

New York-Breds at the Races: August 15 to 21

By Bill Heller

Uncle Southern Surprises in the Union Avenue Stakes at Sloppy Saratoga

J and M Racing Stable's four-year-old filly **Uncle Southern** made her first stakes start a memorable one Thursday, parlaying an incredibly fast break under Luis Saez to a wire-to-wire victory in the 11th running of the 6 ½-furlong \$100,000 Union Avenue Stakes for New York-bred fillies and mares at sloppy Saratoga. She gamely held off 8-5 second choice **Sunny Desert**, who had rallied up the inside, to win her second straight race by three-quarters of a length in a final time of 1:17.46.

“She really dug in in the stretch,” said Linda Rice, who trains Uncle Southern, a daughter of Uncle Camie out of Southern Statement by Dixie Brass who was bred by Uncle Camie Breeding Farm. “I thought we’d just jump away from there and get to the lead.”

In her previous start, also on a sloppy track at Saratoga, Uncle Southern won a New York-bred allowance race at 3-1 odds in a field of five with Saez aboard for the first time.

Bettors made her 7-1 Thursday, with **Risky Rachel** going off the even-money favorite under Javier Castellano.

When the starting gate opened, Uncle Southern was immediately in front, taking a one-length lead after an opening quarter in :23.35. Uncle Southern maintained the one-length advantage on the favorite through a :46.66 half-mile.

Then Risky Rachel tired, but Irad Ortiz, Jr. shot Sunny Desert, who had been fourth, through an enormous opening on the inside to advance into second. Sunny Desert closed on Uncle Southern, but Uncle Southern gamely held on. Sunny Desert was second, nearly two lengths in front of 12-1 **Make the Moment** in third. **Vicki’s Dancer** finished fourth at 5-1 odds and Risky Rachel was last.

“I thought someone was coming to get me, but she responded when I switched my stick,” Saez said.

Uncle Southern improved her dirt record to two-for-seven with one second and one third. She also has two victories and a second from five turf starts, for combined earnings of more than \$215,000.

Gunpowder Farms' three-year-old ridgling **Sea Raven**, who'd finished a modest-rallying seventh in his debut at 35-1 odds at Belmont Park on June 29, loved the slop at Saratoga Thursday, blowing past favored **Blue Shark** in mid-stretch to win a mile-and-an-eighth \$73,000 New York-bred maiden special weight by six lengths under Irad Ortiz, Jr. in a final time of 1:53.41 at 12-1 odds. Blue Shark, the 2-1 favorite in the field of seven under John Velazquez, saved second, well clear of 4-1 **Vagarious** in third.

Ortiz has been the hottest jockey at Saratoga the last couple weeks, and he delivered a superb ride on Sea Raven, who is trained by Scott Hammond.

Bryce Bryce Baby, sent off at 4-1 odds on the rail under Ortiz's brother Jose, hustled to the lead as Blue Shark took a stalking position in second. Sea Raven got away third on the inside with Vagarious right alongside in fourth.

Bryce Bryce Baby nursed a slim lead over Blue Shark through modest splits of :25.05, :50.10 and 1:14.85. Heading into the far turn, Blue Shark moved up on the outside to challenge for the lead, while Joel Rosario sent Vagarious up three-wide. Ortiz patiently kept Sea Raven on the inside, a tight fourth.

At the top of the stretch, Blue Shark took over the lead while Ortiz angled Sea Raven between Blue Shark and a tiring Vagarious. Sea Raven flew by Blue Shark to win by himself.

Sea Raven is a son of Mineshaft out of No Other Like You by Cozzene who was bred by Louis Ferrari.

Captain Gaughen Gamely Holds on for Grass Allowance Score

Patricia Generazio's homebred, four-year-old gray gelding **Captain Gaughen**, dueled front-running **Karakorum Legend** into defeat then had enough left under John Velazquez to hold off favored **Sanctify** by three-quarters of a length to win a one-mile \$78,000 New York-bred grass allowance at Saratoga Wednesday afternoon. Sent off at 9-1 odds, Captain Gaughen won in a final time of 1:35.49.

Velazquez delivered a great grass ride on the son of Disco Rico out of V for Vera by Concorde's Tune, trained by Jim Ryerson.

Leaving from the rail, Captain Gaughen went for the lead, as did 10-1 Karakorum Legend, ridden by Cornelio Velazquez, who broke from the outside post in the field of seven.

Velazquez wisely took Captain Gaughen back into second and Karakorum Legend opened up a length-and-a-half lead after an opening quarter in :23.67. Velazquez then took Captain Gaughen to the outside to draw within a half-length of the frontrunner after a pedestrian half-mile in :47.97.

Captain Gaughen drew even with Karakorum Legend around the far turn as Sanctify, the 3-2 favorite under Manuel Franco, rallied three-wide from fifth into third.

At the top of the stretch, Captain Gaughen began to prevail over Karakorum Legend as Sanctify and 3-1 **Majestic Raffy** rallied through three-quarters of a mile in 1:12.12.

Captain Gaughen held both of them off to win. Sanctify finished second, a neck in front of Majestic Raffy, and Karakorum Legend was fourth, three-quarters of a length behind Majestic Raffy.

Captain Gaughen improved his grass record to three-for-14 with one second and four thirds, for earnings of nearly \$180,000. His first five career races were on dirt and he failed to finish in the money in any of them.

Beautifully ridden from the 10 post by Irad Ortiz, Jr., Peter Deutch's first-time starter **Saratoga Dreamer** rolled to a 2 ½-length victory in his career debut in a \$73,000 New York-bred maiden special weight on the turf for two-year-olds, completing the 5 ½ furlongs in 1:02.51. Christophe Clement trains Saratoga Dreamer, one of two horses who went off at 3-1 odds.

Breaking from the rail under Cornelio Velasquez, 13-1 **One Eyed Ray** battled with 7-1 **Navy Blue** and 11-1 **Sheriff Taylor** three across the track through a blazing first quarter in :21.49. Ortiz had Saratoga Dreamer clear on the outside, and he advanced on his own into fourth.

Around the far turn, Sheriff Taylor cleared the lead, while Saratoga Dreamer continued to close on his own into second after they zipped past the half-mile in :44.73. Saratoga Dreamer went right on by the tired pacesetter to win handily. **Coastal Zip**, who went off at 50-1 odds, closed a lot of ground to finish second. **Boldlee**, a 32-1 shot who was fractious before the start then broke slowly, finished third, four lengths behind Coastal Zip. **Gear Jammer**, who also broke slowly at 9-1 odds, rallied to finish fourth.

Saratoga Dreamer is a colt by Elusive Quality out of St Francis Wood by Irish River. Clement worked Saratoga Dreamer eight times for his debut, all on dirt, and he registered four bullets.

One More Chief Scores Wire-to-Wire in Open Claiming Company Monday

S. Hooper, T. Albrecht, T. Mann, S. Lazarus and D. Smirlock's homebred New York-bred, four-year-old gelding **One More Chief**, outsprinted another state-bred, **Private Irving A**, to the early lead and never relinquished it, taking a 6 ½-furlong \$32,000 conditional \$16,000 claimer wire-to-wire by 2 ½ lengths under Manuel Franco Monday afternoon at Saratoga in a final time of 1:16.70. One More Chief went off at 3-1 odds in the field of seven, while Private Irving A was sent off at odds of 17-1. Invocation, the 2-1 second choice, finished second, well clear of the 3-2 favorite, Cosmic Coincidence, who checked in third.

Trained by Jim Ferraro, One More Chief is a son of Chief Seattle out of No More Flags by Personal Flag.

His only previous victory was in his second career start at Saratoga on a muddy track almost a year earlier.

After three tiring dirt races this year, Ferraro switched him to turf, and One More Chief was a tiring seventh in a state-bred allowance, followed by a ninth-place finish in an open \$40,000 claimer at 40-1 odds.

Leaving from the five post back on dirt, One More Chief broke well and took a half-length lead over Private Irving A through a fast opening quarter of :22.09. Continuing to set a strong pace,

One More Chief increased his lead to two lengths by hitting the half in :45.11. One More Chief reached six furlongs in 1:10.09 and still had enough left to hold off Invocation, who had rushed into contention on the far outside.

One More Chief now has two victories and a third in nine starts, for earnings of more than \$70,000.

Billy the Bull Goes Gate-to-Wire to Win a Grass Allowance Sunday

In his first start on grass earlier in the Saratoga meet, Bernard McKenna's four-year-old gray gelding **Billy the Bull** got away third, moved up to be a close second, then tired late to finish fourth at 17-1 odds under apprentice rider Taylor Rice. On Sunday afternoon at Saratoga in his second grass race, Rice gunned him to the lead from the outside post in the field of nine and he never looked back, coasting to a 2 ¼-length victory in a \$75,000 New York-bred allowance while covering the 5 ½ furlongs in a quick 1:01.90 at 6-1 odds.

Gary Gullo trains Billy the Bull, a son of Holy Bull out of Sweet Sweet Molly by A.P. Jet who was bred by Joseph Bucci.

McKenna claimed Billy the Bull, who won his career debut on dirt, for \$25,000 after he finished a front-running fourth in open company as the 4-5 favorite on March 21 at Aqueduct. His new connections kept him on dirt, and he finished a game front-running third by a half-length as the 2-1 favorite in an open \$25,000 claimer at Belmont Park.

Gullo decided to freshen his new gelding and switch him to grass, and he raced well in his turf debut when fourth on August 2.

Sunday's race changed in complexion when **Vecino**, the 6-5 favorite off a four-length, wire-to-wire win as the 5-2 favorite, didn't break alertly from the two post under Luis Saez. Vecino was never involved.

Billy the Bull quickly made the front, chased by **Pegasus Red**, a 34-1 longshot in the field of nine who eventually tired. He had a reason. Billy the Bull zipped the opening quarter in :21.92 and didn't slow down much in his second quarter, reaching the half in a demanding :44.39. By then, **Ogermeister**, who went off at 4-1 odds, had moved into second.

Billy the Bull had plenty left to finish the job, winning comfortably. Ogermeister was a clear second, and 11-1 **Greeley Pack** finished third. **Hooked Forever** was fourth at odds of 6-1.

Billy the Bull is now one-for-two on turf. On dirt, he is one-for-five with two thirds, good for combined earnings of more than \$90,000.

Orino Prevails Late to Win a New York-Bred Grass Allowance Saturday

Tina Bond and Sleeper Stables' four-year-old gelding **Orino** rallied late under Rajiv Maragh to take a one-mile \$78,000 New York-bred grass allowance/optional \$40,000 claimer at Saratoga Saturday afternoon by a little more than length as the 5-2 favorite in the field of 10. **Mobridge** finished second at 4-1 odds, a length and a quarter in front of 15-1 front-running **Glowing Ember**. **Why Not Whiskey**, sent off at 4-1 odds, rallied from last to finish fourth, a head behind Glowing Ember.

Bond's husband Jim trains Orino, a son of Raffie's Majesty out of Musical by El Gran Senor who was bred by Song Hill Thoroughbreds.

Leaving from the rail, Orino got away fifth as Manuel Franco sent Glowing Ember up from the far outside post to take an early lead. **Petrocelli** settled in second at 8-1 odds and 15-1 **Western Tryst** was third as Glowing Ember ran a fast opening quarter of :23.36.

Not content to sit second, John Velazquez sent up Petrocelli on the outside to dispute the lead with Glowing Ember, who was still leading after a :46.84 half-mile. Heading into the far turn, Glowing Ember shook off Petrocelli to take a length-and-a-half lead, hitting three-quarters in 1:11.04. Then Orino and Mobridge quickly closed in.

Orino went past Glowing Ember to gain the lead, then held off Mobridge to win in a final time of 1:34.98. Orino ran his final quarter-mile in under :24.

Orino had won his lone start at Saratoga last year, the \$100,000 New York Stallion Series, but was disqualified and placed second for interference.

Saturday's victory was his third in 10 turf starts with three seconds and a third, good for earnings of more than \$180,000 in 11 career starts.

Weekend Hideaway Wins the Morrissey Stakes Friday

In a tour de force on the front end under Jose Lezcano, Red and Black Stable's four-year-old colt **Weekend Hideaway** captured the 11th running of the 6 ½-furlong \$100,000 John Morrissey Stakes by two lengths Friday at Saratoga. Sent off at 6-1 in the field of eight, Weekend Hideaway won in 1:15.83.

A multiple-horse photo revealed that **Big Business**, the 5-2 favorite under John Velazquez, had finished second, just ahead of 20-1 longshot **West Hills Giant**. **Saratoga Snacks**, the 3-1 third choice on the rail, was fourth.

Phil Serpe trains Weekend Hideaway, a son of Speightstown out of Apocalyptical by Wiseman's Ferry who was bred by Flying Zee Stables.

“We’re really happy for Mike Hoffman and his crew from Red and Black Stable, because they’re great people,” Serpe said.

Weekend Hideaway was pointed to the Morrissey after he won a New York-bred allowance by a length and a quarter under Lezcano. Before that, he had finished a close third in both the Affirmed Success and the Commentator Stakes.

Moonlight Song, who was the 3-1 second choice under Jose Ortiz, made the lead immediately from the five post as 9-1 **Brigand** and Weekend Hideaway got off second and third. Lezcano, though, sent Weekend Hideaway through on the inside to challenge Moonlight Song for the lead in a contentious opening quarter of :22. Big Business was perched three-wide in third. Brigand was fourth and Saratoga Snacks fifth.

Heading into the far turn, Weekend Hideaway and Moonlight Song continued to battle head-to-head, and they reached the half-mile together in :44.80. Velazquez had Big Business poised in third, while Junior Alvarado got Saratoga Snacks off the rail to make his move.

At the eighth pole, Weekend Hideaway shrugged off Moonlight Song and took a clear lead as a pack of closers tried closing in. Lezcano, though, had plenty of horse left and he won handily. Big Business finished a head in front of West Hills Giant, who was a nose better than Saratoga Snacks. Moonlight Song was just another neck back in fifth.

Weekend Hideaway improved his dirt record to five-for-13 with three seconds and a trio of thirds. On grass, Weekend Hideaway has one win from three starts. His combined earnings now top \$440,000.

In Friday's finale, a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$42,000 conditional \$25,000 claimer on grass, Jose Ortiz shot Joemar Racing Stables' home-bred, four-year-old New York-bred filly **Outer Orbit** to the lead and she never looked back, winning easily gate-to-wire by seven lengths (???) in 1:43.94 for her second consecutive victory. Dominick Schettino trains the daughter of Western Expression out of Galaxy's Spirit by Galaxy Guide, who went off at 7-1 in the field of eight, which included three other New York-breds.

Malibu Queen, the 9-5 favorite under Junior Alvarado, edged 12-1 Barbara's Smile for second and **My Four Rewards**, a New York-bred who went off at 9-2, was fourth.

Malibu Queen had only an extremely distant third to show for her first three starts on dirt, but then won her grass debut, a New York-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer, by three-quarters of a length at 6-1 with Ortiz riding for the first time. She is now two-for-two on turf with earnings of just under \$50,000.

Drawing Away Stable and trainer David Jacobson's five-year-old gelding **Night Maneuver** blew past front-running **Half Nelson** and opened up on the field Friday at Saratoga, taking a six-furlong \$78,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$40,000 claimer by four lengths as the 4-5 favorite in a field reduced to six with the late scratch of **Chilton**.

Ridden by Cornelio Velasquez, Night Maneuver won in a final time of 1:10.09. Half Nelson, sent off at 8-1 odds under Manuel Franco, edged 15-1 **Leilani's Ticket** for second.

Jacobson entered both Night Maneuver and Be Bullish in this race, but scratched the latter. Night Maneuver figured to be the favorite dropping from a non-threatening second in an open allowance/optional \$62,500 claimer at Saratoga at 5-1 odds in his last start.

Velasquez had Night Maneuver well-placed behind Half Nelson, who led through an opening quarter in :22.61 and a half-mile in :45.55. Night Maneuver took over the lead readily when asked by Velasquez and drew off.

Night Maneuver was claimed for \$50,000 by his current connections off a nose victory at Aqueduct on January 30. Jacobson freshened his new horse, and he returned to post two seconds, a third and a fourth in four starts before Friday.

Night Maneuver is a son of Orientate out of Smoke N Shadows by Smoke Glacken who was bred by Nustar Breeding. He improved his career record to eight wins in 25 starts with four seconds, seven thirds and earnings of more than \$430,000.

In Friday's opener, a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$73,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for two-year-old fillies, John Behrendt, Charles Marquis, and Brian Comell's first-time starter **Lady Bling** rocketed past front-running **Ten Penny Princess** to win going away by four lengths under Irad Ortiz, Jr. in a final time of 1:45.04. Lady Bling, who is trained by David Donk, went off the 3-1 third choice in the field of eight; Ten Penny Princess was the 2-1 favorite.

"The first time Irad breezed her, he said, 'Long, turf,'" Donk said. "I said, 'Another one?'"

Lady Bling settled in sixth early as Joel Rosario put Ten Penny Princess on the lead. **Timely Cat**, sent off at 11-1 odds, chased in second. Lady Bling moved up to fifth after a half in :50.03, then followed **Bebop Raindrop**, the 5-2 second choice, when she moved up on the outside around the far turn.

Ten Penny Princess, though, had plenty left and still led in upper stretch. Then Lady Bling found her best stride and blew past to win by herself. **Bebop Raindrop** got up for second, a neck in front of Ten Penny Princess.

Lady Bling is a daughter of Pioneer of the Nile out of Spangled by Kris S. and was bred by Grapestock LLC.

In a 5 1/2-furlong \$73,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for two-year-olds on dirt Friday, Ralph Evans' first-time starter **Upstart** broke last under Jose Ortiz and was difficult to handle during the race, but once he found room in the stretch he blew his six opponents away, winning by five lengths in a final time of 1:04.01 as the 3-2 favorite.

Rick Violette trains Upstart, a ridgling by Flatter out of Party Silks by Touch Gold who was bred by Mrs. Gerald Nielsen.

Upstart moved up to fourth on the inside as 28-1 **Essence At Noon** and 3-1 **Bo Bob** battled on the front end through a :22.49 opening quarter. **Tizquick**, the 8-5 second choice, was well spotted in third under Junior Alvarado.

Heading into the far turn, Ortiz had to check Upstart a bit while still keeping him on the inside. While Tizquick made the lead, Upstart split Essence of Noon and Tizquick and immediately kicked clear to win his debut impressively. Tizquick finished second, two lengths clear of 25-1 **Breakin the Fever**, who had been extremely fractious before the race, in third.

Benefitting from a fine ride by Mike Luzzi, Chalk Racing's three-year-old gelding **Latigo Trail** delivered as the 8-5 favorite in a 5 ½-furlong \$73,000 New York-bred maiden special weight Friday, winning by four lengths in a final time of 1:02.64. **Spark to Ignite** finished second at 40-1 odds and **Vischer Ferry**, the 5-2 second choice in the field of seven, checked in third.

Bruce Brown trains Latigo Trail, a son of Freud out of Trippi's Dream by Trippi who was bred by Anthony Grey and Wagon Hill Farm.

Breaking from adjacent outside stalls in the starting gate, Vischer Ferry and Latigo Trail roared to the front with Vischer Ferry taking a three-quarter-length lead through a fast :21.23 opening quarter. Latigo Trail remained glued to Vischer Ferry's flank heading into the far turn, then took over the lead readily at the head of the stretch. Latigo Trail then opened up to win comfortably. Spark to Ignite, who had been racing two lengths off the top pair vying for third with 21-1 **Junger** much of the way, was a clear second and Vischer Ferry saved third.

Latigo Trail now has a win and two seconds in three grass starts with earnings of more than \$70,000 after he began his career with four uneventful tries on dirt.