

New York-Breds at the Races: April 12 to 18

By Bill Heller

Miss Da Point Gets the Job Done at 3-5 Friday at Aqueduct

Bran Jam Stable and David Clark's four-year-old filly **Miss Da Point** got rolling late on the outside under Emmanuel Esquivel to win a one-mile \$62,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$75,000 claimer by 2 ¼ lengths as the 3-5 favorite in a field of six Friday at Aqueduct. Entry-mates **Carameway** and **Dreaming of Cara** finished second and third, respectively, after Miss Da Point won her second straight race with authority in a final time of 1:36.83.

Longshot **Clean Jean** led early through a half-mile in :47.92, chased by Carameway. Carameway took over the lead around the far turn as Miss Da Point began to rally from fifth.

Carameway hit three-quarters in 1:12.10 as Miss Da Point gained ground quickly on the outside. Miss Da Point blew past Carameway to win going away.

John Toscano, Jr. trains Miss Da Point, a daughter of Strong Contender out of Long Distance Love by Dehere who was bred by James Roberts. Miss Da Point is now nine-for-23 on dirt with one second, three thirds and earnings of just under \$350,000.

Luis Saez rushed Samotowka Stables, Darlene Bilinski, Sean Shay and Richard Mullins' four-year-old gelding **Goodtolook** to the lead and he never relinquished it, taking a one-mile \$57,000 New York-bred grass allowance by three-quarters of a length over **Noosh's Tale** in a final time of 1:39.55 on a course labeled "good." There was a huge gap back to **Barnards Galaxy** in third. Goodtolook, who had finished fourth in open company in his previous turf start at Gulfstream Park, went off the 3-2 favorite in the field of seven. Noosh's Tale was sent off at 3-1 odds and **Ziggy the Great**, who finished fourth, was 5-2.

Goodtolook made the front through a :24.43 first quarter and posted splits of :49.76 and 1:14.76 on the way to his first victory in three turf tries. He also has two wins from 10 dirt starts. Friday's victory increased his earnings to just over \$100,000 and gave trainer Gary Contessa his third winner of the afternoon.

Goodtolook is a son of Disco Rico out of Lookstoogood by Tiger Ridge who was bred by Lucia Carroll.

With an explosive rush, Tom and Helen Andreadakis' homebred, three-year-old New York-bred filly **Ms. Sylvia A.** turned a two-horse race into a laugher, taking a 6 ½-furlong \$51,000 starter allowance by nearly seven lengths for her second straight victory in just her third lifetime start. With seven-pound apprentice Larry Mejias aboard, Ms. Sylvia A., who is also co-owned by Robert Gennett, won in a final time of 1:17.55 as the 6-5 second choice and the lone state-bred in a field of five.

Trained by Michelle Nevin, Ms. Sylvia A., a daughter of First Defence out of Distinctual by Distinctive Pro, finished a distant fifth in her debut in a New York-bred maiden special weight at odds of 11-1. Nevin added Lasix and dropped her filly into a state-bred maiden \$35,000 claimer, and she whistled wire-to-wire, winning by nearly nine lengths at 7-5 odds. On Friday, she was the second choice to even-money Island Candy, who was stepping up off a seven-length, gate-to-wire victory in a maiden \$40,000 claimer from which she was claimed. Mike Luzzi retained the mount for her new connections.

But it was 21-1 Princes On Thelake who took the early lead breaking from the rail. Princes On Thelake opened a two-length lead through a :23.09 opening quarter, with Island Candy second and Ms. Sylvia A. third.

Island Candy went after the frontrunner around the far turn after a half-mile in :46.11. Ms. Sylvia A. was third on the rail, but Mejias wisely yanked her to the outside at the head of the stretch. Racing three-wide, Ms. Sylvia A. went past the two fillies in front of her as if they were standing still, drawing away impressively. Island Candy settled for second and 4-1 Brown Melissa was third.

Ms. Sylvia A. has now earned more than \$50,000 in her first three starts.

Despite being challenged the entire race, Magis Thoroughbreds, D. Pianto, L. Finnegan, A. Riccio and R. Friedman's three-year-old colt **Station Chief** drew away late, capturing a 5 ½-furlong \$50,000 New York-bred maiden special weight Friday by a length and a half as the 4-5 favorite in a field of seven. A pair of longshots, 15-1 first-time starter **Freudex** and 11-1 **Tax Alex**, finished second and third, respectively, after Station Chief won his second career start in a final time of 1:04.41 under Eddie Castro.

Station Chief, a son of Disco Rico out of Nautical Agent by Victory Gallop, bred by City Street Associates and trained by Gary Contessa, held on gamely when he was a front-running second at 10-1 odds in his debut April 5. He was pounded at the windows Friday.

Bad to the Roan, a 9-2 shot on the rail, 5-2 first-time starter **Dusk to Dawn** two-wide, and Station Chief three-wide battled on the lead through a quarter in :22.12. Around the far turn, Bad to the Roan tired, leaving Dusk to Dawn and Station Chief still battling after a :45.47 half-mile.

Station Chief put away Dusk to Dawn, but was immediately confronted by 11-1 Tax Alex. Tax Alex looked as if he was going to pass Station Chief, but lugged in repeatedly. Station Chief still had enough left to draw away. Freudex closed well late to edge Tax Alex for second, and Bad to the Roan finished fourth.

Station Chief, purchased for \$27,000 as a two-year-old last May, has already earned \$42,000 in his first two starts.

In a head-bob finish, Mike Luzzi got Ron Cecere's four-year-old gelding **Pegasus T** up by a nose Friday, nipping **Pillar of Strength** in a six-furlong \$30,000 New York-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer in a final time of 1:11.65. Pegasus T was sent off at odds of 3-1 and Pillar of Strength, who got through on the rail with Irad Ortiz, Jr., was 7-2 in the field of eight.

Unforced, a 22-1 longshot, led most of the way through a first quarter in :22.52 and a half in :46.33. Pillar of Strength moved up on the rail while Pegasus T took the overland route to make up ground quickly in the stretch. Both went by Unforced, who held on for third.

Chris Englehart trains Pegasus T, a son of Read the Footnotes out of Decapolis by Glomar who was bred by Sequel Stallions and Pegasus Farms. Pegasus T, who dead-heated for second in his prior start, now has a win, a second and a third in five starts.

Yielding Turf No Problem for Princess Mara

Cleverly rated on the front end by apprentice jockey Taylor Rice, Team Clear Stars Stable's **Princess Mara**, the 9-5 favorite as the only New York-bred in a field of six, rolled to a 3 ½-length victory in a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$55,000 starter allowance for fillies and mares on a yielding turf course at Aqueduct Thursday afternoon. In doing so, the six-year-old mare went over the \$300,000 mark in career earnings.

Princess Mara was making her second start for trainer Rick Schosberg off a \$30,000 claim when she finished a tiring fifth in a New York-bred dirt allowance under Irad Ortiz, Jr. On Thursday, Ortiz rode Persnickety, the 5-2 second choice.

Princess Mara sprung out of the gate intent on the lead and made it easily as Persnickety settled in a well-clear second. After splits of :24.17, :49.41 and 1:15.28, Persnickety moved within a half-length of Princess Mara. Princess Mara, though, had plenty left and she rebuffed her challenger on the way to a handy score in a final time of 1:47.92. Persnickety finished second, 3 ¼ lengths ahead of Datts Da Boss in third. Princess Mara was full of herself heading back to the winner's circle, and an outrider helped calm her down.

The daughter of Leroidesanimaux (BRZ) out of Joyjoyjoy by Smart Strike was bred by Patricia Purdy and Edwin Edelberg. She improved her grass record to three-for-seven. She also has five victories, three seconds and a third from 19 dirt starts.

Rallying from last on the far outside under Mike Luzzi, My Purple Haze Stable's homebred four-year-old filly **Riveressed**, the 7-5 favorite in a field of five, defeated 5-2 **Pretty Like Me** by three-quarters of a length in a 5 ½-furlong \$50,000 New York-bred maiden special weight Thursday afternoon at Aqueduct. **Lady Rhubarb** wasn't far behind in third, just a neck in front of **Sweethots**.

Lady Rhubarb made the early lead under Jose Ortiz, shadowed by Sweethots. **All Luv Me**, who was checked after the start, Pretty Like Me, who was adding blinkers, and Riveressed were third, fourth and fifth, respectively, through a quarter in :22.51 and a half-mile in :45.51.

Through the lane, Lady Rhubarb was pressured by Pretty Like Me and All Luv Me, who rallied between those two after being checked again under Inoel Beato. But the horse moving fastest of all was Riveressed, who gobbled up the fillies in front of her under left-handed urging by Luzzi to win in a final time of 1:04.70.

Riveressed, a daughter of Sunriver out of Yougeussedit by Phone Trick, had three seconds, a third and a fifth in five prior starts, the last with blinkers added. She increased her earnings to \$67,000 in six starts.

Trainer Jeremiah Englehart, Chris's son, added blinkers to Two Hands LLC's four-year-old gelding **Cobalto** Thursday, and he scored wire-to-wire from the rail by 2 ½ lengths under Jose Ortiz as the 6-5 second choice in a six-furlong conditional \$16,000 claimer featuring an entire field of six New York-breds. **Stonehedge**, an 8-1 shot, edged 4-5 **Read the Proposal** for second after Cobalto won in exactly 1:10.00.

Cobalto was dropping from a New York-bred allowance race into a claimer, and he really never had an anxious moment, posting splits of :22.68 and :45.67.

Cobalto is a four-year-old gelding by Silver Train out of Whisper Lightly by Dancing Count who was bred by Jan Sherrard. He improved his dirt record to two-for-seven with a pair of thirds and more than \$50,000 in earnings.

In Thursday's opener, a 5 ½-furlong \$23,000 New York-bred maiden \$16,000 claimer, 10-pound apprentice rider Katie Davis made a well-timed move on co-owner/trainer Edward Barker's four-year-old filly **Light Weight** to upset odds-on **Laguna My Way** by three-quarters of a length in a final time of 1:05.36. Light Weight was sent off at odds of 4-1 and Laguna My Way was 2-5 in the field of six under Wilmer Garcia.

Garcia hustled Laguna My Way to the lead and Davis settled Light Weight into second through a :22.56 opening quarter. Laguna My Way stretched her lead to four lengths while completing a half-mile in :45.74. Then Light Weight quickly closed the gap.

Through the stretch it was a two-horse race, and Light Weight went by Laguna My Way for her first victory in nine starts. She hadn't raced since November 29, and Barker did a nice job preparing his filly, who is co-owned by Robert Misa Jr. The daughter of J Be K out of Candleglow by Carson City was bred by Sequel Thoroughbreds and Morning Bloodstock.

Testosterone Upsets Frost Jordan by a Head Wednesday

Fox Ridge Farm's homebred **Testosterone**, sent off at 12-1 odds, nipped the 9-5 favorite, **Frost Jordan**, by a head in a one-mile \$57,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$75,000 claimer that was switched from turf to dirt Wednesday at Aqueduct. **Pax in Terra** rallied to be third at 3-1 odds and **Fleet First**, the 2-1 second choice in the field of seven, finished fourth after Testosterone won in a final time of 1:37.41 on a track labeled "good."

Emmanuel Esquivel delivered a fine ride on Testosterone, a three-year-old colt by Birdstone out of A.P. Test who is trained by Pat Kelly.

Breaking from the outside post, Frost Jordan skirmished with 7-1 **First Range** on the front end through a quarter in :23.93 and a half in :47.81. Testosterstone wasn't far behind, alternating in third and fourth with 19-1 **Prophet's Cat**.

Frost Jordan went after the frontrunner around the far turn and took the lead after three-quarters in 1:12.99, but Testosterstone had rallied into second and he challenged Frost Jordan in mid-stretch. Testosterstone had to work to get by, but he did in a tight finish. Pax in Terra was more than two lengths back in third.

Testosterstone improved his record to two-for-seven with nearly \$75,000 in earnings.

It took the length of the stretch, but John Velazquez rallied co-owner/trainer David Jacobson and Drawing Away Stable's five-year-old gray gelding **Sportswriter** to his first win in two years as the 2-1 second choice in a field of five at Aqueduct Wednesday. He edged the incredibly game 37-1 longshot **Ausable River** by a neck in a one-mile \$35,000 New York-bred \$20,000 claimer in a final time of 1:38.53.

Southbeachsandy finished nearly two lengths behind Ausable River in third. **Hay Shares**, the 3-5 favorite, faded to last after Ausable River dueled him into defeat on the front end.

Breaking from the rail under Inoel Beato, Ausable River immediately hooked up with Hay Shares, who broke from the outside post under apprentice Taylor Rice.

Ausable River and Hay Shares alternated on the lead through a quarter in :22.07 and a half-mile in a demanding :45.94. Sportswriter, perfectly positioned in third, moved up to challenge Ausable River when Hay Shares ran out of steam after three-quarters in 1:11.31.

Ausable River dug in and held onto the lead until the final 50 yards, when Sportswriter put his head in front.

Sportswriter improved his career record to six-for-32 with seven seconds, three thirds and earnings of nearly \$360,000. The son of Maybry's Boy out of Point Spread by Point Given was bred by Flying Zee Stables.

Drawing Away Stable's five-year-old New York-bred mare **Quiet Sunshine** won her third straight race Wednesday, rallying late to nail front-running Talent N Passion by a length in a \$29,000 six-furlong race for \$16,000 claimers. Sent off the even-money favorite in the field of six, Quiet Sunshine made it three straight, all since trainer David Jacobson gave the mount to Irad Ortiz, Jr.

Unlike her two previous victories on the front end, Quiet Sunshine got away fifth as Emmanuel Esquivel tried riding 7-2 Talent N Passion to a wire-to-wire victory. Talent N Passion had a three-length lead through a quarter in :22.51 and a half-mile in :45.87. By then, though, Quiet Sunshine was closing in.

Gobbling up ground in the final sixteenth, Quiet Sunshine was drawing away late and covered the six panels in 1:11.51. Talent N Passion finished second and New York-bred **First Penny** was third.

Quiet Sunshine is a daughter of Real Quiet out of Rain Or Shine by Smoke Glacken, and was bred by Marshall Boschetti. She improved her dirt record to five-for-23 with four seconds, three thirds and earnings of more than \$145,000.

In a one-mile \$25,000 conditional \$16,000 claimer Wednesday, William Butler's homebred, the front-running four-year-old New York-bred gelding **Here He Fitz**, gamely came again to upset heavily favored New York-bred **Jesses Giant Dunk** by a head in a final time of 1:37.73. Jesses Giant Dunk was sent off at 4-5 odds under Cornelio Velasquez; Rajiv Maragh and Here He Fitz were 9-2 in the field of five.

Here He Fitz busted out of the gate in front and Jesses Giant Dunk immediately settled on his outside flank in second. They raced 1-2 through a quarter in :24.29 and a half in :48.99.

Jesses Giant Dunk went after Here He Fitz at the top of the stretch after three-quarters in 1:13.86, and pushed a head in front in mid-stretch before Here He Fitz came back at him. Once he got his head back in front, Here He Fitz held that margin to the wire. Candy Raider got up for third.

John Hertler trains Here He Fitz, a son of War Chant out of Visual Candy by Woodman who is now two-for-13 on dirt with one second, one third and more than \$60,000 in earnings.

In Wednesday's opener, seven-pound apprentice Larry Meijas put Avanti Stable's three-year-old filly **See Me Sometime** on the lead, and she went gate-to-wire at 15-1 odds in a 7 1/2-furlong \$30,000 New York-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer, defeating 6-1 **Peach Lake** by nearly two lengths. **Make Your Point**, the 2-5 favorite, edged 17-1 **Fancy 'n Flight** by a nose for third, more than five lengths behind the winner.

Breaking from the outside post in a field of six, See Me Sometime broke wide but in front, and Meijas got her over to the rail to take an early three-length lead through a :23.36 quarter. She maintained that margin to a :47.50 half-mile. Peach Lake rallied into second and began closing in on the front-runner, but See Me Sometime never wavered, finishing in front in a final time of 1:34.00.

Debra DiVitto trains See Me Sometime, who hadn't hit the board in her first five career starts. The daughter of Stanislavsky out of Miss West by Western Expression was bred by Merrylegs Farm North.

Front Gets to the Front in Successful Return

Showing no rust off a near-five-month layoff, Dragon Squared LLC's four-year-old New York-bred colt **Front** came from off the pace under Chris DeCarlo to win a \$67,000 grass allowance by a length over New York-bred **Idle American** Saturday at Aqueduct. Both horses went off at 2-1 odds, with Front being a slight favorite despite not having raced since mid-November.

Trainer Jimmy Jerkens had the four-year-old son of War Front out of Rose Rhapsody by Pleasant Colony, bred by Hidden Lake Farm, fine-tuned and he completed the one-mile distance in 1:39.55 on a turf course rated õgood.ö

Leaving from the rail in the field of eight, 20-1 longshot Otoy took the early lead while bearing out a bit, carrying 12-1 Mile Range and 42-1 Coldwater Flat even wider around the first turn. Front rated kindly in fifth as Otoy led through a half-mile in :48.50.

New York-bred **Prohibition**, the 3-1 third choice, went after Otoy but couldn't keep up as Otoy led through three-quarters in 1:14.20. But both Front and Idle American rallied quickly. Front proved best, while Idle American finished four lengths in front of 6-1 Spartatis in third. Otoy salvaged fourth.

Front improved his turf record to four wins and a second in nine starts. He also has a pair of thirds from three dirt starts and career earnings of nearly \$200,000.

Another well-bet layoff horse on Saturday, William Punk Jr. and Philip DiLeo's three-year-old gray filly **Selenite**, the 5-2 second choice in a field of eight, nipped 10-1 longshot **Milkyourway** by a head in an exciting one-mile \$57,000 New York-bred grass allowance, winning in a final time of 1:41.58. **Spritely Mambo** was another length back in third at odds of 7-1. **Moonlit Sonnet**, who hadn't raced since early August, finished fourth as the 9-5 favorite.

Selenite, who is trained by David Donk, hadn't raced since finishing sixth in a division of the New York Stallion Stakes Series on November 23. Manuel Franco rode the daughter of Cosmonaut out of Offhand Remark by Western Expression, who was bred by Flying Zee Stables.

White Crane, ridden by apprentice Taylor Rice, set the pace: a quarter in :25.24, a half in :49.92 and six furlongs in 1:15.37. Moonlit Sonnet then made her rally two-wide, while Spritely Mambo advanced three-wide and Selenite made a powerful rush four-wide. Franco found room for Milkyourway on the rail.

Spritely Mambo between horses, Selenite on the outside and Milkyourway on the inside emerged from the others late, with Selenite and Milkyourway finally passing Spritely Mambo in the final 50 yards. Then it was a head-bobbing finish, with Selenite coming up just in front.

Selenite improved her turf record to two-for-three, with her only loss a 10th place finish in an open Grade III stakes. She also has a third and a sixth in a stakes on dirt, and has already earned nearly \$80,000 in just five starts.

Still sixth in the stretch, Eleven Stars Racing Stables' six-year-old New York-bred gelding **Precious Metal** finished furiously to win a \$25,000 claiming race with a \$48,000 purse by a length and a quarter Saturday at 7-1 odds. With Cornelio Velasquez aboard, Precious Metal covered the mile and a sixteenth on the turf in 1:47.71. Madris finished second at 5-1 odds and Le Deluge, the 6-5 favorite in the field of eight, finished third.

Bobby Barbara trains Precious Metal, a son of Silver Train out of Sugar Is Gold by Slew o' Gold, who improved his grass record to five-for-16 with two seconds and a third. He also has three wins and three seconds from 20 dirt starts, with combined earnings of more than \$305,000.

Rincon Sur, a 33-1 bomb, led most of the way, pressed by 4-1 Explorer through a half in :50.82 and three-quarters in 1:16.03. Madris, who had an aluminum pad off, blew by both of them, but couldn't withstand Precious Metal.

Summit View Farm and Sportsman Stable's four-year-old filly **Take the Zeppole** wore down favored **Suave and Smooth** in the final sixteenth of a mile to win a six-furlong \$30,000 New York-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer Saturday by one length in a final time of 1:12.38. **It's Easy** finished third. Take the Zeppole was sent off at odds of 5-1 in the field of eight; Suave and Smooth went off at 7-5 and It's Easy was 2-1.

Jose Ortiz put Suave and Smooth on the lead, and Angel Arroyo set up Take the Zeppole a tight second on her flank through a quarter in :23.55 and a half-mile in :46.92. In the stretch, Take the Zeppole challenged and then passed Suave and Smooth to break her maiden in her fifth start. Glenn DiSanto bred and trains Take the Zeppole, a daughter of Eltish out of Longingfortheone by Abaginone.