

New York-Breds at the Races: August 22 to 28

By Bill Heller

Lubash Runs Down King Kreesa for His Third Straight Win in the West Point

As good at the age of eight as he's ever been, Aliyu Ben J Stables' homebred **Lubash** ran down his nemesis **King Kreesa** to win his third straight race Friday at Saratoga on New York-Bred Showcase Day.

Flawlessly ridden by Junior Alvarado, Lubash won the 36th running of the mile-and-a-sixteenth \$150,000 West Point Handicap for New York-breds on grass by one length in a final time of 1:43.04. Lubash was the 3-2 second choice and King Kreesa, piloted by Jose Ortiz, was the 6-5 favorite in a field of five.

Lubash, who missed two weeks of training due to an incident on the backstretch at Belmont Park, has been one of trainer Christophe Clement's favorites for a long time, as he's woven his million-dollar career. "He's a fun horse; he's a real fun horse," said Clement, who continues to have an outstanding Saratoga meet. Lubash was Clement's 12th winner from 43 starts.

Lubash is a son of Freud out of Nasty Cure by Cure the Blues. "He's that good; he overcomes me," Clement joked. "He tries harder."

And he seldom disappoints.

The original field for the West Point was 10, but five horses scratched, including top contender Kharafa, leaving Lubash and King Kreesa as the two obvious favorites. In last year's West Point, King Kreesa edged Lubash by a head. They've raced against each other many times, including earlier this year when Lubash captured the \$125,000 Kingston Stakes at Belmont Park on May 25th by a length over Kharafa, with King Kreesa just another neck back in third.

After the Kingston, Lubash made it two straight when he won a New York-bred allowance at 1-5 odds. He left from the four post Friday; King Kreesa had the two post.

As he usually does, King Kreesa broke first and immediately seized the lead. But John Velazquez, riding 5-1 **Notacatbutallama** on the rail, completely changed the dynamics of the race when he took his horse off the rail and made a quick outside brush to take the lead. Ortiz responded by letting King Kreesa race in second on Notacatbutallama's flank. After a first quarter in :24.67, Notacatbutallama slowed the pace down, hitting the half in :49.22 and three-quarters in 1:13.28.

Alvarado let Lubash idle along in fourth before asking him to get closer heading into the far turn. Coming out of the turn, King Kreesa surged past Notacatbutallama as Lubash bore down on him.

In the final sixteenth of a mile, Lubash surged clear, winning by a length. King Kreesa was second, a length and a half ahead of Notacatbutallama in third. **Orino** finished fourth, just a head behind Notacatbutallama, at 6-1 odds.

Lubash's victory was his 14th in 40 grass starts with nine seconds and five thirds. He has also won one of three dirt starts and has total earnings of more than \$1.2 million.

Alvarado said, "As soon as I pulled him out, he was there for me. He's just such a classy, unbelievable horse. He makes my job easy."

And Clement's job joyful. "He's a great horse," Clement said. "It's nice to win. I am very grateful to the owners."

The owners are most likely grateful to have Clement taking care of a horse as talented as Lubash.

In the 36th running of the mile-and-a-sixteenth \$150,000 Yaddo Stakes for New York-bred fillies and mares on grass, Luis Saez rallied Kendel Standlee's five-year-old mare **The Tea Cups** to a one-length victory over **Old Harbor** in a final time of 1:42.92.

Selenite finished third, a neck behind **Old Harbor** while a length in front of **Swear by It** in fourth. **Discreet Marq**, the 1-2 favorite in the field of 10 under John Velazquez, finished off the board.

Jeremiah Englehart trains The Tea Cups, a daughter of Hard Spun out of Lunar Colony by A.P. Indy who was bred by William Parsons, Jr. and David Howe. The Tea Cups finished fourth at 5-1 odds in an open allowance race at Saratoga in her previous start on July 24th.

Bettors sent The Tea Cups off at 9-1 odds Friday. Old Harbor went off at 10-1 odds, Selenite was 7-1 and Swear by It was 11-1.

Breaking from the rail, 46-1 **Lady Kreesa** shot to the lead under Jose Ortiz. **Invading Humor**, who was sent off at 7-1 odds under Javier Castellano, raced in second and Discreet Marq was third through a quarter mile in :23.63 and a half-mile in :47.73. The Tea Cups was next to last.

After three-quarters in 1:11.83, Velazquez sent Discreet Marq three-wide around Lady Kreesa and Invading Humor. Discreet Marq took a narrow lead in early stretch before a line of closers quickly gained ground.

On the far outside, The Tea Cups was moving fastest of all. She swept by everyone to win by a length.

The Tea Cups is now five for 17 on grass with three seconds and three thirds. She also has a third from two dirt starts, for total earnings of more than \$230,000.

She's All Ready Wins Seeking the Ante Stakes to Stay Unbeaten

Earlier Friday, Nirvana Stables' **She's All Ready**, who had already delivered a powerful performance when she won her debut on August 7th, took her game to another level when she survived an early speed duel to capture the second running of the \$200,000 Seeking the Ante Stakes for New York-bred two-year-old fillies by three lengths as the 1-5 favorite. She covered the 6 ½ furlongs in 1:16.71 under Kendrick Carmouche.

“You know, I thought she could do it,” trainer Jim Ryerson said. “She’s a really nice filly. She has that ability and I was never really concerned.”

She’s All Ready is a daughter of Girolamo out of Prominent by El Prado who was bred by Kings and Queens Farm and was purchased for \$45,000 in May. She almost covered that when she won her debut by 8 1/4 lengths as the 2-1 favorite under Carmouche.

She had to work a lot harder Friday to up her record to two for two. Breaking from the four post in the field of seven, she was immediately challenged by the filly breaking to her immediate outside.

Cornelio Velasquez gunned 23-1 longshot **Crowd Control**, who was adding blinkers, to challenge for the lead and she drew almost even with She’s All Ready.

She’s All Ready led Crowd Control by a head after a quarter mile in :22.04 and by half-length through a testing :45.39 half-mile.

Then She’s All Ready put away the challenger and started to draw away from the field. She hit three-quarters in 1:10.11 with a five-length lead and eased home well in front. **Super Surprise** was a clear second, 5 1/4 lengths ahead of **Lemon Liqueur**. **Ben’s Girl** finished fourth.

She’s All Ready has already earned \$163,800 in just two starts.

“She’s a phenomenal filly,” Carmouche said. “She was nice and relaxed in my hands. Once I asked her, she pretty much ran on from there. She did such a good job.”

In a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$83,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for two-year-old fillies on the grass Friday, Jose Birriel’s homebred gray **Table for Six** spurted away in mid-stretch to win her debut by four lengths under Julien Leparoux in a final time of 1:45.13.

Eddie Kenneally trains Table for Six, a daughter of Mizzen Mast out of Heavenly Empress by Pure Prize who was bred by Dr. Jose Birriel.

Table for Six broke first from the rail, but Leparoux took a hold of her and settled her in third as 9-1 **Corinthian’s Joy** led 25-1 **Saratoga Gal** through a quarter in :24.78 and a half-mile in :50.13. Table for Six alternated in third and fourth on the inside with **Miss Kew**, the 9-5 favorite ridden by Irad Ortiz, Jr., on her outside.

After three-quarters in 1:15.35, Miss Kew made her bid for the lead on the outside. Leparoux kept Table for Six inside and had plenty of room to run along the hedge as Corinthian’s Joy began drifting out a bit as she tired in early stretch.

Table for Six exploded past her and took a sudden four-length lead, one she maintained until the finish line.

Miss Kew finished second, three-quarters of a length ahead of 7-2 **Taken by Surprise** in third. **Lady Lucky** finished fourth at 7-1 odds.

Jc's Shooting Star Breaks Maiden in the \$200,000 Fleet Indian Stakes

Thanks to a finely timed rally from last under Manuel Franco, Shooting Star Stable's **Jc's Shooting Star** edged **Conquest Superstep** by a head to break her maiden in the second running of the mile-and-an-eighth \$200,000 Fleet Indian Stakes for three-year-old New York-breds Friday at Saratoga on Showcase Day.

Sent off at 18-1 odds in the field of five, Jc's Shooting Star won in a final time of 1:51.39. Though she was zero for six, Jc's Shooting Star had finished fifth in the \$125,000 Bouwerie Stakes at Belmont Park and a distant second in the \$75,000 New York Oaks at Finger Lakes. Then she finished fifth and third in a pair of New York-bred maiden special weights on the grass.

So how exactly did Jc's Shooting Star wind up in a \$200,000 stakes? "The owner," trainer David Donk said. "I give him all the credit. It was only a field of five. I was hoping to get third. I honestly didn't know if she could beat a couple of these fillies."

Well, she did.

Jc's Shooting Star is a daughter of Miracle Man out of American Passage by Quiet American who was bred by Miracle Man Racing Partners. She made her debut at Aqueduct on April 11th, finishing second by a length and a quarter. She was second again in a maiden special weight at Belmont Park before trying stakes company twice.

On Friday, she was last early as 30-1 **Congaroo** led and 7-2 **Freudie Anne** and 9-5 **Conquest Superstep** chased in second and third, respectively, through a quarter in :23.58 and a half-mile in :47.00. **Temper Mint Patty**, the 4-5 favorite on the rail under John Velazquez, raced in fourth.

Freudie Anne, who won a \$100,000 division of the New York Stallion Stakes Series on grass here in her previous start, took over the front end after three-quarters in 1:11.52, and Conquest Superstep moved into second.

Conquest Superstep took on Freudie Anne around the far turn as Jc's Shooting Star rallied strongly on their outside. After a mile in 1:37.63, Jc's Shooting Star advanced into second and went after Conquest Superstep. They separated themselves from the others, battling head-to-head for the final sixteenth of a mile. Just before the wire, Jc's Shooting Star stuck her head in front.

Temper Mint Patty finished third, 2 ¾ lengths behind Conquest Superstep. Freudie Anne was a distant fourth.

Donk briefly left the winner's circle before the trophy presentation to go back on the track, pick up a hose and cool off his newest stakes winner himself. Then he credited Franco, who missed part of the meet after being bruised from a gruesome accident. "He gave her a great ride," Donk said.

Franco, who had ridden Jc's Shooting Star in three of her previous six starts, was thankful for the opportunity. "It's a blessing," he said.

Jc's Shooting Star now has a win and three seconds from five dirt starts and a second from two turf tries, for combined earnings of just under \$180,000.

Repole's Unbeaten Homebred Sudden Surprise Wins the Funny Cide Stakes

Mike Repole's homebred colt **Sudden Surprise** fought his way to the lead under John Velazquez and then held off **Manipulated** to win the second running of the 6 ½-furlong \$200,000 Funny Cide Stakes for two-year-olds by two lengths in the opener on Saratoga Showcase Day Friday. Sudden Surprise was sent off at odds of 4-5 and Manipulated was even money under Luis Saez in the field of five.

“He’s pretty special,” Repole said of his two-for-two winner, a son of Giant Surprise out of Ready and Good by More Than Ready trained by Todd Pletcher, who’s been struggling lately at Saratoga.

“We’ve been on the wrong side of a lot of photos lately,” Pletcher said in the winner’s circle.

Just as in his debut, Sudden Surprise didn’t need a photo to determine his victory. He caught a sloppy track in his debut at Saratoga on July 30th and won wire-to-wire by 2 ¾ lengths at 9-2 odds. “We thought he’d be forwardly placed today,” Pletcher said.

Velazquez made sure. Leaving sharply from the three post, Sudden Surprise took a narrow lead while racing three-wide. **No Entiendo**, who went off at 9-1 odds from the rail under Cornelio Velasquez, tried holding his position while 12-1 **Dr. Shane** raced between those two in third through a :22.2 first quarter. Saez had Manipulated a close fourth.

Heading into the far turn, Sudden Surprise shook off the competition to lead by a length and a half as Manipulated moved up on the outside to challenge Dr. Shane for second.

After a half-mile in :45.28, Velazquez still had a lot left and Sudden Surprise spurted clear and finished strongly. Manipulated finished second, 5 ½ lengths clear of Dr. Shane in third. **Guaranteed**, who went off at 36-1 odds under Kendrick Carmouche, finished fourth.

The stakes trophy was presented by Funny Cide’s owner Jack Knowlton, who was thrilled to have a stakes named for his 2003 New York-bred Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner. Funny Cide made an appearance at the track Friday at Saratoga, looking well for a 15-year-old. “This is just great,” Knowlton said. “It’s the beginning of a historic weekend at Saratoga.”

Sudden Surprise has had a great beginning. He already has earnings of \$163,800.

Lady Sheila Stable’s first-time starter **Forever in Love** humbled six opponents, winning a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$83,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for two-year-olds on the grass by nearly 10 lengths as the 8-5 favorite under Jose Ortiz.

Linda Rice trains the son of Scat Daddy out of Forever Smart by Smart Strike who was bred by Joanne Nielsen and was purchased earlier this year for \$210,000.

Rice gave Forever in Love four dirt works to prepare for his debut on grass and he worked fast in all of them, one at four furlongs and three at five, the last two in an identical 1:00 4/5.

Bettors were all over him Friday and he broke like a shot from the two post, immediately taking the lead. **Sax Change**, who went off at 7-2 odds under Rafael Hernandez, settled in second as Forever in Love strolled to the quarter in :25.00 and the half-mile in :50.14.

Both first-time starter **Ro Bear** and first-time turfer **High Noon Cocktail** made aggressive moves for the lead on the backstretch. Ro Bear took the lead, but Forever in Love quickly came back and regained the lead through three quarters in 1:14.04. He then blew the field away, winning in a final time of 1:44.72.

Sax Change finished second, three-quarters of a length ahead of Ro Bear. **There Goes Ben** was fourth at 11-1 odds.

George and Stephanie Autry's three-year-old gelding **True Bet** tracked front-running **Mascarello**, took the lead when asked by John Velazquez and cruised to a three-length victory in an \$83,000 New York-bred maiden special weight Friday. He covered the 6 ½ furlongs in 1:17.04. True Bet was sent off at 5-2 odds and Mascarello, ridden by Irad Ortiz, Jr., was sent off at 5-1 in the field of seven.

Michael Dilger trains True Bet, a son of Yes It's True out of Gamblers Passion by Prospectors Gamble who was bred by Robert Evans and sold for \$75,000 as yearling at Saratoga in 2013.

True Bet had been second in her two previous starts before Dilger freshened her.

Velazquez settled True Bet into second as Mascarello set a fast pace: a quarter in :22.05 and a half-mile in :45.15. Mascarello made her move around the far turn and struck the lead after three-quarters in 1:10.26. True Bet won comfortably. **Interior Secretary** finished second, a length ahead of **Scorecard Harry**. Mascarello finished fourth.

True Bet now has a win, two seconds and three thirds from nine starts, for earnings of more than \$95,000.

Good Luck Gus Wins Albany to Give Saez Three Straight Victories

Benefitting from a fine ride by red-hot Luis Saez, Michael Dubb, Bethlehem Stable and The Elkstone Group's colt **Good Luck Gus** edged **One Sided** by a half-length to win the 38th running of the \$250,000 Albany Stakes for three-year-old New York-breds, the highlight of Showcase Day for New York-breds at Saratoga Friday afternoon. Good Luck Gus gave Saez his third consecutive victory Friday, following a maiden win aboard **Heated Verdict** and an upset in the \$150,000 Yaddo Stakes on **The Tea Cups**.

Asked if the previous two wins helped his confidence in the Albany, Saez said, "That was big. We're so happy to win here."

Rudy Rodriguez trains Good Luck Gus, a son of Lookin At Lucky out of Tacticmove by Deputy Minister who was bred by Fred Hertrich III and sold for \$97,000 as a yearling at Saratoga in August 2013. Good Luck Gus had won two stakes before the Albany: the \$252,000 New York Breeder's Futurity at Finger Lakes, and the \$100,000 Damon Runyon at Aqueduct to conclude his two-year-old season on December 14th.

Rodriguez gave Good Luck Gus the winter and early spring off. He made his three-year-old debut at Belmont Park on May 25th, finishing second by two lengths in the \$125,000 Mike Lee Stakes. On July 3rd at Finger Lakes, Good Luck Gus finished fourth by 3 ¾ lengths to **Force**.

“We thought he had a lot of ability,” Dubb said in the winner’s circle. “We figured this (the Albany) was our objective.”

Bettors sent him off at 7-2 odds from the rail in the Albany. One Sided, ridden by Javier Castellano, went off at 5-2 odds and Force, who broke from the outside post in the field of six, was the 2-1 favorite under Jose Lezcano.

Javier Castellano shot One Sided to the lead from the two post, and Lezcano placed Force a neck behind him on his outside through a very slow first quarter of :25.30. **Bellamy Way**, who went off at 9-2 odds under Joel Rosario, raced in third and Good Luck Gus was fourth.

“The plan was we were going to be behind the speed, and when we made the move, hopefully we would have the horse,” Saez said.

Lezcano didn’t wait on Force, who took a half-length lead on One Sided after a half-mile in a pokey :50.23. Force couldn’t clear One Sided through three-quarters in 1:14.33. Bellamy Way remained in third while Good Luck Gus, who had fallen back to fifth, began his rally.

One Sided gamely came back on Force’s inside to re-take the lead after a mile in 1:38.30 while Good Luck Gus, who had moved into third, kept coming on the far outside. Inside the sixteenth pole, Good Luck Gus made the lead and won by a half-length.

One Sided saved second, a length ahead of Bellamy Way in third. Force was another length and a quarter back in fourth.

Castellano told One Sided’s trainer Todd Pletcher and owner Mike Repole that he should have done things differently, but Repole brushed that aside, telling Castellano, “You did a great job.”

So did Rodriguez. “He was coming into this race very good,” he said. “We were pointing him to this race all along.”

Good Luck Gus improved his record to four for 10 with three seconds and earnings of more than \$510,000.

In the race after the West Point Handicap, West Point Thoroughbreds’ two-year-old colt **Heated Verdict** won an \$83,000 New York-bred maiden special weight virtually wire-to-wire under Luis Saez by three-quarters of a length over first-time starter **Slapstick**. He covered the 5 ½ furlongs in 1:03.40. Originally on the also-eligible list, Heated Verdict was sent off at 2-1 odds from the outside post in the field of 10. Slapstick, ridden by Jose Lezcano, was sent off at 14-1 odds.

George Weaver trains Heated Verdict, a son of Court Vision out of Dry Heat by Dixie Union who was bred by Spendthrift Farm and sold for \$130,000 in March. He had finished a solid second at 9-2 odds in his debut at Saratoga with Saez aboard.

Heated Verdict shot to the lead and went an opening quarter-mile in :22.89 and a half-mile in :46.14. Slapstick closed in late while lugging in, but Heated Verdict held him off. **Dearie** finished third and **Leaveemathegate** was fourth.

Heated Verdict has already earned more than \$60,000 in two starts.

Women Win Wins Emphatically at Saratoga Thursday

Barry Schwartz's homebred three-year-old filly **Women Win**, who had finished second in four successive starts, broke through in a major way Thursday afternoon at Saratoga. After Jose Ortiz hustled her to the lead, Women Win crushed her six opponents by 11 1/4 lengths, taking a six-furlong \$73,000 New York-bred maiden special weight in a snappy final time of 1:09.75 as part of a favored 9-5 entry.

Mike Hushion trains Women Win, daughter of Yes It's True out of Madame Diva by Mr. Greeley who began her career by running fifth in open company at Gulfstream Park on March 1st. She then shipped to New York and finished second four times, the last by eight lengths in a 6 1/2-furlong maiden special weight here on July 26th.

Women Win, who had only raced on the lead once previously, fired out of the four post Thursday, taking an immediate two-length lead on 5-1 **Frontier Scout**. Women Win raced a quarter in :22.10 and began to draw away, hitting the half-mile in a fast :44.82. Then she just kept on going, winning by herself.

Stone Supplier, who went off at 5-1 odds under John Velazquez, nosed 2-1 **Royalton**, ridden by Javier Castellano, for second. **Kellyesque** was a distant fourth at 3-1 odds.

Women Win now has a win and four seconds from six starts, for earnings of more than \$90,000.

Rallying gamely between horses, Neal Allread's three-year-old New York-bred filly **Dot Product** edged No Tunes by a head in a \$47,000 conditional \$40,000 claimer on the grass Thursday. She completed the 6 1/2 furlongs in 1:04.20. Manuel Franco rode Dot Product, a daughter of Langfuhr out of Aunt Dot Dot by Gulch who was bred by Truxton Stables and is trained by Jeremiah Englehart. Front-running Cool Comfort, who was sent off at odds of 7-2, finished third, just a neck behind No Tunes.

Dot Product went off at 10-1 odds and No Tunes, ridden by Jose Lezcano, was 9-1 in the field of nine.

Franco settled Dot Product, who broke from the outside post, in mid-pack as Cool Comfort tried going wire-to-wire. Franco got Dot Product up in the final yards.

Dot Product is now two for five on grass with one second and two thirds. She's also raced three times on dirt and has total earnings of nearly \$75,000.

Rallying into a slow pace from last in the field of five, MFG Racing Stable's homebred New York-bred, the four-year-old filly **Roman Reign**, got up in the final strides under Luis Saez to edge New York-bred **Dunn Listening** by a nose in a \$32,000 conditional \$16,000 claimer Thursday. She completed the six-furlong distance in 1:11.92 to notch her second consecutive victory. Roman Reign was sent off at odds of 7-2 and Dunn Listening was the 2-1 second choice under Angel Arroyo.

Peter Pugh trains Roman Reign, a daughter of Roman Ruler out of Dixie Doree by Dixie Brass who won a state-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer by 4 ½ lengths at Belmont Park as the 6-5 favorite on July 1st before getting a freshening.

She was last most of the way as 5-1 Tia Lana tried going wire-to-wire under Jose Lezcano. She led Dunn Listening by a length and a half through a quarter in :23.60 and a half-mile in :47.02. Dunn Listening went after the front-runner in mid-stretch as Roman Reign, who was still last, got going on the far outside.

Tia Lana gave up the lead in deep stretch as both Dunn Listening and Roman Reign went past her. Roman Reign had the most momentum and won narrowly. Tia Lana was third, a length behind Dunn Listening while a length ahead of Samus, the 8-5 favorite, in fourth.

Roman Reign is now two for seven on dirt with one second, a pair of thirds and earnings topping \$60,000.

Another homebred New York-bred, Roddy Valente and Thomas Lemme's three-year-old gelding **Call Me Stoney**, won the very next race Thursday, a six-furlong \$45,000 New York-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer. Well-ridden by Kendrick Carmouche, Call Me Stoney led, lost the lead around the far turn, and came again to score by a length and a half at 3-1 odds in a final time of 1:11.33.

Bruce Levine trains Call Me Stoney, a son of Valente's unbeaten Bustin Stones out of Apollo North by Polish Numbers who had hit the board in three of his previous four starts.

Breaking from the six post in the field of eight, Call Me Stoney broke well and took a narrow lead over **Apache Warrior**, who went off at 9-2 odds under Anitoco Murgia. The two began to separate themselves from the rest of the field after a :22.10 first quarter. Around the far turn, Apache Warrior took a half-length lead on the outside of Call Me Stoney, but Call Me Stoney came right back to reclaim the lead and open a clear advantage after covering the half-mile in :45.27.

Call Me Stoney maintained the lead to the wire. Apache Warrior held on for second, a neck ahead of the slight 3-1 favorite **My Tommy Boy**. **Norm the Giant**, who went off at 7-2 odds under Jose Ortiz, was another length and a half back in fourth.

Call Me Stoney now has a win, one second and two thirds from five starts, for earnings of more than \$45,000.

In Thursday's finale, a six-furlong \$30,000 New York-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer, Luis Saez rallied Castle Village Farm's three-year-old colt **Proletariat** to a three-length victory in a final time of 1:11.35. Proletariat went off at 9-2 odds in the field of nine.

Bruce Brown, who added blinkers to Proletariat Thursday, trains the son of Readthefootnotes out of Royal Valentine by Langfuhr who was bred by Sequel Thoroughbreds and Joseph Aquilino. Proletariat was making just his fifth career start.

Spartan Emperor and **Dusk to Dawn** dueled on the front end through fast splits: a quarter in :22.05 and a half-mile in :45.23. By then, Proletariat had advanced into third, and he blew past the frontrunners to win going away. **Rich Dalone** edged **Hundred Percent** for second. Spartan Emperor was fourth.

Dowseøs Beach Noses Sandyøz Slew for His Third Straight Victory

In a thrilling three-horse blanket finish, Patricia Generazioøs four-year-old gray New York-bred gelding **Dowse’s Beach** nosed another New York-bred gelding, five-year-old **Sandy’z Slew**, to win his third consecutive race at Saratoga Wednesday afternoon. Tripski was just a head behind Sandyøz Slew in third in the 5 ½-furlong \$90,000 grass allowance. Ridden perfectly by leading jockey Irad Ortiz, Jr., Dowseøs Beach won in a final time of 1:02.46.

Sandyøz Slew was the 2-1 favorite under Junior Alvarado, and Dowseøs Beach was the 7-2 second choice in the field of nine.

Christophe Clement trains Dowseøs Beach, a son of Disco Rico out of Mary Louøs Magic by Concordeøs Tune who broke from the outside post. In the two stalls inside him were the other two state-breds in the field: **Dreamsgonewild**, the 5-1 third choice under Jose Ortiz, and Sandyøz Slew.

The trio broke first, second and third, with Dreamsgonewild taking a two-length lead on Sandyøz Slew. Dowseøs Beach raced in third, then was taken back to fourth as 8-1 Stormy Rocit advanced on the hedge into third through a :21.95 opening quarter.

Dreamsgonewild maintained a two-length lead heading into the far turn before Sandyøz Slew drew closer in second and Dowseøs Beach advanced into third on the outside.

Sandyøz Slew fought his way past Dreamsgonewild, taking the lead after a half-mile in :44.89. But Dowseøs Beach closed in on the outside and 8-1 Tripski gobbled up ground on the far outside. The trio crossed the finish line in tandem. Dowseøs Beach got the victory, and Sandyøz Slew was second.

Dowseøs Beach is now five for 12 in his all-grass career with one second, a pair of thirds and more than \$275,000 in earnings.

Seidman Stablesøtwo-year-old colt **Steve’s Image**, who shied away from a horse and lost jockey Angel Cruz in his debut at 49-1 odds on the grass, was a completely different horse Wednesday. Trainer Carlos Martin took off Steveøs Imageøs blinkers, switched him to dirt, changed jockeys to Kendrick Carmouche and dropped him into a maiden \$50,000 claimer. Everything worked, as Steveøs Image hustled to the early lead and scored wire-to-wire by 4 ½ lengths in a 5 ½-furlong \$52,000 New York-bred maiden \$50,000 claimer. Sent off at 9-2 odds in the field of nine, he won in a final time of 1:04.75.

Steveøs Image is a son of Readyøs Image out of Queensteen by Bernstein who was bred by Phil Birsh and was purchased for \$32,000 earlier this year.

Leaving from the three post, Steveøs Image broke well, but not as fast as 4-1 **Linkappleyard** from the extreme outside post. Steveøs Image charged up on Linkappleyardøs inside to quickly gain a clear lead through a :22.58 opening quarter. Steveøs Image hit the half in :45.96 chased by both Linkappleyard and 9-2 **My Man Al**.

After he allowed his pursuers to close within a length, Steveøs Image spurted clear easily to win by himself. Linkappleyard finished second, a length and a half ahead of My Man Al in third. **Bluegrass Prevails** was another three-quarters of a length back in fourth at 12-1 odds.

Michael Imperioøs four-year-old New York-bred filly **Unrepented** got Travers week off to a surprising start, winning Wednesdayøs opener, a \$25,000 open \$12,500 claimer, on the front end easily under Jose Lezcano by 2 ¾ lengths at 16-1 odds. She covered the 6 ½-furlong distance in 1:16.62.

Gregory DiPrima trains Unrepented, a daughter of Repent out of Nobody But Me by Trust N Luck. In her two previous starts, Unrepented won a conditional \$14,000 claimer by three lengths as the 9-5 favorite at Belmont Park, then rallied for fourth in a conditional \$15,000 claimer at Parx at 5-1 odds.

She didnøt get much respect here Wednesday, going off the second highest price in the field of six. She actually broke fifth from the three post, but Lezcano rushed her up to take a narrow lead over 9-5 Colonel Juanita two-wide and 6-5 DøPrincess three-wide through a :22.18 opening quarter-mile. Unrepented led the favored duo by three-quarters of a length after a half-mile in :45.38, then began to draw clear after six furlongs in 1:10.13 on the way to an easy victory.

Colonel Juanita finished second, a length and a half ahead of 4-1 Time for Angie in third. Rock Show was fourth, a neck behind Time for Angie, at 22-1 odds.

Unrepented is now four for 12 on dirt, with two seconds and a third. She also has four turf starts for total earnings of more than \$95,000.

Readtheprospectus Powers to a Grass Victory Monday at Saratoga

Charging down the center of the turf course under leading rider Irad Ortiz, Jr., Klaravich Stables and William Lawrenceøs six-year-old gelding **Readtheprospectus** drew off to a two-length victory in a one-mile \$78,000 New York-bred grass allowance Monday afternoon at Saratoga. Sent off the 2-1 favorite in the field of 10, Readtheprospectus won in a final time of 1:35.35.

Trainer Chad Brown did a superb job getting Readtheprospectus ready for his first start since May 25th, when he finished fourth in the \$200,000 Commentator Stakes on dirt at Belmont Park. Before Monday, Readtheprospectus had made just two turf starts, the last three years ago when he broke his maiden.

Ortiz kept Readtheprospectus in mid-pack as 26-1 longshot **Special Selection** set the pace chased by 7-2 **Three for Me**.

After a quarter in :23.92 and a half in :48.4, Three for Me closed the gap on the leader and moved up on his outside around the far turn. Three for Me took the lead at the top of the stretch, but it didn't hold up as Readthe prospectus stormed past to make the top. **Make a Decision** rallied strongly under Ortiz's brother Jose to finish second, a length clear of Three for Me in third. **Analysis** finished fourth.

Readthe prospectus is a son of Read the Footnotes out of Near Bethany by Affirmed who was bred by Sen. Howard Nolan. He is now two for three on turf and six of 12 on dirt with one second and a pair of thirds, for combined earnings of more than \$415,000.

Confidently ridden by Irad Ortiz, Jr., Gabrielle Farm's homebred **Frosty Margarita** wore down front-running first-time starter **Gregorian Gold** to win Monday's opener, a \$73,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for two-year-old fillies, by a length and a half. She covered the six and a half furlongs in 1:17.03. Frosty Margarita was the even-money favorite and Gregorian Gold went off at odds of 13-1 in the field of six.

In winning, Frosty Margarita gave Ortiz, Jr. his 1,000th career victory, which is astounding. He just turned 23 years old on August 11th.

Rudy Rodriguez trains Frosty Margarita, a daughter of Frost Giant out of Mango Margarita by Not For Love who was a strong second at 5-1 odds in her debut at Belmont Park on July 9th.

Breaking from the outside post, Ortiz chose to keep Frosty Margarita in the clear on the far outside in third as a speed duel developed in front of her between Gregorian Gold, ridden by Carson Sullivan, and 7-1 **Lady's First**, ridden by apprentice Eric Cancel, through a :23.14 first quarter.

Gregorian Gold took a slim lead on Lady's First heading for the turn as 9-2 **Legend of Lorelei** rallied up the inside under Elvis Trujillo. Ortiz took Frosty Margarita four-wide around the far turn.

After a half-mile in :46.92, Gregorian Gold put away Legend of Lorelei but was confronted by Frosty Margarita, who drifted a bit wide as she rallied. Frosty Margarita collared Gregorian Gold inside the sixteenth pole to win going away. Gregorian Gold was second, four lengths clear of 5-2 **Flatware** in third. Legend of Lorelei finished just a nose behind Flatware in fourth.

Frosty Margarita now has a win and a second in two starts to begin her career, for earnings of more than \$55,000.

Joemar Racing Stable's homebred four-year-old filly **Shotgun Love** tracked front-running **Glare Ice** from second, took her on at the top of the stretch and took over, drawing off to a 3 1/4-length victory under Junior Alvarado in a \$39,000 New York-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer. She completed the six-furlong distance in 1:10.41. Shotgun Love was the 8-5 favorite and Glare Ice the 2-1 second choice under Jose Ortiz in the field of six.

Dominick Schettino trains Shotgun Love, a daughter of Posse out of Lemon Drop's Love by Lemon Drop Kid who shed blinkers for Monday's race after previously having added them,

removed them and, in her last start, added them again when she tired badly on the front end to finish an extremely distant fourth as the 8-5 favorite here on a muddy track.

She broke well Monday and settled in second as Glare Ice, a freshened three-year-old filly who had been racing in open maiden special weights in Indiana, set the pace, leading by 2 ½ lengths after a quarter in :22.83 and by just a neck after a half-mile in :46.05. When Alvarado asked her to spurt past Glare Ice, Shotgun Love did and drew away.

Glare Ice was a clear second, nearly five lengths clear of 9-1 **Yourcreditisgood** in third. **Stoneheartedlover** was fourth at odds of 13-1.

Shotgun Love now has a win, a second and four thirds in seven dirt starts, for earnings of nearly \$60,000.

In Monday's finale, a mile-and-an-eighth \$45,000 New York-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer on the grass, Peter Callahan's homebred four-year-old filly **Confessa** rallied through the stretch under apprentice jockey Eric Cancel to a two-length victory in a final time of 1:49.91. Confessa went off at 6-1 odds in the field of 10.

Sugar Mags, who went off at 14-1 odds under John Velazquez, finished second, a half-length ahead of **Cosmic Tale**, the 3-2 favorite ridden by Jose Ortiz. Weekend Hottie finished fourth at odds of 7-2.

John Toscano, Jr. trains Confessa, a daughter of Regent out of Wonderously by Awesome Again who was an improved third at 12-1 odds in her previous start.

She was next to last early as Cosmic Tale tried going coast-to-coast on the lead. After splits of :23.13, :47.90 and 1:11.55, Cosmic Tale spurted two lengths clear of the field. She was still going strongly at the sixteenth pole before Confessa closed boldly to go right by her.

Confessa is now one for seven on grass with one win and one third. She has one second and one third from five dirt starts, for total earnings of just under \$50,000.

Kate Is a Ten Edges Perfect Freud Sunday at Saratoga

Saving ground every step of the way under Fernando Jara, Wilfred Johnson's five-year-old mare **Kate Is a Ten** rallied past **Perfect Freud** on her inside to win Sunday's opener at Saratoga, a mile-and-an-eighth \$78,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$40,000 claimer, by a half-length. The opener was named "The Lustgarten Foundation Race" in memory of popular trainer Dominic Galluscio.

Kate Is a Ten, who won in a final time of 1:50.85, was sent off at odds of 7-1 and Perfect Freud, ridden by apprentice Eric Cancel, went off at 7-2 odds in the field of six.

Joseph Parker trains Kate Is a Ten, a daughter of Tenpins out of Crypto Kate by Tabasco Cat who was bred by Rojan Farms. Parker freshened Kate Is a Ten after she finished sixth in the same company at Belmont Park at seven furlongs.

She got away last from the rail Sunday as Perfect Freud took the early lead through a :24.03 first quarter-mile. Then Kendrick Carmouche rushed 3-1 **Lucky Nancy E.** up to challenge Perfect Freud, who continued to lead narrowly after a half-mile in :48.40 and three-quarters in 1:12.83.

Lucky Nancy E. took a brief lead, but Perfect Freud responded immediately to regain the top spot. By then, Jara had rallied Kate Is a Ten into third on the inside. Perfect Freud put away Lucky Nancy E., but Kate Is a Ten kept coming and went past her in deep stretch. Perfect Freud finished second, four lengths clear of the 11-1 gray **Familyofroses**. Lucky Nancy E. was fourth, another half-length behind.

Kate Is a Ten improved her dirt record to three for 25 with five seconds and six thirds. She also has a win and a third from eight grass races, for total earnings of just under \$250,000.

Repelling every challenger he faced, owner/trainer Roy Lerman's three-year-old gelding **Bugle Blues** scored a wire-to-wire victory under Cornelio Velasquez in a \$73,000 New York-bred maiden special weight on the grass Sunday. He prevailed by a neck over **Talladega**, covering the mile and a sixteenth in 1:44.74. Odds-on **Mohican Chief** was another neck back in third, a head in front of **Grand Sky**.

Bettors made Mohican Chief, ridden by Javier Castellano, the 4-5 favorite in the field of 10. Bugle Blues was sent off at odds of 11-1, Talladega went off at 6-1 and Grand Sky was 5-1.

Bugle Blues, a son of Lion Hearted out of Shoot the Bugler by Yes It's True, pressed the pace and led late before tiring to finish second at 28-1 odds in a one-mile grass race at Saratoga on August 2nd under Angel Cruz. Velasquez rode Bugle Blues the same way, and he outhustled 24-1 **Gear Jammer** on his immediate outside to take a one-length lead through a :24.88 opening quarter-mile. They remained 1-2 as Velasquez masterfully slowed the pace down, hitting the half-mile in :50.67 and three-quarters in 1:15.37.

Junior Alvarado sent Talladega up three wide around the far turn to join the top pair as Castellano desperately tried to find running room with Mohican Chief in fourth.

Velasquez kept Bugle Blues going, and he gamely held off Talladega for the victory to improve his grass record to one for five with two seconds and nearly \$70,000 in earnings.

Rallying down the center of the track under leading rider Irad Ortiz, Jr., Michael Dubb, Bethlehem Stables and Gary Aisquith's six-year-old gelding **Towering Moon**, the only New York-bred in a field of seven, got up to win a six-furlong \$51,000 open \$50,000 claimer by a neck over Cleancut Kid. Sent off at odds of 7-1, Towering Moon won in a final time of 1:10.07.

Rudy Rodriguez trains Towering Moon, a son of Malibu Moon out of Towering Escape by Giant's Causeway who was bred by Albert Fried, Jr. Rodriguez claimed Towering Moon for \$50,000 for his new owners when he finished third at 8-1 odds in a one-mile race at Belmont Park on May 21st. Towering Moon finished fifth in a New York-bred allowance/optional \$40,000 claimer at Belmont, then third in a \$50,000 claimer at Saratoga with Ortiz aboard for the first time.

On Sunday, Towering Moon was slow to break and was immediately last as 16-1 Forest Boy, 23-1 Manofmanyvirtues and 2-1 Well Lawyered scrimmaged for the lead through a :22.87 first quarter. Cleancut Kid, who also went off at 2-1 odds under John Velazquez, wasn't far behind in fourth.

Well Lawyered spurted to a clear lead after a half-mile in :45.67, but Forest Boy came back at him on his inside while Cleancut Kid and Towering Moon, who Ortiz had swung to the far outside, made their rallies.

Well inside the sixteenth pole, Towering Moon still had to make up two lengths to pass the three horses in front of him, and that's exactly what he did, edging Cleancut Kid for the victory. Forest Boy was just another neck back in third while a neck ahead of Well Lawyered in fourth.

Towering Moon is now two for 16 on dirt with two seconds and five thirds. He also has one win from three turf tries, for total earnings now topping \$155,000.

In Sunday's finale, a 5 ½-furlong \$45,000 New York-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer on the grass, Ruben Silvera rallied Peggy Vandervoort's homebred first-time starter **Stroll On Down** to a half-length victory over another firster, **Pine Ridge Forest**, in a final time of 1:03.80. Angel Arroyo, the rider of third-place finisher **Said No One Ever**, claimed a foul against Silvera, but the stewards quickly ruled that the original order of finish would stand, giving Silvera his second victory of the day.

Stroll On Down was sent off at odds of 28-1, **Pine Ridge Forest** was the 5-2 second choice and **Said No One Ever** went off at 5-1 odds in the field of 10. **Tiano**, the 7-5 favorite under Junior Alvarado, finished fourth.

Kathleen Feron trains **Stroll On Down**, a four-year-old gelding by **Stroll** out of **Jet Set Jazz** by A.P. Jet.

Silvera got **Stroll On Down** away fifth as **Pine Ridge Forest** tried going wire-to-wire. After racing a quarter in :22.51 and a half-mile in :45.77, **Pine Ridge Forest** drifted out badly in the stretch. Silvera deftly split horses with **Stroll On Down** to win.

Sidearm Survives Long Inquiry to Win an Allowance Saturday

After several minutes of deliberations concerning two separate objections, the stewards left Fortuna Mia Stable's four-year-old gelding **Sidearm** who rallied from last to win a six-furlong \$75,000 New York-bred allowance under Javier Castellano by a length over **Watergate** as the winner Saturday at Saratoga. **David Rocks** wasn't as fortunate, and was disqualified from third and placed fifth for interfering with fifth-place finisher **Jai Alai**. That moved fourth-place finisher **Giantinthemoonlite** up to third, and **Jai Alai** up to fourth.

Sidearm was making his first start off a third when claimed for \$25,000 by Fortuna Mia Stables and trainer Gary Gullo on July 29th. He drilled a bullet five-furlong work in :59 2/5, fastest of 26 that morning at that distance, on August 17th for the step up to state-bred allowance company.

Both Sidearm and Giantinthemoonlite, ridden by Shaun Bridgmohan, went off at 9-5 odds. David Rocks was sent off at odds of 9-2 under Kendrick Carmouche, Jai Alai went off at 7-1 odds under Jose Ortiz, and Watergate was 11-1 with Junior Alvarado aboard.

Four horses went for the early lead: 53-1 **Ganador** and 34-1 **El Viejo Verde** on the inside, and David Rocks and Giantinthemoonlite on the outside. El Viejo Verde took a narrow lead after an opening quarter in :22.93 before David Rocks took over, taking the field to the half-mile in :46.22. By then, Sidearm had started his rally.

Several horses were stacked across the track in midstretch, with Sidearm proving strongest. Watergate tried splitting horses late, but didn't get through. Sidearm finished first in a final time of 1:10.93.

Watergate was second, a head in front of David Rocks in third. Giantinthemoonlite and Jai Alai finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

Then the review began. Alvarado on Watergate claimed foul against Castellano and Sidearm, and Ortiz on Jai Alai claimed foul against Carmouche on David Rocks. The stewards let Sidearm stay in first while taking down David Rocks.

Sidearm, a son of Kodiak Cowboy out of Miss Trudy by Yes It's True who was bred by Rhapsody Farm, improved his dirt record to two for 15 with four seconds and seven thirds. He also has one third from two turf tries, for total earnings topping \$190,000.

Zilla Racing Stables' five-year-old mare **Run a Dubb Dubb** helped jockey John Velazquez make history in Saturday's first race, rallying to a three-quarter-length victory in a \$50,000 New York-bred \$25,000 claimer. That made Velazquez the first jockey to win 800 races at Saratoga.

“I've been very lucky and blessed,” Velazquez said. “I think I had a bit of an advantage because there has been more racing over the last ten years. The meet has been longer so I've had a chance to ride more.”

Velazquez had to work hard to get No. 800. He let Run a Dubb Dubb, who went off at 3-1 odds, settle in fourth on the outside of 4-1 **Desert Valentine** and jockey Javier Castellano as 5-1 **Bridgetta** and apprentice Eric Cancel nursed a slim lead over **Touching My Toes**, who was sent off at 7-2 odds under Jose Ortiz, through a quarter in :23.64 and a half-mile in :47.20.

Around the far turn, Desert Valentine found room on the inside of the two frontrunners while Velazquez rallied Run a Dubb Dubb on the far outside.

Desert Valentine surged to a slim advantage in early stretch, but Touching My Toes wasn't done and fought back. Outside of them, Run a Dubb Dubb closed in after three-quarters in 1:11.43. Run a Dubb Dubb sustained his rally and got the victory in a final time of 1:24.01. Touching My Toes edged Desert Valentine by a head for second, while the 2-1 favorite, **Hot Rendezvous** and Irad Ortiz, Jr., finished fourth.

Jeremiah Englehart trains Run a Dubb Dubb, a daughter of Harlington out of Dominating by Cherokee Run who was bred by Kelly and Paul Zanella. Run a Dubb Dubb is now eight for 43 lifetime with seven seconds, four thirds and more than \$340,000 in earnings.