s Our Time: Remember him? The talking horse last summer won his debut by about 50 green benches over Hero Declared and Renegade. The Double Down runner finished fourth in the Champagne and fifth in an allowance race to complete his juvenile season. The Virginia-bred colt came back to finish sixth in his 3-year-old debut at Churchill Downs June 25.

“Still doing well. Ran at Churchill off the layoff, we had to give him some time off. He ran OK, middle of the pack, probably needed the race. He’ll benefit from that race, and we’ll look at an allowance level condition for him up here. Sometime in early to mid-August. He’s doing well for us. It’s horse racing. Obviously when you break your maiden by 17 3/4s, it’s hard to do that again. But, no, he’s coming back well off the layoff for us and I’m excited for start number two. Hopefully we can bring some of that Saratoga magic back. He trains well, just like he always has, he’s just got to put it back together.”

Virabhadrasana: Owned by Politi, the daughter of Jackie’s Warrior posted 10 breezes at Keeneland before coming to Saratoga. A \$140,000 yearling purchase, she registered a bullet work from the gate here July 16 and could earn Name of the Day when she hits the entry box. Virabhadrasana translates to warrior pose. Try the yoga move and wheel her in the double.

“Vira for short. She’s going to run here early August. We like her quite a bit. She worked with that Vukota and worked well out of the gate. She’s got a good

mind to her, she’s a big, good-looking filly. She’s a big old girl. Tom and his team – Chris Richard, Brett Sumja and Ron Faucheux – are looking at the yearlings. Boots on the ground so to speak, looking at a ton of horses. I was with them at the sale last year.”

Intraosseous: The 2-year-old daughter of Girvin makes her second career start in Saturday’s first race. And if you’re wondering about the name, we’ll save you the trouble, it’s a medical procedure. Dr. Politi, surely, selected that one.

“She ran third first time at Churchill. Hopefully take the next step forward off her debut performance. Her debut was good. She was in the 11 hole, she broke bad, spotted the field 10, 12 lengths and was wide turning for home and came flying to grab third. Hopefully with race experience under her belt, break a little better, put herself into a better spot and improve from that first race. She’s bred to go long and acts like she wants to go long. She was the workmate for Stress Relief for a long time and worked well together. She earned her spot up here at Saratoga when she came flying to be third.”

Energy Flows: Another Politi yearling purchase, the daughter of Constitution has a second and third in two starts.

“Just finished third on Saturday. She ran second first time out at Churchill. As you can see, big, good-looking filly. She’s bred to go long. She ran well, from the two hole, she broke well and got shuffled back to last on that sloppy track. She made a move for home and came flying late but just a little too late. I’m excited to get her some more ground in her future. It’s just the development of them all. Of course, objective A is to win, but at the same time with a lot of these 2-year-olds it’s about developing them and having them learn the right way. Put a good foundation in them and keep building them. We’ve got some good owners who trust us and that’s all you can ask for.”

Doctorate: Purchased for \$350,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Select Sale by MyRacehorse and Highlander Training Center, the 2-year-old son of Uncle Mo posted two breezes at Keeneland and four at Churchill Downs. A cone in front of his stall warns a visitor.

“Sleeping. That’s good. We’re hoping for a mid-to-late-August debut for him. He’ll have his first gate work this week and we’ll keep trying to build up a foundation on him. I like him. He’s a 2-year-old boy but he’s being good right now. He acts like he can run.”

Modo. Amoss’ final winner of 4,278, when she won the Yellow Rose Stakes at Sam Houston in March and LaRose’s first stakes winner when she won the Bluebonnet Stakes at Lone Star Park in April. With six wins and \$352,323, Politi’s 4-year-old filly anchors the Churchill Downs squad.

“Texas-bred filly just won a stake down in Texas. Liam’s Map filly, she’s a multiple stakes winner for Texas breds.”

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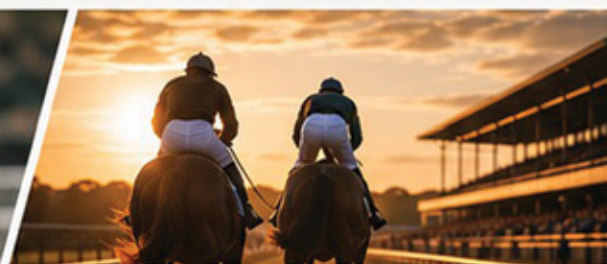
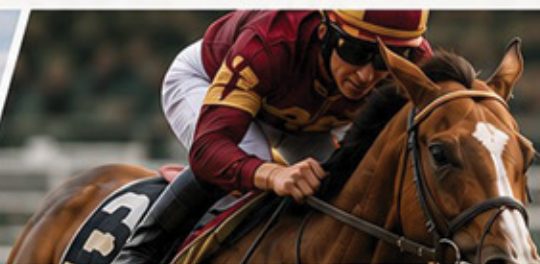
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Doc & Horse

Considerate City carries legacy into turf stakes for connections

BY TOM LAW

Dr. Edward Messina needed a horse. He might not have known it, but his wife Tina knew it.

"I know what's wrong with you," she said back in 2000.

"What the hell are you talking about?" he said before some more back-and-forth with his lifelong love. "All right, come on, what is it?"

"You need to have a horse."

Messina always had horses, but didn't at the time while recovering from two brain tumors that affected balance on his right side. He'd been around horses for decades, working as an advisor, geneticist and nutritionist for such racing legends as Buddy Delp, P. G. Johnson and John Nerud, all while in the midst of a 55-year career as a doctor and professor at New

SUZIE O'CAIN STAKES PREVIEW

York Medical College in Westchester County.

"I was almost three years without a horse," Messina said Tuesday morning sitting with trainer Jimmy Ferraro in a golf cart on the Oklahoma Training Track stable area. "My wife told me I couldn't go to Keeneland to get some unless Edward, my son, went with me. I was very, very unstable in those days. Nowadays I still have problems because the brain tumors have killed my vestibular system on the right side and when I walk I have to maintain concentration to stay vertical. You should see me on some bad days when the weather is tough."

Continued On Page 12

Considerate City is 8-1 on the morning line for today's Suzie O'Cain Stakes.



Sam Decker



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Sir Alfred James Munnings
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 \$150,000 ANDY GUEST, \$100,000 TYSON GILPIN
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*Specialty days may have different post times.
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O'Cain –

■ Continued from page 10

Tina Messina, who passed away just before the 2021 Saratoga meeting at the age of 82, gave her husband the “all-clear” to hit the sales and they went to work.

“I go through the catalog, make a list and come up with 500 mares,” Dr. Messina said. “You know Keeneland. My son was like, ‘This is what you used to do when you were a consultant?’ I told him yes, that I’d walked these grounds back and forth over and over.”

He combed the grounds with a limited budget of \$50,000 and zeroed in on prospects with soundness and consistency while being lenient on black type in the mares’ pedigrees, then wondered if he’d make a purchase.

“Once the horses start going through the ring this one goes for \$100,000, this one goes for \$200,000, this one goes for \$150,000,” Messina said. “I’m thinking, ‘What is this market doing to me?’ I wasn’t focusing on a lot of black type, which I just told you.”

The father and son eventually were down to the last broodmare on their list. Hip 2323, an unraced 3-year-old Green Dancer filly named Consider It Done selling in foal to Runaway Groom. A half-sister to five-time stakes winner Lily’s Affair, who

earned \$543,971 racing primarily in the Mid-Atlantic, Consider It Done met Messina’s criteria.

“I love the horse, I love the pedigree,” Messina told his son. “I’m a little concerned about this, that and the other thing. The legs weren’t good. I could be forgiving about it, that was more maintenance and care than it was genetics. The shelly feet, that was still part of it, but I was willing to try.”

Messina bought Consider It Done for \$42,000 and he was back.

Consider It Done produced Grade 3 winner Fortunate Damsel on that Runaway Groom cover, then two more winners Smokinatthefinish and You Sure, before Grade 2 winner and \$264,025-earner Doremifasollatido. Considerate, a daughter of Leroidesanimaux, was the mare’s eighth foal.

Considerate raced for her breeder Messina and co-owner William “Buck” Butler, compiled a record of 3-5-7 in 27 starts and earned \$173,450 while placing in the 2012 Irish Linnet Stakes at Saratoga.

She’s the dam of 11 foals, led by the multiple stakes-placed \$505,170-earner Sanctuary City, and her Temple City filly Considerate City, who runs in today’s \$200,000 Suzie O’Cain Stakes for New York-bred 3-year-old fillies.

Foaled at Cedar Ridge Farm in

Continued on Page 14



Sam Decker

A winner in both starts, All Of It is favored in the Suzie O’Cain



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O'Cain -

■ Continued from page 12

Pine Plains like her mother and other siblings, Considerate City carries big hopes for Messina in his 69th summer in Saratoga. He can't help but think back to those days scouting mares on budgets of \$2,500 to \$5,000.

"I remember my son saying, 'Dad, you're down to the ugliest horse in your group,'" Messina said. "I just told him to be patient, that in a couple years she's going to be the prettiest mare you've ever saw in your life. Graded stakes winners Fortunate Damsel, Doremifasollatido ... then Sanctuary City, he's multiple stakes placed. We made the whole family. Hopefully Considerate City will be stakes placed or a stakes winner this week."

Considerate City drew the outside in the field of eight entered for the grass in the 1 1/16-mile stakes named in honor of one of the New York Thoroughbred industry's most colorful and charismatic characters over the last few decades. Tyler Gaffali-

one takes the call for the first time on Considerate City, who comes into her stakes return off a third and two seconds in state-bred turf races this year.

Considerate City is the co-fourth choice with New York Special on the morning line at 8-1, behind 8-5 favorite All Of It, 5-2 second choice Celtic Dawn and 5-1 Neshika.

Ferraro hopes Considerate City can follow-up on the success of Sanctuary City, who he trained to five wins and 12 placings in 25 starts. Half of those placings came in stakes, including the Ashley T. Cole and Mohawk in his final two starts.

"She has a lot of similar traits as her full-brother, Sanctuary City," Ferraro said. "In fact, her action is a lot smoother than his."

All Of It brings a 2-for-2 record into the Suzie O'Cain for trainer Miguel Clement and Jump Sucker Stable. The homebred daughter of Mendelssohn and the multiple stakes-winning Take Charge Indy mare Indy's Lady won her debut April 16 at Aqueduct before a victory in an allowance on the turf June 7 at Saratoga.

"She's been training forwardly," Clement said last weekend. "I wouldn't be surprised if she takes another step forward. I'm very excited to see her run. Let's see how the ground will be. ... She had a great work the other day on the turf, being in front. She is doing great. It's up to Mr. Manny Franco to figure it out. Our job is to train and his job is to guide them hopefully to the winner's circle."

The field also includes the 1-2 finishers from last month's Cupecoy's Joy division of the New York Stallion Series in Celtic Dawn and Encantar, along with longshots Coach Of The Year, disqualified from a maiden win July 4; and Cosmic Candy Girl, fourth in the same June 28 allowance race where Considerate City finished second last time out. New York Special (8-1) exits a New York-bred maiden win here June 7. Lady Rose is entered for the main track only.

NOTES: Thursday's fourth race is a salty 1 1/8-mile turf optional claimer that includes Grade 1 winners Spririt Of St Louis and Salamis, 10-time winner Bourbon Day, Grade 2 winner Capture The Flag, and Irish-bred Kentucky arrival Sea Singer.

*Additional reporting
by Joe Clancy.*

Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS..... WINS

Brad Cox	7
Chad Brown	6
Mark Casse	6
George Weaver	5
Mike Maker	5
Steve Asmussen	4
Miguel Clement	4
Horacio De Paz	4
Ilkay Kantarmaci	4
Linda Rice	4
Jeremiah Englehart	3
Bill Mott	3
Todd Pletcher	3

JOCKEYS..... WINS

Jose Ortiz	19
Flavien Prat	19
Manny Franco	14
Ricardo Santana Jr.	9
Tyler Gaffalione	7
Irad Ortiz Jr.	6
John Velazquez	6
Dylan Davis	5
Jaime Rodriguez	5
Junior Alvarado	4
Edgard Zayas	4

Through Wednesday



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

ChurchillDowns.com

September Meet: Sept. 10 - 27

To nominate, call 502.638.3806 or 800.928.3372

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

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

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SARATOGA ENTRIES

Thursday, July 23.

1ST (1:10PM). \$52,000, MCL \$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 7F

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

1	1	.....	That's Amore.....	K. Davis.....	N. Zito.....	20-1
2	2	.....	Key Actress.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	M. Maker.....	5-2
3	3	.....	Bounding Along.....	F. Prat.....	R. Falcone, Jr.....	7-2
4	4	.....	Golden Miracle.....	R. Gutierrez.....	J. Jimenez.....	30-1
5	5	.....	Credit Risk.....	L. Saez.....	L. Bartkowski.....	8-1
6	6	.....	Run On States.....	T. Gaffalione.....	R. Medina.....	5-1
7	7	.....	Noisetomakenoise.....	J. Rodriguez.....	A. Green.....	10-1
8	8	.....	Maizey Blue.....	E. Zayas.....	R. Rodriguez.....	15-1
9	9	.....	Authentic Beauty.....	J. Alvarado.....	K. LaRose.....	3-1

2ND (1:44PM). \$65,000, CLM \$55,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 11/16M (TURF)

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

1	1	.....	Madagascar.....	C. Elliott.....	I. Kantarmaci.....	10-1
2	2	.....	Maximum Promise.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	L. Rice.....	7-2
3	3	.....	Light Fantastic.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	B. Cox.....	6-1
4	4	.....	Tough Critic.....	T. Gaffalione.....	G. Weaver.....	12-1
5	5	.....	Blast Furnace.....	F. Prat.....	M. Maker.....	3-1
6	6	.....	Shangrala Road.....	J. Lezcano.....	L. Rice.....	8-1
7	7	.....	Middle Market.....	J. Alvarado.....	M. Arenas.....	12-1
8	8	.....	Gun Barrel City.....	M. Franco.....	T. Pletcher.....	5-1
9	9	.....	In the Dark.....	J. Rodriguez.....	W. Morey.....	6-1
10	.....	AE-MTO	Who's Your Zaddy.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	A. Green.....	8-1
11	.....	AE-MTO	First Call Bob.....	T. Gaffalione.....	C. Brown.....	7-5

3RD (2:19PM). \$37,000, CLM \$12,500, 4 YO'S & UP, 7F

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

1	1	.....	Normandy Coast.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	J. Sharp.....	4-1
2	2	.....	Riyadh Moon.....	J. Rodriguez.....	O. Barrera III.....	12-1
3	3	.....	Norwich.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	M. Maker.....	5-2
4	4	.....	Dot's Dollar.....	D. Davis.....	J. Sharp.....	12-1
5	5	.....	Quiet Wisdom.....	T. Gaffalione.....	W. Potts.....	6-1
6	6	.....	Fifty Cent Dollars.....	L. Saez.....	S. Asmussen.....	10-1
7	7	.....	Mr Skylight.....	C. Elliott.....	R. Falcone, Jr.....	8-1
8	8	.....	Sheriff Bianco.....	M. Franco.....	L. Rice.....	6-1
9	9	.....	Hey Toby.....	K. Carmouche.....	J. Englehart.....	6-1

4TH (2:54PM). \$130,000, AOC \$110,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 11/8M (INNER TURF)

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

1	1	.....	Britain's Kitten.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	A. Rice.....	6-1
2	2	.....	Spirit of St Louis.....	M. Franco.....	C. Brown.....	2-1
3	3	.....	Bourbon Day.....	J. Lezcano.....	L. Rice.....	8-1
4	4	.....	Capture the Flag.....	J. Velazquez.....	T. Pletcher.....	8-1
5	5	.....	Salamis.....	F. Prat.....	C. Brown.....	5-2
6	6	.....	Sea Singer (IRE).....	L. Saez.....	M. McCarthy.....	10-1
7	7	.....	Sand Pipes.....	K. Carmouche.....	L. Schultz.....	4-1
8	.....	AE-MTO	Bramito.....	Rider TBA.....	S. Schauer.....	3-1
9	.....	AE-MTO	Vibe.....	Rider TBA.....	T. Pletcher.....	2-1
10	.....	AE-MTO	Le Gris.....	F. Prat.....	R. Rodriguez.....	10-1
11	.....	AE-MTO	Otello.....	Rider TBA.....	I. Kantarmaci.....	6-1

5TH (3:29PM). \$90,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	1	.....	Cody's Approval.....	J. Rodriguez.....	M. Trombetta.....	9-2
2	2	.....	Quoted.....	F. Prat.....	M. Casse.....	6-1
3	3	.....	Split the Blanket.....	J. Alvarado.....	M. Giddings.....	6-1
4	4	.....	Cadillac Mary.....	D. Davis.....	J. Englehart.....	7-2
5	5	.....	By Grace.....	T. Gaffalione.....	J. Sharp.....	12-1
6	6	.....	All Show.....	J. Velazquez.....	A. Green.....	10-1
7	7	.....	Miss Money Pants.....	M. Franco.....	R. Rodriguez.....	20-1
8	8	.....	Early and Often.....	J. Lezcano.....	M. Hennig.....	15-1
9	9	.....	Side Quest.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	W. Walden.....	3-1
10	10	.....	Saint Dymphna.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	D. Heath.....	15-1
11	.....	AE	Night Sky.....	E. Zayas.....	J. Delgado.....	10-1
12	.....	AE-MTO	Instant Stardom.....	Rider TBA.....	R. Rodriguez.....	12-1

6TH (4:04PM). \$43,000, CLM \$20,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

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

1	1	.....	Ancient World.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	J. Sharp.....	8-5
2	2	.....	Liberty Rising.....	D. Davis.....	P. Quick.....	6-1
3	3	.....	Catch a Tiger.....	K. Davis.....	N. Zito.....	15-1
4	4	.....	Nantz.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	M. Kantarmaci.....	8-1
5	5	.....	Three Little Birds.....	C. Elliott.....	C. Baker.....	12-1
6	6	.....	Otto Nipoti.....	K. Coa.....	M. Ferraro.....	15-1
7	7	.....	Epitaph.....	E. Zayas.....	W. Potts.....	12-1
8	8	.....	Executive Order.....	J. Rodriguez.....	L. Bartkowski.....	12-1
9	9	.....	Schlomo.....	J. Lezcano.....	W. Mott.....	5-1
10	10	.....	Tapwrits Temper.....	M. Franco.....	W. Potts.....	8-1

7TH (4:39PM). \$200,000, STK - THE SUZIE O'CAIN, 3 YO, F , 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double, Pic 3

1	1	.....	New York Special.....	E. Zayas.....	M. Casse.....	8-1
2	2	.....	Coach of the Year.....	J. Lezcano.....	G. Weaver.....	15-1
3	3	.....	All of It.....	M. Franco.....	M. Clement.....	8-5
4	4	.....	Encantar.....	D. Davis.....	D. Donk.....	10-1
5	5	.....	Celtic Dawn.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	C. Martin.....	5-2
6	6	.....	Neshika.....	F. Prat.....	M. Maker.....	5-1
7	7	.....	Cosmic Candy Girl.....	C. Elliott.....	J. Ryerson.....	15-1
8	8	.....	Considerate City.....	T. Gaffalione.....	J. Ferraro.....	8-1
9	.....	AE-MTO	Lady Rose.....	J. Lezcano.....	L. Rice.....	9-5

8TH (5:14PM). \$130,000, AOC \$110,000, 4 YO'S & UP, F & M , 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	1	.....	Munnings Express.....	J. Lezcano.....	L. Rice.....	7-2
2	2	.....	Senza Parole.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	C. Brown.....	5-2
3	3	.....	Autumn Evening.....	J. Velazquez.....	J. D'Angelo.....	10-1
4	4	.....	Beauty Reigns.....	J. Alvarado.....	W. Mott.....	7-2
5	5	.....	Dazzling Move.....	T. Gaffalione.....	S. Joseph, Jr.....	10-1
6	6	.....	Queen's Martini.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	R. Moquett.....	8-1
7	7	.....	Reputation.....	F. Prat.....	G. Weaver.....	6-1
8	8	.....	Beyond Belief.....	L. Saez.....	K. Breen.....	8-1

9TH (5:49PM). \$56,000, MCL \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	1	.....	Blue Authenticity.....	L. Saez.....	B. Brown.....	9-2
2	2	.....	Bank On Bebe.....	K. Davis.....	R. Davis.....	30-1
3	3	.....	Midtown Mischief.....	D. Davis.....	M. Maker.....	7-2
4	4	.....	Avery's Wonderland.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Dutrow, Jr.....	5-1
5	5	.....	Dancing Miracle.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	F. Abreu.....	20-1
6	6	.....	You Know Better.....	F. Prat.....	J. Abreu.....	8-1
7	7	.....	Garden of Grace.....	J. Rodriguez.....	W. Potts.....	4-1
8	8	.....	Stella Fortuna.....	R. Gutierrez.....	M. Miceli.....	15-1
9	9	.....	Mischievous Jo.....	T. Gaffalione.....	D. Schettino.....	12-1
10	10	.....	Anna Brocknana.....	M. Franco.....	G. Weaver.....	6-1
11	11	.....	Spirit Forward.....	C. Elliott.....	D. Donk.....	20-1
12		AE-MTO	Jayme's Turn.....	M. Franco.....	L. Rice.....	9-2
13		AE-MTO	My Devine One.....	A. Murgia.....	I. Kantarmaci.....	15-1

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The
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Race	 Tom Law	 John Shapazian	 Charles Bedard	 Rob Whitlock	 Jessica Paquette
1	Bounding Along Authentic Beauty Key Actress	Bounding Along Authentic Beauty Credit Risk	Bounding Along Authentic Beauty Run On States	Key Actress Authentic Beauty Run On States	Key Actress Bounding Along Authentic Beauty
2	Maximum Promise Light Fantastic Gun Barrel City	Blast Furnace Light Fantastic Madagascar	First Call Bob In The Dark Blast Furnace	Light Fantastic Maximum Promise Tough Critic	Madagascar Maximum Promise Light Fantastic
3	Hey Toby Quiet Wisdom Norwich	Norwich Normandy Coast Hey Toby	Mr Skylight Hey Toby Sheriff Bianco	Hey Toby Norwich Normandy Coast	Normandy Coast Norwich Sheriff Bianco
4	Vibe Salamis Spirit Of St Louis	Spirit Of St Louis Salamis Bourbon Day	Vibe Sand Pipes Salamis	Sea Singer Salamis Spirit Of St Louis	Sand Pipes Capture The Flag Salamis
5	Quoted Cadillac Mary Cody's Approval	Side Quest Cody's Approval Split The Blanket	Cadillac Mary Side Quest Split The Blanket	Side Quest Cadillac Mary Split The Blanket	Quoted By Grace Side Quest
6	Schlomo Nantz Tapwrits Temper	Ancient World Schlomo Catch A Tiger	Schlomo Epitaph Ancient World	Ancient World Three Little Birds Executive Order	Catch A Tiger Nantz Schlomo
7	All Of It Considerate City Celtic Dawn	All Of It Celtic Dawn Neshika	Lady Rose All Of It Considerate City	Neshika Celtic Dawn Encantar	Encantar Coach Of The Year All Of It
8	Senza Parole Queen's Martini Reputation	Senza Parole Munnings Express Autumn Evening	Munnings Express Reputation Dazzling Move	Beauty Reigns Senza Parole Queens Martini	Reputation Munnings Express Autumn Evening
9	Midtown Mischief Blue Authenticity Anna Brocknana	Midtown Mischief Anna Brocknana Dancing Miracle	Garden Of Grace Midtown Mischief Anna Brocknana	Avery's Wonderland Dancing Miracle Blue Authenticity	Anna Brocknana Spirit Forward Midtown Mischief
2026 Records	27/110, -\$48.86	22/111, -\$95.74	23/111, -\$64.84	23/110, -\$56.16	19/110, -\$69.32

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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- Won G2 Pilgrim Stakes
- Won With Anticipation Stakes
- 3rd G3 Transylvania Stakes
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Spa Success

Scottish Lassie puts strong mark to test in second start of 2026

BY DARBY O'BRIEN

Like many tried and true racetrackers, Scottish Lassie has a favorite track.

"She really does love Saratoga," said trainer Jorge Abreu Wednesday morning, binoculars in hand while some of his string galloped on the Oklahoma Training Track. "For some reason, she does."

Scottish Lassie debuted at Saratoga Race Course on closing weekend in 2024, finishing a game third before breaking her maiden by 9 lengths in the Grade 1 Frizette on her second favorite track, Aqueduct, a month later. She closed her campaign with a fourth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies before a lengthy winter vacation. She started her 3-year-old season with back-to-back thirds, including the Grade 1 Acorn at Saratoga.

The best came next.

The daughter of McKinzie put on one of 2025's most memorable performances in the Grade 1 Coaching Club American Oaks in July. She took the lead early and never looked back, romping by 15 1/2 lengths and besting 2024 champion 2-year-old filly Immersive.

So, yes, it's fair to say Scottish Lassie is a fan of Saratoga.

"That was so exciting," Abreu said. "We always knew she was a

FRIDAY STAKES PREVIEWS

good horse. She really proved it there. She had a little hiccup after, early on before the Breeders' Cup. But we gave her time and she's back. She's coming here at 100 percent."

Owned by Sportsmen Stable, Parkland Thoroughbreds, Photos Finish, Corms Racing and Abreu, Scottish Lassie makes her second start of 2026 in Friday's Grade 2 Shuvee. She sits at 9-5 as the morning-line favorite in a field of seven fillies and mares. She prepped for the Shuvee with an 8 1/2-length win in a 7-furlong optional claimer during last month's Belmont Stakes Racing Festival at Saratoga.

"It was a good starting point for her," said Abreu, "She came out of the race well. She looked like she was a little tired the first few days and then she got over it. She's been training very, very well."

Don Alberto Stable's Snowyte, the 6-1 fourth choice, debuted in the same maiden race as Scottish Lassie in 2024 and was second before finishing second again in Scottish Lassie's Frizette win.

"Scottish Lassie is obviously good. She's a Grade 1 winner," said trainer Danny Gargan. "She beat us. But she's [Snowyte] tough."



Sam Decker

Scottish Lassie looks for another Saratoga win in Friday's Shuvee.

The daughter of Good Magic finished 2024 as a maiden with an eighth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies.

She returned in April at Keeneland, finishing second in a 7-furlong maiden, and followed with a fourth going 1 mile over a sloppy track at Aqueduct. She broke her maiden at the end of August 2025 by 5 1/4 lengths at Monmouth Park before another second at Keeneland in October. Her last win came in her 2026 debut in an optional claimer at Gulfstream Park in February, where she dominated by 11 1/4 lengths. She finished second to Scalable last out in the Top Flight Stakes in late March at Aqueduct.

"She got a little sick on us after the race in New York," said Gargan. "So we shipped her back to Keeneland. We were going to run her Derby Week but she got sick on us. It just took us a little while to get her back, but she's doing really well and we expect her to run well."

Friday's Shuvee will require the homebred to take a step forward, but her connections are confident. Luis Saez rides from the rail.

"Scottish Lassie will probably be on the lead. There are a couple of speed horses but we'll be up in the mix of it," Gargan said. "Hopefully we can get a good trip and we can get a piece of it."

Chad Brown entered Aeolian and Fully Subscribed. Klaravich Stable's Fully Subscribed enters off a second

to Whitney hopeful Nitrogen, finishing in a dead-heat with Shuvee runner Bless The Broken. The daughter of Tiz The Law broke her maiden on debut at 2 and tallied the Grade 2 Mother Goose and Grade 3 Comely at 3. She finished second to Shred The Gnarl in the Grade 1 La Troienne May 1 at Churchill Downs. Fully Subscribed breaks from post 3 with Flavien Prat aboard.

Aeolian comes off a win by disqualification in an optional claimer June 27 at Aqueduct after breaking her maiden in her third attempt in late November at Churchill Downs last year. Dylan Davis rides from post 2.

Bless The Broken, Eunomia and Valtellina complete the field.

- A Little At First brings lofty expectations into his stakes debut in Friday's \$200,000 Rick Violette for New York-bred 3-year-olds.

The son of War Dancer is a full brother to New York-bred championship nominee Twenty Six Black, who dominated open company in the Harvey Pack Stakes July 5 at Saratoga.

"He's the complete opposite though," said Horacio De Paz, who trains both for owner/breeder Roger Cimbora Jr. "He's small and very aggressive in his morning gallops. And obviously he likes to route versus Twenty Six Black who's comfortable

Continued On Page 22

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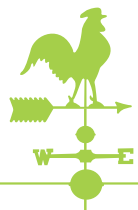
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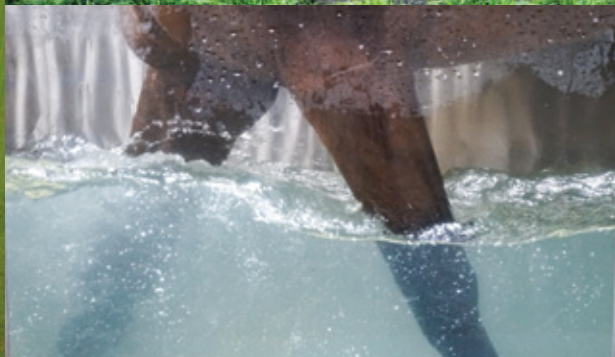
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Previews –

■ Continued from page 20

sprinting. The way he works and the way he's built looks like he's more of a distance horse. Twenty Six Black is very stout, strong. And the way [A Little At First] was breezing, we figured that going long would be better."

Cimbora's working relationship with De Paz began when he sent A Little At First's and Twenty Six Black's older half-sister Can't Fool Me to the trainer in 2021.

"He reached out and said he had a New York-bred he wanted to send me," De Paz said. "That ended up being Can't Fool Me, and she was tough. She had a mind of her own since she was a baby. She was tough. From there he sent me Twenty Six Black and it just kept building. He

kept breeding and they just kept coming. ... I even have the 2-year-old, their brother [Raise The Roof] and a nephew [You Crazy Diamond] as well. The whole family is here."

While he isn't too much like his brother, A Little At First definitely reminds De Paz of other members of the family.

"He's more like his sister [Can't Fool Me]," he said, "She was aggressive. She would run longer. Other than that they're all competitive and they all seem to get better and better with age."

A Little At First tries to replicate his older brother's stakes success in the Rick Violette going 1 1/16 miles on the turf.

"He's doing really good," De Paz said. "We had him entered in open company for opening weekend. With the heat and stuff we decided not to run him. We drew an outside post, kind of a tough spot as well, but we had this as a second spot anyway so we figured just scratch and go here. He's been doing really well since."

A Little At First debuted at Saratoga at the end of last summer, finishing fifth in a 5 1/2-furlong turf maiden. He finished fifth again next out going 1 1/16 miles at Aqueduct before breaking his maiden in his third start.

"He's had some unfortunate starts," De Paz said. "When we ran him at Aqueduct, he got squeezed really bad at the gate. That was his second start, so he didn't really get to run. And then recently when he won, he got a good clean break and was able to put himself forward and sit off the pace and was able to win."

A Little At First comes off a win June 3 at Saratoga and De Paz is confident he'll take a step forward Friday.

"[The race] is kind of open," he said. "Mark Casse's horse [Voodoo Doll] is very nice, but you could plead a case for everybody. It all depends on the trip and how the track is playing. But he's doing very well, so we'll see."

D. J. Stables' Voodoo Doll is unbeaten in three starts and steps into stakes company for the first time for Casse. Edgard Zayas rides the son of Vekoma from post 2.

Stakes winner Spirit Of New York, Newlyn, Manor Park, Chummers and Caroline St. Beat are entered in the body of the race, while Sunday Boy, Minorinconvenience and Max Money are entered for the main track only.



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Four Top

Kathynmarissa bests three stablemates in Grade 1 turf stakes

BY SEAN CLANCY

Afternoon rain softening the sunbaked turf... stablemates, one inside, two outside...pace pressure stalling from two stalls over...now, a lone leader, but stretching a furlong...

Riding the favorite Kathynmarissa for Diana dynamo Chad Brown, Jose Ortiz computed and compartmentalized all that in the first furlong of the Grade 1 Diana Stakes at Saratoga Race Course Saturday.

"If Five G would have broke, everything would have fallen into my lap," Ortiz said. "When Five G didn't break, then I had to go to Plan B and leave Segesta by herself but maybe she doesn't get the distance. I knew Segesta would have an easy lead."

The two-time Grade 1 winner sauntered through the first quarter mile in :23.92 as Ortiz slid Kathynmarissa into sixth, behind Manny Franco on Brown-trained Portfolio Duration.

"Once I decided to take that position behind Manny, I had to stick with that," Ortiz said. "Just give her one run and I tried to do that."

Five spots and 4 lengths behind Segesta after a half mile in :50.42, Ortiz relied on the weather impact and hoped for the best.

"I knew with the rain, the turf was going to be a little bit softer than it has been the whole meet. I knew that could help me in the end," Ortiz said. "We know Segesta is very good at a mile, a mile and an eighth probably is going to stretch her a little bit so I just rode it that way."

Like a security guard at an all-night grocery, Ortiz circled in surveillance. Segesta led Ozara and British invader Cathedral through three quarters in 1:15.75. Portfolio Duration and Dynamic Pricing slotted in behind them. Kathynmarissa stalked those two, ahead of only the out-of-touch Five G, as Ortiz held, patient and plotting.

"I had to ride the race very



Dave Harmon

Kathynmarissa (3) fights past Segesta late in Saturday's Grade 1 Diana.

carefully and time my move at the right time. In the second turn, I couldn't try to be a hero inside and I was very aware of that going into the first turn," Ortiz said. "I knew the pace was slow, so I knew I had to start pedaling early from the half-mile. It was a good trip, a little wide on the second turn because the horse inside was pushing me out but other than that it was good."

Real good.

Into and around the second turn, Ortiz aimed Kathynmarissa in the clear outside and then pounced while getting knocked farther out by Dy-

namic Pricing passing the quarter pole. Straightening, Segesta led narrowly over the stacked Cathedral, Ozara and Portfolio Duration while Kathynmarissa began to unfurl from the middle of the inner turf. She rolled past the dispersing trio and collared Segesta six strides before the wire as Ortiz stood tall in his irons and glanced at the photographers in the hedge.

Owned by Michael Caruso and Michael Dubb, the 5-year-old daughter of American Pharoah won by a half-length after 1:51.42 over the yielding turf. Portfolio Duration held on for third. Bred by Don Alberto Corporation, Kathynmarissa collected her first Grade 1 stakes and improved her record to six wins from 14 starts for \$1,940,745.

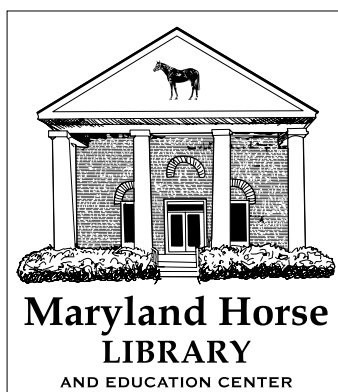
Purchased for \$200,000 as a yearling at Keeneland September, Kathynmarissa made her first 10 starts for trainer Rick Dutrow. She broke her maiden at Santa Anita in April 2024 and added an allowance race in her next start. Into stakes from there, she finished third in the Tepin, second in the Saratoga Oaks and won the Dueling Grounds Oaks. Sent back to California, she was second after an audacious middle



Sam Decker

Segesta (right) leads early as winner Kathynmarissa (3) settles while striding high.

Continued on Page 26



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Diana -

■ Continued from page 24

move in the Grade 1 American Oaks in December 2025 before freshening and finishing fifth in the Santa Ana at Santa Anita in March 2025. Dubb made a change after that, transferring her to Brown's East Coast division.

"I wasn't happy because she wasn't with a trainer out there. We wanted her with a trainer. That's why I moved her from Rick and Rick was OK with it. Rick roots for me. He has horses for me," Dubb said from the winner's circle. "But, yeah, it was a tough. Especially Rick because he's a talented trainer in his own right. But if you were having brain surgery, what would you do? You'd want the absolute best. There's no disputing that Chad is the master. That's all I can tell you. I gave her to Chad and she's done everything right."

In her first start for Brown, Kathynmarissa dominated an allowance race going 1 1/8 miles on the turf at Saratoga last summer and didn't turn up again until the Grade 3 Modesty at Churchill Downs in May.

She won that before finishing a tough-luck third in the Grade 1 New York at Saratoga June 5. After that, it was straight to the Diana.

"Immeasurable. I've won big races in Saratoga before, but I never imagined I could win the Diana," Dubb said. "I'm just blown away by it. Wow. I never thought I would have a horse good enough to win the Diana. It's a dream race. I've won some big races here in Saratoga, but the Diana is in a league of its own."

For Brown, it's a league of his own as he tacked on his fifth straight Diana win and 11th overall.

"We started off the meet a little bit slow but when there's some give in the ground and my horses can get their toe in it, they really accelerate. It's just the way I train, especially high-quality turf horses, that's what they really want to do. Even on firm courses," Brown said. "Listen, to have a one, two, three in this race, a race we've had a lot of success in... to have four fillies in this race, three of them ran really well, it takes a lot of different tasks daily, executed perfectly to bring horses into the Diana this way."



Sam Decker

Jose Ortiz celebrates the Grade 1 win aboard Kathynmarissa.



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Get Low

Speedy filly Cy Fair dominates Spa return

BY TOM LAW

“How about Cy Fair?”

Everywhere you turned Saturday – even into Sunday – at Saratoga Race Course, that’s all anyone wanted to talk about. Rightfully so after the Not This Time filly ripped apart the field in the Grade 3 Coronation Cup Stakes, her fifth win in seven starts, third graded stakes and second victory at Saratoga. Even Reagan Swinbank, co-owner of the filly with Medallion Racing who doesn’t miss a race, and her trainer George Weaver came away in awe.

“Her fight, her heart, even when she’s not 100 percent, she just loves to be a racehorse,” Swinbank said walking past the late-afternoon revelers on The Porch and on his way to the Carmen Barrera Room



Sam Decker

Cy Fair kicks away from Sapphire Beach late in Saturday's Coronation Cup Stakes.

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Coronation Cup -

■ Continued from page 28

for the champagne toast. "George had a great line, he liked what Maggie (Wolfendale) said after her maiden win last July 10. She said, 'I love how that filly got low ... to the wire.' George agreed and said, 'That's what the good ones do, they get low for the dough.'

"To win another one up here, with her, it's the best. She loves to race, she loves to work and she loves to win."

Weaver agreed and put Cy Fair up with the top of the tops.

"All things equal, she's the best 3-year-old filly turf sprinter that's out there," he said. "I know it isn't a big category in the States, but she's a pretty special horse. We're very proud of her. ...

"Look, I decided I wanted to be a horse trainer a long time ago, and this type of horse is the reason why. We love all of our horses. I mean, I love winning maiden 10s, claiming races, doesn't matter, but these good horses, they put a pep in your step. She has been really good to us; we won a Breeders' Cup with her. She's a special filly for all of us."

Cy Fair returned to the races for the first time since winning the Grade 3 Mamzelle April 30 at Churchill Downs. She also returned to Saratoga for the first time since that hyped maiden win last July before a close second to Snow Face Princess in the \$145,000 Bolton Landing Stakes.

Cy Fair didn't lose again at 2, taking the Algonquin Stakes at Woodbine and the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint at Del Mar - both against males - to stake a good claim at being North America's champion 2-year-old filly. The vote didn't go her way, but it didn't deter her connections from aiming high in 2026.

Weaver penciled in a trip to Royal Ascot - where he won the Group 2 Queen Mary Stakes with Crimson Advocate in 2023 - for Cy Fair. He used the Grade 3 Limestone Stakes, where Cy Fair finished a close third behind Slay The Day and Sapphire Beach April 10, and

Continued on Page 30



Sam Decker

Cy Fair exits the winner's circle with another stakes win.



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Coronation Cup -

■ Continued from page 29

the Mamzelle as the primary preps to get Cy Fair to the Group 1 King Charles III Stakes.

Cy Fair breezed twice on Saratoga's Oklahoma Training Track – once on the dirt and once on the turf – between the Mamzelle and when she would ship to England.

The works were good, but not good enough in Weaver's opinion to make the journey. He pulled the plug in early June, regrouped and set his sights down the road.

"We had a little blip on our radar," he said. "I really wasn't happy with the way she was training, so we just didn't go. It's a long way to go. We didn't ship her, and this was the next race on the calendar to try to get her back on track. She showed us today she's still at the top of her game. We're looking forward to what we can do with her."

Cy Fair did anything she wanted in the 5 1/2-furlong Coronation Cup.

The 1-2 favorite in the field of five – reduced by the scratch of Quiet Street, who found a softer spot and won Monday's Lady Erie Stakes at Presque Isle Downs – Cy Fair and John Velazquez broke on top before conceding the early lead to 2-1 second choice Sapphire Beach.

Sapphire Beach held a length lead on Cy Fair,



The Cy Fair team soaks up the spoils in the winner's circle.

Sam Decker

down on the inside, with Cadenza just a head back through the opening quarter over the yielding turf in :22.54. Sapphire Beach and Jose Ortiz slid down to the inside just enough to force Velazquez to tap the brakes as Cadenza moved into second and Cy Fair slid back to third.

Sapphire Beach continued to lead through the half in :45.01, tried to spurt away in the upper stretch while holding her spot on the rail. Velazquez moved Cy Fair off the inside and took aim at Sapphire Beach, still up a half-length at the eighth pole. Cy Fair stormed past Sapphire Beach outside the

sixteenth pole and drew off to win by 2 1/2 lengths in 1:01.83. Cadenza finished 4 3/4 lengths back in third with Hark Theangelssing fourth and Snow Face Princess fifth.

"That was the way I planned it," Velazquez said. "I was going to follow (Sapphire Beach), who was the speed of the race and who was the one to beat. I was hoping that they had enough speed to open up a little bit in the stretch, so I would be able to come out and win the race, and that's what she did. Good horses do that."

Weaver and Swinbank spent \$185,000 to buy the bay filly, bred in Kentucky by Marc Keller, as a 2-year-old at OBS April last year. Medallion Racing, Joey Platts and Mark Stanton joined the ownership roster after the debut win. The Coronation Cup win pushed Cy Fair's career earnings to seven figures, \$1,016,005 with five wins, a second and a third in seven starts.

Each of Cy Fair's prior starts came on firm turf. Heavy rain showers started just before Saturday's first race and continued through the second and onto the third. The rain did enough to force track management to move three other turf races to the dirt – the Grade 1 Diana stayed on – and enough to give Weaver some concern.

"I never like it. I don't know how they're going to handle it, when there's some give in the ground," Weaver said. "... we just bring her over there and hope for the best."

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No Change

My First Dinah dodges inquiry, scores for owner/trainer Jones

The inquiry sign flashed on and everyone in the winner's circle paused.

Trainer Eduardo Jones stepped out onto the track, hands on his hips, watching the replay again and again. Jockey Reylu Gutierrez stood alongside, the pair leaning against the rail as My First Dinah and Combat Move walked in circles in front of them and the diehards sticking around on the apron for Saturday's finale at Saratoga Race Course.

After a few minutes, track announcer Frank Mirahmadi's voice boomed.

"No change."

Jones and Gutierrez exploded, the former hefting the jockey into his arms and yanking him off his feet as

SATURDAY RACING RECAP

they hugged, jumped, laughed and hugged some more.

"It was a good win," Jones said after the celebration. "Saratoga is a good place to win."

My First Dinah gave her owner/trainer and jockey that win in her fifth start in the 5 1/2-furlong off-the-turf maiden for New York-bred fillies and mares. The 14-1 shot broke from the rail and raced fifth early as Lake Ariel and Galway Gurl battled for the lead in splits of :22.08 and :45.63. My First Dinah needed to make up 4 lengths at the top of the stretch as the frontrunners continued to battle.



Dave Harmon

My First Dinah wins Saturday's 12th race for owner/trainer Eduardo Jones.

She drifted out and in, bumped with runner-up Combat Move and finished a length in front. Jose Ortiz, aboard Combat Move, claimed foul and stewards reviewed the stretch run before keeping the result.

"This was the plan," said Jones, his hands still caked with mud from hug-

ging the filly on the way to the winner's circle. "Enter her for the grass and just pray for rain. The prayers worked. Everything worked out perfectly. I'm so excited. I couldn't be happier."

- Darby O'Brien

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Saturday -

■ Continued from page 31

• Nobody was happier than Mark Hennig when the rain arrived Saturday afternoon.

Well, except maybe for his mud-loving trainee Solo Jim.

"We knew he likes the mud," said Hennig, hurrying from the winner's circle to the shelter of the grandstand after the third, a 7-furlong starter allowance, "But he showed us last time that he's just a better horse this year than he was last year. We gave him the time off that he needed and he's doing great."

A homebred for Seidman Stable, Solo Jim won for the second time in three starts this year. The 3-year-old New York-bred Solomini gelding settled toward the back early, allowing favored The Toy Cannon to set the pace. Solo Jim moved steadily up the inside along the backstretch, went wide approaching the stretch and kicked past the leaders in the stretch. He topped Come Full Circle to win by 3 1/4 lengths under Junior Alvarado.

"We got a nice pace," Hennig said.

"We thought if it ran like it looked on paper we'd get a lively pace to run at. The only concern I had was at the quarter pole. (Come Full Circle) was the horse to beat. He was moving through on the inside and we were kind of getting stuck with the wider trip. I was hoping he didn't get through too easily, which he kind of did, but we were just able to outfinish him."

Solo Jim won for the second time (to go with two seconds) in eight starts and earned \$38,500 to pad his bankroll to \$95,960.

- Darby O'Brien

• Saturday proved to be a good day for first-time starters from Brad Cox's barn.

Rain had just begun to sprinkle as the group of six 2-year-old colts made their way onto the main track for the opener, the thunder and lightning having the decency to wait until the field was already rolling down the backside in the 6-furlong maiden. The drizzle became a downpour, the thunder crescendoed and The Good Life ran to victory.

"He came up here at the beginning of the week and has had a good



Sam Decker

Solo Jim splashes to victory in Saturday's third race for trainer Mark Hennig.

week," said Blake Cox, assistant to his father. "He was very professional as soon as he walked off the trailer and acted like a good horse should act."

Owned by his breeder WinStar Farm, plus First Go Racing and CHC Inc., the son of leading freshman sire Life Is Good rocketed out of the gate and claimed a 1-length lead over longshot Johnny Hockey. Favored Greenwell moved up on the outside while second choice Powerline hit traffic. The Good Life maintained a comfortable 3-length lead to the half in :45.69, widened that margin to 4 1/2 in midstretch and won by 3 1/2. Powerline, a \$1.8 million Fasig-Tipton Saratoga yearling by Flightline, gained late after a troubled trip to finish second with Got Tough third.

"He was good in the paddock, broke well, and Manny [Franco] took advantage of it and kept going," Blake Cox said. "We were very happy with the performance and it looked like there were some good colts in there, one first-timer that was very hyped up and one that had already had a run. It means a lot to outrun those horses and it was a good effort."

Effusive, the first filly and second foal out of two-time champion and Monomoy Girl, gave the barn its second juvenile winner of the day in the seventh.

Monomoy Girl gave Brad Cox his first Grade 1 win when she took the 2018 Ashland Stakes at Keeneland before going on to score in the Kentucky Oaks, Acorn, Coaching Club American Oaks and Breeders' Cup Distaff to cap off her first Eclipse Award-win-

ning season. She didn't race at 4 but returned as a 5-year-old and won the Grade 2 Ruffian, Grade 1 La Troienne and a second Breeders' Cup Distaff en route to being named champion older dirt female.

"Effusive is a class act," said Blake Cox. "She acts a lot like her mom, she's very easy to be around, is easy on herself. Obviously, her mom was our first Grade 1 winner, first Oaks winner, first Breeders' Cup winner, so she means a lot to us. It's nice to have her in the barn."

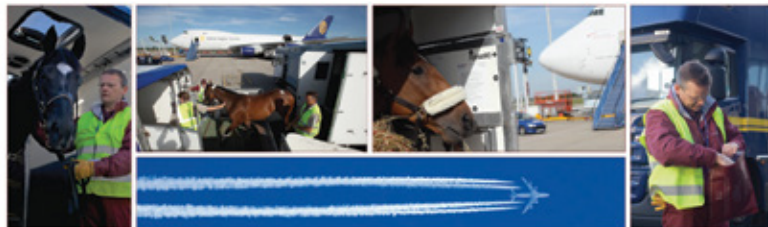
Effusive, a daughter of Into Mischief bred and owned by Spendthrift Farm, settled into fifth early as Cruising Along set the pace in :22.22 and :45.61 over the sloppy and sealed track. Effusive and Franco made steady progress along the inside, closing the gap on the frontrunner while taking kickback. Key Colony Beach came inside and bumped hard with Effusive just inside the three-sixteenths pole. Effusive bounced back and overtook Cruising Again at the sixteenth pole to win by 1 1/4 lengths over Key Colony Beach in 1:11.69.

"It's not an easy thing to do, breaking your maiden from the 1 hole on a sloppy track and take dirt," said Cox. "She was extremely impressive. Hopefully she can take a step forward and be on the same route [as Monomoy Girl]. That horse came over on her and hit her pretty good. It was good to see her continue to run on after that and kind of look like her mom. She didn't need any excuses and just went out there and got it done."

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Saturday -

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Effusive's score capped a three-win day for Cox, who also won the sixth, a 6-furlong allowance on the main track, with Tab At Zanzibar. The son of Candy Ride led throughout to triumph by a half-length to improve to 2-for-3 for Robert LaPenta and Madaket Stable.

- Shea Brown and Darby O'Brien

• Jeremiah Englehart joked that he "almost tore my Achilles" hitting the running man dance in the winner's circle after his Legacy Racing's Annexperience took the 10th.

The 4-year-old Instagrاند gelding fared better, breaking clean and going to the front under Kendrick Carmouche. Annexperience wasn't pressed, clicking off splits of :24.28 and :47.45 in the 1-mile state-bred optional claimer. King's Leap challenged at the top of the stretch but Annexperience turned him away to win by 3 1/2 lengths. Annexperience improved to 2-for-2 on the dirt after making eight other starts on the grass.

"He ran a really big race two races ago, it might have taken a little bit out of him running as fast as he did," Englehart said. "Came back and we ran him on the turf. I actually still thought he was going to run really well last time. I was kind of, not disappointed in the effort, but I was like, 'Well maybe we give him a shot on the dirt and see how it goes.'"

That shot paid, Annexperience improved to 3-for-10 and boosted his bankroll to \$233,900. He cost Legacy Racing \$165,000 at the 2024 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale.

"I haven't run him on a fast track yet, but I'm pretty sure that we'll keep him on the dirt now for a while and see how he does," Englehart said. "He's just a really neat horse. He's quirky in a way, but when he gets his way, he's very tough."

- Shea Brown

• Most folks on the backstretch knew the late trainer Leon Blusiewicz, a true and character by most any description who died in 2023.

"Everybody on the backstretch kind of knows Leon," said trainer Mel Giddings after she saddled name-sake Leon Blue to victory in the 11th,



Sam Decker

Effusive, a daughter of champion Monomoy Girl, wins her debut for trainer Brad Cox.

a 1-mile optional claimer originally carded for the turf. "He was a true gambler at heart, a big racing fan and we all miss him. I was fortunate enough to meet him at Pimlico when I had Maple Leaf Mel, and so maybe he's looking down on us."

Leon Blue hustled to the lead with longshot Shared Success close on his outside with heavy favorite Smooth Breeze in third. Leon Blue cruised through an opening quarter in :23.74, was pressed by Shared Success to the half in :46.60 before rolling home to win by 1 1/4 lengths in 1:37.97 over a sloppy and sealed track.

Leon Blue made his previous six starts on turf yet Giddings' confidence never wavered despite the surface change.

"He broke his maiden [in an off-the-turf race]," she said. "And he's been working so good on the dirt. There was never any doubt I was going to run him. He gives his best ef-



Sam Decker

Stimulate pulls away late in Saturday's ninth.

fort whenever he can. He's definitely a trier. He's a horse going through his conditions and trying to find his way and what he likes best."

The son of Mo Town entered Saturday off a sixth behind Mi Bago in the Kingston Stakes June 3. Leon Blue won last year's Rick Violette Stakes on the turf at Saratoga.

"It was such a meaningful race," Giddings said of the Violette. "He's

really a special horse to us."

Owned by AWC Stables, Gold Square, Paul Braverman and Scott Akman, Leon Blue improved to 3-3-1 in 11 starts and boosted his career earnings to \$254,308.

- Darby O'Brien

• Stimulate, a homebred for Clairborne Farm and Adele Dilschneider, returned for the first time since last August to win the ninth, a 7-furlong maiden on the main track. Trained by Bill Mott and ridden by Junior Alvarado, the 3-year-old son of Tapit out of Grade 1 winner Elate won by 2 3/4 lengths in 1:23.33. He's Elate's second winner, joining stakes-placed \$222,378-earner Excite . . . TEC Racing's My Noble Knight scored in the second, a 9-furlong claimer on the main track, for trainer Joe Sharp. The Noble Bird gelding took command at the top of the stretch and dug in to win by a length under Jose Ortiz. Linda Rice claimed the 5-year-old for \$30,000. . . . Mike Maker and Dylan Davis teamed to win the fourth, a 5 1/2-furlong off-the-turf optional, with Shape Note. The Mendelssohn gelding won by 5 lengths for David Staudacher and Paradise Farms Corp.

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Slow Boil

Learntodiscover adapts to American style, gets late-running stakes win

BY DARBY O'BRIEN

Learntodiscover didn't completely take to the United States when he arrived this year.

Foaled in England, the son of Havana Grey began his career as a juvenile in Ireland with trainer Ger Lyons. The dark bay started four times, all at the Curragh, and finished in the money in each.

The 3-year-old finished third on debut in May 2025 behind future Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint runner-up Brussels before scoring next out over future Group 1 winner Puerto Rico. Learntodiscover made his stakes debut in the Group 2 Railway Stakes, where he finished fourth against True Love – this year's One Thousand Guineas winner at Newmarket – as well as familiar foe Puerto Rico

and next-out Group 1 winner Power Blue.

All efforts of a quality horse.

Which is why his struggle to find his footing in the U.S. seemed a little strange to his connections.

"That's the thing when you come over here," trainer Brendan Walsh said Sunday. "It's a totally different ballgame. Even training, with horses running past them every morning, things like that. There's a lot for them to get used to. But you could

see him gradually starting to progress. He's just been getting a bit of confidence about him."

Learntodiscover put it together with a flourish in Sunday's \$225,000, Grade 3 Quick Call Stakes, rallying from last to clinch not only his first U.S. win, but his first graded stakes in the 5 1/2-furlong turf sprint.

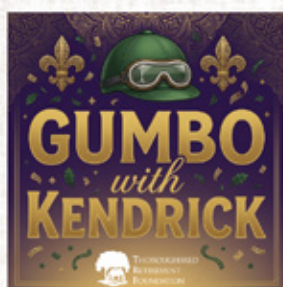
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Dave Harmon

Learntodiscover (left) charges home to win Sunday's feature.

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Sunday -

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"I thought it was great," Walsh said in the winner's circle, his victorious charge still with a spring in his step as he made his way to the test barn. "That was the plan for him. We thought he would kick in if we just conserved him a bit early on. It wasn't a complete surprise. He's been training very well and he ran a sneaky good race the last time."

Longshot Monster and undefeated favorite Johnny's Red Storm were quickest from the gate, dueling for the lead through splits of :21.18 and :43.93. Learntodiscover trailed at the rear, 12 lengths off the frontrunning duo. Jockey Tyler Gaffalione didn't panic, stayed patient and allowed the gelding to settle before making his move. Learntodiscover angled to the outside at the top of the stretch. Monster wasn't done, opening a 3-length lead as Throckmorton surged up the rail and Johnny's Red Storm began to fade.

"The idea was to sit in the pocket, let him use some of that speed but just try to keep him contained, but there was a lot of commotion coming out of the gate," said Gaffalione. "Just a lot of maneuvering, a lot of horses, so we didn't get the position we wanted, but he settled great and when we found room at the top of the lane he really exploded."

Learntodiscover rallied down the center, picking off weary rivals and closed in on Monster, who

tired with every stride. Learntodiscover dug in, gained a head advantage on Throckmorton as the pair overtook Monster in the final jumps to score by a neck in 1:02.69. Stradale finished fourth, while 2-1 favorite Johnny's Red Storm finished ninth.

"I thought he was going to finish second or third," said Walsh, "Then he was flying and they were stopping in front of him. Tyler just timed it perfectly."

Gaffalione praised the response Learntodiscover gave in the stretch.

"I had to wait a little longer than I wanted to, but it all worked out," he said. "When I took him out, I hit him the first time and he set down. He really exploded, showed me a great turn of foot. He gave me a ton of confidence getting to the wire."

Learntodiscover came into the Quick Call off a fourth after leading early and being caught late in a 6-furlong turf allowance June 19 at Aqueduct.

"The last day, he was probably a little too prominent," Walsh said. "He broke well and kind of got on the lead and he was going a tick too fast. It looked today like there was tons of speed in there, so we said we'd try to sit behind the speed. We were a little further back than that, but thankfully they flew up front and they came back to us. But he ran. He's been improving every run over here. He was a nice horse in Ireland. Sometimes when they come here they need a couple of races to adjust to the style, and I could see him gradually doing that and he's been doing really well since his last race, so it's great."

"It's tricky, because this is probably as sharp as he needs to go. At home, he's a 6-furlong, maybe a 6 1/2-furlong type of horse. Sometimes they're a difficult horse to place here because they're kind of in-betweeners. Thankfully he's found his niche and he'll only improve."

Walsh said he'd look at the Grade 3 Mahony Aug. 16 at Saratoga or Kentucky Downs for Learntodiscover's next start. Winning owner Mark Dobbin, who also owns Grade 2 winner Imagination-thelady, campaigned the gelding in Ireland before relocating him to Walsh's shedrow this season.

- A sea of blue swarmed the winner's circle after Sunday's eighth, a 1-mile allowance on the dirt.

At least two dozen people, some grey-haired and wrinkled and others not yet grown enough to walk, all clad in the same sky-toned shade of blue. A simple phrase was written on the back of every shirt.

"There's always another race."

The immortal words of Big Joe.

"My dad died in 2011 unexpectedly," said the late "Big Joe" Moran's daughter, Amy Moran. "And we came up on opening weekend that year. That was the first year and this is the 15th."

Big Joe made the trek from Boston to Saratoga every year. An avid racing fan throughout his life, there was nothing he enjoyed more than a day at the races. Except, perhaps, a day at the races with his family. Since his passing, his daughter and the

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Sunday -

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rest of his family have organized a trip to Saratoga – the whole brood in tow – to celebrate and remember a beloved member of their family.

“He spent his whole life up here,” Amy Moran said. “This is the first year [that they’ve named a race after him].”

Big Joe’s presence was certainly felt after the race, a big cheer rising from the crowd of blue shirts as track announcer Frank Mirahmadi announced the race’s dedication. A rousing chorus of “Big Joe” filled the air as the group filed in, filed out and returned to Big Joe’s favored place to spend the day at the track: a jumble of picnic tables in the backyard, all dragged close together.

Georgia Magic won the race, a 1-mile allowance on the main track, for trainer Steve Schauer and Island Wind Racing. The son of Good Magic took the lead early and never looked back, cruising to a 4-length score over last year’s Albany Stakes victor Iron Dome.

“I was a little nervous,” said Schauer, “You have Linda Rice and Steve Asmussen in here with some pretty strong horses. When you go up against those guys, and they have stables of 100, 200, 300 horses, I’ve got a stable of seven. He definitely was coming out of a great win and that race took nothing out of him. We always planned to run him here. There were a couple MTOs that we tried that didn’t come off, so I think this race was perfect. The competition was higher than a 1x, but we took a shot and it paid off.”

- Darby O'Brien

• Anyone wanting to see the winning jockey of the third race needed to wait out a mob of adoring kids that surrounded Katie Davis celebrating her first win of the meet aboard Big Brooklyn for trainer Carlos Martin. Davis rode Big Brooklyn to a three-quarter-length win in the 1-mile maiden claiming event on the main track then signed hats and handed out goggles on her way to the jocks’ room.

“I knew I was a tad too close for his liking, but he dragged me very nicely, turned off on the backside, and I knew [Flavien] Prat was the one to beat so I just laid on him,” said Davis. “He closed very nicely.”

Big Brooklyn, a 3-year-old New York-bred gelding by Big Brown, won in his 12th start for Legacy Thoroughbreds. He broke well, tracked Mr R T early then took over at the sixteenth pole to win in 1:39.46.

“I told her this morning, ‘We got a chance, the horse is going to run well today,’ ” Martin said. “He had run well previously at a mile. He ran second, third, third, third.”

- Shea Brown



Dave Harmon

Big Brooklyn and Katie Davis win Sunday's third for trainer Carlos Martin.

• Stuart Janney III's homebred Silvology gave trainer Shug McGaughey his first win of the meet in the seventh, a 1 3/8-mile turf optional claimer. The 5-year-old daughter of Blame improved off a fifth in a 1 1/16-mile optional June 12 Aqueduct, her first start since May 2, 2025.

“I was a little disappointed in her first race,” McGaughey said. “A mile and a sixteenth is not her gig and today going further, we had the one post, and we were able to save ground. Dylan [Davis] rode a good race.”

Silvology, second in the Grade 3 Orchid and third in the Grade 3 Sheepshead Bay in 2025, improved to 3-for-11 and boosted her earnings to \$231,029. McGaughey said he'd consider a return to stakes company later in the meet for the mare.

- Taylor Barraclough

• D.J. Stable's Braum's Run switched from turf to dirt to win the sixth, a 5 1/2-furlong auction maiden, for trainer Mark Casse. The 2-year-old son of Golden Pal tracked in second before digging in to score by 1 3/4 lengths for Dylan Davis. Braum's Run finished third in his debut in a stakes in early May at Gulfstream Park. ... Sturdy kept a strong weekend going for trainer and co-owner George Weaver with a victory in the first. The Mitole gelding kicked clear in the stretch under Manny Franco for an 8-length win in the \$20,000 claimer going 9 furlongs on the main track. Bruce Brown claimed the 5-year-old for Martin Harrigan. ... Hoolie Racing Stable and Blue Mist Racing's Emergency Nine won the second, a 5 1/2-furlong maiden claimer on the turf, for trainer Miguel Clement. ... Killa Sally rallied to a half-length victory in the fourth, a 1-mile starter optional on the dirt, for trainer Kenny McPeck. ... Klaravich Stable and trainer Chad Brown scored in the fifth, a 1 1/16-mile New York-bred maiden special weight on the turf, with the 3-year-old McKinzie filly Factory Setting. ... Trainer Jim Bond won his second race of the meet when Roagna rallied to victory in the nightcap, 1 1/16-mile turf claimer.

Profile



Federico "Freddy" Greaves
Groom
Bruce Brown Stable

"BY THE TIME I WAS 16 YEARS OLD IN PANAMA. I came here in '78. Nat Krohn, he retired. Then I started working with Mike Hernandez, Klesaris, Steve and Rob, then (Dominic) Galluscio. I try not to jump around, wherever I'm comfortable, I stay. Once I come here, I stay here. Since Galluscio died, almost 10 years now. It's good.

"Start off slowly, if you want to learn, you've got to be in it. This business, you like it, or you don't. If you like it, you continue. I'm comfortable. You've got to like it to be in it. I like it.

"Right now, I don't have a favorite horse, you get to like each one the same. You enjoy it, whether they win or they don't win. One by one. You wish they would become a Belmont Stake winner, but they don't.

"The best horse? H. T. Willis. Nat Krohn. We claimed him from Galluscio, we won four races with him, then he got hurt, then he retired. One by one. One by one.

"When I started, I was small, I rode on and off. My brothers, two full brothers, taught me. In Panama, you learn to ride horses. I came from Panama to Florida for about six months and my brothers were up here, so I came up here. Once I got here, I stay. Two kids, 31 and 37, they're old enough now.

"It's all right. You get adapted to it. You've got to get adapted to it. I don't live on the track, here, yes, but in New York, I live outside. I get up, go to work. You've got to like this business, otherwise, it would seem miserable, you'll get bored, you'll want something else. If you want something else, fine. If you like it, good.

"Many times, you get tired, you get sour, and then you think about it. You come in, work four hours in the morning, you go home, you rest, sometimes you don't have to come back. Outside, you work from 8 to 12, then you get a one-hour break and then you start back working. Sometimes I leave here at 11 and that's it, I don't come back until tomorrow.

"Me, I'm 71. People say, 'Why you still here?' Why go and sit down at home, look at a TV, start eating and then you get sick and...no, no. As long as I can still do it, I'll do it. When I can't, I'll go."



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Reply All

Kinnon LaRose was looking for his next move. Twenty-two, living in Connecticut, a recent graduate. Five years of collegiate basketball, 160 or so games and a thousand others from pickup to playground all behind him. Hoop aspirations had pretty much run their course, high school records had turned into college minutes and eventually professional reality. An opportunity as a shooting guard or a sixth man in some back-court league overseas, maybe. Somewhere, some place, some gamble.

The Liga Endesa in Spain, the Basketbol Süper Ligi in Turkey, the Lega Basket Serie in Italy, the BABA in Barbados...

A lifelong racing fan after childhood trips to Saratoga and to harness tracks in Canada, LaRose watched Saratoga racing on Fox Sports, watched trainer Tom Amoss in between Richard Migliore and Andy Serling on the desk near the paddock and thought about his next move.

"I've always loved the game, just as a kid. I played basketball for five years at college and didn't really have anything to do," LaRose said. "I was always following racing, in the summertime, even when I was playing basketball, I was always watching racing. I had a big interest in it as a kid. I saw Tom on Fox and said, 'Look at this guy, looks like he's doing well.' A trainer and an analyst, I thought it was something I could try to dip my feet in."

LaRose searched around for an email address.

It's not hard to find. AI offers it up in a flash.

You can reach Thoroughbred trainer Tom Amoss directly at tomamoss@aol.com. Alternatively, you can use the Tom Amoss Racing Stable website to find contact information for his staff.

LaRose took a shot. Hey, email is free and at least it's a silent rejection. When I was 22, I had to pick up a landline and call a landline with a real person answering on the other end. Some people had answering machines, oh, I'd pray for answering machines when I was working up the nerve to ask for a ride or a job. And, texting, forget it. Imagine Janet



CUP OF COFFEE

By Sean Clancy

Elliot's phone if I could have texted her to somehow catch a ride on Talamero or Victorian Hill or Flat Top. Jonathan Sheppard would have invented block caller on the barn phone.

In 1989, I remember calling Shug McGaughey looking for a galloping job at Saratoga. As a timid jump jockey (yes, there is such a thing), I stuttered out a few words and the future Hall of Famer stammered out one. That was it. Luckily a friend heard that Mitchell C. Preger needed a rider and set it up for me. My first Saratoga galloping job, all I had to do was show up at his Oklahoma barn. Mr. Preger, and his patience, changed my life.

As for LaRose, he crafted an email, edited it, proofed it, slept on it and sent it. Changing his life wasn't even on the radar.

"Cold email, not thinking he would ever answer me," LaRose said. "I sent it to him on Monday. Tuesday morning my phone rings, Louisville, Kentucky, and I said, 'Who the heck is calling me from Kentucky? Maybe it's Tom.' Sure enough it was him. I wouldn't call it Option B but also at the same time, 'Let's try something else, see if we could go a different route.' This popped up and I said we're all in. I came to the racetrack and never looked back."

LaRose joined Amoss' barn, learned from the shedrow floor up and inherited a 60-horse juggernaut when Amoss retired this spring. LaRose won

his first race at Saratoga and has 23 horses bedded down in Amoss' old barn this summer. All from an email, a gift, a start.

While chatting with LaRose at his barn Tuesday morning for the Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour, hearing about his email, an equine Hail Mary, I got to thinking about the cold emails, the cold calls to The Special over the years. From a few wanting to stay in the game, but mostly from people wanting to get in the game. We answered most and I'd like to think we changed a few lives.

Quint Kessenich, "I was an All-American lacrosse goalie..." Travis Stone, "I've dreamed about becoming a racetrack announcer..." John Panagot, "I'm looking to become a jocks' agent..." Jim Mulvihill, "I'd like to get out of New Orleans for the summer..." Buried in long shuddered Jomo and AOL accounts, those emails, those what-do-I-have-to-lose? lifelines are long gone. Stone and Panagot didn't even bother looking.

Gabby Gaudet found an email thread from 2012. "I wanted to ask if you think I would have time in the morning to find a job galloping? If not, that is completely fine, working for you is my priority." I liked her style. Gabby learned quickly she wouldn't have time for a galloping job. She and I were laughing at the thought while thinking about her showing up the first day in cowboy boots. She made it all summer and so did the boots.

Those are just some of the cold emails that came across our desk over 26 years of The Special. There were others who sent an email, just like LaRose did, hoping for an opportunity. I'm glad we could play a small role in the journey for at least a few.

The moral? Send that email. To whomever you choose, whomever you think can help, to whomever you can find.

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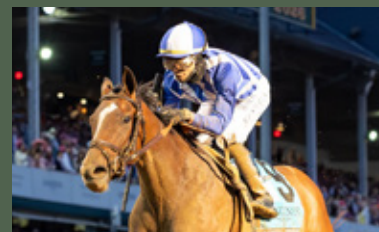
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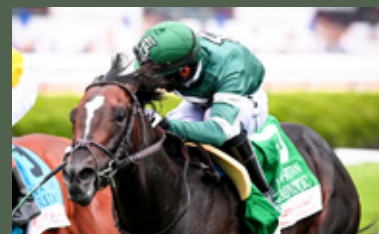
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\$1,050,000 Week 1 yearling purchased by Douglas Scharbauer delivers a career-defining performance to win the Kentucky Oaks (G1) at Churchill Downs.



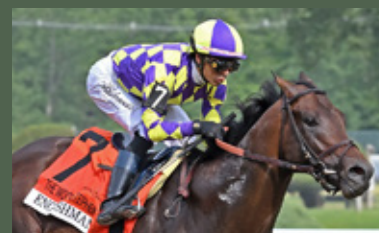
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\$625,000 Week 1 yearling purchased by St. Elias Stables wins the Manhattan S. (G1) at Saratoga.



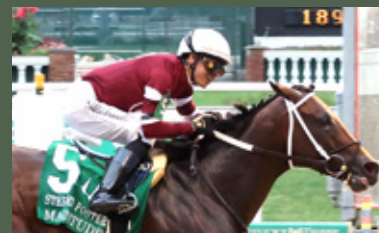
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