

New York-Breds at the Races: January 23 to 29

By Bill Heller

Isabelle Wins Off a Layoff Thursday

Junior Alvarado rallied William Schettine's four-year-old New York-bred filly **Isabelle**, making her first start since mid-August, to a three-quarter-length victory over fellow NY-bred **Atlantic's Smile** Thursday in a six-furlong \$69,000 allowance at Aqueduct. Another state-bred, **Blithely**, finished third to complete the NY-bred trifecta, just a head behind Atlantic's Smile in the field of six. Stewards let the original order of finish stand after an inquiry and an objection.

Isabelle was sent off at odds of 2-1, Atlantic's Smile went off at 5-2 and Blithely was 3-1 in the field of six.

Billy Mott did an outstanding job getting Isabelle, a daughter of Successful Appeal out of Merrill Gold by Gold Fever who was bred by Bluegrass Farm Partners and Jeffrey Tucker, ready for her first race since winning at Saratoga easily at 4-5 odds on August 13.

There was nothing easy about her race Thursday. Ruben Silvera hustled Atlantic's Smile to the early lead and she was three lengths in front of Isabelle in second after a quarter in :23.02, with Blithely in third.

Isabelle closed the gap separating her and the front-runner heading into the far turn, then went after her through the stretch while Blithely, ridden by Jose Ortiz, dove to the inside for late racing room.

Through the stretch, Isabelle prevailed, but she had to work hard to get past a dead-game Atlantic's Smile.

Isabelle's victory was her fourth in just seven starts with one second. Purchased for \$100,000 at the Saratoga 2012 yearling sale, she has earned more than \$220,000.

Bona Venture Stables and Margaret Carrothers' homebred four-year-old gelding **Fleet First** ran down favored **Giantinthemoonlite** to win a mile-and-70-yard \$57,000 New York-bred allowance race by three-quarters of a length Thursday. Junior Alvarado rode Fleet First, who went off at 6-1 odds in the field of 10. Cornelio Velasquez rode 8-5 Giantinthemoonlite. **Sea Raven**, the 2-1 second choice, was an extremely distant third and 11-1 **Four Directions** finished fourth after Fleet First won in a final time of 1:44.69.

George Weaver trains Fleet First, a son of Afleet Alex out of Schemer by Concern who was a distant fourth at 11-1 odds in his return on January 3, his first start since mid-June.

Leaving from the rail, Fleet First got away fourth as Cornelio Velasquez put Giantinthemoonlite, who broke right outside of Fleet First, on the lead, and he held a two-length advantage after an opening quarter in :25.33. Four Directions and 9-2 **Adams Note** chased Giantinthemoonlite in second and third, respectively, before Adams Note made his bid for the lead, drawing within a head of him after three-quarters in 1:15.41.

Giantinthemoonlite rebuffed Adams Note and opened a three-length lead in mid-stretch while Fleet First rallied boldly on the outside. Fleet Feet kept gaining and overhauled him in the final sixteenth to win.

Fleet First's victory was his second in six dirt starts and increased his earnings to more than \$70,000. He was purchased for \$50,000 at the 2012 Saratoga Yearling Sale.

Obviously benefitting from the addition of blinkers, Allison Farrell's beautiful five-year-old New York-bred gray mare **Silver Silence** bounded to the lead and never lost it, taking a one-mile \$23,000 conditional \$12,500 claimer by four lengths under Larry Mejias. Sent off at 2-1 odds in the field of four, she won in a final time of 1:42.08.

Trainer Abigail Adsit freshened Silver Silence and put the blinkers back on after a tiring sixth in early December. She hadn't been on the lead in any of her previous 10 races on dirt and grass, but scored wire-to-wire Thursday.

Her chances were improved when Appearance, the even-money favorite who was shedding blinkers, got squeezed a bit at the start between Silver Silence and 7-1 New York-bred **My Golden Girl**.

After Silver Silence took a length-and-a-half lead through a slow :26.24 first quarter, Jose Ortiz rushed Appearance up to second. But Silver Silence increased her lead to two lengths by running a fast second quarter, hitting the half in :50.75.

Heading into the far turn, Ortiz pushed Appearance up on Silver Silence's outside to challenge, but Silver Silence shook her off immediately and widened on the field, winning by herself. Appearance was second by a wide margin.

Silver Silence is a daughter of Salute the Sarge out of No Other Like You by Cozzene who was bred by Wellspring Stables. She is now two-for-nine on dirt with one second and one third. On turf, she's one-for-15 with two thirds for total earnings of more than \$70,000.

With a perfectly timed rally under Irad Ortiz, Jr., Michael Dubb, Bethlehem Stables and The Elkstone Group's first-time starter **Cement Job** wore down **Igotthediscoinme** in the final 50 yards to capture a one-mile \$31,000 New York-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer for three-year-olds Thursday by a neck in a final time of 1:42.53. Cement Job was sent off at 5-2 odds and Igotthediscoinme went off at 9-5 in the field of seven.

Rudy Rodriguez trains Cement Job, a gelding by City Zip out of Behrly Mine by Behrens who was bred by Edition Farm. Cement Job made his debut off 10 pedestrian workouts that began on October 19 at Belmont Park.

Igotthediscoinme and 2-1 **Wild Ham** dueled early before Wild Ham took a clear lead after an opening quarter in :24.36. Wild Ham led by two lengths through a half-mile in :48.77. By then, Cement Job had rallied into third. Igotthediscoinme rallied two-wide and Cement Job three-wide around the far turn to challenge for the lead.

At the head of the stretch, Igotthediscoinme and Cement Job separated themselves from Wild Ham and the rest of the field. Igotthediscoinme held Cement Job off for as long as he could before Cement Job nudged past him late. Igotthediscoinme saved second, some 15 lengths ahead of Wild Ham in third.

Brass Pear Whistles Wire-to-Wire to Win His Third Straight Race

Jose Ortiz shot Barbara Hopkins' five-year-old gelding **Brass Pear** to the lead and he never had an anxious moment, extending his winning streak to three Sunday Afternoon at Aqueduct. Claimed by Hopkins for \$25,000 on November 14, he won a \$59,000 New York-bred allowance race by nearly six lengths in a final time of 1:11.67 on a good track as the 3-2 favorite in the field of seven.

Michelle Nevin trains Brass Pear, a son of E Dubai out of Perfect Pear by Pine Bluff who was bred by Dr. Russell Cohen.

On the afternoon Hopkins claimed him from owner/trainer Roy Sedlacek, Brass Pear won wire-to-wire by 5 ½ lengths as the 6-5 favorite under Taylor Rice.

In his first start for his new connections on December 28, Ortiz took over as Brass Pear's jockey and he again won coast-to-coast by 3 ¼ lengths as the 2-1 favorite.

He was a slight favorite Sunday over 9-5 **Ground Force**, who was never involved.

Leaving from the three post, Brass Pear took over the lead immediately. **Smokem's Charm**, a 19-1 longshot, settled in second, two lengths behind the front-runner.

Brass Pear hit the quarter in :23.37, then opened up on the field after a :46.49 half-mile. He stretched his lead to six lengths in mid-stretch and coasted home. Smokem's Charm saved second, a neck ahead of 8-1 **Free Mugatu**. **Mighty One** finished fourth at 72-1 odds.

Brass Pear improved his dirt record to four-for-211 with two seconds and four fourths, and more than \$160,000 in earnings.

In a \$59,000 New York-bred allowance, Eric Fein's homebred four-year-old gray gelding **Pax in Terra** made a spectacular four-wide sweep on the far turn under Irad Ortiz, Jr. to take the lead then, though racing a bit erratically in the stretch, drew off to his second straight victory. Pax in Terra scored by 6 ½ lengths as the 5-2 favorite in the field of eight, completing the mile and 70 yards in 1:43.25. There was an objection against him and an inquiry, but the stewards let the original order of finish stand.

Todd Pletcher trains Pax in Terra, a son of Mizzen Mast out of Pumpkin's Pride by Louis Quatorze. After Pax in Terra won just one of his first eight starts, Pletcher gave him a long vacation following a ninth in his second grass start on May 22nd at Belmont.

Pletcher returned Pax in Terra to dirt, and he overcame the outside post in the field of 10 to win by three lengths on December 15.

On Sunday, Pax in Terra broke seventh, which was better than 3-1 **Towering Moon**, who never overcame his slow start.

Sol the Freud, sent off at 25-1 odds under C.C. Lopez, took the lead, pressed by **Goodtolook** through an opening quarter in :24.27. **Fiona's Hero**, an 11-1 shot, raced in third. Sol the Freud maintained his lead through a half-mile in :48.75 and three-quarters in 1:13.99.

While Sol the Freud was shrugging off both Goodtolook and Fiona's Hero, Pax in Terra joined the party four-wide around the turn.

Pax in Terra took a short lead over a stubborn Sol the Freud, then drew clear despite drifting out and then in through the stretch. He won by himself, but it was a close race for second. **Longfor the City**, a 10-1 shot, finished second, a head in front of 5-1 **Go Get the Basil**. A dead-game Sol the Freud was just another nose back in fourth.

Pax in Terra now has three wins, one second and one third in seven dirt starts, one second from two turf tries, and earnings of more than \$130,000.

In a mile-and-70-yard \$59,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$40,000 claimer, Angel Arroyo rallied Team Valor International and Mark Ford's six-year-old **Went the Day Well** to a three-quarter-length victory over **Testosterstone** in a final time of 1:43.67. Went the Day Well was sent off at 6-1 odds and Testosterstone was 22-1 in the field of nine.

Just a length behind them, 5-2 **Alcolite** edged slightly favored 5-2 **Royal Posse** for third by a head.

Jimmy Jerkens trains Went the Day Well, a son of Proud Citizen out of Tiz Maie's Day by Tiznow who was bred by James Delaney.

Went the Day Well won the 2012 Grade 3 Spiral Stakes, then finished a strong-closing fourth to I'dl Have Another in the Grade I Kentucky Derby when he was trained by Graham Motion. After two more starts with Motion, a 10th in the Grade I Preakness and a fifth in a New York-bred allowance in his four-year-old debut, Went the Day Well didn't race again for 16 months. With Richard Mettee as trainer, he finished fifth in an open allowance try in July 2014 at Delaware. Following a fifth and a third, Went the Day Well changed barns again, joining Jerkens's stable.

He finished third and eighth in his first two starts for Jerkens heading into Sunday's race.

Arroyo got Went the Day Well away well off the pace set by 10-1 **Saturday Appeal**, who took the field to a :24.38 first quarter, a half-mile in :49.11 and three-quarters in 1:14.27.

Then Alcolite and Testosterstone blew past the leader racing two- and three-wide, respectively. Went the Day Well followed those moves and then challenged for the lead.

Through the stretch, Testosterstone dug in gamely, but Went the Day Well wore him down late to get the victory.

Went the Day Well is now two-for-eight on dirt with a pair of seconds and a pair of thirds in four grass starts, and a victory in his lone start on synthetic at Turfway Park when he won the Spiral Stakes. He has earned just under \$490,000 in 14 lifetime starts.

Irad Ortiz, Jr. guided Bona Venture Stables' four-year-old filly **Court Dancer**, the 5-2 second choice in the field of nine, to a two-length triumph over even-money favorite **Jazzminegem**, ridden by Ortiz's brother Jose, in a \$57,000 New York-bred allowance Sunday. He completed the six-furlong distance in 1:13.11.

George Weaver trains Court Dancer, a daughter of War Chant out of Gosh All Get Out by DøAccord who was bred by Akindale Farm. Court Dancer had finished seventh in her prior start with Lasix added as the 7-5 favorite.

Lady Luciano, who went off at 15-1 odds under Ruben Silvera, took the early lead while Irad Ortiz, Jr. placed Court Dancer second. **My Won Love**, who went off at odds of 4-1, followed them in third through a quarter in :23.24 and a half-mile in :47.11. By then, Jose Ortiz had Jazzminegem rallying into contention on the outside.

Court Dancer went after Lady Luciano around the far turn and wore her down, taking control in early stretch. Jazzminegem edged Lady Luciano by a half-length for second. My Won Love was just another neck back in fourth.

Court Dancer improved her dirt record to two-for-eight with two seconds and one third, and earnings topping \$130,000.

Laura Can Disco Wins Her Third Straight Friday at Aqueduct

C. Robert Valeri's homebred four-year-old filly **Laura Can Disco** extended her win streak to three Friday at Aqueduct, scoring a wire-to-wire half-length victory in a six-furlong \$59,000 New York-bred allowance for fillies and mares. Sent off the 3-1 second choice in the field of eight under Jeremy Rose on the rail, Laura Can Disco won in a final time of 1:12.72 over 10-1 **Champagne Ruby**, who made a strong rally late under Taylor Rice.

Laura Can Disco has done nothing wrong in her career for trainer Gary Gullo. After finishing second in her career debut at Saratoga last August, the daughter of Disco Rico out of Laura's Jewel by Jules broke her maiden in early October at Belmont Park. Both her first two starts were in maiden \$40,000 New York-bred claimers. She then stepped up to state-bred allowance company in mid-December and won again by a length at 14-1 odds.

Rose got her away on the lead Friday as **La Bella Valeria**, the 2-1 favorite under Jose Ortiz, pushed her on the outside. Laura Can Disco led La Bella Valeria by a half-length through a :23.21 opening quarter and by three-quarters of a length through a :46.17 half-mile.

At the top of the stretch, Laura Can Disco put away the favorite and opened up a two-length lead. Champagne Ruby rallied up the inside, then switched to the outside and was going strongly at the wire. Four lengths behind Champagne Ruby, 7-1 **Here's Zealicious** edged 23-1 **Keep Bustin** for third.

Laura Can Disco has now earned nearly \$125,000 in just four starts.

Benefitting from a perfectly timed ride by Junior Alvarado, Sheila and Herbert Sherry's homebred six-year-old NY-bred mare **Pennymine** won her second straight race, capturing a 5 ½-furlong \$67,000 allowance by a nose over huge longshot Flaring in a final time of 1:05.37. Pennymine, who had won a New York-bred allowance in her previous start at 17-1 odds, went off at 4-1 odds as the only state-bred in a field of nine Friday. Flaring was sent off at odds of 57-1.

Trained by Rick Schosberg, Pennymine is a daughter of Mineshaft out of Pentatonic by Cure the Blues who was co-bred by Will Farish.

Pennymine got away fourth as 8-1 Had It All used her position on the rail to take the lead. Bossy Saratoga raced second at 12-1 and 9-1 Evandear was a wide third through a fast :22.15 opening quarter. When Had It All stretched her lead to four lengths, Alvarado took Pennymine off the rail for a clear shot at the front-runner. Flaring, meanwhile, made a late rally.

After a sharp half-mile in :45.75, Pennymine and Flaring drew clear of the pack and battled to the wire, with Pennymine thrusting her nose in front at just the right time. Behind them, Bossy Saratoga finished third.

Pennymine is now four-for-25 with four seconds, three thirds and earnings of just under \$240,000.

Leaving from the rail under Jose Ortiz, My Meadowview Farms homebred three-year-old colt **Lehigh Five** made a spectacular debut Friday, winning a six-furlong \$55,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for three-year-olds by 10 ¾ lengths. Sent off the 6-5 favorite in the field of 10, he won in a final time of 1:13.02.

Rick Violette trains Lehigh Five, who has a strong pedigree. His sire, Birdstone, won both the Grade 1 Belmont Stakes and Grade 1 Travers in 2004, while his dam Prom Dancer, an unraced daughter of 1997 Belmont Stakes winner Touch Gold, produced two winners from her first two foals, including \$155,000 earner Canal Six. Lehigh Five's final work for his debut was a modest bullet four-furlong breeze in :50 3/5, fastest of 18 horses at that distance the morning of January 17.

Lehigh Five broke okay, then rushed up the inside to contest the lead with 16-1 firster **Pine Ridge Forest** through a :23.56 first quarter. They were joined around the far turn by 6-1 **Scorpion's Touch** three-wide and 23-1 **File for Divorce** four-wide.

When the foursome entered the stretch four across the track, Lehigh Five suddenly spurted away in a dazzling display of speed. Coming through the stretch, the only question was the margin of victory.

Shore to Party, who was adding blinkers and went off at 9-1 odds under Manuel Franco, finished second, a length and three-quarters clear of 9-1 **Boldlee** in third. File for Divorce was a distant fourth.

In another absolute tour de force, Knights of the Round Stable's new claim, **Jackie Black**, captured a mile-and-70-yard \$31,000 New York-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer for three-year-old fillies by 35 lengths under apprentice jockey Israel Rodriguez. Sent off the 6-5 second choice in the field of five, Jackie Black won in a final time of 1:44.92.

Now trained by Linda Rice, Jackie Black was making just her third lifetime start. She finished a distant sixth in a maiden special weight in her October 13 debut, then a front-running fifth in a maiden \$25,000 maiden claimer when she was claimed on December 5.

On Friday, she was in a league of her own. Rodriguez hustled her to the lead inside both 17-1 **Wesdrewmax** and **Kool Charli**, the 4-5 favorite.

Jackie Black bid that twosome goodbye, opening a two-length lead through a :23.79 first quarter. She continued to lead by two lengths through a half-mile in :48.32 before Rodriguez let her roll. Quickly, she was up four lengths, then sixth, then eight. Then she channeled her inner Secretariat and left her rivals far, far behind. She hit the wire 35 lengths ó that's four lengths more than Secretariat's 31-length Belmont Stakes victory to complete the 1973 Triple Crown - in front of 5-1 **Real Deal Lady**. Kool Charlie was third, maybe 30 lengths ahead of Wesdrewmax in fourth.

Jackie Black is a daughter of Discreet Cat out of Hollybygolly by Old Trieste who was bred by Michael Mandara.

Friday's finale was a salute to legendary Hall of Fame trainer John Nerud. His homebred three-year-old ridgling **Final Chapter**, well-rated on the front end by Manuel Franco, burst away in mid-stretch to win a six-furlong \$55,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for three-year-olds geared down by a length and a half in a final time of 1:12.07.

Trainer Mike Hushion added Lasix and blinkers and freshened the son of Thunder Gulch out of Comedy of Errors by Colonial Affair after he finished a distant third at 30-1 odds in his debut on November 21. Bettors Friday sent both him and **Watch the Tie** off at 2-1 odds in the field of 10.

After breaking third, Final Chapter quickly made the lead, chased by 18-1 **Candid Desire** and 16-1 **True Bet**. Watch the Tie, who broke from the extreme outside post, was a wide fourth after a quarter in :23.18 and a half-mile in :47.14.

Final Chapter had a lot left for the stretch, and he opened up on the field. **Organic Gemini** rallied strongly under Junior Alvarado to finish second, six lengths clear of Watch the Tie, who was third, a nose in front of True Bet. Candid Desire was just a neck further behind in fifth.

In his first two starts, Final Chapter has earned \$38,500.