

New York-Breds at the Races: February 21 to 27

By Bill Heller

Mighty Zealous Nips Lulu Rocks by a Head to Win Allowance Friday

Owner/trainer Linda Rice and Sacandaga Stable's four-year-old gelding **Mighty Zealous** got up by a desperate head over even-money favorite **Lulu Rocks** to win a six-furlong \$57,000 New York-bred allowance Friday at Aqueduct. Sent off at 5-1 odds in the field of 10 under Rice's niece Taylor, Mighty Zealous won in a final time of 1:11.00.

Groupthink finished third at 7-2 odds, a length and a half behind Mighty Zealous, and 17-1 **Perfect Disco** was fourth.

Mighty Zealous is a son of Here's Zealous out of Winters Bell by Winter Glitter who was purchased as a two-year-old for \$40,000 at Keeneland in 2013. He had finished second in three of his last four starts, the last with blinkers added.

Kendrick Caramouche sent Lulu Rocks, who was also second in his last start, right to the lead, but he was immediately challenged by Perfect Disco. They battled head-to-head, alternating on the lead, through a quarter in :23.18 while Mighty Zealous raced in fifth.

After a half-mile in :46.28, Lulu Rocks shook loose of Perfect Disco. By then, Mighty Zealous was rallying strongly. Mighty Zealous moved into second then went after Lulu Rocks, who battled tenaciously before being passed in the final yards.

Mighty Zealous is now two-for-nine on dirt with four seconds and earnings topping \$120,000.

In an eventful second race Friday, a mile-and-70-yard \$57,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$75,000 claimer for three-year-old fillies, MeB Racing Stable and Brooklyn Boyz Stables' gorgeous gray **Jules N Rome** blitzed front-running favorite **Jackie Black** on the far turn and rolled to her second straight victory by 2 ¼ lengths. Irad Ortiz, Jr. rode the daughter of Dunkirk out of Pretty Honoree by Double Honor who was bred by Harry Landry, Constancia Farm and Dunkirk Syndicate. She was purchased for \$77,000 as a yearling in 2013 and is trained by Dominick Schettino.

Schettino added blinkers to Jules N Rome after she began her career with three seconds and a fourth, and she broke her maiden with a 3 ¾-length victory on January 22.

The original field of five was reduced to three when **In Spite of Mama**, the 6-5 favorite at the time, flipped in the starting gate, bothering the horse on her outside, **Stolen Victory**. Both fillies were scratched.

Jackie Black, who'd won her previous start in a maiden \$25,000 claimer by a stunning 35 lengths, went off the 3-5 favorite under apprentice Israel Rodriguez. Jules N Rome was sent off at 9-5 odds and **Bobby's Brickhouse** was 5-2.

Rodriguez hustled Jackie Black to the early lead, and she opened a five-length cushion on Jules N Rome in second. Bobby's Brickhouse was third as Jackie Black clicked off a quarter in :23.68 and a half-mile in :48.29.

But when Ortiz asked Jules N Rome to close the gap on the frontrunner, she did so quickly. She drew even with Jackie Black around the far turn and powered past her in early stretch. After she'd been passed by Jules N Rome, Rodriguez switched Jackie Black to the outside. She then took a bad step and drifted wide as Bobby's Brickhouse went by her to finish a clear second.

Jules N Rome is now two-for-six with three seconds and earnings of more than \$105,000.

Racing more like a 1-2 favorite than a 21-1 longshot, Madeline Cohn's five-year-old **Ride a Cat**, bred by Edward Cohn, humbled nine rivals in a six-furlong \$55,000 New York-bred maiden special weight wire-to-wire by six lengths under apprentice Israel Rodriguez in a sharp 1:11.04. David Smith trains Ride a Cat, a son of Discreet Cat out of Sunday Right by Sunday Break who was making just his fifth lifetime start Friday off a layoff of eight and a half months.

Ride a Cat finished seventh in two starts as a three-year-old in 2013, and second and a distant fourth in a pair of starts last year. He did, however, signal his sharpness for his return Friday with two bullet works: five furlongs in 1:02 4/5 and, on February 21, three-furlongs in :36.3.

Breaking from the seven post, Ride a Cat took the lead almost immediately. He then set a hot pace a quarter in :22.79 and a half-mile in :46.11 and opened an eight-length lead.

He may have a tired a trifle in the final furlong, yet still won by himself. **Forever Utopia**, who was adding blinkers and went off at 9-1 odds from the rail, was a clear second. **Blue Shark** finished third at 5-1 odds and 68-1 **Tottie Royer** was fourth.

Tested every step of the way, Joe and Ann McMahon's homebred New York-bred four-year-old gelding **First Ranger** won Friday's opener, a six-furlong \$33,000 conditional \$25,000 claimer, by a half-length. Skillfully ridden by apprentice rider Angel Cruz, First Ranger won in a final time of 1:11.53 at odds of 5-1.

Another New York-bred, 12-1 **Blue Chips Only**, finished fast in between horses to take second, a half-length in front of 19-1 Mach Seven. Yet another New York-bred, 28-1 **Pegasus T**, finished fourth, just a neck behind Mach Seven. March Too, the 4-5 favorite in the field of seven under Irad Ortiz, Jr., was never involved.

Jim Ferraro trains First Ranger, a son of Utopia (JPN) out of Truly Charming by Elusive Quality who was a front-running second in his previous two races at 9-1 and 7-1 odds, respectively.

Breaking well from the six post, First Ranger disputed the early lead with Pegasus T on his inside. They alternated in first and second through a quarter in :23.71 and a half-mile in :46.95.

When First Ranger finally subdued Pegasus T, he was immediately confronted by Mach Seven three-wide and Blue Chips Only, who split a tiring Pegasus T and three-wide Mach Seven. First Ranger gamely repelled both Blue Chips Only and Mach Seven for the victory.

First Ranger improved his dirt record on dry tracks to three-for-nine with two seconds and two thirds. He is also zero-for-three on wet tracks and zero-for-one in grass with combined earnings topping \$105,000.

Exhibiting great determination under Irad Ortiz, Jr., GoldMark Farm's **Childhood Dream** wore down front-running **Downtown Alley** in deep stretch to win a one-mile \$31,000 New York-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer for three-year-old fillies by a neck Friday in a final time of 1:41.42. Both fillies went off at 7-2 odds in the field of 10.

Rudy Rodriguez trains Childhood Dream, a daughter of Freud out of Chicopee by Mr. Greeley who was bred by Windhorse Thoroughbreds. Childhood Dream made her debut in a maiden \$40,000 claiming sprint and finished ninth at 16-1 odds with Angel Arroyo aboard.

On Friday, Downtown Alley broke sharply under Taylor Rice to take the lead. **Saratoga Smoke** settled in second at 64-1 odds and Childhood Dream raced in third through an opening half-mile in :49.41.

Downtown Alley opened a three-length lead after three-quarters in 1:14.88 before Childhood Dream, who had moved into second, went after the front-runner. Downtown Alley still held a clear lead past the sixteenth pole, but Childhood Dream never gave up and made another surge to get the victory.

Downtown Alley saved second, two lengths ahead of the 9-5 favorite, **Culminating Sister Charm** was fourth at 10-1 odds.

John Nerud's Final Chapter Romps for His Second Straight Win

Hall of Fame trainer John Nerud's homebred three-year-old ridgling **Final Chapter** won his second straight race in style Thursday at Aqueduct, taking a six-furlong \$57,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$75,000 claimer by six lengths under apprentice Angel Cruz in a sparkling final time of 1:11.15.

After Final Chapter finished a distant third in his debut last November, trainer Mike Hushion freshened the son of Thunder Gulch out of Comedy of Errors by Colonial Affair and added Lasix and blinkers. Final Chapter responded with a length-and-a-quarter maiden victory on January 23.

He went off the 5-2 second choice in the field of eight Thursday, and broke sharply from the six post. Cruz let Final Chapter settle in second, a length to a length and a half behind front-running 25-1 longshot **Breakin the Fever** through a :23.26 first quarter.

Cruz let Final Chapter cruise in second before sending him up on the outside to tackle the front-runner. Breakin the Fever tried to hold him off, but Final Chapter took off after the half-mile in :46.54. Final Chapter drew off to win by himself. Breakin the Fever held on gamely for second, a length and a half ahead of the 3-2 favorite, **Bullheaded Boy. Deficit Hawk**, who was adding blinkers and went off at 4-1 odds, was just a head behind Bullheaded Boy in fourth.

Final Chapter is now two-for-three with one third, and has already earned more than \$70,000.

In an action-packed final quarter-mile, Junior Alvarado got Toby Sheets' homebred **Take Issue** up by a neck, edging **Bourbonstateofmind** in a six-furlong \$57,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$75,000 claimer for three-year-old fillies for her second consecutive victory. **Midnight Champagne**, who opened a length-and-a-half lead inside the sixteenth pole, tired late to finish third, a length and a quarter behind Bourbonstateofmind. **Graeme Crackers**, the 8-5 favorite in the field of eight, was a distant fourth. A claim of foul by Israel Rodriguez on Graeme Crackers against **Midnight Champagne**'s jockey, Irad Ortiz, Jr., was disallowed.

Sent off at 7-1 odds from the rail, Take Issue won in a final time of 1:13.25. Bourbonstateofmind was sent off at 9-2 odds and **Midnight Champion** went off at 5-1.

Steve Asmussen trains Take Issue, a daughter of Sir Whimsey out of Control Issue by Officer who is co-owned by ZBS Thoroughbreds and was co-bred by Turtle Bird Stable.

Take Issue was making just her third lifetime start. In her lone start as a two-year-old last September at Belmont Park, she was fourth in a New York-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer. She returned on January 30 and won a state-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer by 5 ¼ lengths with Alvarado aboard for the first time. On Thursday, she raced with a \$75,000 claiming tag.

Evrybdymstgetstonz, the 3-1 second choice making her first start since finishing a fine front-running third at 27-1 odds in the Grade 2 Matron Stakes last October, broke first before 31-1 **Enduring Touch** shot up the inside to lead by two lengths through a :23.76 first quarter. Evrybdymstgetstonz raced in second and **Midnight Champagne** was third.

Midnight Champagne went after the front-runner on the far turn and took the lead in early stretch through a :48.07 half-mile. Bourbonstateofmind was right behind her and gaining as Take Issue began her strong rally. Bourbonstateofmind had to work hard to put away **Midnight Champagne**, but as soon as she did, Take Issue was in her face and gaining. Alvarado had timed Take Issue's rally perfectly and she got up in time.

Now two-for-three, Take Issue has earned more than \$50,000.

Landmark Stables' four-year-old New York-bred filly **Charming Eyes** broke first from the outside post in the field of nine, was taken back to mid-pack by jockey Irad Ortiz, Jr., then made a powerful late brush to win a one-mile \$23,000 conditional \$12,500 claimer Thursday by four lengths. Sent off the 8-5 favorite, she won her second straight race in a final time of 1:40.60.

Appearance finished a clear second, 9 ¼ lengths clear of 9-1 New York-bred **Golden Cheetah** in third. Sarah's Big Day, the 4-1 third choice, finished fourth, another three lengths back.

Rudy Rodriguez trains Charming Eyes, a daughter of Midas Eyes out of Charming Mandate by Full Mandate was bred by Joe Aquilino.

Charming Eyes, who won her previous race by three lengths at 1-2 odds, broke sharply, but so did several of her rivals, so Ortiz took a hold of her.

New York-bred **Blue Sixty Four**, a 53-1 longshot on the rail, rushed up under Wilmer Garcia to take the early lead. Another state-bred, 3-1 **Brad's Ruby**, was second and Appearance was third

through a :23.88 opening quarter. Ortiz had Charming Eyes three-wide for a clear run in fourth outside both Sarah's Big Day and 87-1 New York-bred **My Golden Girl**.

After a half-mile in :48.50, Blue Sixty Four wilted and Brad's Ruby took the lead. Appearance rallied into second and Charming Eyes wasn't far behind in third.

Appearance cleared the lead after three-quarters in 1:15.18 before Charming Eyes blew right by, drawing away despite being in-hand late.

Charming Eyes improved her dirt record to three-for-17 with five seconds, two thirds and earnings of more than \$80,000.

In Thursday's opener, a six-furlong \$20,000 open \$10,000 claimer, apprentice rider Angel Cruz put Francis Paolanello's five-year-old New York-bred mare **Discreet Force**, the 4-5 favorite in the field of seven, on the lead and she scored coast-to-coast by four lengths in a final time of 1:13.59. Another state-bred, 37-1 **E Coach** on the rail, finished second, but was disqualified to third for coming over on Island Candy, the 7-5 second choice ridden by Irad Ortiz, Jr., in deep stretch. Island Candy finished third, 2 1/4 lengths behind E Coach, but was moved up to second by the stewards after an inquiry and an objection.

Gary Gullo, who is having a tremendous meet at Aqueduct, trains Discreet Force, a daughter of Discreet Cat out of Western Tempest by Gone West who was bred by Sequel Thoroughbreds and JMJ Stable. Gullo is 18-for-52 with eight seconds and six thirds on the inner dirt track this season.

Breaking from the six post, Discreet Force shot to the lead and was never seriously challenged after splits of :24.05 and :48.10. Discreet Force is now five-for-11 with two seconds, one third and earnings of more than \$125,000.

Rating kindly in third under Junior Alvarado, Sugar Maple Farm's homebred **Mrs. Sunday**, the 8-5 favorite, overcame the outside post in a field of 10 to win a six-furlong \$41,000 New York-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer for three-year-old fillies by 2 1/2 lengths in a final time of 1:13.87, giving Alvarado his second straight victory Thursday.

Harlans Six, the 3-1 second choice with blinkers added, closed well to finish second, three lengths ahead of 8-1 **Kool Charli**, who was also adding blinkers. **Weekend Score** finished fourth at 5-1 odds.

Charlie Baker trains Mrs. Sunday, a cleverly named daughter of Any Given Saturday out of Mrs. Filio by Eastern Echo, who was making her fourth career start after finishing third, second and fourth.

With Alvarado aboard for the first time, she settled in third as 13-1 **Secret Militaire** led and 24-1 **Sweet Pursuit**, yet another filly adding blinkers, pursued in second.

After a quarter in :23.55, Mrs. Sunday made her move around the far turn. Hitting the half-mile in :48.58, she struck the lead in early stretch and opened up on the field. She has now earned more than \$35,000.

In Thursday's finale, a six-furlong \$31,000 New York-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer, Paul and Lauren Tuomey's four-year-old filly **Regifting** came flying down the middle of the track under Junior Alvarado to overtake favored **Moonlight Fantasy** and win by a length and a half in a final time of 1:14.53, giving Alvarado his third winner on the afternoon. Regifting was sent off at 13-1 odds and Moonlight Fantasy went off at 8-5 in the field of 10.

Double-digit longshots, 12-1 **Glenbrook** and 15-1 **Wonderish**, finished third and fourth, respectively.

Linda Fisher trains Regifting, a daughter of Repent out of Grooming by Runaway Groom who was bred by Allen Hallett. She was making her 11th dirt start and 15th overall off a sharply improved though distant second at 20-1 odds with front bandages added.

She was nowhere near a hotly contested pace as 6-1 **Barbara Maria** and the 2-1 second choice, **Don't Blame Her**, dueled through a quarter in :23.36 and a half-mile in :48.05. Moonlight Fantasy moved up from fourth to third, overtook the dueling pacesetters and seemed home-free until Regifting, who was still sixth with a sixteenth of a mile to go, flew past her late.

Regifting now has a win and a second in 11 dirt starts.

Saythreehailmary's Cruises to Allowance Victory Sunday

Very Un Stable's homebred four-year-old filly **Saythreehailmary's** ran down favored **Touching My Toes** then held off **Kate Is a Ten** to win a mile-and-70-yard \$59,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$40,000 claimer by nearly two lengths under Irad Ortiz, Jr. Sent off at 2-1 odds in the field of five, Saythreehailmary's won in a final time of 1:44.92 on a muddy track.

Kate Is a Ten, sent off at 6-1 odds, finished second, 8 ¾ lengths clear of 5-2 **Prairie Stone**. Touching My Toes, the 6-5 favorite, was fourth, another 5 ½ lengths behind.

Saythreehailmary's is a daughter of Repent out of Just Call Me Angel by Devil's Bag who is trained by John Morrison. She had finished in the money in five straight starts and eight of her previous 10 heading into Sunday, when she departed from the outside post.

Broadway Music, the longest shot in the field at 30-1 odds, led briefly breaking from the rail, before Ortiz's brother Jose sent Touching My Toes past her to make the front.

Saythreehailmary's found a perfect stalking spot in third through a :23.44 first quarter.

Touching My Toes edged away to lead by three lengths over Saythreehailmary's, who took over second through a :48.71 half-mile.

Touching My Toes took a diminishing lead into the far turn as Saythreehailmary's pressed closer. After three quarters in 1:14.13, Saythreehailmary's took over and opened up on Touching My Toes. Kate Is a Ten then rallied from third into second without seriously menacing the winner.

Saythreehailmaryøs is now three-for-12 with three seconds, four thirds and more than \$180,000 in earnings.

Patricia Generazioøs homebred four-year-old gray gelding **Bass River Road** gave Junior Alvarado his fourth winner Sunday in the very next race. Breaking from the outside post in a field of eight, he captured a six-furlong \$59,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$40,000 claimer by a length and a half. Sent off at 5-1 odds, he won in a final time of 1:11.84.

Free Mugatu finished well for second at 7-1 odds, three-quarters of a length over game, front-running 13-1 **Smokem's Charm**. **Sol the Freud** was another 1 ¾ lengths back in fourth.

Writingonthewall, who was making his 10-year-old debut as the even-money favorite, broke uncharacteristically slowly under Jose Ortiz and was never involved. He had won two straight, four of his last six and eight of his last 12 races before Sunday, his first start since November 12.

Ruben Silvera sent Smokemøs Charm, another gray, to the front and he opened up a three-length lead by running a fast opening quarter of :22.15. Sol the Freud chased him in second and Bass River Road was third.

Sol the Freud got within a length of Smokemøs Charm through a :46.18 half-mile, but the front-runner still had plenty left. In mid-stretch, Smokemøs Charm was still in front, but a rallying Bass River Road went past.

Bass River Road is a son of Noonmark out of Luluøs Number by Numerous who is trained by Jim Ryerson. He had won three straight before finishing fourth in his last start in a stakes at Finger Lakes on October 4, and was making his first start since. He is now six-for-13 with one third and has earnings of more than \$155,000.

In a six-furlong \$40,000 New York-bred \$20,000 claimer, Repole Stablesønew claim, **Seek to Destroy**, ran down front-running **The Big Deluxe** then drew off, winning by 4 ½ lengths under Kendrick Carmouche in a final time of 1:11.81. Repole and trainer Bruce Levine claimed the seven-year-old gelding for \$20,000 when he was third in a slightly shorter sprint at 3-1 odds on January 17.

Bettors Sunday sent him off at 9-2 odds in the field of nine, and he broke well, settling in second behind speedy The Big Deluxe, who went off at 7-2 odds under Jose Ortiz. They raced 1-2 through a quarter in :22.62.

Carmouche sent up Seek to Destroy after The Big Deluxe around the far turn and, after hitting the half in :46.47, Seek to Destroy drew away to win handily. **Ground Force** rallied to be second

at 7-2 odds, three-quarters of a length in front of 20-1 **Southbeachsandy**. **Star of New York** was another neck back at odds of 3-1.

Seek to Destroy is a son of Greeleyøs Galaxy out of Miz Pickens by Pine Bluff who was bred by Sugar Maple Farm. He is now 10-for-49 on dirt with nine seconds, eight thirds and earnings of nearly \$200,000.

Skillfully ridden by Junior Alvarado, Jesse Iglesias and Michael Imperioøs gelding **Igotthediscoinme** set the pace, took back to second and then rallied to win a mile-and-70-yard \$31,000 New York-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer for three-year-olds by 3 ¼ lengths Sunday at 8-5 odds in a final time of 1:48.16. **Worbother**, the 3-1 third choice in the field of six, held second, 5 ¼ lengths clear of 8-5 **Unauthorized** in third. **Pronunciation** was fourth, 5 ½ lengths behind Unauthorized, at 8-1 odds.

Gregory DiPrima trains Igotthediscoinme, a son of Read the Footnotes out of Auntie Millie by Disco Rico who was bred by Joseph DiRico. Igotthediscoinme was making his sixth lifetime start off a second by a neck as the 9-5 favorite with Alvarado riding for the first time.

Igotthediscoinme broke sharply from the two post before quickly being joined by Worbother, ridden by Jose Ortiz, on the outside. Igotthediscoinme led by a neck through a :24.83 first quarter, but Worbother wasnøt satisfied and went for the lead. Alvarado wisely took Igotthediscoinme back into second, rather than push the issue.

Worbother opened a two-length lead on Igotthediscoinme through a :50.13 half-mile, and still led by two lengths after three-quarters in 1:16.63. But Igotthediscoinme closed that gap around the far turn and re-bid for the lead.

Even though Worbother was game, he couldnøt match strides with Igotthediscoinme, who took over in mid-stretch.

Igotthediscoinme is now one-for-six with two seconds, one third and earnings of nearly \$40,000.

Changewilldoyagood Rallies for Allowance Victory Saturday

Chester and Mary Bromanøs lightly raced homebred four-year-old colt **Changewilldoyagood** rallied late under Junior Alvarado to take a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$57,000 New York-bred allowance by a length and three-quarters at snowy Aqueduct Saturday. Sent off the 2-1 second choice in a field of seven, Changewilldoyagood won in a final time of 1:47.37 on a track labeled øfast.ø

Sea Raven, who stumbled at the start, finished second at 7-2 odds, a length ahead of 9-2 front-running **Huge Asset**. **Giantinthemoonlite**, the slight 9-5 favorite under Cornelio Velasquez, was just another head behind in fourth.

Breaking from the rail under Kendrick Carmouche, Huge Asset set the pace: a quarter in :23.88, a half-mile in :48.34 and three-quarters in 1:13.75.

By then, Sea Raven had advanced from last into a close second, and Changewilldoyagood had moved up from next-to-last to be third three-wide.

Sea Raven wore down Sea Asset but didn't have an answer for Changewilldoyagood, who took control near the sixteenth pole.

Originally part of an entry of Broman homebreds, Changewilldoyagood is a son of Medaglia d'Oro out of Changeisgonnacome by Cherokee Run trained by John Kimmel, who also trains **Four Directions**, the other half of the Bromansøentry that was scratched.

Changewilldoyagood has done little wrong in his career. His first three starts were on grass and he had a win, a third and a fifth. Switched to dirt, he was second and third before being freshened a bit. He returned running Saturday and now has two victories, a second and two thirds with earnings of more than \$95,000 in six starts.

In a six-furlong \$55,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for three-year-olds Saturday, Bob Petersons Stables **Non Finisce Mai**, the 3-2 favorite in the field of nine, came flying out of the snow flurries to take over in mid-stretch and win by a length and three-quarters in a final time of 1:14.45. Jeremy Rose rode Non Finisce Mai, who had been freshened off a second at 13-1 odds under Joel Rosario in his debut on November 23.

Gary Gullo trains Non Finisce Mai, a daughter of Roman Ruler out of Rivermanøs Tea by Riverman. Bred by Team Progeny Racing, Non Finisce Mai sold for \$50,000 at the 2013 Saratoga Yearling Sale. She has already earned \$44,000 in two starts.

Getting away sixth from the outside nine post, she began to rally after an opening quarter of :23.65 set by 7-2 **Zippa Tequila**. Zippa Tequila led by a half-length after a half-mile in :47.37 before both 12-1 **Moondance Joy** and Non Finisce Mai rolled past her in early stretch.

Non Finisce Mai overpowered Moondance Joy late for her first victory. **Camille's Storm** closed well at odds of 6-1, edging Moondance Joy by a half-length for second. Zippa Tequila held on for fourth.

Agnes Peaceøs six-year-old New York-bred gray gelding **John Silver**, the 6-5 favorite in the field of eight, lost the lead to state-bred **Stalagmite** then reclaimed it to win Saturdayøs finale, a six-furlong \$22,000 conditional \$12,500 claimer, by a length and three-quarters. Stalagmite was sent off at 7-2 odds under apprentice Israel Rodriguez.

Kodiak Kody finished second at 7-1 odds, and 4-1 Ice Wagon was third, another half-length behind. Another New York-bred, **The Frood Dude**, finished fourth at 22-1 odds.

George Weaver trains John Silver, a son of Silver Wagon out of Unbridled Cyclone by Judge TC who was bred by Stone Bridge Farm.

John Silver and Stalagmite battled on the front end through a quarter in :23.41 and a half-mile in :47.47 before John Silver put Stalagmite away for the victory.

In an absolutely thrilling six-furlong \$23,000 conditional \$12,500 claimer Saturday, Angel Arroyo got On the Rise Racing Stables' five-year-old New York-bred mare **Wisdom of Oz** up between horses to win by a nose at 8-1 odds in a final time of 1:13.85 in a steady snow. Front-running Betty Bing Bing was a game second at 14-1 odds, a head in front of Ridingwiththedevil, the 3-5 favorite in the field of seven. New York-bred **Share 'n Stone** was a distant fourth at odds of 6-1.

Anthony Quartarolo trains Wisdom of Oz, a daughter of Roaring Fever out of Calamazoom by Pentelicus.

Betty Bing Bing set the pace, well clear of Wisdom of Oz on the rail and Ridingwiththedevil alongside through an opening quarter in :23.56. Betty Bing Bing hit the half in :47.32 with a three-length lead before the two mares chasing her cut into that margin quickly in the stretch. Betty Bing Bing dug in and held both her pursuers at bay, but they kept coming and, in the shadow of the wire, got past her in a three-horse photo too tight to call.

The photo showed that Wisdom of Oz had won. She improved her dirt record to three-for-28 with two seconds and four thirds, and increased her lifetime earnings to more than \$115,000.

In Saturday's opener, Cornelio Velasquez kept Roger Verrier's front-running four-year-old gelding **Honor Bound** together in deep stretch, and she held off **Party On** to win a six-furlong \$31,000 New York-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer by a head. Honor Bound was sent off at 8-5 odds and Party On went off at 9-5 in the field of seven.

American Hero was a distant third at 9-1 odds, well clear of 16-1 **Leatherhead Lurie** in fourth. Chris Englehart trains Honor Bound, a son of Catienus out of Honorable Halo by Double Honor who was bred by McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds.

Honor Bound, who was making just her fourth lifetime start, led by a length after a quarter-mile in :24.11 and stretched that margin to three lengths through a :48.30 half-mile. Party On had rallied from fourth into second and closed in through the stretch, but Honor Bound bravely held her off. She now has a victory and a pair of thirds in four starts, with nearly \$25,000 in earnings.