

New York-Breds at the Races: April 18 to 24

By Bill Heller

Three for Me Gamely Holds Off Runaway Posse Friday at Aqueduct

Confronted by heavily favored **Runaway Posse** in deep stretch, La Marca Stable and co-owner/trainer Steve Klesaris' four-year-old gelding **Three for Me** dug in and held him off by a head, taking a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$62,000 New York-bred grass allowance Friday at Aqueduct. Ridden by Cornelio Velasquez, Three for Me, who was coupled with **Rontos New York**, went off at 5-1 odds and won in a final time of 1:46.84 on a course rated "good." Runaway Posse, the 6-5 favorite in the field of nine, was ridden by Angel Arroyo.

Three for Me is a son of Frost Giant out of Sly Isabella by Majestic Light who was bred by James Lamonica and Empire Stud, and hadn't raced since mid-December. Klesaris did an excellent job getting him ready for his four-year-old debut. Three for Me signaled his intentions with a bullet four-furlong dirt work of :49 3/5 at Aqueduct on March 23rd, fastest of 11 that morning at that distance.

Velasquez got Three for Me away in second as 33-1 **Mister Dooley** set the pace with a clear lead of two to four lengths, setting splits of :23.86, :49.19 and 1:14.57.

Three for Me struck the lead and was challenged by Runaway Posse, who was full of run late. Three for Me repelled his challenge to win narrowly. **Irish Jade**, a 10-1 longshot under seven-pound apprentice Eric Cancel, rallied along the hedge to finish third, a length and three-quarters behind Runaway Posse. **Prophet's Cat** finished fourth at 15-1 odds.

Three for Me's victory was his first on grass in four starts with one second. He's one-for-11 on dirt with a second and a third for total earnings of more than \$90,000.

Fernando Jara hustled Lianna Stables' four-year-old New York-bred filly **Bella Fachi** to the lead Friday and she never looked back, decimating five rivals by 7 1/4 lengths in a 6 1/2-furlong \$22,000 conditional \$12,500 claimer in a final time of 1:20.00.

Neal Terracciano trains the daughter of Fusaichi Pegasus out of Spenny by Menifee who was bred by Vincent Vivolo, Jr. Bella Fachi was cutting back to a sprint off an eighth and a pair of distant fourths in her previous three starts.

Breaking from the two post, she was immediately in front, though 46-1 New York-bred longshot **Daddy's Big Girl** was only a neck behind on the way to a :24.09 first quarter. Daddy's Big Girl couldn't keep up as Bella Fachi stretched her lead to three lengths, hitting the half-mile in :48.41 with an expanding lead.

Bella Fachi opened up a six-length cushion through three quarters in 1:13.17 and was never threatened through the lane.

New York-bred **Signora Sofia** closed strongly under Israel Rodriguez at 21-1 odds to finish a clear second. Alice and Trixie, the 5-2 second choice on the rail under seven-pound apprentice Eric Cancel, was third and New York-bred **Soul Opposition**, the 4-5 favorite ridden by Kendrick Carmouche, finished fourth.

Bella Fachi improved her dirt record to two-for-16 with three seconds, three thirds and earnings topping \$60,000.

It took the length of the stretch, but Silver Ranch Stable's six-year-old New York-bred mare **Broadway Music Gal** wore down Seven Stars to take a one-mile \$20,000 open \$10,000 claimer Friday. Apprentice Angel Cruz rode Broadway Music Gal, who went off at 9-2 odds in the field of seven, and won in a final time of 1:41.31. Seven Stars went off at odds of 2-1.

Chris Englehart trains Broadway Music Gal, a daughter of One Nice Cat out of Miss Broad by Broad Brush who was bred by Leonard Friedman.

Broadway Music Gal raced in fourth as 12-1 state-bred **Neptune Road** led through a half-mile in :49.86. Jose Ortiz sent Seven Stars up to challenge for the lead and he took over readily, reaching three-quarters in 1:15.55 and then taking a two-length lead. Broadway Music Gal had moved into second by then and went after Seven Stars, prevailing after a long stretch battle.

Rock Show, who also went off at 2-1 odds, finished third and 5-1 New York-bred **Maxana** finished fourth.

Broadway Music Gal improved her dirt record to four for 14 with two seconds. She is also one for three on grass and has combined earnings topping \$170,000.

Seacoast Thoroughbreds of New England's three-year-old gelding **Black Tide**, half of a 3-2 favored entry in the field of nine, took the lead in deep stretch under Cornelio Velasquez and then held off fast-finishing **Hundred Percent** for a three-quarter-length victory in a \$41,000 New York-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer. Black Tide covered the 6 ½ furlongs in 1:18.60.

Battle Notes, who went off at 13-1 odds under Jeremy Rose, was a distant third, a head in front of 21-1 **Stone Crab**, who was shedding blinkers and dropping back into a maiden claimer.

Ralph D'Alessandro trains Black Tide, a son of Hold Me Back out of Turn the Tide by Theatrical who was bred by Snow Lantern Thoroughbreds and was purchased for \$50,000 as a two-year-old last year in Ocala, Florida.

After Black Tide failed to hit the board in six starts in maiden special weights, D'Alessandro dropped him into a maiden \$40,000 claimer earlier this month, and he finished a much-improved second under Velasquez, who was riding him for the second time.

Velasquez delivered a fine ride Friday, keeping Black Tide in mid-pack on the outside for a clear run as 9-2 **Rich Dalone** and Battle Notes duelled on the front end through a :23.84 first quarter-mile. **Ex Ex Ex**, who was adding blinkers and went off at 37-1 odds under apprentice Angel Cruz, raced in third.

After a half-mile in :47.41, Ex Ex Ex moved up three-wide into second, while Velasquez rallied Black Tide four-wide into third.

After Battle Notes shook clear of Rich Dalone, Black Tide motored past him, hitting three-quarters in 1:12.25. Black Tide opened a two-length lead before Hundred Percent rallied strongly. Black Tide held him off for the victory and now has a win and a second in eight starts, for earnings of nearly \$40,000.

Ageless Wonder Be Bullish Wins his Third Straight as a 10-Year-Old

Drawing Away Stable and co-owner/trainer David Jacobson's great gray gelding **Be Bullish** overpowered another gray, **The Big Deluxe**, to win his third straight race at the age of 10 Thursday at Aqueduct by a half-length. Well-ridden by apprentice Angel Cruz, Be Bullish captured a \$47,000 New York-bred \$25,000 claimer as the 6-5 favorite in the field of eight in a snappy final time of 1:10.82 on a track rated *ogood*.

The victory was Be Bullish's 18th in 83 dirt starts with 25 seconds, 13 thirds and earnings of including a second and a third from three turf tries - now totaling near \$1.1 million.

After losing him by a claim in his previous race for \$16,000, Jacobson re-claimed Be Bullish for \$20,000 on December 10th, when he began his winning streak with a near-four-length score at 4-5 odds under Manuel Franco. Be Bullish followed that victory with a six-length score at 2-1 odds with Cruz aboard in Be Bullish's 10-year-old debut on January 3.

Bettors saw no reason he couldn't complete the hat trick and made him the heavy favorite while breaking from the seven post. Cruz got him away fourth as 30-1 First Ranger dueled with 4-1 The Big Deluxe, who broke from the eight post under Irad Ortiz Jr., on the front end in a :22.60 opening quarter. Another longshot, 11-1 Smokem's Charm, raced on the outside of Be Bullish in third.

As The Big Deluxe pushed a head in front of First Ranger, Cruz swung Be Bullish off the rail to find clear room three-wide after a half-mile in :45.99.

Through the stretch, the two grays hooked up. The Big Deluxe was extremely game, re-taking a brief head lead, before Be Bullish surged again and put him away.

In a one-mile \$62,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$75,000 claimer originally scheduled for a mile and a sixteenth on the turf, Cornelio Velasquez rallied Treadway Racing Stable's three-year-old colt **Fleeting** to a head victory over **Beyond the Green**. Front-running **Deficit Hawk**, ridden by Jose Ortiz, finished a length and a quarter behind Beyond the Green. No final time was reported.

Fleeting was sent off at odds of 3-1, Beyond the Green went off at 4-1 and Deficit Hawk was 3-1 in the field of six. **Bullheaded Boy**, the 9-5 favorite, was never involved and finished fourth.

Leah Gyarmati trains Fleeting, a son of Elusive Quality out of Grace's Valentine by Rahy who was bred by MDS Farms. Fleeting had finished a hard-fought third in his previous race, his first start in two months.

Fleeting got away evenly, alternating in second, third and fourth with Bullheaded Boy and 23-1 **Nick's Posse** as Deficit Hawk took a length-and-a-half lead through a :24.33 opening quarter. Deficit Hawk edged away to lead by two lengths after a half-mile in :47.80. He continued strongly on the lead as Fleeting moved up to second on the inside, then switched to the outside for a clear shot at the leader. They were quickly joined by Beyond the Green, who dove to the inside of Deficit Hawk.

Both Fleeting and Beyond the Green passed Deficit Hawk, with Fleeting eking out a narrow victory.

Fleeting improved his dirt record to two-for-five with two thirds and earnings topping \$75,000. He was purchased for \$115,000 as a yearling at Saratoga in 2013.

In a tour de force, Chester and Mary Broman's homebred three-year-old filly **Bar of Gold** remained undefeated in three starts with a near-10-length victory in a \$65,000 New York-bred allowance/optional claimer Thursday under Junior Alvarado. Sent off as the 4-5 favorite in a field of seven, she covered the seven-furlong distance in 1:25.75.

Trained by John Kimmel, Bar of Gold is a daughter of Medaglia d'Oro out of Khancord Kid by Lemon Drop Kid. She won her debut last August at Saratoga by three-quarters of a length at 5-2 odds, then returned for her three-year-old debut on March 27th, when she won by 5 ½ lengths at odds of 6-5.

Bar of Gold broke sixth and settled in fourth as 7-1 **Accomplish First** set the pace: a quarter in :23.04 and a half-mile in :47.55.

Bar of Gold ranged up three-wide around the far turn, blew by the fillies in front of her and drew away, winning by herself while geared down. She is now three-for-three with more than \$115,000 in earnings.

Here's Zealicious, the 2-1 second choice, was a distant second, three-quarters of a length in front of 13-1 **Saharan Serenade**. **Desert Valentine** was fourth at 10-1 odds.

In Thursday's finale, a 7 ½-furlong \$31,000 New York-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer, Spa City Stables' four-year-old gelding **Fidelius** spurted past three horses along the rail in mid-stretch to win by a length and a half in a final time of 1:35.13. Manuel Franco rode the son of Pure Prize out of Second Marriage by Not For Love, who was bred by Martin Minnella and is trained by George Weaver.

Sent off at 5-2 odds from the rail in the field of eight, Fidelius was forwardly placed through a :48.18 half-mile. After three-quarters in 1:14.57, she took the rail to rally past front-running **Afleet's Edge** for her first victory off an improved third with blinkers restored in her previous start.

Devilish Grin, who also went off at 5-2 odds, was second, well clear of 55-1 **Kerry Boy** in third. Afleet's Edge was fourth at odds of 5-1.

Bambisfrostracer Makes it Two Straight Wednesday at Aqueduct

Despite covering more ground than his four opponents with a wide rally on the far turn, Guyana Rocky LLC's four-year-old colt **Bambisfrostracer** nailed **Petrocelli** 20 yards from the wire to take a one-mile \$47,000 New York-bred \$25,000 claimer by a nose under Ruben Silvera in a final time of 1:37.60 to notch his second straight win. Bambisfrostracer was sent off at odds of 5-2 and Petrocelli went off at 5-1.

Front-running 25-1 longshot **Everydoghashisday** checked in third, a length and a half behind Petrocelli while three lengths clear of the 4-5 favorite, **Call for the Clock**, who was never involved in the race.

Randy Persaud trains Bambisfrostracer, a son of Frost Giant out of Sarahisittrue by Is It True that he claimed for Guyana Rocky LLC for \$16,000 when he was a close third March 8th in his four-year-old debut. After finishing sixth in New York-bred allowance company, Persaud dropped Bambisfrostracer into an open \$25,000 claimer and he won by 6 ¼ lengths at 18-1 odds with Silvera aboard for the first time.

Bambisfrostracer attracted a lot more attention at the windows Wednesday. He broke fourth but settled in last as Everydoghashisday launched a wire-to-wire bid by taking a length-and-a-half lead through a :23.70 quarter. He maintained that margin on Petrocelli through a :47.02 half-mile as Bambisfrostracer advanced into fourth.

Petrocelli made his bid for the lead heading into the far turn as Silvera took Bambisfrostracer four-wide for a clear run. Petrocelli then took a narrow lead on the outside of Everydoghashisday as Bambisfrostracer continued to gain after three-quarters in 1:10.79.

Petrocelli finally shook free of Everydoghashisday, but as soon as he did, Bambisfrostracer was in his face, still gaining ground. Petrocelli dug in gamely, but Bambisfrostracer passed him just before the finish line.

Bambisfrostracer is now three-for-10 on dirt with two thirds and earnings of more than \$90,000.

Apparently unfazed by a loose horse running through the field, Merrylegs Farm's homebred three-year-old filly **Unspoken** made a terrific grass debut in her second career start Wednesday. Skillfully handled by Kendrick Carmouche, Unspoken captured a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$41,000 New York-bred maiden \$40,000 grass claimer by four lengths. Sent off at 11-1 odds from the rail, Unspoken won in a final time of 1:51.74 on a yielding turf course.

Tom Morley trains Unspoken, a daughter of Silent Name (JPN) out of Caught Cheatin' by Scarlet Ibis who finished 11th in her dirt debut in a maiden state-bred \$40,000 claimer at 27-1 odds on February 1.

At the start, **Cathasnomanners**, sent off at 97-1 odds under Melvin Perez, lost her rider, who walked away after the incident. Cathasnomanners caused havoc throughout the race. After getting away last, she moved up through the field into second, then made the lead, then tired to second behind the winner.

Despite that, **She's All Even**, who went off at 6-1 odds in the field of 12 under C.C. Lopez, took a huge lead, opening up by six lengths through a :24.34 first quarter and then by 10 lengths through a :51.04 half-mile. By then, Unspoken had moved up from fourth into second. When She's All Even tired on the lead, Unspoken took over, running three-quarters in 1:17.53. She drew off to win impressively.

Dixie Gem, who went off at 4-1 odds from the 11 post under Junior Alvarado, finished second. Weekend Score was third at 18-1 odds and 35-1 My Little Julianna checked in fourth.

In a \$50,000 starter allowance filled by seven New York-breds, James Riccio's three-year-old filly **Midnight Champagne** rallied for a two-length victory under Jose Ortiz over **Legally Bay** as the 6-5 favorite in a field of seven, completing the 6 ½ furlongs in 1:19.74. Midnight Champagne then survived an objection by the rider of third-place finisher **Southern Sunshine**, ridden by Junior Alvarado. Legally Bay was sent off at odds of 8-1 and Southern Sunshine went off at 9-1.

Michelle Nevin trains Midnight Champagne, a daughter of Noonmark out of Crystal Sweet by Holy Bull who was bred by Hidden Lake Farm. Nevin and Riccio claimed Midnight Champagne for \$40,000 when she finished third in a maiden claimer on December 10. She then won a maiden special weight by a nose and led late before tiring to finish third in an allowance race.

Nevin freshened Midnight Champagne for nearly two months before she returned Wednesday.

She broke sharply but Ortiz grabbed a hold of her, allowing 19-1 **So Let It Be So** and Southern Sunshine to battle for the lead through a quarter in :24.01 and a half-mile in :47.80. Then Midnight Champagne went after Southern Sunshine and took over. The claim of foul by Alvarado was for alleged interference; the stewards let the original order of finish stand.

Midnight Champion now has two wins, one second and a pair of thirds in seven dirt starts, with earnings of more than \$80,000.

Possilicious Powers to Second Straight Victory Sunday

Owner/trainer David Jacobson's three-year-old gelding **Possilicious** made it two-for-two off the claim, winning a six-furlong \$62,000 New York-bred allowance at 3-5 odds under apprentice rider Angel Cruz Sunday afternoon at Aqueduct.

Jacobson claimed Possilicious for \$20,000 on March 15th when he was a front-running third under Jose Ortiz. Jacobson switched riders to Cruz and added blinkers, and Possilicious won his first start for Jacobson wire-to-wire by three lengths at 6-5 odds. He went off at half those odds on Sunday, and he didn't disappoint.

Leaving from the rail, 19-1 **Bajan Summer** took a narrow lead over Possilicious, who broke from the two post and took a stalking position on Bajan Summer's flank through a :22.49 first quarter and a half-mile in a sharp :45.27.

At the top of the stretch, Possilicious wore down the front-runner and spurted clear. **All Is Number**, who was adding blinkers and went off at 4-1 odds, nipped 15-1 **Awesome Lute** by a neck for second. **Pegasus Red** finished fourth at 12-1 odds.

Possilicious now has three wins and a third from six starts, with earnings of more than \$110,000.

Graceful Gal, the even-money favorite in a field of eight in a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$62,000 New York-bred grass allowance Sunday, got up late under Manuel Franco to beat 10-1 **Race and Shine** by three-quarters of a length in a final time of 1:45.53.

Well-prepped by trainer Leo O'Brien for her first start on December 31st, Graceful Gal alternated in third and fourth early as **Partytime Chill**, who went off at 7-1 odds, led early pressed by 14-1 **Barrier to Entry** and 26-1 **Edith** through a half-mile in :49.00.

Barrier to Entry got to the front and opened up a two-length lead as Graceful Gal moved into second after three-quarters in 1:14.08.

Graceful Gal took on and passed Barrier to Entry as Race and Shine moved into second under Ruben Silvera and went after the favorite. Graceful Gal held her off. **Moonlit Sonnet**, a 5-1 shot ridden by Jose Ortiz, finished third, a length and three-quarters behind Race and Shine. **Nile Empress**, who was adding blinkers and went off at 3-1 odds, finished fourth.

Graceful Gal is a daughter of two-time Horse of the Year Curlin out of Cloon by Lure who was bred by Waterville Lake Stables. She is now two-for-five on grass with one second. She also has raced twice on dirt and has total earnings topping \$85,000.

Class Personified Stable and co-owner/trainer Steve Klesaris' four-year-old filly **My Won Love** overpowered front-running **Kitty Ride** then held off **Sonora** to take a six-furlong \$62,000 New York-bred allowance by 2 ½ lengths under Angel Arroyo in a final time of 1:10.60 Sunday at Aqueduct. My Won Love was the 5-2 second choice in the field of six. Sonora was the 6-5 favorite under Jose Ortiz, and Kitty Ride went off at 13-1 odds with Israel Rodriguez aboard.

My Won Love is a daughter of Utopia (JPN) out of Won Moro by Air Forbes Won who was bred by Bada Bing Stable.

Kitty Ride led 4-1 **Noon Sermon** by a length and a half through a :22.73 opening quarter-mile. My Won Love wasn't far back in third as they hit the half in 45.91. Arroyo sent up My Won Love to take over the lead and she did so resolutely, opening a clear advantage in mid-stretch on the way to a handy victory. Sonora finished second, a neck in front of 7-2 **Underthemoonlight**. Noon Sermon was another four lengths back in fourth.

My Won Love improved her dirt record to four-for-12 with three seconds, one third and earnings of more than \$130,000.

Unadilla Stable's three-year-old filly **Redneck Gold**, perfectly ridden by Luis Saez, nailed front-running **Rose of Sicily** in the final jump to win a \$31,000 New York-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer by a nose Sunday. She covered the 5 ½-furlong distance in 1:05.71. Both Redneck Gold and Rose of Sicily, who was adding blinkers under Cornelio Velasquez, were making their second career start and both went off at 5-1 odds in the field of eight.

Leaving from the two post, Rose of Sicily outprinted 9-1 **Glenbrook** on the rail to take a narrow lead through a :22.93 first quarter-mile. Redneck Gold was a close third, then moved into second as Rose of Sicily took the field to the half-mile in :46.53. Then the fillies went head-to-head through the lane. Rose of Sicily was determined on the inside; Redneck Gold was relentless on her outside. Just before the wire, Redneck Gold thrust her nose in front.

Rose of Sicily was second, a length and three-quarters in front of Glenbrook in third. **Agate**, the even-money favorite under Irad Ortiz, Jr., finished fourth, three-quarters of a length behind Glenbrook.

Chris Englehart trains Redneck Gold, a daughter of Golden Missile out of The Name Was Gone by Gone for Real who was bred by Milfer Farm. In her debut in a maiden special weight, Redneck Gold was a distant ninth in a field of 12.

La Verdad Is Awesome in Return; Wins Grade 2 Distaff Again

Exuding class every step of the way, Lady Sheila Stable's brilliant mare **La Verdad**, brought up to her five-year-old debut perfectly by trainer Linda Rice, humbled three opponents to win the Grade 2 \$200,000 Distaff Handicap by 6 ¼ lengths as the 1-5 favorite in a field of just four Saturday at Aqueduct in a snappy final time of 1:10 flat. Ridden by Jose Ortiz, La Verdad was even more dominant in the 61st running of the Distaff than she was last year, when she won the stakes by 3 ¾ lengths at even money.

“I have to give credit to Linda Rice and her staff, because they work very hard every morning to get her ready and they really deserve this,” Ortiz said.

Though she broke fast and won by herself, La Verdad did have one anxious moment. After she took a two-length lead through a :22.55 first quarter, Junior Alvarado made a quick rush on 6-1 Aireofdistinction to try to get to the front, drawing within a neck of La Verdad on the way to a fast half-mile of :44.87.

“I wasn't very happy when I saw a horse coming after her early, and they were going pretty fast,” Rice said. “I was a little concerned that she was going to make it a real test of her fitness, but her ability is the key. She's got a lot of talent and she was able to overcome that.”

Coming out of the far turn, La Verdad drew off while Aireofdistinction drifted out badly. La Verdad remained strong to the wire. “I let her pick up at the three-sixteenths pole, and I only hit her a couple of times and she won easy,” Ortiz said. “I just let her do her thing.”

La Verdad's thing is winning, and she is now nine for 12 at six furlongs, five for six at Aqueduct and 11 for 17 lifetime with two seconds and over \$900,000 in earnings. “I can only hope that she comes back and races as well as she has the last year and a half for us,” Rice said. “I had her in

training for quite a long time without a vacation, and after the Fall Highweight I decided to turn her out for a couple months. She deserved it.ö

Behind La Verdad, 7-1 Frivolity edged 4-1 Mamdooha by a neck for second.

In a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$62,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$75,000 claimer for three-year-old fillies on grass Saturday, John Behrendt, John Marquis and Brian Cornellø **Lady Bling** gamely held on to a short lead in the final sixteenth to beat **Detail** by a nose in a final time of 1:44.72. Ridden by Manuel Franco, Lady Bling went off the 3-1 favorite in the field of nine. Detail, ridden by Irad Ortiz Jr., was sent off at odds of 4-1.

David Donk trains Lady Bling, a daughter of Pioneerof the Nile out of Pretty Honoree by Double Honor who was purchased for \$77,000 as a yearling.

Lady Bling was nowhere near the front as 8-1 **Jackie Black** set a contested pace while pressured by 5-1 **Graeme Crackers** through a half-mile in a pokey :51.55.

After three-quarters of a mile in 1:16.76, the horses on the front end tired and both Lady Bling and Detail took over, battling head-to-head through the final sixteenth. Lady Bling resolutely held off Detail on her outside for the victory. A half-length behind Detail, 5-1 **Amazing Anne** finished third. **Loon River**, the 7-2 second choice, finished fourth, another length and a quarter further back.

Lady Bling is now two-for-three on grass and zero-for-one on dirt, with total earnings of more than \$80,000.