Year 26 • No. 4

Saturday, July 25, 2026

The Saratoga Special

Racing Newspaper since 2001

Sam Decker

Shiner

Acorn winner Counting Stars eyes Grade 1 double

Miguel Clement Stable Tour

Entries & Handicapping

Hymn tackles Vanderbilt

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Here&There...in Saratoga *Quips, Quotes, Names, Numbers & Notes found along the way*

Names of the Day
Saturday

Intraosseous, first race. Since owner Joel Politi is a surgeon, it's not too surprising that this 2-year-old filly's name references a medical procedure where medication can be injected directly into bone marrow. Referred to as "IO," the step is used mainly in critical scenarios where intravenous (IV) is not available.

Foolin, third race. Spendthrift Farm and Leland Ackerley Racing named this 2-year-old colt for his sire, Practical Joke.

Cat On Time, ninth race. This didn't take much imagination, but it works. The 6-year-old gelding is by Not This Time out of Big Cat Walks Late.

Names of the Day
Sunday

Geneva Lake, first race. Take your pick, it's either the alpine lake shared by France and Switzerland or the not-so-alpine lake in Wisconsin. Either would be a nice place to spend a summer day. This Glen Hill Farm 2-year-old colt is by Life Is Good out of Summering.

Full Pour, fifth race. The 4-year-old filly is by Vino Rosso (Italian for red wine) out of Extra Impact.

Do Gooder, eighth race. The 5-year-old mare is by Good Samaritan.

The Chief

"Owners' decisions can be right but they don't figure to be right as often when you're on the scene all the time. A lot of people used to knock Eddie Seinfeld, we'd get to arguing about what to do with a horse but he never did the red board on me. One thing about it, I always gave him a lot of credit, if I was wrong, he would never say, 'see what I tell you.' Never. That's a big deal, especially when you're a kid. That is wonderful when a guy is like that, because there's a lot of that in most everybody. He'd always ask me, 'How do you blow so hot and cold? One minute you think he's going to be a stakes horse and the next you're saying I should run him in a claiming race.' That's the way I was. I've always gotten too high and too low. When I got Seinfeld, we did good, we'd be claiming, we worked hard, I used to come back with the night watchman, just to check on them, see what they were doing, see how long it took them to eat. We never left a stone unturned."

– Trainer Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015

Sam Decker

Cat's Cat. **Thunder, mascot of A.G. Vanderbilt favorite and Wayne Catalano trainee Built keeps an eye on everything while on patrol at the barn Friday morning.**

By The Numbers

1,500: Horses retired by Take the Lead, New York's Thoroughbred retirement program.

779,031: Dollars earned by Tawny Port in three starts without winning late last year. Peachtree Stable's turf veteran finished second in the Bowling Green Gold Cup Aug. 30 and Kentucky Turf Cup six days later, both at Kentucky Downs, and finished second again (by a nose) in Woodbine's Canadian International.

1: Dog riding on the back of a horse Thursday morning.

1: KLW World News van parked at the Oklahoma at 8:12 Thursday morning.

Worth Repeating

"Stanley Hough and Hunter Rankin picked this horse out. She was late getting started. Rick Dutrow had her. We wasted two races on the dirt, she can't stand up on the dirt. We got her on the turf and she showed what she had and the rest is history."

Owner Mike Dubb about Diana winner Kathynmarissa

"Last time, she was a little bit keen, it was a slow pace, and I had to make an early move and she ran great. Today, I was able to get her to relax and that was the key."

Jockey Jose Ortiz after winning the Diana with Kathynmarissa

Make sure your attorney *knows* racing!

Here&There...in Saratoga

Worth Repeating

"Which O'Brien are you?"

Trainer Jimmy Ferraro to The Special's Darby O'Brien (the first child of Keith and Deirdre and second grandchild of Leo and Joan)

"He's going to make us famous."

Trainer Miguel Clement, about stable star Deterministic

"I think he's already famous."

Clement's assistant Liam Bourke

"I said he's going to make *us* famous."

Clement

"I galloped Taylor's Special around there. He was tough."

Trainer Bill Mott about galloping on the old Horse Haven track

"Is this the second episode? Did I say episode?"

Assistant trainer Sarah Campion after receiving the third edition of The Special Thursday morning

"Probably something by Pink."

Makaia Carpenter about her song choice for open mic at Caffe Lena

"Not today, but I do have a more positive attitude about it."

Trainer George Weaver when asked if he would do the Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour

"Do you have a Spanish version?"

Trainer Jimmy Ferraro about The Special

"Nuestro español es muy malo."

The Special

"Twenty-six years. It's hard for me to remember it without it."

Ferraro about The Special

"He likes to coach in the fifth quarter."

Jockeys' agent John Panagot, giving trainer Miguel Clement a hard time about race-riding feedback

"Nice, cold July weather."

Tracy Attfield on a brisk Thursday morning

"Not really."

Groom Freddy Greaves when asked if we made any mistakes in his profile in The Special

"Do you want to speak to my assistant?"

Owner Alan Brodsky pointing to trainer Mark Hennig

Sam Decker

The A Team. **Bruce Brown staffers make sure Taqueeto Jones looks sharp Wednesday morning.**

"Central Falls, Rhode Island. It had more bars per square mile than anywhere in the world."

A Special reader Thursday morning

"I've got to approve it."

Eddie King checking out his photo on Sam Decker's camera Friday morning

"We got another month."

Bill Mott when asked about the Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour

"Whoa back, Jack."

Trainer and hotwalker Wayne Catalano with Vanderbilt runner Built Friday morning

"That stall right there was Pleasant Colony. He was so big, they cut the partition between the two stalls and made one stall. They should put plaques above the stalls for the best horses."

Trainer Mitch Friedman pointing to a stall inside Horse Haven

By The Numbers

200: Dollars in the 2027 Breeders' Cup nomination fee for foals sired by North American nominated stallions with advertised stud fees of $5,000 or less (a 50-percent decrease from 2026) as part of a new tiered process to start next year.

600: Dollars in the 2027 Breeders' Cup nomination fee for foals sired by North American nominated stallions with advertised stud fees of $100,000 or more (an increase from $400 for all foals in 2026).

400: Dollars in the 2027 Breeders' Cup nomination fee for foals sired by North American nominated stallions with advertised stud fees of $5,001 to $99,999 (no change).

The early deadline for nominaing 2026 foals is Aug. 1 for weanlings headed to fall or winter sales and Oct. 1 for all other foals.

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The Saratoga Special

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Editors/Publishers/Owners:

Sean Clancy: (302) 545-7713. sean@thisishorseracing.com ◆ **Joe Clancy:** (302) 545-4424. joe@thisishorseracing.com

Managing Editor: Tom Law: (859) 396-9407. tom@thisishorseracing.com

Writers: Paul Halloran, Darby O'Brien, Shea Brown, Taylor Barraclough, Matt Rudolph.
Photographers: Dave Harmon, Sam Decker. **Design:** Ruthie Bowen. **Distribution:** Craig Healy.
Marketing/Social Media: Melissa Bauer-Herzog. **Handicappers:** Charles Bedard, Jessica Paquette, John Shapazian, Rob Whitlock.

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EASY AS 1-2-2

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

THE 105TH SARATOGA SALE
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With Miguel Clement

Sam Decker

Clement trainees wait their cues on the turn at Oklahoma.

Two years ago, Christophe Clement sat down on a shady bench – he called it "The Therapy Bench" – outside his barn to start a Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour and spoke about what it was like to have his son Miguel as an assistant.

"Obviously, to be involved with your son is a great luxury. We did everything we could for him to get away. He had a different internship as far as possible from horse racing, working in banks, working for different things. I was hoping for Duke to expose him to other things instead of horse racing."

Miguel wasn't having it and went from Duke University to the Godolphin Flying Start racing education program to posts with trainers in South Africa and England before returning to familial territory. Asked then about how long he wanted to work with horses, Miguel didn't hesitate.

"My whole life," he said. "We work very well together, but it can be tough too. You share your victories, your upside, your moments. It's great when you share it together. Then, the bad day is amplified by two as well . . . It weighs that much more when you both lose."

Only one wins and loses now.

Christophe died of cancer last spring at 59, accelerating a succession plan being mapped out by the family. Miguel took over, officially became a trainer with his first runner May 31, 2025 and put together a 62-win season highlighted by 13 graded stakes victories and $7.2 million in purse earnings. Combined, the stable won 96 races and earned $9.8 million – on par with the past four.

"We had a great season, really great," Miguel said last week before – like his father always did – looking ahead.

"We were given a lot of credit for our turf success, which is flattering, but I didn't think anyone gave enough recognition to our dirt success; we won at 20 or 21 percent on the dirt (actually 22 percent dirt and synthetic). That's why I'm adamant that this meet, I might produce some dirt winners just to show to everyone else that we are capable of training dirt runners and winners. It's just lack of opportunity more so than ability, or inability to do so. I'm convinced we're going to have some dirt winners this year. I just need to start delivering and getting it done."

Dirt, turf, synthetic, the Clement stable goes in all directions. Miguel, up to 104 total wins as a trainer through Thursday, took some time to look at a few members of the squad with The Special's Joe Clancy.

"Let's go to the bench. . ."

Deterministic: You going to argue with this record? Five-year-old turf star has won his last five starts, all graded stakes, for St. Elias Stable, Ken Langone, Steve Duncker and Vicarage Stable while pushing his career mark to 9-for-15 with $2.6 million in the bank. He won his debut on the dirt at Saratoga as a 2-year-old in 2023, and returned to win the Grade 3 Gotham and start in the Wood Memorial and Peter Pan as a 3-year-old. All but one (an off-the-turf allowance at Keeneland in 2025) of his 11 starts since have been on the turf and he's been 1-2-3 in each. In 2024, he won the Virginia Derby and Hill Prince. Last year, he won the Fort Marcy, Manhattan and Fourstardave. This year, he repeated in the Fort Marcy and Manhattan and seeks to complete the triple double in the Fourstardave Aug. 8. The son of Liam's Map breezed 5 furlongs on the Oklahoma turf in a minute flat an hour before the stable tour.

"Did you see the work today? Spectacular. One word, spectacular. The way he moved was freakishly talented and just full of zest; wanted to do more. He did it heavily restrained on the bridle. I've never had a horse work like that on the turf course. . . . I'm telling you, watch – if you get a chance on XBTV (it's 1/ST TV now and you'll need an account), watch the work. A minute, out in 1:12, did a double gallop out in :12 flat again so 1:24 and he wanted to go another lap. He's lights out. He loves it here. Fourstardave, let's have fun."

Did you expect this kind of horse when he came into the barn as a 2-year-old in 2023?

"Dad loved him at Ocala Stud. He saw him galloping there as a 2-year-old and said he was a spectacular mover and loved him. I didn't quite see it and was not quite as enamored with him until I saw his first piece of work. He separated himself with the way he moved. . . . He moves like a panther. He reaches low, puts his head down, he goes for it."

Tawny Port: Peachtree Stable's 7-year-old stopped a 17-race losing streak by winning Saratoga's 2-mile Belmont Gold Cup June 4 to pad his career bankroll to $2.3 million. The extended distance helped, as did back class that included seven graded-stakes placings and a nose defeat to European shipper Silawi in the Grade 1 Canadian International last year. The Belmont Gold Cup victory earned a free entry to Australia's Melbourne Cup in November, a trip Clement would consider.

"If he was doing great and he was in tremendous form, then why not? I'm sure he stays and he's got a little bit of tactical speed, which you need over there because the tempo of the race is they come out of the gates quick, they all get a position, then they slow it down, and then it's a short sprint for home. That actually very much suits him."

For now, the son of Pioneerof The Nile will aim for more local targets including the former Sword Dancer, a Grade 1 newly named for Clement's father, at Saratoga Aug. 15.

Continued on Page 8

#1 RANKED YEARLING SALE

BY PERCENTAGE OF GRADE 1 WINNERS

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Fasig-Tipton.

Stable Tour –

■ Continued from page 6

"We're going for the Christophe Clement for many obvious reasons. The plan was to have a fresh horse for the fall. He did spectacularly well last year in the fall and we'll try to do a similar sort of feat. That's why we skipped the Bowling Green, keep him fresh for the second half of the year. His targets are the Christophe Clement, Kentucky Downs, and then the Grade 1 in Canada. If you're nice toward them, you look after them and you treat them right, especially giving them the winters off, they can do that. We're always monitoring the soundness. They reward you. He loves the job. If you believe in speed figures, he's actually improving, at the age of 7. Many people were upset last year because he kind of lost his way in terms of the winner's circle, but he kept running gallant races and had a bit of troubled trips. Then last year in the fall, he took it to another dimension, and that's what we're seeing in his training."

Far Bridge: Sticking with the turf veteran contingent, LSU Stable's 6-year-old is on the comeback trail after opening 2026 with a win in the Grade 3 Pan American at Gulfstream Park in March. The son of English Channel boasts 10 wins, three of them Grade 1, and $2.5 million earned.

"He's back. He had a bit of a setback when he won the Pan American and we decided to be very cautious with him, give him some time, and now he's back with us and we're very excited. I believe he's probably going to be fall so races like the Joe Hirsch, Breeders' Cup, the Man o' War, and the Pegasus should be heavily considered. Those types of horses are the ones I'm very proud of. Some of these horses are running the best figures of their lives at the ages of 5, 6, and 7. Soundness is the name of the game. I think we put too much of an emphasis on winning early as 2-year-olds, and we forget the big picture, which is to have a long, durable campaign."

Illmatic: Owned by Adelphi Racing Club and LJSS Thoroughbreds, the 3-year-old New York-bred came out firing in 2026 after just one start in 2025. The Honest Mischief colt won an Aqueduct maiden in February and placed in two stakes, including a nose loss in the Spectacular Bid division of the New York Stallion Stakes going 6 furlongs on the turf at Aqueduct June 20. He's headed to a New York-bred allowance Aug. 1.

"It's frustrating in the sense that he keeps finding a way to somehow not cross the line first, but he's run some gallant races. He's a touch quirky in that he's got a tremendous amount of speed and he's just starting to put it all together. I wouldn't be surprised if his best race is the one coming up. He's doing great with his weight and he's just starting to mature a little bit at the right time."

Teddy's Rocket: A Saratoga maiden winner last summer for Duncker, St. Elias, Vicarage and Susan Karches, the 3-year-old finished fourth in the Grade 1 Summer Stakes at Woodbine in what was to be a springboard to the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf. The Liam's Map colt suffered an eye injury in the race and didn't run again until April's Woodhaven Stakes at Aqueduct. Fourth there, he was ninth in the Saranac after checking twice in the stretch July 3.

"His form has been a little bit dirtied by a lack of racing trips as well as surface. I do think the talent and ability are there. I ran on soft turf in the first race off the layoff – mistake. He struggled. He came back and got a troubled trip in the Saranac, but, it's life. There's not much excitement to talk about until he delivers. He sustained an eye infection from that race at Woodbine. He got hit with a big clod of dirt and it took us a long time to get over it. That cost us a chance of running in the Breeders' Cup."

Love Cervere: The 4-year-old filly won three stakes including a Grade 3 last year and won the 6-furlong License Fee on the turf at Aqueduct in May. A month later, she finished fourth after rallying from last in the Grade 2 Intercontinental. Co-owned by breeder Ed Seltzer, Beverly Anderson and Reeves Thoroughbred Racing, the daughter of Into Mischief will most likely wait for a race at Kentucky Downs.

"I've tried several times running her 5 1/2 furlongs at Saratoga. She comes flying, but doesn't quite get there. Six is better, 6 1/2 is optimal, seven-eighths is probably a fantasy. In the summer, it's very tough for these turf sprinters if you're not quite fast enough for 5 1/2 furlongs. We are forced to wait, because the turf-course configurations in the summertime are not conducive to these closers. I can't wait for Belmont to be open. One-turn 7 furlongs and one-turn mile, that sounds spectacular. There are some distances we have not run in years that I'm convinced some of our horses will have a strong affinity toward. It's a different sort of race at 5 1/2 furlongs to 6. It's half a furlong, but it is a massive difference."

Sam Decker

On a five-race winning streak, Deterministic eyes a repeat win in the Grade 1 Fourstardave in August.

Bottas: Dahman's 3-year-old colt shares a name with a Finnish Formula 1 driver and sped to two wins last year – a Saratoga maiden in late August and the Grade 2 Pilgrim Stakes at Aqueduct in October. Ninth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf to close 2025, the son of Vekoma has run twice at Saratoga this year – a third in the Pennine Ridge in June and a fifth in the Belmont Derby July 4.

"He was a bit unlucky the other day, such a crowded trip in traffic. He's a very good horse. We'll get it right hopefully next time. I'm leaning toward the Saratoga Derby (Aug. 8). I think he's going to take a step forward again. The other day he was just never in the clear in the sense that he was always crowded and slightly intimidated. He was only beaten a length and a quarter for all of it. He's going to have a fun campaign. It's just a question of getting lucky in one of these big events."

The Big Con: Another 3-year-old turf male, the gray British-bred won both starts last year – a Presque Isle Downs maiden in September and the Grey Stakes at Woodbine in November on synthetic racetracks. The son of Dark Angel has been working steadily at Saratoga since mid-June after missing some time in the spring.

"He's coming back and it's just a question of picking out our first spot. I'm convinced he stays and he has some races coming up in the fall. We're going to have a big fall with him."

Bellezza: Moyglare Stud's homebred mare, back in her stall with the pad over the doorway because a helmet would be impractical, won twice in 2025 – the Grade 3 Sheepshead Bay for Christophe in May and the Grade 2 Flower Bowl for Miguel in August. Sixth in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf, she opened 2026 with a sixth in the Grade 3 Orchid at Gulfstream Park and was placed third after getting stopped by Storm Miami in the stretch of the Robert Dick Memorial at Delaware Park in June. The Siyouni mare will try the 1 1/2-mile Glens Falls, where she was second to stablemate La Mehana last year, July 30. Breeders' Cup winner Gezora could show up in the Grade 2 for trainer Bill Mott.

"It won't be an easy race. I'm aware of several Europeans coming, as well as my neighbor next door, Mr. Mott. I don't believe we should duck anybody. She's very talented, so you go for it. That's what it's all about. She was unlucky, got boxed in, the last time. She almost went crashing into the rails."

Sam Decker

Turf mare Bellezza looks to run in the Glens Falls Stakes next.

Continued on Page 10

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Stable Tour –

■ Continued from page 8

Drake's Passage: Robert Evans' homebred won New York-bred stakes in 2023 and 2024, but lost all four starts last year. The 6-year-old son of Tonalist, who won the 2014 Belmont Stakes for the stable, halted an eight-race losing streak with an easy optional claiming win at Finger Lakes June 29.

"He lost his way a bit, and I'm delighted that he finally went to get a confidence builder, which was the intended plan. We'll bring him back for the John Morrissey, the 7-furlong dirt stakes for New York-breds (Aug. 6). His works have always been very impressive in the mornings and I think he would actually appreciate the cutback in distance."

Broadcast: A Fasig-Tipton October graduate as a yearling, the 2-year-old Into Mischief colt is out of Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf winner Shared Account (the dam of Juvenile Fillies Turf winner Sharing). Bred by Gainesway Farm, the bay looks for a turf maiden to get started for Dahman.

"We brought him on the grass over here and I thought he moved remarkably well. I'm looking forward to debuting him at Saratoga."

Mescal: The Oscar Performance 2-year-old is out of Mystical Star, who won five races (topped by the Grade 2 New York) for the barn and Cheyenne Stable.

"He's the biggest 2-year-old we have in the stables, and yet you would never know it by the way that he moves. He will run long on the grass here. We think very highly of him."

Not Ever: Irish-bred 2-year-old colt by No Nay Never has breezed six times at Saratoga. His dam Hand On Heart won twice and placed in a Group 3 in Ireland for Flaxman Stable and Coolmore.

"He's been training very well, been delighting us in his pieces of work. He has never missed a beat and keeps searching for more."

Oscar: Green, grouchy, lives in a trash can . . . No, that's the other Oscar. This one, a 2-year-old son of Oscar Performance, is a half-brother to Kentucky Downs Juvenile Fillies Stakes winner and $691,050 earner Meringue who finished second in last year's Adirondack here.

Sam Decker

Drake's Passage.

"He shows us plenty of ability in the morning. The 2-year-olds are live this year. They might be a little bit later developing. None of them are that precocious, but they're all going to be running by the end of Saratoga."

Calling Mr. Mo: New York-bred 2-year-old colt is a son of freshman stallion Mo Donegal, who won the 2022 Belmont Stakes.

"He is a very good mover, and I think he wants to go long on dirt. Nevertheless, we're going to settle to run him 6 furlongs July 31 as our starting point. He wants farther than that. The best part of his works on dirt is the gallop out."

Rockabye: One of the stable's few 2-year-olds to make a start, Bach Stable's homebred daughter of Flightline finished second by a neck going 5 1/2 furlongs here July 3.

"She was a touch green, and I think the greenness cost her the victory because the ability was there. I would love to have won with a filly by Flightline. That's my own personal ego, but the filly ran great so I can't be upset."

Cyber Baby: A Fasig-Tipton graduate as a weanling in 2024 and a yearling in 2025, the 2-year-old daughter of Cyberknife nears her debut, potentially Aug. 1, off a string of Saratoga breezes since mid-May.

"She's also by a first-year sire which defies the family rules, but she's been training forwardly. I also think she wants to go long on the dirt."

Lightning Strike: A $220,000 Fasig-Tipton New York-bred yearling purchase in 2023 by Steve Rocco, the daughter of Bolt d'Oro won her debut as a 3-year-old last year but missed almost 15 months. She returned with a fifth here June 3 and was second a month later while racing for LJSS Thoroughbreds, which uses the initials of members of the Rocco family.

"She will be very tough to beat when she runs again. She wasn't quite fit when we ran her the first two starts. She's a tighter, fitter filly now. I'll be very surprised if she doesn't get it done."

Dividend Recap: No, Klaravich Stable has not sent horses to Clement. Bred by Christophe Clement and Waterville Lake Stable, the 5-year-old Summer Front mare won a $50,000 New York-bred maiden claimer here last summer. Then owned by Miguel's mother Valerie, the dark bay sold for $80,000 in a Fasig-Tipton digital sale in August and won her 2026 debut for Prepstothepros Racing and July Cavalry Racing in May. She was second in a 1 1/16-mile starter here July 3.

"The next race is a mile and an eighth, and I expect her to take a step forward. She's been knocking on the door a few times. I think she'll appreciate the added distance, and I think she's spot on right now."

Promise Me Amelody: A $230,000 Fasig-Tipton New York purchase in 2024, the 3-year-old Maclean's Music filly bred in New York by Mallory and Karen Mort looks to debut at Saratoga after being entered for the main track last week.

"She's a first-time starter, a 3-year-old of all things, and she might be a price because she's going to debut in a dirt race. I gave her all the time in the world, and she's just coming into form now."

Big Everest: The English-bred won 10 races, earned $742,000 and started in four editions of the Artie Schiller Stakes (two wins, a second and a fifth).

"He's with my mother-in-law (Sherrie Courtney), retired in Connecticut, sound and very happy. He's enjoying his new life."

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- CONTACT -

Turner Reuter | 703-851-5160
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- GALLERY -

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Alfred Grenfell Haigh
(British, 1870 - 1963)
Portrait of Primer with Walter Earl up, 1910
oil on canvas, 20 x 24 inches

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Sky's the Limit

Trainer Casse flashes confidence in top filly Counting Stars for G1

BY TOM LAW

Sam Decker

Acorn Stakes winner Counting Stars and exercise rider Reynaldo Dumont head to the track, with some escorts.

Mark Casse went into Kentucky Derby Week feeling confident. Not so much with Silent Tactic, who battled a foot issue and wound up being scratched from the headliner. Another 3-year-old, the filly Counting Stars, gave him a more-than-usual amount of bullishness, coming into the Kentucky Oaks as a major player despite the typical deep field.

"Derby Week we had like 15 running," Casse said of the strong group in Louisville that week that actually wound up being 19. "I was asked the question, 'If you won only one race this week who would it be?" I told them Counting Stars will win the Oaks."

Counting Stars wound up third, finishing 2 1/4 lengths behind Always A Runner and Meaning after an inside stalking trip early and never really looking like a serious threat in the stretch.

"I was disappointed," Casse said of the effort, which came after a 5 ½-length score in the Grade 2 Fantasy at Oaklawn Park. "She ran third, obviously placed in the Oaks, but I was disappointed in her performance."

Counting Stars redeemed herself and put some salve on that Oaks wound with a victory five weeks later in the Grade 1 Acorn at Saratoga Race Course, defeating Always A Runner and Meaning and putting her name firmly back in the mix for the 3-year-old filly title. Owned by West Point Thoroughbreds, Counting Stars could take it a step further in today's Grade 1 Coaching Club American Oaks, where she'll face Always A Runner and the improving Directive from trainer Chad Brown and others in the first major sophomore filly event on the dirt at Saratoga this summer.

So how's the confidence this time around?

"Better," Casse said Wednesday morning before being reminded that if she runs to her best again that could be bad news for the opposition come post time of 5:45 p.m. "That's the plan."

Irad Ortiz Jr. takes the return call from the rail on Counting Stars, the slight 2-1 second choice behind 9-5 favorite Always A Runner.

Ortiz rode Counting Stars for the first time in the 9-furlong Acorn, settling the Honor A.P. filly early in fourth before taking an overland run at the leaders in the stretch. Counting Stars ran down Always A Runner and powered to a 3 ¾-length win, giving Casse a Grade 1 triple on Belmont Weekend along with Nitrogen in the Ogden Phipps the same day and Classic Q in the Just A Game the next day.

Sam Decker

Always A Runner won the Kentucky Oaks in May.

Ortiz, who won the 2012 CCA Oaks on Questing and the 2022 renewal on eventual champion Nest, wound up on the filly while angling for another mount from Casse in a major stakes.

"I get a call at like 8 o'clock at night about a week out from the Preakness and it's Irad," Casse said. "I'm with my wife Tina and I'm thinking, 'What the heck is Irad doing calling me at 8 o'clock at night?' I answer it and he says he wants to ride Silent Tactic in the Preakness. I told him, 'If I run him you can ride him, but I want you to ride Counting Stars in the Acorn. I really think she's a good horse.' "

Counting Stars proved that in the Acorn, winning for the fifth time in nine starts and collecting her fourth stakes score.

"It was very rewarding to see her win the way she did in the Acorn," Casse said. "She needs to come back and do it again but … you can never be too confident in any horse race because there are so many things that

Continued on Page 14

YAUPON

PULLING AWAY

Leading the North American second-crop sire standings across the board.

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	Earnings
1	**Yaupon**	**7**	**14**	**3**	**6**	**$4.18M**
2	Essential Quality	4	7	1	1	$3.02M
3	Charlatan	6	9	3	5	$2.94M
4	Maxfield	5	7	2	2	$2.58M

**TDN 2026 Leading Second Crop Sire List through 7/19*

Sippin Pretty
G3 Victory Ride
Breeder: Clarkland Farm LLC

SPENDTHRIFT

CCA Oaks –

■ Continued from page 12

can happen, but I'm going into Saturday pretty confident."

Some of the opposition remained in flux throughout the week and the CCA Oaks lost at least one runner when Will Walden took Resolute Racing's and MyRacehorse's La Rascasse out Thursday.

Walden said he "didn't like the way she came out of her gallop" Wednesday. A daughter of Authentic, La Rascasse won her first two starts including the Monomoy Girl Stakes June 13 at Churchill Downs. Walden said she'd head to the farm with a goal of bringing the filly back for a 4-year-old campaign.

Eight-time CCA Oaks-winning trainer Todd Pletcher sounded bullish about running Repole Stable's Zany after the American Pharoah filly turned in a bullet half-mile work July 13 on Saratoga's main track. She turned in another strong breeze, a half in :48.40 six days later, and showed up on the overnight for the CCA Oaks. Zany was cross-entered in today's Grade 3 Monmouth Oaks, but Pletcher and Repole made the decision to keep the filly in Saratoga for the Grade 1.

Pletcher will add blinkers to Zany today, her first start since finishing sixth in the Kentucky Oaks. John Velazquez takes the call on the 9-2 third choice on the morning line. Second in the Grade 1 Ashland two starts back, Zany took awhile to bounce out of the Oaks and Pletcher expects a better effort based on the filly's training in Saratoga.

Continued on Page 16

Saratoga Leaders

TRAINERS	WINS
Chad Brown	10
Brad Cox	8
Mark Casse	6
Mike Maker	5
George Weaver	5
Steve Asmussen	4
Miguel Clement	4
Horacio De Paz	4
Ilkay Kantarmaci	4
Bill Mott	4
Todd Pletcher	4
Linda Rice	4

JOCKEYS	WINS
Flavien Prat	22
Jose Ortiz	19
Manny Franco	18
Irad Ortiz Jr.	10
Ricardo Santana Jr.	10
Tyler Gaffalione	8
Jaime Rodriguez	7
John Velazquez	6
Dylan Davis	5
Junior Alvarado	6

Through Friday

Sam Decker

Zany (and Nora McCormack) train at Saratoga. The Grade 2 winner makes her first start since the Kentucky Oaks in May.

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As a 2YO

Hopeful Stakes-Gr.1
(pictured)

GR.2 WINNER
As a 3YO

Amsterdam Stakes-Gr.2

GR.1 WINNER
As a 4YO

Forego Stakes-Gr.1
defeating Champion Sprinter Elite Power

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COOLMORE
AMERICA

CCA Oaks –

■ Continued from page 14

"She seems like she's rounded back into form in her training, so hopefully that translates to a good effort," he said.

Always A Runner and Directive form a strong entry for Brown, who seeks his second CCA Oaks after Guarana in 2019. Always A Runner lost for the first time in the Acorn after taking the Grade 3 Gazelle in April at Aqueduct and the Oaks. Jose Ortiz takes the return call.

Directive finished a length ahead of Measure winning a June 4 allowance at Saratoga going today's 9-furlong trip. Bred and owned by Juddmonte, the filly by Gun Runner and half-sister to recent Grade 1 Diana runner-up Segesta comes in on a two-race win streak with a maiden score in the mud April 30 at Aqueduct.

The field includes Dandona, who makes her main track debut for trainer Saffie Joseph Jr.; Delaware Park shipper Miss Fulton Gal, winner of the Christiana Stakes last time out for Michael Gorham; and Nycon, runner-up in two stakes this winter at Gulfstream Park and Aqueduct and fourth last time out in the Gazelle for trainer Whit Beckman.

Jim McCue/The Maryland Jockey Club

Mid-Atlantic stakes winner Miss Fulton Gal is part of the Coaching Club field, though she's also entered at Monmouth Park Saturday.

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BREEDERS' CUP TURF (2)
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DELAWARE HANDICAP
DONN HANDICAP (2)
DUBAI WORLD CUP
FLORIDA DERBY
FRANK KILROE MILE
FRIZETTE
GARDEN CITY
GRAND NATIONAL HURDLE
HASKELL INVITATIONAL
HOLLYWOOD TURF CUP
IROQUOIS HURDLE (2)
JENNY WILEY
JOE HIRSCH TURF CLASSIC (2)
KENTUCKY DERBY (2)
KING'S BISHOP
LONESOME GLORY HURDLE
MAKER'S 46 MILE (3)
MANHATTAN (2)
MAN O' WAR (4)
MATRIARCH (2)
METROPOLITAN MILE
NEARCTIC STAKES
PRIORESS
QUEEN ELIZABETH II
SHADWELL TURF MILE
SPINAWAY (2)
SPINSTER
SWORD DANCER (4)
TEST
UNITED NATIONS (2)
VANITY HANDICAP
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ALFRED G. VANDERBILT STAKES

He is Hymn

Moquett takes aim at another Spa sprint with McKinzie 4YO

BY TOM LAW

Ron Moquett likes to handicap. He likes what he calls "scenario handicapping" even more and he's in luck with today's Grade 2 Alfred G. Vanderbilt Stakes at Saratoga Race Course.

"It's a good race and these are good horses," Moquett said Friday morning outside his stalls in the Clark Stakes Barn behind the paddock at Saratoga. "Whoever wins the race will be worthy of winning a race named Vanderbilt. You could line them up in four races and get four winners. That's fun. You're trying to bet a scenario because the horses are very even."

Moquett hopes his entrant in the 6-furlong stakes – Hymn – will show himself a bit more than the others he's expected to face. Two entries trained by Greg Sacco – Crazy Mason and Just Beat The Odds – are expected to scratch. That leaves five opponents for Hymn, a 4-year-old son of McKinzie riding a three-race win streak into his graded-stakes debut.

Sam Decker

Damon's Mound breaks from the rail in the Vanderbilt.

Sam Decker

Vanderbilt hopeful Hymn leans into a gallop at Saratoga Friday morning.

"You've got very good horses in there trained by very good horsemen," Moquett said. "We're going to have to bring our A game and then some. I think he's sitting on a big race."

Moquett bids for his first win in the Vanderbilt, a race he covets and ranks with the Forego and Travers as wish-list stakes at Saratoga. He won the Forego with Whitmore in 2018, but came up short in the Vanderbilt with his champion sprinter in 2020 (second) and 2021 (third).

Owned by his breeder Fleur de Lis Stable, William Sparks and Bret Jones, Hymn started his win streak April 10 going 6 furlongs in first-level allowance company at Oaklawn Park. He added a 7-furlong allowance win on a muddy track in mid-May at Churchill Downs. Hymn became a stakes winner last time out in the $175,000 Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash in late June at Laurel Park.

The De Francis held special meaning for Moquett. He covets that race, too, and nearly won it in 2017 with Whitmore. The real importance came as he headed home following Hymn's 5 1/2-length victory

"The last conversation I had with Bernie Flint was me pulling out of Maryland winning the De Francis and him calling me to congratulate me," Moquett said of his mentor and the trainer who passed away at age 86 July 17 in Louisville. "He said, 'I told you this son of a (gun) could run, I told you; it took you long enough to figure it out.' Just normal Bernie stuff. He was great and that was the last conversation we had, about this horse."

Moquett wound up with Hymn because of Flint. Feeling a bit superstitious heading into the Vanderbilt, Moquett didn't want to get too into how it all came to be.

"Everything about this was Bernie. It's nothing to do with me," Moquett said watching training Thursday from the clubhouse. "If we were to get lucky, that's the story. … I don't want any more pressure. For whatever reason I think the racing gods like sucker punchers, they don't like people that telegraph their punches.

"That's why we know who Onion, Prove Out and Upset are. They wrote all the stories about the favorites, they didn't write anything about those guys until after."

Hymn doesn't figure to be as big of a potential upsetter as Onion, who took down Secretariat in the 1973 Whitney; Prove Out, who took down Secretariat in the 1973 Woodward; or Upset, who slayed the giant Man o' War in the 1919 Sanford. Hymn will likely go to post as the third choice thanks to the expected scratch of morning line sec-

Continued on Page 20

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Vanderbilt –

■ Continued from page 18

ond pick Just Beat The Odds. Hymn sits at 5-1 on the morning line behind 8-5 favorite Built and 4-1 second choice Damon's Mound.

Moquett said Built, owned by Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and trained by Wayne Catalano, deserves favoritism. The 4-year-old son of Hard Spun shipped in from Churchill Downs this week and comes in off a second there in the Grade 3 Bango Stakes June 27. He turned heads this winter when he set the Fair Grounds' track record for 6 furlongs in 1:07.96.

"Built's obviously a pretty nice little horse," Catalano said Friday morning before training Built on the main track. "He's in form right now, he's running good. Triple-digit numbers up there, we're happy with him. The race coming up is to our liking, so we shifted him in at the last minute. We're hoping for the best and hopefully he gives me a birthday present tomorrow."

Built could provide that 70th birthday present to his Cajun conditioner and also win his first stakes since taking down Magnitude in the 2024 Gun Runner Stakes going 1 1/16 miles at Fair Grounds. That win, a second in the Grade 3 Lecomte and a third in the Grade 2 Risen Star put Built in the conversation for the spring classics, but a poor run in the Grade 2 Louisiana Derby changed those plans. He's sprinted exclusively since December, winning three of six and placing in two stakes.

Sam Decker

Wayne Catalano and Built look to win the Vanderbilt from the outside post.

"That was probably a mistake for us," Catalano said of Triple Crown dreams. "But you know how it is. When he won the Gun Runner and everything was beautiful, he's run some big races. But he probably had enough. … It was Derby time so we took a shot. He ran some big races in the preps. He got beat the neck in one (the Lecomte), he should have probably won it. We might have found his home sprinting."

Damon's Mound rides a two-race win streak against Florida-bred competition into the Vanderbilt. Trained by Bill Mott, the 6-year-old son of Girvin finished fourth in last year's Vanderbilt.

He also won the Grade 2 Saratoga Special Stakes in 2022 when trained by Michelle Lovell.

The other three runners figure to be big prices – Cat On Time, who comes off a win at Horseshoe Indianapolis for trainer David Jacobson; Nutella Fella, the 54-1 upset winner of the Grade 1 Hopeful in 2023 when trained by Gary Contessa and now in Joe Sharp's barn; and T Kraft, fifth in an optional claimer last time out for Mott.

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SARATOGA ENTRIES

Saturday, July 25.

1ST (12:35PM). $115,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 6F
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double

1	1	Texas Dandelion	J. Ortiz	J. Sharp	6-1
2	2	Lady Girvin	J. Velazquez	R. Dutrow, Jr.	15-1
3	3	Ms Liu	T. Gaffalione	J. Antonucci	8-1
4	4	Lucerra	E. Zayas	R. Mott	15-1
5	5	Intraosseous	R. Santana, Jr.	K. LaRose	8-1
6	6	Help a Girl Out	F. Prat	T. Pletcher	5-1
7	7	Elevated	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	2-1
8	8	Mysticious	L. Saez	R. Brisset	8-1
9	9	Badittude	I. Ortiz, Jr.	T. Pletcher	9-2

2ND (1:08PM). $70,000, STR $40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1M
Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double

1	1	Lady Wisdom	R. Santana, Jr.	M. Kantarmaci	5-1
2	2	A. P. Slingshot	M. Franco	B. Levine	7-2
3	3	Power of Women	I. Ortiz, Jr.	H. De Paz	5-2
4	4	Sabby Sunset	S. Gonzalez	I. Kantarmaci	12-1
5	5	Lady Delilah	J. Lezcano	J. Ferraro	15-1
6	6	Spirit of Esther	T. Gaffalione	I. Kantarmaci	12-1
7	7	Timia	F. Prat	W. Potts	3-1
8	8	Successful Agenda	D. Davis	J. Sharp	6-1

3RD (1:41PM). $115,000, MSW, 2 YO, 6F
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double

1	1	Blackjack	E. Zayas	J. Delgado	8-1
2	2	Warrior At Heart	T. Gaffalione	D. Beckman	15-1
3	3	Ferrum	K. Carmouche	D. Gargan	9-2
4	4	Silverus	J. Velazquez	G. Weaver	6-1
5	5	Cactus Closer	R. Santana, Jr.	D. Romans	15-1
6	6	Foolin	I. Ortiz, Jr.	T. Pletcher	5-1
7	7	Backlash	F. Prat	T. Pletcher	8-1
8	8	Gold On Black	L. Saez	R. Mott	12-1
9	9	Grand Yaupon	J. Ortiz	S. Asmussen	3-1
10	10	Belzoni	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	8-1

4TH (2:14PM). $105,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF)
Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double

1	1	Charles J	J. Velazquez	J. Lee	12-1
2	2	Sir Oscar	M. Franco	G. Weaver	3-1
3	3	Honoree	I. Ortiz, Jr.	C. McGaughey III	5-2
4	4	Three Thirteen	S. Bridgmohan	M. Giddings	15-1
5	5	Inspeightofcharlie	J. Ortiz	B. Tagg	7-2
6	6	Kings Dancer	K. Davis	L. Dixon	30-1
7	7	Ortus	J. Lezcano	L. Lewis	12-1
8	8	Alzero	J. Rodriguez	H. Bond	20-1
9	9	Naguile	F. Prat	K. Brion	6-1
10	10	Perfectworks	C. Elliott	K. Callaghan	12-1
11	AE	Resurgo	J. Alvarado	A. Gardea	5-1
12	AE	Solo Empire	E. Zayas	R. Rodriguez	30-1
13	AE-MTO	Who's Your Zaddy	R. Santana, Jr.	A. Green	2-1

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5TH (2:48PM). $120,000, AOC $100,000, 3 YO, 1 1/16M (TURF)
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double, Pic 5

1	1	Omaha Storm	M. Franco	M. Hennig	20-1
2	2	Silent Impact	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	10-1
3	3	Quiet Power	J. Lezcano	C. McGaughey III	10-1
4	4	Nuck Chorris	R. Santana, Jr.	M. Maker	20-1
5	5	Go Grey	J. Ortiz	M. Trombetta	8-1
6	6	King's Remark (IRE)	D. Davis	M. Clement	9-2
7	7	Chicken Dance	T. Gaffalione	F. Abreu	15-1
8	8	Woods	J. Velazquez	T. Pletcher	8-1
9	9	Tiz Trouble	J. Rodriguez	L. Lewis	8-1
10	10	Instability (IRE)	F. Prat	C. Brown	5-2
11	11	Chambersville	I. Ortiz, Jr.	K. McPeek	6-1
12	AE-MTO	C McGriff	T. Gaffalione	R. Medina	3-1
13	AE-MTO	Minorinconvenience	R. Santana, Jr.	A. Green	2-1
14	AE-MTO	Into the Light	D. Davis	R. Dutrow, Jr.	4-1

6TH (3:22PM). $125,000, AOC $80,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double, Pic 4

1	1	Dreamlike	K. Carmouche	L. Rice	7-2
2	2	Wynstock	I. Ortiz, Jr.	B. Cox	5-1
3	3	Waitlist	M. Franco	L. Rice	12-1
4	4	Resilience	J. Lezcano	W. Mott	6-1
5	5	General Banker	E. Zayas	J. Ferraro	12-1
6	6	Le Gris	J. Ortiz	R. Rodriguez	6-1
7	7	Paros	R. Santana, Jr.	G. Rodriguez	15-1
8	8	Emerging Market	F. Prat	C. Brown	8-5

7TH (3:56PM). $105,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF)
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double, Pic 6

1	1	Guilty	T. Gaffalione	B. Levine	15-1
2	2	Twirling Lad	E. Zayas	H. De Paz	8-1
3	3	Missionattheglen	L. Saez	M. LeCesse	30-1
4	4	Jack's World	F. Prat	L. Rice	3-1
5	5	Super Dave	D. Davis	W. Ward	9-2
6	6	Stormy Birthday	J. Rodriguez	R. Ribaudo	15-1
7	7	Calvin's Ride	J. Ortiz	K. Rice	6-1
8	8	Sammy C Note	M. Franco	M. Miceli	6-1
9	9	Oat Coutour	J. Alvarado	C. Englehart	7-2
10	10	Wit Storm	K. Davis	B. Tagg	15-1
11	AE	Newlyn	R. Santana, Jr.	G. Weaver	8-1
12	AE	Beach Invasion	K. Coa	M. Ferraro	30-1
13	AE	McDiesel	E. Zayas	R. Rodriguez	50-1
14	AE-MTO	Egyptian	J. Ortiz	R. Dutrow, Jr.	5-2

8TH (4:30PM). $120,000, AOC $100,000, 3 YO, F , 1 1/16M (TURF)
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double

1	1	Bourbon Betty	D. Davis	M. Hennig	8-1
2	2	Crossover Capital (FR)	F. Prat	C. Brown	5-1
3	3	R Slew of Cash	L. Saez	S. Joseph, Jr.	20-1
4	4	Soloist	J. Ortiz	K. McPeek	10-1
5	5	Paige Turner	K. Carmouche	C. DeVaux	12-1
6	6	Vekoma View	J. Velazquez	G. Weaver	10-1
7	7	River Ride	J. Lezcano	C. McGaughey III	10-1
8	8	New Rose	E. Zayas	J. Antonucci	15-1
9	9	Bella Knows	I. Ortiz, Jr.	B. Cox	4-1
10	10	People Watching	K. Davis	T. Proctor	30-1
11	11	Abigail	M. Franco	M. Clement	15-1
12	12	Kokomotion	T. Gaffalione	D. Beckman	3-1
13	AE-MTO	Pashmina	Rider TBA	R. Atras	5-2

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- Won G2 Pilgrim Stakes
- Won With Anticipation Stakes
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JUNE 25 – SEPTEMBER 7
THURSDAY - SUNDAY 12:30 PM (EDT)*

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 1
ARLINGTON MILLION (G1), $500,000 BEVERLY D. (G2)
$500,000 SECRETARIAT (G2), $150,000 VAN CLIEF (LISTED)
$150,000 ANDY GUEST, $100,000 TYSON GILPIN
$100,000 PETRAMALO MILE, $100,000 REIGH COUNT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22
CLAIMING CROWN PREVIEW

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
$500,000 OLD DOMINION DERBY (G3)
$250,000 OLD DOMINION OAKS (LISTED)
$150,000 DA HOSS
$150,000 COLONIAL CUP
$125,000 EXACTA SYSTEMS ROSIE'S
$125,000 KITTEN'S JOY

*Specialty days may have different post times.
Must be 18 or older to wager on horse racing.

SARATOGA ENTRIES

9TH (5:07PM). $400,000, STK - THE ALFRED G. VANDERBILT, 4 YO'S & UP, 6F
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double

1	1	Damon's Mound	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	4-1
2	2	Crazy Mason	J. Velazquez	G. Sacco	8-1
3	3	Cat On Time	T. Gaffalione	D. Jacobson	15-1
4	4	Just Beat the Odds	M. Franco	G. Sacco	9-2
5	5	Nutella Fella	J. Ortiz	J. Sharp	15-1
6	6	Hymn	R. Santana, Jr.	R. Moquett	5-1
7	7	T Kraft	F. Prat	W. Mott	8-1
8	8	Built	I. Ortiz, Jr.	W. Catalano	8-5

10TH (5:45PM). $500,000, STK - THE COACHING CLUB AMERICAN OAKS, 3 YO, F , 1 1/8M
Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	Counting Stars	I. Ortiz, Jr.	M. Casse	2-1
2	2	Dandona	T. Gaffalione	S. Joseph, Jr.	20-1
3	3	La Rascasse	A. Concepcion	W. Walden	8-1
4	4	Miss Fulton Gal	J. Rodriguez	M. Gorham	30-1
5	5	Measure	M. Franco	M. Casse	15-1
6	6	Always a Runner	J. Ortiz	C. Brown	9-5
7	7	Directive	F. Prat	C. Brown	6-1
8	8	Zany	J. Velazquez	T. Pletcher	9-2
9	9	Nycon	L. Saez	D. Beckman	30-1

11TH (6:19PM). $105,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 5 1/2F (TURF)
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	1	Juliet On Approach	E. Zayas	J. Begg	20-1
2	2	Sinead	I. Ortiz, Jr.	J. Abreu	8-1
3	3	Tuthilltown	D. Davis	M. Miceli	12-1
4	4	Moonlight Ready	J. Velazquez	C. Baker	9-2
5	5	Turriga	R. Santana, Jr.	H. Bond	10-1
6	6	Miss Jane Hathaway	R. Gutierrez	J. Ferraro	10-1
7	7	Dancingwithdestiny	K. Davis	M. Dini	4-1
8	8	Vernon Valley	M. Franco	R. Mott	12-1
9	9	She's Our Tiz	K. Carmouche	M. Giangiulio	8-1
10	10	Fifi La Fume	C. Elliott	R. Rodriguez	30-1
11	11	Honest Reason	J. Rodriguez	L. Dixon	20-1
12	12	Fairy Godmother	T. Gaffalione	R. Handal	7-2
13	AE	Oklahoma Smoke	J. Ortiz	A. Rice	6-1
14	AE	Quick Power Nap	C. Elliott	R. Rodriguez	15-1
15	AE-MTO	Daniella Marie	K. Carmouche	C. Summers	9-5
16	AE-MTO	Sunshine Lily	Rider TBA	G. DiPrima	8-1

12TH (6:52PM). $56,000, MCL $50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	1	Dinghy Bar	K. Davis	J. Terranova II	12-1
2	2	Big Fat Goalie	F. Prat	R. Falcone, Jr.	8-1
3	3	Followill	C. Elliott	A. DeVaux	15-1
4	4	Gilbane	M. Franco	A. Green	6-1
5	5	Lobbyist	D. Davis	D. Donk	3-1
6	6	Drayden	E. Zayas	D. Gargan	15-1
7	7	Leave Me	I. Ortiz, Jr.	H. De Paz	2-1
8	8	Zip for Rick	O. Hernandez Moreno	R. Legall	50-1
9	9	Kuleana	J. Alvarado	J. Englehart	8-1
10	10	Foto	R. Santana, Jr.	D. Duggan	8-1
11	AE	Portadown Lad	K. Carmouche	J. Ferraro	20-1
12	AE	Beau Cheval	J. Ortiz	J. Sharp	6-1
13	AE	Bourboncentric	R. Santana, Jr.	T. Morley	5-1
14	AE	Rossbeigh	M. Franco	M. Clement	5-2
15	AE	Nonno Joe	L. Saez	R. Rodriguez	15-1
16	AE	Big Frosty	F. Prat	T. Pletcher	9-2

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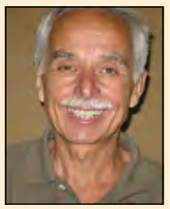

Race	Tom Law	John Shapazian	Charles Bedard	Rob Whitlock	Jessica Paquette
1	Elevated Badittude Intraosseous	Elevated Help A Girl Out Ms Liu	Elevated Help A Girl Out Lucerra	Intraosseous Texas Dandelion Badittude	Elevated Lady Girvin Lucerra
2	Power Of Women Timia A.P. Slingshot	Power Of Women Timbia Successful Agenda	Power Of Women Lady Wisdom Timia	Power Of Women Spirit of Esther A.P. Slingshot	Lady Wisdom Power Of Women Sabby Sunset
3	Ferrum Belzoni Backlash	Grand Yaupon Silverus Ferrum	Backlash Gold On Black Yaupon	Grand Yaupon Ferrum Backlash	Silverus Ferrum Backlash
4	Honoree Charles J Sir Oscar	Sir Oscar Honoree Inspeightofcharlie	Inspeightofcharlie Naguile Honoree	Honoree Inspeightofcharlie Naguile	Honoree Sir Oscar Naguile
5	Instability Woods King's Remark	Instability King's Remark Woods	Instability Quiet Power Silent Impact	Go Grey Instability Woods	Silent Impact Quiet Power Woods
6	Emerging Market Resilience Dreamlike	Emerging Market Wynstock Le Gris	Wynstock Emerging Market Dreamlike	Emerging Market Resilience Dreamlike	Dreamlike Resilience Emerging Market
7	Calvin's Ride Sammy C Note Twirling Lad	Super Dave Jack's World Twirling Lad	Oat Coutour Jack's World Super Dave	Oat Coutour Calvin's Ride Jack's World	Twirling Lad Missionattheglen Super Dave
8	Bella Knows Kokomotion Bourbon Betty	Bella Knows Kokomotion Crossover Capital	Bella Knows Crossover Capital Kokomotion	Bella Knows Soloist Crossover Capital	Vekoma View Paige Turner River Ride
9	Built Hymn Damon's Mound	Built T Kraft Hymn	Damon's Mound Built Hymn	Built Damon's Mound Hymn	Damon's Mound Hymn Built
10	Counting Stars Directive Always A Runner	Counting Stars Always A Runner Directive	Counting Stars Measure Always A Runner	Counting Stars Directive Always A Runner	Directive Counting Stars Always A Runner
11	She's Our Tiz Moonlight Ready Miss Jane Hathaway	Moonlight Ready Fairy Godmother Dancingwithdestiny	Tuthilltown Dancingwithdestiny Fairy Godmother	Vernon Valley Moonlight Ready Sinead	Fairy Godmother Miss Jane Hathaway Vernon Valley
12	Leave Me Kuleana Foto	Leave Me Lobbyist Big Fat Goalie	Foto Leave Me Kuleana	Leave Me Lobbyist Gilbane	Lobbyist Foto Leave Me
2026 Records	**32/129, -$48.18**	**26/130, -$111.16**	**27/130, -$63.52**	**29/129, -$57.44**	**21/120, -$98.78**

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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SHUVEE STAKES RECAP

Fund Closed

Fully Subscribed nails Scottish Lassie in Gr. 2

BY SEAN CLANCY

Sam Decker
Fully Subscribed (second from right) finds position early.

Spotless from a stalking outside trip, Scottish Lassie lengthened, opened up and looked home free in the Grade 2 Shuvee. Covered in dirt from a rating inside trip, Fully Subscribed angled out, aimed and looked like a gallant runner-up in Friday's feature.

And then no doubt became in doubt as 9 furlongs came down to nine strides. The slow-motion strides of Scottish Lassie, tail swishing from three right-handed flicks from Jose Ortiz's whip. The dirt-devouring strides of Fully Subscribed, lowering and lengthening from Flavien Prat's whip switching, right, left, right, left, right.

Fully Subscribed drew even with Scottish Lassie two strides before the wire and won by a dominant and deceptive half-length. Pacesetter Snowyte held on for third after 1 1/8 miles over the fast track in 1:49.46.

Tough effort by Fully Subscribed. Tough beat for Scottish Lassie.

Owned by Klaravich Stable and trained by Chad Brown, the daughter of Tiz The Law notched her fourth win and second Grade 2 victory in her eighth start and increased her earnings to $763,800.

Bred by Payson Stud, Fully Subscribed won her

Continued on Page 30

PoM
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103
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105
BEYER AT 3
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2x G1W Raging Torrent
G1W Nutella Fella
G1W Timberlake
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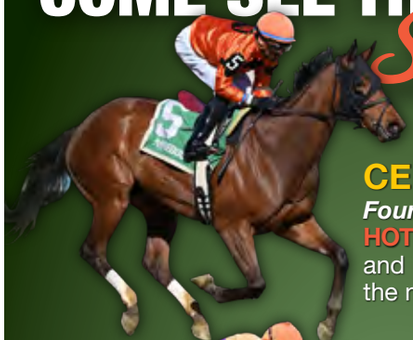

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Shuvee –

■ Continued from page 28

debut at Aqueduct in October 2024. She returned nearly a year later with a third and a second against allowance foes before winning the Grade 2 Mother Goose and Grade 3 Comely. Put away for the winter, she came back this year with a second in the Grade 1 La Troienne at Churchill Downs May 1. In her most recent start, Fully Subscribed finished in a dead heat for second, 12 3/4 lengths behind Nitrogen in the Grade 1 Ogden Phipps at Saratoga June 5. When Nitrogen opted to take on the best older horses in the Whitney Aug. 8, Brown drew a sigh of relief and paved an easier road.

"My filly trained so good into that race and the fact that she got drowned by that horse, it scared me a little," Brown said about the Phipps. "Because the gap in the finish versus how my filly trained, I don't know if I could have a dirt route filly train better than that. If she could get beat 10 lengths by her, what am I doing in this division? So, yeah, I was happy about that."

Not that the Shuvee was a gimme putt. Grade 1 winner Scottish Lassie made sure of that. The daughter of McKinzie won the Grade 1 Coaching Club American Oaks by 15 ½ lengths here last summer. She came back and finished fourth in the Grade 1 Cotillion before taking a long winter break. She returned with zest, winning an allowance race by 8 ½ lengths at Saratoga June 7.

Game on.

Fully Subscribed broke sharply from post three and Prat eased her back behind a determined Snowyte to his inside and a yielding Scottish Lassie to his outside. Snowyte led Scottish Lassie by 1 ½ lengths through the first quarter in :23.72 and a half in :47.98. Bless The Broken loped along in third, outside Fully Subscribed who found her niche along the rail. Longshots Valtellina and Aeolian trailed.

"She jumped well out of there and got me in a good spot, I was behind horses I liked," Prat said. "I liked my trip. I liked my spot. I was traveling well."

Snowyte led through three quarters in 1:11.75 as Scottish Lassie rolled to her outside, Bless The Broken retreated and Prat unearthed Fully Subscribed, instantly switching from a bottled-up inside spot to an in-the-clear launching pad. But plenty of work still to be done.

Scottish Lassie dispatched Snowyte, opened a quick 3 length lead and, well, you know the rest.

"They got a head start on me. We planned on moving out and getting a clear run," Prat said. "But honestly turning for home I thought I was going to run second. And then at the eighth pole, she found another gear."

Her other gear booked her ticket to the Grade 1 Personal Ensign on Travers Day. With four wins, three seconds (in two Grade 1 stakes) and a third, the $300,000 2-year-old purchase could be poised for a strong second half to her campaign.

"In her last two races, I thought she was really flying and even though she ran well I left there a little disappointed because I was telling them that she could actually win," Brown said. "In comparing her to some other Grade 1 dirt fillies going a mile and an eighth, she trained a little better than some of them. A couple of disappointments just because she trained so good, but she never disappointed me with her effort. There's a Grade 1 with her name on it."

See you in five weeks.

Dave Harmon

Fully Subscribed (foreground) catches Scottish Lassie near the finish.

Churchill Downs

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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Sam Decker

Chummers (right) holds off Caroline St. Beat late in Friday's Rick Violette Stakes.

RICK VIOLETTE STAKES RECAP

High Roller

Exiting $55k claimer, Chummers triumphs in NY-bred turf stakes

BY DARBY O'BRIEN

Chris Boehning made his first trip to Saratoga Race Course as a boy.

The visit came at the behest of his grandfather, an Italian immigrant with a love for the track, and Boehning discovered his own love for racing. He became involved early, first as a fan and now as an owner.

A stakes-winning owner.

"I'm super excited," he said, swarmed by friends and family in a jam-packed winner's circle after Chummers rallied to clinch Friday's $200,000 Rick Violette at 7-1. "Especially to win the race named after Rick is very meaningful. Everyone who's been involved with racing knows him, and it's very spe-

Continued on Page 34

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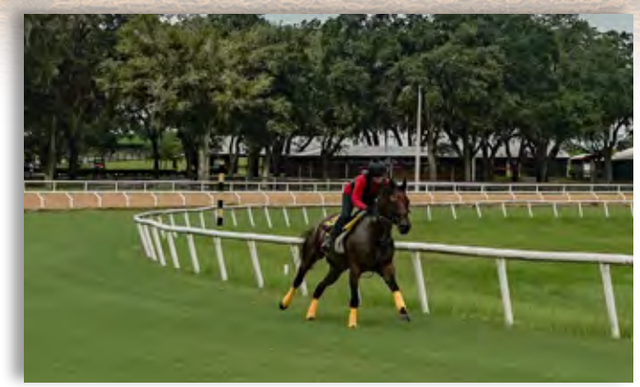

EXPERTLY MAINTAINED TRACKS

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.

STATE-OF-THE-ART AMENITIES

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Violette –

■ Continued from page 32

cial. It was a great performance. Incredible."

The 1 1/16-mile Rick Violette wasn't Boehning's first success at Saratoga. Last month, Heeere's Johnny broke his maiden in the Saranac Stakes for Boehning's Blue Bison Stable in partnership with Magic Carpet Racing and Catherine Coyle. Ray Handal trains Chummers and Heeere's Johnny.

Boehning founded Blue Bison with childhood friend David Greenhouse. Both attended nearby Shaker High School and decided to name their stable in honor of the school's mascot.

"It's fantastic," he said. "I have family, friends here. David is here. There's no better place to win than Saratoga. I've known Ray for a long time. We've had a bunch of horses together, he's a good friend. It's great to see him have success and now we've had two stakes winners together."

Spirit Of New York and Voodoo Doll battled for the lead into the first turn while Chummers settled. Voodoo Doll came out on top, rolling through a quarter in :22.41 while Spirit Of New York tracked in second and 2-1 favorite A Little At First settled in third. Chummers travelled comfortably in sixth while Caroline St. Beat trailed. Voodoo Doll cruised through the half in :46.86, still leading into far turn. Flavien Prat angled Chummers to the outside, Caroline St. Beat at his heels.

A Little At First gained a narrow advantage at the top of the stretch, Spirit Of New York faded along the rail, as Chummers and Caroline St. Beat rallied down the center of the course. Chummers took command inside the three-sixteenths pole as Caroline St. Beat bore down to his outside.

The 1-2 finishers bumped in deep stretch as Chummers refused to yield, digging in to score by a neck in 1:40.61 with A Little At First third.

Runner-up jockey Manny Franco tried to lodge a claim of foul. He and Prat spoke to the stewards on the phone, but no objection or inquiry was posted and the race was eventually made official.

"I'm on cloud nine," Handal said. "I mean, I was praying that the horse would get claimed two starts back and now we're winning stakes races in Saratoga. You can't make it up."

Sam Decker

Trainer Ray Handal picked up his second stakes win of the meet.

Chummers raced for a $55,000 tag when he won on the grass June 19 at Aqueduct. The 3-year-old son of the late New York-based sire Combatant improved to 2-for-9 that day, with the other win coming in a 6-furlong statebred maiden in October at Aqueduct.

"I've got to be honest, he was running pretty poor and I think it might have been a confidence builder because after that race he's just shown that he's gotten better," Handal said. "He ran a crazy high number. I said, 'If that's real we'll be OK in New York-bred stakes company.' "

Chummers made his debut on the dirt at Saratoga last summer. He moved to the turf next and finished second. He broke his maiden in his third start at Aqueduct before a sixth in the Notebook Stakes and a 12th in the $500,000 Great White Way division of the New York Stallion Series on the dirt to close his 2-year-old campaign.

He made his 2026 debut in February in an optional claimer on the dirt, finishing sixth, before a ninth and an eighth in his next two starts.

"Chris Boehning had gotten in on the horse and I told him we were pointing to this spot," Handal said. "I figured we would just take a shot because he was running good and it was restricted to 3-year-olds . . . Some of those older horses in the New York-bred division are really tough, so I figure that restricted to 3-year-olds, ran a big number, he's got to be competitive."

Chummers originally sold for $6,000 at the 2024 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale. With his victory, the New York-bred earned $110,000 to pad his bankroll to $208,840.

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Take Two

Aftercare Day highlights card, versatility of Thoroughbreds

FRIDAY RACING RECAP

T Loves A Fight hammed it up in the Horse Sense stall at Saratoga Race Course Friday afternoon. He posed, stood for pictures, indulged the children eagerly reaching to pet him, posed some more and helped educate fans about Thoroughbred aftercare.

Friday, the track hosted its annual Thoroughbred Aftercare Day, highlighting retired Thoroughbreds and the organizations that work tirelessly to provide them with second careers and second homes.

T Loves A Fight set up shop at the Horse Sense stall at noon, greeting fan after fan for the next two hours. His line was never shorter than a dozen people, and the gelding couldn't get enough of the attention.

"This is the first time he's ever done it, but he's super chill," said Orlando Noda, one of the gelding's former trainers. "He's loving all the attention."

T Loves A Fight made 62 starts, tallying 11 wins, 12 seconds and eight thirds with earnings of $743,144. Noda claimed him for $10,000 in 2019 but kept him around after his retirement, the gelding slotting into place as Noda's stable pony.

He competed at the stakes level multiple times throughout his career, his biggest win coming in the 2017

Continued On Page 38

Sam Decker

T Loves A Fight, now the Noda stable pony, smiles for the people Friday.

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Friday –

■ Continued from page 36

Mike Lee at Belmont Park.

"He was my top earner," said Noda. "I just wasn't going to drop him down the ranks and he's stayed with us ever since. He's been with us for seven years now."

Throughout the day, NYRA highlighted retired Thoroughbreds and retirement programs with featurettes on the big screen, interviews with representatives on Saratoga Live and through dedicating races to programs such as Second Chance Thoroughbreds, Old Friends At Cabin Creek, Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation and New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program.

A booth behind the jockeys' quarters provided interested fans with the opportunity to learn more about these racehorse retirement programs. Representatives stood ready to engage and educate fans on all the programs and all the opportunities for Thoroughbreds beyond the racetrack. As a thank you for donations, fans also had the opportunity to choose between t-shirts, sweatshirts, pins and even horse plushies. Representatives from New Vocations headed the booth.

"A lot of our horses are retired through the Take The Lead program," said New Vocations' Amanda Vance. "Then they come to our program for rehab and retraining. Then we transition them and get them adopted."

Vance manages the New Vocation's facility in nearby Gansevoort and has seen first hand the effects of aftercare. New Vocations is the largest racehorse adoption program in the country with facilities in Kentucky, Louisiana, New York, Ohio, Florida and Pennsylvania serving a variety of communities and helping racehorses from every corner of the country.

"All of our horses have great stories," she said. "One of the things we do when we have time is get updates on all of the horses that come through our program. It's a lot of fun to read about all the success. Horses come in and we get to know them, but only for a short period of time usually, so it's a lot of fun to read about what they're doing in their new homes and how they're doing."

Vance herself adopted a Thoroughbred through New Vocations.

"Comet," she said with a smile. "That's my personal horse. He raced 12 times, he's a New York-bred. We show him now, he's a show jumper. I adopted him through New Vocations. He's the best."

During his racing career, Comet was known as Soaring Star. He made all of his career starts at Finger Lakes before finding a home with Vance.

"The public is a little more aware now that the horses do things other than racing," said Vance. "I don't think anybody really thinks about that. That's why Aftercare Day is important."

– Darby O'Brien

Dave Harmon

Runaway Bride scores in Friday's sixth race.

Sam Decker

Chestertown, now the mount of NYRA head outrider Miguel Gutierrez, received the Down Broadway Award as New York's retired racehorse of the year from NYTHA's Andy Belfiore.

• Runaway Bride or bride-to-be?

Both were in the winner's circle after Friday's sixth.

A bachelorette party joined in the celebrations after Runaway Bride scored on debut, a 5 ½-furlong turf sprint, the bride-to-be clad in a white veil and all as the group swarmed in.

"She's trained extremely well, very forward," said winning trainer Whit Beckman. "I don't start a lot of horses real early but she's kind of put herself in a spot to make that start. The way the Charlatans are running on the turf, I thought she was a turf horse early and then they started hitting there, so it came together in that respect."

The 2-year-old daughter of Charlatan settled at the rear early before rallying wide at the top of the stretch. She won by a neck under Tyler Gaffalione.

"With these 2-year-olds you never know," said former Major League Baseball player Jayson Werth, whose Icon Racing Stable owns the filly. "That's why you run the races. I've been playing professional sports, anything can happen. Anybody can be beaten on any given day. That's why you're in it, that's why you run. That was a tough race, it was like Murderer's Row, really. She ran great. We thought maybe she wanted a little bit extra distance but you never know until you run. And to show that heart, that competitiveness, as a 2-year-old. And the way she was in the paddock, she was so professional, calm, business-like. That's what you want to see. Whit's done a great job with her, super happy."

Icon Racing paid $150,000 for Runaway Bride at the OBS April sale and sent her Beckman. She impressed from the start.

"She's a really good-minded filly," Beckman said. "I've had no issues with her, just been able to train along with no interruptions. She can get a little aggressive out there but around the barn she's as easy as they come. But on the track she knows what time it is."

– Darby O'Brien

• Fans who missed Thursday's 13 1/4-length winner in the first race didn't need to worry much, because Friday's opener looked similar. Babcie, a 3-year-old filly by Central Banker, romped to a 7-length win in the 7-furlong maiden claiming event on the main track to kick off the card. The New York-bred gave trainer Melanie Giddings her second win of the meet and her owner, 94-year-old Frederick McNeary Sr., his first win at Saratoga.

"I've run here several times, but never won," said McNeary. "I was born and raised here and have lived here all my life. It's outstanding to win here."

Babcie, a $2,500 RNA at the 2023 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga fall mixed sale, means "grandmother" in Polish.

Continued on Page 40

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Friday –

■ Continued from page 38

"There's a lot of Polish people here," a grinning McNeary said as he walked out of the winner's circle with his wife and daughter by his side.

– Shea Brown

• Trainer Fernando Abreu went from waiting for his first Saratoga win of the summer to celebrating two in the span of less than an hour Friday afternoon.

"It feels good," Abreu said after the first winner, John Penn's Get A Job in the fourth. The 5-year-old Good Samaritan gelding made his first start of 2026 in the 1-mile claiming event on the dirt and won by a head.

"I was a little bit worried because he's had a long layoff; we're just bringing him back," said Abreu. "He tends to like Saratoga, but when I saw him go the first quarter in :24 and change, I figured he should be able to be there because he was working really good."

Abreu returned to the winner's circle after Paterpop Racing's Salming won the fifth, a 6 1/2-furlong claiming race on the dirt for his first victory of 2026. Linda Rice claimed the gelding for $20,000.

– Taylor Barraclough

Dave Harmon

Salming storms to victory in Friday's sixth, one of two wins on the day for trainer Fernando Abreu.

• Lindy Farm's Limited Edition and Ricardo Santana Jr. closed out the card with a win in a 1 1/2-mile maiden special weight on the inner turf.

Trained Philip Antonacci, Limited Edition bided his time in fourth for most of the race behind War And Majesty, Donnadoyawanna and Orgonite.

The 4-year-old Not This Time gelding went rallied on the outside to win by 3 ½ lengths. Limited Edition moved to Antonacci's string after being purchased for $135,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July horses of racing age sale.

"He's a very easy horse, a very kind horse," Antonacci said. "He's just been a pleasure to have and he always deserved to win. He was runner-up a few times at Gulfstream and today seemed like he deserved it and obviously he liked the distance."

Limited Edition won in his 11th start. He most recently finished fifth in a maiden special weight at a mile on the turf during the Belmont Stakes Racing Festival.

"A horse like that fits Kentucky Downs well," said Antonacci. "It looks like he wants to go long and like nothing bothers him too much. We'll see how he comes out of it and evaluate the next step."

– Shea Brown

• Qatar Racing's Conflict stormed home to break her maiden on debut in the second, a 1 1/16-mile turf maiden, for trainer Brad Cox. Irad Ortiz Jr. piloted the Golden Pal filly to a 1-length score. … Chad Brown sent out My Gun's Loaded to win the third, a 1-mile optional claiming. The heavy favorite drew off to triumph by 3 lengths for Douglas Scharbauer. … Head of Plains' homebred Nonna Lynne rallied to win the seventh, a 1 1/16-mile optional claiming on the turf, for trainer Chad Brown.

Thank You!

GODOLPHIN, BILL MOTT, TEAM MOTT
and most importantly QUIET STREET.

SEVENTH RACE
Presque Isle Downs
JULY 20, 2026

6 FURLONGS. (1.07³) LADY ERIE S. Purse $100,000 FOR FILLIES, THREE YEARS OLD . This is a Non Lasix race. (Lasix not permitted within 48 hours of post time.) No Nomination Fee. $250 to pass the entry box. $500 additional to start. Purse to be divided: $60,000 to the Winner; $20,000 to Second; $10,000 to Third; $5,000 to Fourth; $2,500 to Fifth; $1,500 to Sixth, $500 to Seventh and Eighth, and $250 each to Ninth through Twelfth. WEIGHT: 124 lbs. Non-Winners of $60,000 in 2026 allowed 2 lbs.; $45,000 in 2026, 4 lbs.; $30,000 in 2026, 6 lbs.; (Maiden and Claiming Races not considered in estimating allowances). This Race is Limited to Twelve (12) Starters with Two (2) Also Eligibles. In the event more than Twelve (12) Entries pass the Entry Box, preference to start will be given to those horses with the highest lifetime earnings according to Equibase. Supplemental nominations may be made at the time of entry by payment of $1,500 that covers both entry and starting fees. Two horses having common ties through ownership cannot start to the exclusion of a single interest. Starters to be named through the Entry Box by the usual time of closing. IN THE EVENT LESS THAN SIX (6) SINGLE BETTING INTERESTS PASS THE ENTRY BOX, THIS RACE MAY BE DECLARED OFF AND ALL MONIES REFUNDED. TROPHY TO THE WINNING OWNER.

Value of Race: $100,000 Winner $60,000; second $20,000; third $10,000; fourth $5,000; fifth $2,500; sixth $1,500; seventh $500; eighth $500.
Mutuel Pool $104,386.00 Exacta Pool $50,577.00 Trifecta Pool $27,783.00 Superfecta Pool $19,428.00

Last Raced	Horse	M/Eqt.	A.	Wt.	PP	St.	¼	½	Str	Fin	Jockey	Odds $1
5Jun26 ⁹Sar⁵	Quiet Street		3	118	2	7	8	6¹	4²	1¹¾	Kingsley T	4.60
16May26 ²BAQ¹	Niche		3	122	8	3	1¹½	11½	1²	2¾	Davis D	5.80
22Jun26 ⁷PID¹	Smooch Up		3	122	7	1	2½	2²	2¹	3¹	Gallardo A A	0.50
29Jun26 ⁶PID³	Inspire Courage		3	119	1	5	5¹	4hd	5½	4no	Spieth S	52.30
3Nov25 ⁵Ind¹	Rocket Rania	b	3	118	4	8	7¹½	7hd	6¹	5¾	Gutierrez Mario	24.20
20Jun26 ⁸BtP¹	Mystic Realm		3	118	3	4	3¹	3½	3½	6nk	Martinez G A	80.70
2Jun26 ⁸PID¹	Aporia		3	118	6	6	6hd	8	7²	7⁶	Marin S	8.70
8Jly26 ³PID¹	Eye Candy Warrior		3	119	5	2	4½	5½	8	8	Rodriguez A R	13.80

OFF AT 6:19 Start Good. Won driving. Track fast.
TIME :22, :45¹, :57, 1:09 (:22.18, :45.21, :57.02, 1:09.12)

$2 Mutuel Prices:				
	3 – QUIET STREET	**11.20**	**6.80**	**3.00**
	9 – NICHE		**7.40**	**2.80**
	8 – SMOOCH UP			**2.20**

$2 EXACTA 3–9 PAID $41.80 $2 TRIFECTA 3–9–8
PAID $103.20 $2 SUPERFECTA 3–9–8–1 PAID $821.80

Ch. f, (Apr), by Street Boss – Serene , by Tapit. Trainer Mott William I. Bred by Godolphin (Ky).

QUIET STREET unhurried early to be the trailer, closed the gap along the rail on the turn saving ground, rallied cutting the corner turning for home, angled five wide in upper stretch to pass stalling rivals, angled back to the inside of the drifting pacemaker in mid-stretch and surged passed to be going away in deep stretch in a well handled ride. NICHE sped to the lead opening a clear, well measured lead to the top of the lane, responded when called upon to keep clear midway down the lane while drifting out and was outkicked late to be second best. SMOOCH UP prompted the pace to the turn, was put to a drive on the bend chasing the pacesetter, could not close the gap on that one in the stretch and ran-on through the lane to hold the show. INSPIRE COURAGE rate in mid-pack to midway on the turn and rallied mildly showing good interest. ROCKET RANIA was very reluctant to load pre-race, broke at the rear of the field to trail most of the way and passed weaker rivals in the lane with a mild bid. MYSTIC REALM stalked the pace to be well placed turning for home, dug-in to keep pace in upper stretch and weakened in the final furlong. APORIA was one-paced never posing a threat. EYE CANDY WARRIOR raced in contention down the backside and steadily gave way.

Owners– 1, Godolphin LLC; 2 Red White and Blue Racing LLC; 3, Klimasewski Robert G and Klimasewski Tammy; 4, Cheyenne Stables LLC; 5, Warren Andrew N; 6, Spud Nuts Racing; 7, Manzanita Stables LLC; 8, Warrior's Reward LLC

Trainers– 1, Mott William I; 2, Atras Rob; 3, Potts Ron G Jr; 4, Kintz S Matthew; 5, Matejka Pavel; 6, Vaughan Edward; 7, Clement Miguel; 8, Kulp Brandon L.

Scratched– Oscar Bound (03Jul26 ⁵Sar⁷) , Endless Glory (29Jun26 ⁶PID²)

$2 Pick Three (2–3–3) Paid $77.60 ; Pick Three Pool $4,268 .
$2 Daily Double (3–3) Paid $14.60 ; Daily Double Pool $4,714 .

QUIET STREET wins the LADY ERIE STAKES
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SUZIE O'CAIN STAKES RECAP

Plan B

Cosmic Candy Girl leads all the way in NY-bred stakes

BY TOM LAW

Dave Harmon
Cosmic Candy Girl heads for home in Thursday's Suzie O'Cain.

Joe DiRico went shopping at the 2024 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale, scouting New York-bred prospects with some pedigree who might look like they would handle grass racing.

He found several, including a bay filly at the Paramount Sales consignment that fit the bill.

"She was a Twirling Candy out of a Galileo mare," DiRico said of the then Hip 34 and the now Cosmic Candy Girl. "There wasn't a lot on the page but if you went back to the second dam, she was by Smart Strike. The sire power there was incredible and she was a nice package, well-balanced, intelligent."

DiRico liked the filly, the second foal out of winner Evening Primrose, enough to go to $130,000 to sign the ticket. He likes Cosmic Candy Girl even more after she won Thursday's $200,000 Suzie O'Cain Stakes, even though she hasn't changed much.

"She didn't grow as much as I thought she would," DiRico said after Cosmic Candy Girl sprang a 26-1 upset of five others in the 1 1/16-mile stakes for 3-year-old New York-bred fillies. "She was just, a nice individual, the pedigree and everything else."

Cosmic Candy Girl waltzed on the lead early under Chris Elliott, clicked off splits of :24.48 and :48.80 and fended off some challenges at the top of the lane. She won by 3 ½ lengths over the late-running Considerate City, who edged New York Special and Neshika in a three-way battle for the place. All Of It, the previously unbeaten 6-5 favorite, finished fifth with 2-1 second choice Celtic Dawn last of six.

Dave Harmon
Dr. Lynwood O'Cain (left) makes the presentation to owner Joe DiRico and jockey Chris Elliott

"That was unbelievable huh?" DiRico said. "She got out front, just like when I ran Sunday Boy here the other day. He's a come-from-behind horse and he went out front. He just wired the field. We were trying to take her back, the last couple times she was too far forward and she wasn't finishing. She finished today."

DiRico's other winner, Sunday Boy, did the same for trainer Jim Ryerson when he went gate-to-wire in a July 11 allowance for New York-breds on the grass. Ryerson laughed at the scenario post-race.

"We wanted to take her back, but if she breaks clear like that, if he tries to do that, her head's going to go up to the sky," Ryerson said. "He did the right thing. Actually, the two races I won this meet here both were 'Plan B,' so that's as much as I know."

Cosmic Candy Girl finished second in back-to-back starts at Saratoga last summer – once on the dirt and once on the turf – before a maiden win in late September at Aqueduct. She finished second in her only other stakes appearance to end her juvenile campaign, coming up just short in the Key Cents on the grass in mid-November at Aqueduct.

Ryerson went into the Suzie O'Cain confident, albeit maybe not hugely so off two thirds and a fourth in the filly's three outs in 2026.

"I saw her best race coming this year," he said. "I didn't know it was going to be this good. She just got here 18, 20 days ago and reunited with the guy who galloped her last year for us. It's the subtle things that can make a major difference in a horse."

Elliott enjoyed the ride, after being aboard the filly several mornings for Ryerson at Belmont Park.

"The whole thing with her was trying to get her to relax," he said. "I've been working with her in the morning, and usually in these races, she's going pretty quick. She finally settled today. That was the main thing. Once I got the first quarter in :24 and change, I was happy. She just was a pro out there. She was super relaxed and did her job."

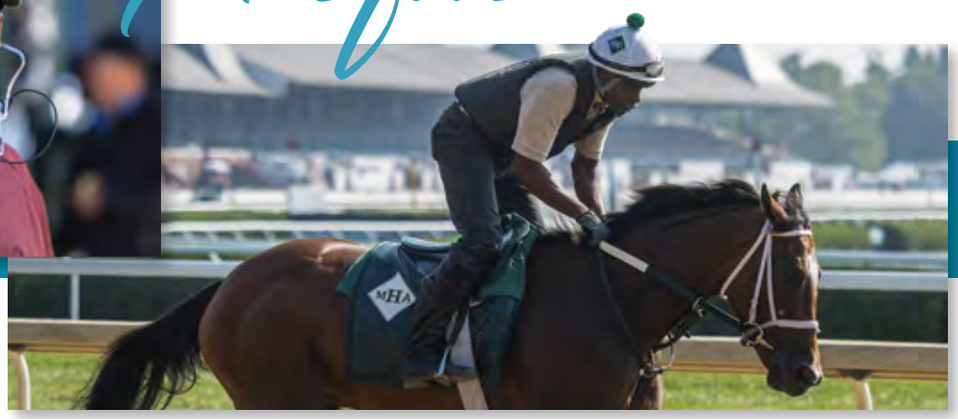
Kristen and Matt Esler's Thirty Year Farm nearly came up with the exacta as the breeders of New York Special. Cosmic Candy Girl and New York Special were sold by Thirty Year at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October sale. Cosmic Candy Girl and New York Special were born and raised at the farm in Saratoga Springs not far from the racetrack.

Cosmic Candy Girl picked up $110,000 and boosted her bankroll to $239,000.

– Additional reporting by Darby O'Brien

Profile

Eddie King
Exercise Rider
Mark Hennig Stable



"Another year and I'm still here."
– **Eddie King,**
71-year-old exercise rider

See ***Cup of Coffee***, **page 54, for the *rest of the story.***

"Eddie King, you're my hero."
– **Valerie Buck,**
lifelong horsewoman

"You know how you do those Allen Jerkens' quotes. Every issue you could run another KING-ISM."
– **Mark Hennig**
Grade 1 winning trainer

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THURSDAY RACING RECAP

Mission Possible

Side Quest shines in maiden-breaker for Walden stable

Dave Harmon

Side Quest scores in Thursday's fifth race for trainer Will Walden.

Side Quest wasn't letting anyone intimidate her Thursday afternoon.

The 2-year-old rocketed to victory in the fifth, a 5 ½-furlong auction maiden on the turf, for trainer Will Walden and jockey Irad Ortiz Jr.

"A typical second-time starter versus a bunch of first-time starters," said Walden. "Not to take anything away from her. We've always thought she was talented, but we got that 'first-starter trip' first time out. Broke really well and as soon as horses kind of developed around her on the outside she got really intimidated, dropped the bridle. She did pick it back up and try to run down horses. She acted a lot more professional, a lot more turned on in the paddock today, she kind of knew what the job was. Irad gave her a great trip and the rest is history."

First out at Churchill Downs June 20, the daughter of Charlatan finished fourth in a field of 12 going 5 furlongs on the dirt before Thursday's turf score. Her half-sister, Light Won Up, triumphed in the Sweet Life Stakes and was second in the Grade 3 Senorita at Santa Anita on the turf this year. Walden knew getting the Kentucky-bred onto the surface would make all the difference.

Dave Harmon

Credit Risk wins Thursday's opener.

"Her sister is a stakes winner, graded-stakes placed sprinting on the grass," he said, "It's kind of in the family thus far and we felt like it was going to be where she succeeded."

Side Quest went for $10,000 at Keeneland September last year before bringing $65,000 (the condition limit for Thursday's race) at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky fall yearling sale shortly after.

Owned by Stephen Horn, she earned $49,500 to pad her bankroll to $54,100 after mowing down early leader By Grace in the stretch and winning by 5 3/4 lengths. Longshot first-time starter All Show rallied for second with another rookie Quoted third.

Walden has his eye on a couple of stakes for the filly, but won't rush any decisions.

"We're going to keep all those on the table," he said. "I do want to see the 5 ½-furlong 2-year-old open maiden (Friday) and see how we fit time-wise, comparable wise. … I want to see how it goes and see how she exits this contest. We came back somewhat quick off the first run, I don't want to throw too much at her too quick, but we're definitely excited she's in the barn."

- Darby O'Brien

• New York-bred Credit Risk grabbed everyone's attention with a 13 1/4-length romp in the opener, a $35,000 open-company maiden claimer going 7 furlongs on the main track.

The 3-year-old by Tacitus went to the front for Luis Saez and stayed there, giving trainer Lisa Bartkowski her first win of the meet but second at Saratoga after winning a stakes during the Belmont Stakes Racing Festival in June. Credit Risk lost all four starts last year and opened 2026 with two defeats at Aqueduct. Bartkowski added blinkers Thursday and her filly responded.

"The blinkers helped, for one," the trainer said. "We changed up her training quite significantly, and Luis Saez always makes a difference. When you want to be close to the pace, he can get it done without going crazy. He has a really good feel too for a horse that wants to take off a little bit like her. He just sits there and doesn't get in a fight with her. He just lets her deal with it."

Dr. Robert and Laura Vukovich of WellSpring Stable bought Credit Risk, bred by Beals Racing Stable, for $30,000 as a weanling at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga fall mixed sale in 2023. WellSpring won the Grade 1 Spinaway with $40,000 yearling purchase Leave No Trace in 2022. She went on to win $749,450 and sell for $400,000 as a broodmare prospect in 2024.

"They don't have any other trainers. They are extremely, extremely loyal through thick and thin. As a matter of fact, they console me more than I console them when we're not doing well," said Bartkowksi. "Dr. Vukovich picks out all the horses by himself. He just has an algorithm or something

Continued on Page 45

Thursday –

■ Continued from page 44

that he uses and he doesn't want anyone to help him. He does it for himself and it's really amazing. Especially considering the prices he pays."

– Shea Brown

• Ancient World, a $525,000 graduate of the 2023 Keeneland September yearling sale, returned to the races in Thursday's sixth for trainer Joe Sharp after more than 10 months on the sidelines.

The 4-year-old son of Into Mischief, owned by Repole Stable and ridden by Irad Ortiz Jr., rallied from third to win the $20,000 claimer for non-winners of three by three-quarters of a length. Longshot Epitaph finished second with Schlomo third in the 6-furlong race.

The gelding started his career with two wins and a stakes placing, but closed 2025 with three consecutive losses.

"He went through his conditions kind of early on, and obviously he was running numbers that made us try against some stakes company, and he ran really good races for us," Sharp said. "He just needed a little bit of a break. When he came back, we thought that maybe some of his best numbers were behind him and were kind of aggressive on his placement off the layoff."

Linda Rice claimed the Kentucky-bred out of the win.

Sharp and Ortiz also won the third, a $12,500 claimer going 7 furlongs on the dirt, with Normandy Coast for owner Larry Romero. Rob Falcone claimed the 4-year-old for $12,500 for James Politano

– Taylor Barraclough

• Gun Barrel City tallied his second win in the second, a $55,000 claimer for non-winners of two going 1 1/16 miles on the turf, for trainer Todd Pletcher. The Bass Racing homebred rallied late to prevail by a head with Manny Franco aboard. … Grade 1 Hollywood Derby winner Salamis returned off a fourth in the Grade 3 Poker last month to clinch the fourth, a 1 1/8-mile optional claimer, for trainer Chad Brown. The Juddmonte homebred rallied in the stretch to score by a neck under Flavien Prat. … Junior Alvarado piloted Tranquility Lake Farms' Beauty Reigns to her fourth victory in the eighth, a 7-furlong optional claimer, for trainer Bill Mott. … Craig Benoit and Fugget About It Racing Stables' Garden Of Grace charged down the stretch to score in the nightcap, a 5 ½-furlong maiden claimer on the turf, for trainer Wayne Potts. Rick Dutrow claimed the daughter of Solomini for $50,000 for Sullivan Lane Stable.

Dave Harmon

Grade 1 winner Salamis (left) prevails in Thursday's fourth, a turf allowance.

HONORABLE MISS STAKES PREVIEW

Papaleo's Pride

Speedy filly Maida gives owner/breeder a boost in Sunday G2

BY PAUL HALLORAN

Jim McCue/The Maryland Jockey Club

Maida ships up from Maryland for Sunday's Honorable Miss.

When you own a fast filly who wins a maiden by 9 lengths and a stakes race by 8, your phone is bound to ring.

And when you're 75 years old and not sure if or when you'll get another one like her, it's a hard pass – at least if you're Harry Papaleo.

"I've had offers from some of the bigger farms, but I have no reason to sell her," Papaleo said about his homebred Maida, who breaks from the rail in Sunday's Grade 2 Honorable Miss Stakes at Saratoga Race Course. "Money at this point in my life means nothing to me. What am I going to do? Sell her, take the money, pay the taxes, and try to find another one? I'm a little smarter than that."

Papaleo was wise to purchase Eve Giselle, for $125,000, after she won her first two starts for owner/trainer Andy Simoff in 2009. The daughter of Five Star Day won four races for Papaleo, including a Grade 3 at Delaware Park, and banked more than $250,000 for the owner. When some nagging physical issues forced her retirement, Papaleo kept her as a broodmare – another good decision.

She had a Distorted Humor yearling sell for $390,000 in 2018. An Arrogate yearling went for $175,000 in 2021. Papaleo wisely kept Maida and sent her to Brittany Russell, who had worked with Eve Giselle as an assistant to Tim Ritchey. At age 19, she is Papaleo's only broodmare.

"Everybody in my program and on the team, from the Fair Hill crew and Madison Meyers, who broke her for us down in Middleburg, liked (Maida)," Russell said. "I galloped her mother when I worked for Tim Ritchey and she was very much like her mother, so that kind of tipped me off early on. I thought, 'If this one's that much like her mom, she should be able to run.' "

It did not take long for that ability to manifest on the racetrack, with the daughter of Improbable breaking her maiden at Laurel Park second time out last June, followed by easy wins in a Delaware allowance and the Weather Vane Stakes at Laurel. That earned her a trip to Keeneland for the Grade 2 Raven Run, where she ran sixth.

Maryland Jockey Club

Fifth in last year's Honorable Miss, Striker Has Dial won Laurel Park's Skipat Stakes in May.

"We've always thought a lot of her," Russell said. "She wasn't quite right after the Keeneland race. I'm not sure that she shipped the best, either. She didn't have the best trip. She didn't get away good. Whatever it is, we're putting a line through it. She came back from the time off in really good shape and we're hoping she can handle the traveling this time."

Russell gave Maida eight months off, bringing her back in the Alma North Sakes at Laurel June 27. There was no rust evident, as she led at every call of the 6½-furlong race, winning by 10½ lengths.

That was an even better return than Russell had hoped, prompting her to put her filly back into the deep end in the Honorable Miss, where she is the 5-1 third choice on the morning line.

"Look, the talent's there," she said. "We've always been very fond of her and very confident. She's just a tricky filly mentally. Did I think she was going to run that big of a race off the bench?

Continued on Page 47

Honorable Miss –

■ Continued from page 46

No. I was actually going to run her in an allowance, but the race didn't go. Looking back, everything happens for a reason.

"You want to take a swing," Russell added. "I think she's this kind of horse. She's very good at home. Laurel's obviously not running right now, so she'd be shipping anyway. Looking at how this race was coming up, even if we're lucky enough to get a piece of it, it does a lot for us."

Russell said Maida would arrive at Saratoga early Saturday morning and paddock school later in the day.

Papaleo, who also races under Goodfella's, a partnership with his Boston-based friend Peter Abate, first owned horses in the late 1990s and was a partner in 2001 Preakness runner Marciano, a son of Two Punch named after the legendary boxer from Massachusetts. Papaleo left the game for several years but could not stay away.

"You know, it's like any other addiction," said Papaleo, who lives in Delaware. "You're never out. You might think you are, but you're not. I mean, it's worse than cocaine, I would imagine. I was probably out for four/five years, and then I got back in and I came up with a couple of decent horses. I was selling them at the sales, that was my plan. And I did well. Then the addiction kicked in and I was back in business."

Papaleo's choice to turn down a big check in favor of keeping his standout filly looked even better when he was diagnosed with a brain tumor this year.

"Everything is good," said Papaleo, who was an accountant for 53 years. "It was non-malignant. It just popped up. I was forgetting stuff. And in my business, when you forget numbers, you have a problem. I consider myself fortunate."

Papaleo isn't planning to be at the race Sunday, the trip from Delaware still a bit out of reach at this point due to his medical condition.

"I'm still in rehab. Obviously, I wanted to go to the race, but what I have is a little serious. I came out of rehab once and I fell, so I'm not going to do that," Papaleo said, his voice cracking for a moment.

"What I have makes me emotional," he said. "And anybody that knows me knows I'm the least emotional person. I'd cut your throat if I had an opportunity. Every once in a while, I get like this. But I don't want to take a chance on something happening. I'll be at the next race."

Like Russell, Papaleo can excuse his filly's Keeneland performance, especially since that race was won by longshot Kappa Kappa, a Pennsylvania-bred also headed to the Honorable Miss.

Owned by LC Racing and her Parx Racing-based trainer Butch Reid, Kappa Kappa has won four times in seven starts and earned $332,555, including the Raven Run.

She comes in off a July 1 Parx allowance win that followed a fourth in the Skipat Stakes at Laurel and is 10-1 on the morning line from the No. 2 post.

"We got off to a little bit of a rough start in the Skipat," Reid said. "Her last race got canceled and moved to a week later, but she got a nice race in, and it should be a good confidence builder for her. We're coming back a bit quick, but she came out of that race excellent. She never missed an oat, her coat looks great and she's holding her weight well. We'll go ahead and take a shot. We're expecting her to run well."

They will all have to deal with Grand Job, the 1-2 morning line favorite who won the Grade 2 Inside Information at Gulfstream in January and was beaten a nose in both the Grade 1 Madison at Keeneland and the Grade 2 Bed o'Roses on Belmont Stakes weekend here.

Owned by Bell Tower Thoroughbreds, Medallion Racing and Mark Stanton, the daughter of Justify has four wins and six seconds in 12 U.S. starts after starting her career in Ireland under Joseph O'Brien. She breaks from post six for trainer Bill Mott and jockey Junior Alvarado.

The rest of the Honorable Miss Field includes Skipat winner Striker Has Dial, Haulin Ice, Going Steady and Do Gooder. Carded as the eighth race, it is scheduled to go to post at 5:12 p.m.

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Winners

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$691,077 in Earnings

*including wins in the **Grade 1** Iroquois Stakes and **Grade 2** Temple Gwathmey Stakes*

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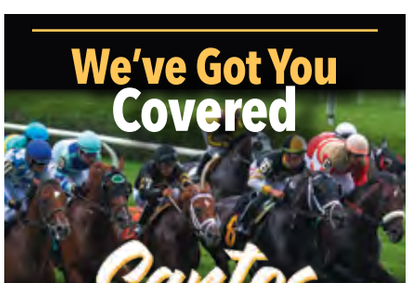

Christopher Elliott
(Saratoga, Finger Lakes)
Reylu Gutierrez
(Saratoga, Finger Lakes)
Emmanuel Esquivel
(Colonial Downs, Horseshoe Indianapolis)
Rajiv Maragh
(Gulfstream Park, Colonial Downs)
Sahin Civaci
(Presque Isle Downs)
Amir Mendoza
(Horseshoe Indianapolis)
Jefferson Skerrett
(Monmouth Park, Thistledown)

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SARATOGA ENTRIES

SUNDAY, JULY 26.

1ST (1:10PM). $115,000, MSW, 2 YO, 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

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

1	1	Kipros	D. Davis	R. Handal	8-1
2	2	Geneva Lake	J. Lezcano	T. Proctor	4-1
3	3	Harbaugh	J. Ortiz	M. Casse	6-1
4	4	High Official	F. Prat	T. Pletcher	7-2
5	5	Le Patron	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	12-1
6	6	Showa	I. Ortiz, Jr.	W. Ward	3-1
7	7	Blue Law	E. Zayas	R. Mott	12-1
8	8	Jersey Guy	K. Carmouche	M. Giddings	4-1
9	AE	Arequipe	M. Franco	A. Sano	10-1
10	AE	Bunyan	J. Ortiz	K. Attard	9-2
11	AE	Bazooka	E. Zayas	J. Delgado	12-1
12	AE	Djokovic	F. Prat	T. Pletcher	8-1
13	AE	Police Chief	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	15-1
14	AE-MTO	Iron Confessor	I. Ortiz, Jr.	A. Green	6-1

2ND (1:45PM). $78,000, SOC $50,000-$45,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	1	Billionaires Row	R. Santana, Jr.	M. Trombetta	8-1
2	2	Fluid Situation	I. Ortiz, Jr.	M. Maker	6-1
3	3	Trust Issues	R. Silvera	G. Charlerie	20-1
4	4	Vacation Dance	M. Franco	O. Noda	9-2
5	5	Son of a Birch	K. Carmouche	R. Falcone, Jr.	5-2
6	6	Shefflin	F. Prat	M. Maker	3-1
7	7	Doctor Jeff	J. Rodriguez	K. Magee	8-1
8	8	Niagara Skyline	J. Ortiz	F. Abreu	6-1
9	AE-MTO	Kid Billy	Rider TBA	R. Rodriguez	4-1
10	AE-MTO	Mischievous M	M. Franco	I. Kantarmaci	3-1

3RD (2:20PM). $78,000, STR $55,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 1/8M

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

1	1	Beira	J. Ortiz	R. Dutrow, Jr.	4-1
2	2	Don't Be Salty	I. Ortiz, Jr.	K. LaRose	3-1
3	3	Kyle's Mom	D. Davis	O. Noda	9-2
4	4	Racing Colors	H. Harkie	N. Follett	10-1
5	5	Angel Bella	T. Gaffalione	D. Beckman	4-1
6	6	Bourbon N Lace	M. Rowland	M. Gorham	12-1
7	7	Katie King	K. Carmouche	M. Ferraro	8-1
8	8	Royal Bobbie	F. Prat	L. Rice	5-1

4TH (2:55PM). $76,000, CLM $45,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 1M

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

1	1	Noted	R. Gutierrez	E. Padilla-Preciado	15-1
2	2	Fort Nelson	K. Carmouche	L. Rice	7-2
3	3	Emirates Road	F. Prat	M. Maker	5-2
4	4	Alternate Reality	J. Ortiz	J. Sharp	6-1
5	5	Frizzante	J. Rodriguez	S. Schauer	8-1
6	6	Celestial Glaze	R. Santana, Jr.	G. Rodriguez	15-1
7	7	Castle Chaos	M. Franco	I. Kantarmaci	8-1
8	8	Big Blue Line	R. Silvera	J. Guerrero	8-1
9	9	Counterspy	L. Saez	R. Dutrow, Jr.	9-2

5TH (3:30PM). $105,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 1/16M (INNER TURF)

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

1	1	She Takes Cash	J. Alvarado	C. Englehart	4-1
2	2	Charlottesuniverse	E. Zayas	M. Casse	6-1
3	3	Fedupwiththefed	D. Davis	D. Donk	12-1
4	4	Full Pour	T. Gaffalione	M. Hennig	20-1
5	5	Tongue Twister	C. Elliott	K. Brion	6-1
6	6	Last Glory	R. Santana, Jr.	R. D'Alessandro	15-1
7	7	Livin the Breeze	I. Ortiz, Jr.	J. Abreu	5-2
8	8	Fabulous Fox	J. Rodriguez	M. Ferraro	15-1
9	9	Marvelous Madison	F. Prat	J. Abreu	7-2
10	10	Miami Style	R. Gutierrez	J. Orseno	30-1
11	AE-MTO	Lady Rose	J. Lezcano	L. Rice	7-5
12	AE-MTO	Baseball Lady	J. Ortiz	L. Rice	3-1

6TH (4:06PM). $62,000, MCL $55,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 1/16M (TURF)

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

1	1	Playing Games	F. Prat	C. Brown	5-1
2	2	Majestic Moonlight	I. Ortiz, Jr.	J. Abreu	6-1
3	3	Pay the Bills (FR)	K. Davis	R. Metivier	50-1
4	4	Sweet Mackenzie	C. Elliott	J. Antonucci	15-1
5	5	Beside You	J. Rodriguez	L. Bartkowski	12-1
6	6	Outro	T. Gaffalione	B. Walsh	9-2
7	7	Samartina (FR)	R. Santana, Jr.	M. Clement	7-2
8	8	Devilish Grin	M. Franco	A. Green	6-1
9	9	Riyah Al Nil	S. Bridgmohan	D. Seyler	50-1
10	10	Addagirl Addie	O. Hernandez Moreno	R. Davis	30-1
11	11	Just Tell Anne	D. Davis	R. Handal	6-1
12	12	Mappy	J. Alvarado	G. Weaver	12-1
13	AE	Sliceaway	K. Davis	N. Zito	30-1
14	AE	River Empress	K. Carmouche	M. Giddings	8-1
15	AE	Free Spin Kim	J. Davis	R. Breed, Jr.	50-1

7TH (4:39PM). $78,000, STR $55,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

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

1	1	Momentum Files	C. Elliott	R. Rodriguez	8-1
2	2	Hot Property	R. Santana, Jr.	L. Rice	8-1
3	3	Willintoriskitall	J. Ortiz	R. Dutrow, Jr.	7-2
4	4	Golden Symphony	M. Franco	L. Rice	6-1
5	5	Conniving	K. Davis	R. Keithan	30-1
6	6	Discotheque	I. Ortiz, Jr.	J. Sweezey	6-1
7	7	South Bend Tom	F. Prat	A. Stall, Jr.	9-2
8	8	Master Freud	D. Rivera	A. Arriaga	10-1
9	9	Beary Funny	R. Silvera	R. Rodriguez	20-1
10	10	Art Fair	K. Carmouche	H. De Paz	8-1
11	11	Egyptian	L. Saez	R. Dutrow, Jr.	10-1

8TH (5:12PM). $250,000, STK - THE HONORABLE MISS PRESENTED BY MIONETTO, 4 YO'S & UP, F & M , 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	Maida	S. Russell	B. Russell	5-1
2	2	Kappa Kappa	I. Ortiz, Jr.	R. Reid, Jr.	10-1
3	3	Striker Has Dial	R. Santana, Jr.	H. De Paz	10-1
4	4	Haulin Ice	F. Prat	S. Joseph, Jr.	4-1
5	5	Going Steady	T. Gaffalione	R. Medina	30-1
6	6	Grand Job	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	1-2
7	7	Do Gooder	E. Zayas	J. Antonucci	30-1

9TH (5:45PM). $130,000, AOC $110,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	1	Stars and Strides	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	12-1
2	2	Bring the Smoke	T. Gaffalione	D. Beckman	8-1
3	3	Tarantino	R. Santana, Jr.	D. Jacobson	15-1
4	4	Senior Officer	I. Ortiz, Jr.	B. Cox	9-5
5	5	Sacrosanct	M. Franco	L. Rice	6-1
6	6	Ignite the Light	L. Saez	R. Dutrow, Jr.	15-1
7	7	Over and Ollie	J. Ortiz	R. Dutrow, Jr.	10-1
8	8	Tip Top Thomas	F. Prat	T. Pletcher	7-2
9	9	Acoustic Ave	J. Lezcano	L. Rice	8-1
10	10	Light Man	K. Carmouche	B. Levine	20-1

10TH (6:19PM). $115,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 3/8M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	1	Eenymeanymightymo	L. Saez	I. Wilkes	12-1
2	2	American Debutante (IRE)	T. Gaffalione	B. Walsh	8-1
3	3	Raging Bloom	C. Elliott	K. McPeek	30-1
4	4	Isadora Duncan (IRE)	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	12-1
5	5	Don't Look Now	J. Lezcano	G. Arnold II	12-1
6	6	Abundant Love	E. Zayas	M. Trombetta	15-1
7	7	Whitethorn	I. Ortiz, Jr.	T. Pletcher	2-1
8	8	Onehotmess	J. Ortiz	K. Attard	12-1
9	9	Mary Lois (IRE)	F. Prat	C. Brown	6-1
10	10	Phantom Blue	M. Franco	W. Walden	5-2
11	AE	Coinvestment	M. Franco	C. Brown	10-1

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LALO for Aftercare
August 5th | 6:00 - 8:00pm
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2026 Stats:

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$691,077 in Earnings

including wins in the
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See Horse

Irish lecturer explores science of equine vision at racing museum

BY SHEA BROWN

Picture this. It's 2018 in Northern Ireland. You look out your bedroom window and see a horse in the pasture behind your house. Your 4-year-old daughter Maeve sees it too and is immediately obsessed.

You go outside and start spending time with the horse. Maeve names it Captain 'Merica and you spend time answering her questions such as, "I'm learning to read in school, but who's going to teach the horse to read?" and "Well if it's raining, who's going to put a raincoat on the horse?"

These outside-the-box questions get you thinking about how a horse experiences the world.

And slowly, an idea starts to form.

That "you" is Dr. Alan Hook, a senior lecturer at Ulster University in Northern Ireland. Inspired by those conversations with his daughter, Hook created the world's first interactive exhibit built to simulate how a horse perceives the world. Using a specially designed headset with mounted cameras, individuals are able to experience the world in a way that has never been seen.

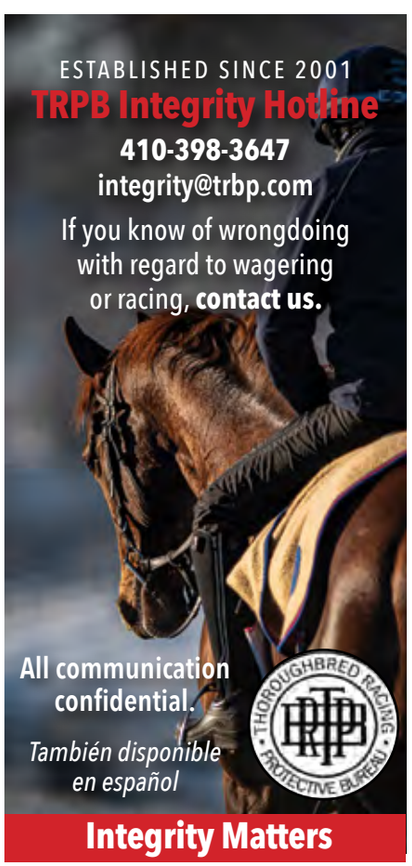
The exhibit made its way to Saratoga Springs through funding from the Thoroughbred Education Research Foundation and was unveiled Wednesday at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame, accompanied by a presentation from Hook.

"It's this idea of becoming more attentive to other species and tuning ourselves to the way they think about the world," said Hook. "We can know horses and Thoroughbreds in lots of different ways. We can know them through statistics, we can know them through riding, we can be with them day to day. But what might it be like to kind of understand the horse from the inside?"

Dr. Alan Hook helps a museum guest see like a horse during Wednesday's presentation.

About 30 people attended the event, including former jockey and recently retired NBC Sports reporter Donna Brothers. After the presentation, everyone was invited to try on the invention. Hook prefaced the experience by informing everyone of some basic facts regarding horses' eyes.

Continued On Page 51



Eyes –

■ Continued from page 50

He explained that horses have dichromatic vision, meaning they see between a span of blue and yellow, but can't see red. Also, horses have about a 350-degree field of vision. And, as many people know from experience – sometimes the hard way – horses have blind spots directly in front of and behind them.

After this brief education, it was time to try on the gear.

As soon as I slipped on the headset, I was disoriented. A colorless and discombobulated version of the world came into focus and it was jarring not being able to see right in front of myself. A group of us went to the starting gate in the museum to see what it might be like for horses when it's time to load. The most repeated phrase when everyone took off the headset?

"No wonder they don't want to go in the gate."

Hook's goal is to foster empathy across species, and judging by the conversations that followed, the exhibit succeeds. People immediately began wondering how horses perceive everyday situations and how humans might make those experiences easier. For Hook, seeing those conversations unfold is exactly the goal.

"I usually present in museums and in galleries, and it's usually quite far away from horses with people who don't really think about horses at all," said Hook. "So it's really nice being here and working with people who are already so attuned and can put their ideas to work as well."

What started with one little girl wondering who was going to teach a horse to read has become an opportunity for people around the world to see life through a horse's eyes.

The exhibit will be at the racing museum for an extended stay.

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Founding Mother

THE OUTSIDE RAIL

By Joe Clancy

New to his post at Juddmonte Farm in Kentucky, Irishman Garrett O'Rourke walked out to a field to check on some broodmares. They stopped him in his tracks.

"My God, look at them," he thought. "I could see myself going down to Becher's Brook looking between the ears of these mares."

O'Rourke never told anyone about his thoughts of glory in the Grand National at Aintree – definitely not the goal – but the point remains. Juddmonte's mares, even in 1992, brought substance and both a literal and figurative foundation to owner Prince Khalid Abdullah's racing operation that was relatively young when O'Rourke took the job. Now the manager of the Kentucky farm, O'Rourke gets reminded of those early days frequently – and especially with the recent success of Grade 1 winners Segesta and Salamis and their half-sister Directive who runs in today's Grade 1 Coaching Club American Oaks.

Their fifth dam, Lost Virtue, was in that field.

"They were big with great bone, size, scope," O'Rourke said. "Lost Virtue was a lovely stamp of a mare, a great big gray mare. You start with something like that and it makes the matings easier; it makes everything easier."

A foal of 1977, Lost Virtue was bred by Pen-Y-Bryn Farm, a daughter of Cloudy Dawn and the Tulyar mare Aunt Tilt. Cloudy Dawn's pedigree went back to historic Thoroughbreds Blenheim, Black Toney, Whisk Broom and Blue Denim. In addition to the influential Tulyar, a source of stamina and durability, Aunt Tilt was a half-sister to 1967 Horse of the Year Damascus and traced to Nearco, Phalaris and Blue Larkspur. Lost Virtue sold to Herbert Hill for $36,000 as an unraced 3-year-old at Keeneland January in 1980. She had her first foal, future stakes winner Full Virtue, the next year. By 1986, she'd produced two more foals to race (one a Group 3 winner in France, the other a two-time winner at Laurel Park) and went to Keeneland November as part of the Mill Ridge Farm consignment.

Then just seven years removed from buying its first broodmare and six from acquiring its first Kentucky farm, Juddmonte paid $375,000. The Topsider foal she was carrying, Doubtful Motive, started 126 times (winning 14) in France. Lost Virtue's 1989 foal, a daughter of Riverman named All At Sea, won the Group 1 Prix du Moulin at Longchamp for Juddmonte and Henry Cecil.

Dave Harmon

CCA Oaks contender Directive hails from a deep Juddmonte family.

Lost Virtue (also the third dam of 1998 champion 3-year-old filly Banshee Breeze) produced nine winners in all and continues to impact the fortunes of Juddmonte through branches of her family tree.

All At Sea's daughter Imroz won three races in Britain and placed in an American Grade 3 for Bobby Frankel. Among Imroz's foals was Ixora, who never raced but produced Antonoe, a Group 3 winner in France and a Grade 1 winner in the United States.

Third in the 2017 Diana at Saratoga, she followed her ancestors to the Juddmonte broodmare band. Her first four foals to race are allowance winner Catmint (by Kitten's Joy), dual Grade 1 winner Segesta (Ghostzapper), Grade 1 winner Salamis (Speightstown) and Saratoga allowance winner Directive (Gun Runner), the 6-1 fourth choice in the CCA Oaks. A 2-year-old full-sister to Salamis, Bridgetown Rose, was breezing at Saratoga but just returned to Juddmonte for a break.

A daughter of Juddmonte's First Defence, Antonoe does not necessarily stamp her foals.

"Segesta is a pretty mare, not over big, just a nice middle of the road physical," said O'Rourke. "Salamis is a bigger colt with muscle and bone. Directive was born really tall and really narrow and gangly and has taken awhile to come to hand. The 2-year-old's got size and is a nice blend of Speightstown and the mare, but you wouldn't say she looks like any of the others. You could put all of them side by side by side and say they're not related."

Salamis and Segesta run on the turf, like Antonoe. Directive sticks to the dirt. A Justify colt, born this year, waits his turn. His mother is in foal to Vekoma for 2027.

O'Rourke drew a parallel to Juddmonte stalwart and 2002 Broodmare of the Year Toussaud, whose diverse foals included Arlington Million winner

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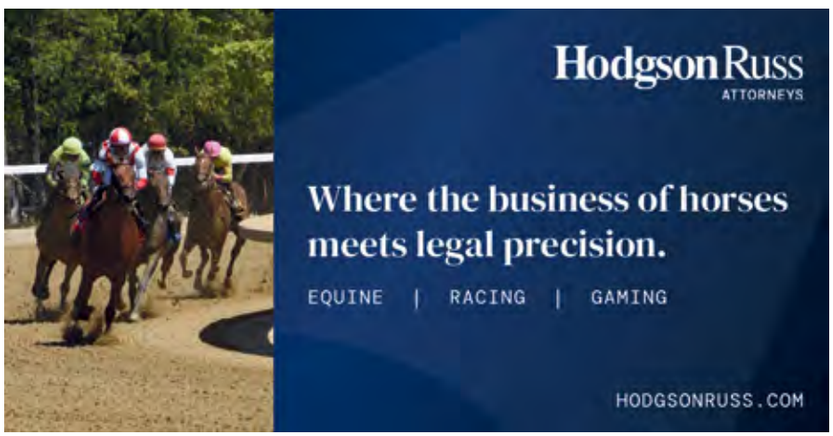

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Outside Rail –

■ Continued from page 52

Chester House and Belmont Stakes winner Empire Maker.

"Sometimes they're good mares because they allow the genes to fall in the right place without stamping them one way or the other," said O'Rourke. "You shrug your shoulders and just learn that's the way it is."

For all its success Juddmonte, overseen by Prince Khalid's family after his death at 85 in 2021, holds no special cards when it comes to Thoroughbred production.

Team members in Kentucky, England and Ireland do the best they can, over and over. The young horses stay with the farms until they're ready to go to trainers so Juddmonte staffers oversee every step in the process – mating plans to foaling, breaking and pre-training to loading the vans en route to trainers.

"Everyone thinks that if you're Juddmonte, you've done something brilliant," said O'Rourke. "It's fascinating. Along the way you learn an awful lot of what you don't know. The beauty of working with multiple generations is you pick up nuances of families. You learn the weaknesses too and try to breed away from them as much as you can even though that doesn't always work. I think an awful lot of it has to do with what we see every single day. The longer you keep them under your watch, the more you know."

Lost Virtue knew it all along.

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The King

A burlap feed sack. Cut two holes. Run an over-girth through the holes. Two ropes for reins. Helmet? Hell, the 9-year-old boys weren't wearing shoes. Hop on the barren mares, race around the makeshift half-mile track in the middle of a Barbados field. Do it so often that the mares would flee when the boys, ropes and sacks in tow, would come to fetch them every afternoon.

And if you watch Eddie King melt one of Mark Hennig's horses around Clare Court or soothe one once around the main track at Saratoga, you'll know this was the greatest riding academy in all the world.

"I learned how to ride on the broodmare farm. There was no saddles. No saddles," King said. "The lady said you can clean as much stalls as you want, and you can ride all the barren mares you want. We would ride them all day long, all day long. Racing. Fearless. We were fearless"

King is still fearless. The 71-year-old exercise rider says he's retired these days, working from May to Thanksgiving. The rest of the year, King heads home to Barbados, to check on his investment properties, do some sailing, maybe catch a fish or two or go back to Garrison Savanah where it all began. Every May, he returns, gets on the pony for a few days, joggers for a few weeks and then he's back in full swing. The full swing of 58 years on the racetrack.

After learning balance racing those barren mares and position when a trainer tied King's hands behind his back at a local show horse stable, King got his jockey's license at 14 and set out on an eight-year odyssey as a jockey. Barbados Saturday, Martinique Sunday, Trinidad Monday. Leading apprentice in two countries. Won races for Saffie Joseph Jr.'s father and his grandfather.

Always too tall to be a jockey, King relented to the grind and took off to Florida in 1984. He landed in the evening. By morning, he was galloping horses. For Jim Levitch at Hialeah, readying Friendly Bob for a free-running clash with Devil's Bag in the Flamingo Prep. Devil's Bag won but was never the same, at least in King's mind. From there, Chicago and two years later, New York.

Dating a woman from Barbados who was going to school in New York, King followed her east. And stayed the course. He and Arlene have been married ever since, bought a house in Laurelton, near Belmont Park, raised two kids. Eddie Jr. worked as Hennig's assistant and now works in the racing office. Andre was allergic to horses, never went near them.

As King rides past these days, his disciples yell out, "The King." Yeah, The King.

"I could have been something or else," King said. "Put it this way, the Class of '68, there's nobody else around. I'm still here. Who aren't dead wouldn't go near a horse. I'm still here. And I think I can hold myself with anybody out there. Anybody out there."

Hennig knows it. Just on personality alone.

"His attitude is so good," Hennig said. "The other morning a guy didn't show up and Eddie says, 'Bring that horse out here. I'll get on him.' Doesn't matter, he'll get on nine, 10 a day, always with that attitude."

Horses have been picking up on that attitude forever.

Influent for Howie Tesher. In 1997, the son of Ascot Knight won the Maker's Mark Mile, the Fort Marcy, the Caesars International, the Bowling Green and the Man o' War.

"I would get on him at 5 in the morning," King said. "We would jog him in the barn, 10 minutes one way, 10 minutes the other way and every 10 days we'd bring him to the track and two-minute clip him. He hardly ever breezed. Won everything."

Champion English Channel for Todd Pletcher.

"He was a character. You hang that bridle on him, he would run on anything, he would have run on that road," King said. "For me, he wasn't hard. He was a very small horse, and he wanted to run with his head up in the air. He was uncomfortable for a lot of people. They tried draw reins, eventually I tell them just take the draw reins off. The last year and a half, I just threw his head away and let him gallop."

And his favorite, Bishop Court Hill, winner of the Grade 1 Carter.

"I could do anything on him. I understand him and he understand me," King said. "Everybody was tough on him, after a while, I could loop the reins and he would go around there and I'd be like, 'Whoaaa,' and he'd pull up. He was like a cart pony, so he was. I think I could ride him in a race and do better than the jockeys, that's how much confidence I had in that horse. Out of all of them, he was my favorite. And, plus, he was named after a place in Barbados."

Maybe there's another Influent or English Channel or Bishop Court Hill out there for King. Or maybe not. Doesn't really matter.

"How do you describe the racetrack? It's the camaraderie. It's like family. Everybody here knows me. Everybody respects me. I get all the kind of respect from the trainers to the hotwalkers to the grooms," King said. "I'm friendly with everybody. As you see, 'Hey, Eddie King. Hey King.' I shout to everyone. It's not like going to work. I never think of it like work, it's a game. You can't beat it. It's a good life."

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