

New York-Breds at the Races: January 24 to 30

By Bill Heller

Night Maneuver Nips Be Bullish in Open-Company Thriller

Darlene Bilinski, Harry Patten and Jennifer Contessa's five-year-old New York-bred gelding **Night Maneuver**, who is trained by Jennifer's husband Gary, and Drawing Away Stable and trainer David Jacobson's nine-year-old NY-bred gray gelding **Be Bullish** put on a spectacular show Thursday afternoon at Aqueduct, with Night Maneuver eking out a victory by half a head.

They were the only New York-breds in a field of seven in a six-furlong \$55,000 race for \$50,000 claimers, and Night Maneuver, with white-hot apprentice Taylor Rice aboard, went off the 8-5 favorite. Be Bullish was the 3-1 second choice under Irad Ortiz, Jr. Kingsford Drive, the 5-2 second choice, wound up a well-beaten third.

Night Maneuver set the pace with 54-1 longshot In the Beat pushing him a bit before tiring after an opening quarter in :23.35. That's when Be Bullish made his move, pulling up on Night Maneuver's outside a half-length back through a :46.02 half-mile.

Be Bullish then turned on the pressure, drawing even with Night Maneuver and passing him by a nose in mid-stretch. That's when Night Maneuver showed his class, coming on again to draw even. They were bobbing noses apart right until the wire, with Night Maneuver inching ahead to win in a final time of 1:10.98.

Night Maneuver's victory was his seventh in 20 career starts with two seconds, six thirds and earnings of more than \$340,000. The son of Orientate out of Smoke N Shadows by Smoke Glacken was bred by Nustar Breeding.

Be Bullish's career numbers remain astounding: 14 wins, 23 seconds and 12 thirds in 74 starts, with a bankroll topping \$885,000.

Burning Sands Stable's four-year-old **Gloria Victoria** burst through an enormous opening on the inside around the far turn to take the lead on the way to a two-length victory over **Familyofroses** in a one-mile \$59,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$30,000 claimer for fillies and mares Thursday. **Great Gracie Dane**, who literally walked out of the starting gate, finished third after Gloria Victoria won in a final time of 1:41.09.

Bettors sent off Gloria Victoria, who had two wins and a distant second in her three previous starts, as the 3-1 co-favorite under Irad Ortiz, Jr., along with **Princess Mara**, who would finish fourth in the field of 10. Familyofroses went off at 5-1 odds from the outside 10 post, and Great Gracie Dane was 12-1.

Breaking from the rail, 9-2 **City Gone Wild** got to the lead pursued by 34-1 longshot **Marcy** through a quarter in :23.95 and a half in :47.58. Gloria Victoria was in fifth when Ortiz saw a

giant hole developing inside. In a matter of seconds, Gloria Victoria spurted to the lead and opened up a three-length lead in mid-stretch.

Todd Pletcher trains Gloria Victoria, a daughter of Primary Suspect out of Pawnee Patti by Sir Richard Lewis, who was bred by Dan Barden. She now has three victories, two seconds and one third from seven starts, with earnings of more than \$140,000.

With an incredible rush up the rail, Taylor Rice rallied Drawing Away Stable's New York-bred **Bourbon Therapy** from last to a length-and-a-half victory Thursday in a \$50,000 starter allowance for three-year-olds as the even-money favorite in the field of six, completing the six furlongs in 1:12.65. Xixixi, who led late at 8-1 odds, held off another New York-bred, 6-1 **Pete's Fleet**, for second, then survived a claim of foul by Pete's Fleet's rider, Wilmer Garcia.

Pete's Fleet got away on top before Xixixi took the lead and opened up on the field by three lengths through a :46.47 half. Bourbon Therapy was nowhere close at the top of the stretch as Xixixi dug in, fighting off a bid by Pete's Fleet. By mid-stretch, Bourbon Therapy was coming like a locomotive and zoomed by the final two horses in front of him.

Claimed for \$35,000 in November, Bourbon Therapy scored his second win in four starts for trainer David Jacobson. The gelding is a son of Freud out of SS Scribble by Notebook and was bred by Sequel Stallions and Rhapsody Farm. The \$30,000 winner's slice more than doubled his career earnings of \$25,128 from five previous races.

Panther Gap Stables and Dan Manion's four-year-old New York-bred filly **Absolute Paradise** benefitted from an absolutely perfect ride by Mike Luzzi to win a 5 1/2-furlong \$30,000 conditional \$20,000 claimer Thursday by two lengths at 7-1 odds over Mrs. Bean, the 3-5 favorite in the field of six.

Absolute Paradise broke first, but Luzzi took a hold of her and settled her in fourth as the only other New York-bred in the field, 25-1 longshot **Alexis Road**, disputed the pace with 3-1 Blue Ballerina and 7-2 Purling through splits of :22.90 and :46.78.

Luzzi moved Absolute Paradise up on the rail, and she quickly gained momentum on Mrs. Bean, who had taken over and opened a clear lead. Absolute Paradise went through on the inside of Mrs. Bean and was drawing away late after hitting the wire in 1:06.12.

Absolute Paradise, a daughter of Any Given Saturday out of Gentle Grace by Woodman, was bred by Stephen Wigmore and is trained by Leo O'Brien. O'Brien is having an outstanding meet, with five wins and a pair of seconds from 17 starts.

Breaking sharply from the outside post in a field of seven, Roddy Valente and Thomas Lemme's homebred three-year-old filly **Lemme Rock** took the lead immediately on the way to a 3 1/2-length victory in a \$35,000 New York-bred maiden \$35,000 claimer Thursday, getting the 5 1/2 furlongs in 1:06.56. Jose Ortiz rode the daughter of Valente's undefeated sprinter Bustin Stones out of Menu Varnish by Mr. Greeley, who is trained by Bruce Levine.

Lemme Rock was the slight 8-5 favorite over 9-5 **She's a Sizzler**, who chased Lemme Rock in second through splits of :23.42 and :47.35. Lemme Rock was coming off an improved second in her fourth career start.

Two of Taylor Rice's Four Wins Monday Come Aboard New York-Breds

Taylor Rice, the 25-year-old apprentice jockey who is trainer Linda Rice's niece, won four races for the first time in her career at Aqueduct Monday afternoon. Two of the four came in New York-bred races, and one of her New York-bred winners was trained by her aunt.

"It's awesome," Taylor said. "Nothing is better. God is good."

Taylor rode briefly at Belmont Park last October before riding at Hawthorne, where she finished third in the jockey standings with 41 victories. Her four winners at Aqueduct Monday gave her 12 for the meet, good for eighth in the standings.

Taylor's first New York-bred winner was Drawing Away Stable and trainer David Jacobson's four-year-old filly **Julesco**, who won the second race, a \$34,000 New York-bred \$20,000 claimer for fillies and mares at six furlongs.

Sent off at 7-2 odds from the rail, Julesco dueled early with 39-1 **Little Miss Lupe** before taking a clear lead through a :23.20 opening quarter. She opened up a length and a quarter on Little Miss Lupe through a half in :46.65 before spurting clear by four lengths. **Guyana Princess**, the 7-5 favorite, made a bold rally on the inside, but it was too late as Julesco won by a half-length in a final time of 1:12.97. **Run a Dubb Dubb** finished third.

Julesco is a daughter of Noble Causeway out of Bid of Genius by Beau Genius, and was bred by My Meadowview LLC. She improved her dirt record to two-for-eight with two seconds and one third. Her career earnings now top \$85,000.

After winning the eighth race aboard her aunt's Abra, she rode another horse trained by her aunt, Everything's Cricket Racing's three-year-old gelding **Executive Office**, in a six-furlong \$35,000 New York-bred maiden \$35,000 claimer. He began his career with a front-running second at Belmont Park, when he was claimed by his current connections for \$50,000. Linda freshened him and he finished a front-running second again as the even-money favorite. Linda added blinkers Monday and Executive Office went off at odds of 4-1.

Executive Office and 9-2 **Forged** got away one-two from the outside posts. Executive Office eventually opened a one-length lead, then expanded the margin to four lengths through a half in :48.05. Forged tired, but **American Creed**, the 5-2 favorite who had been racing in third, began to close in.

Executive Office was game, holding off American Creed by a neck in a final time of 1:14.06. There was a gap of nearly seven lengths back to Forged in third.

Executive Office is a son of Stanislavsky out of Professional Woman by Distinctive Pro, and was bred by Merrylegs Farm North.

In Monday's opener, a \$23,000 New York-bred maiden \$16,000 claimer at six furlongs, Christina Pringle's six-year-old gelding **Mr. Masterpiece**, the 5-2 second choice in a field of six, dominated, winning by nine lengths under Men Chen in a final time of 1:12.04. **Pegasus Tiger**, the 3-5 favorite, was second, a length ahead of **Centripital**, who finished more than 17 lengths in front of **Hunter Grey** in fourth.

Mr. Masterpiece is a son of Greeley's Galaxy out of Paradise Vice by Vice Regent who was bred by Mr. and Mrs. Rocco Buetti and is trained by Edmund Pringle. Mr. Masterpiece now has a win and a third from seven dirt starts.

Idle Irish Whisper Scores Wire-to-Wire at Aqueduct Sunday

Howard Nolan's Blue Sky Farm and John Hicks's four-year-old homebred **Irish Whisper**, who hadn't raced since July, continued a weekend dominated by speed, scoring wire-to-wire by 3 1/2 lengths in a six-furlong \$52,000 New York-bred allowance for fillies and mares at Aqueduct Sunday in a final time of 1:11.22.

Irak Ortiz, Jr. rode Irish Whisper, who went off at 7-2 odds in the field of six. **Spinit to Winit** finished second at odds of 4-1, well clear of 18-1 **Agilion**. **Kilnockagain** was fourth as the 4-5 favorite in her first start off the claim for \$35,000 by Drawing Away Stable and trainer David Jacobson. **Dixie Sparkle** was literally left at the gate at the start and ultimately pulled up during the race.

Ortiz hustled Irish Whisper to the front and, without serious pressure through a quarter in :22.96 and a half in :46.47, she improved her dirt record to two-for-three. Trainer Jeremiah Englehart has been high on this filly from the get-go, and was not surprised when she aired at first asking last May. He smartly gave her a rest after she was slammed by rivals in her first try on turf last July, when she finished 12th. With Sunday's impressive win, her connections must be dreaming of stakes races, as her dam Tishmeister was also a talented miss. The NY-bred daughter of City Zip won the NY Stallion Stakes Statue of Liberty Stakes on her way to racking up \$186,222 in earnings.

Hicks and Nolan will also collect a \$4,680 breeder award from the NY Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund. First-period (January & February) awards will be paid in early March.

Adding Lasix after pushing the pace and tiring to finish sixth in his debut, Fox Ridge Farm's homebred three-year-old colt **Testosterone** rolled to a four-length victory Sunday under C.C. Lopez in a six-furlong \$50,000 New York-bred maiden special weight in a final time of 1:11.56.

Pat Kelly trains the colt by Birdstone out of A.P. Test by A.P. Indy, who went off at 5-1 odds breaking from the rail in a field of 10 that included five first-time starters.

Super Nicky, one of the firsters sent off at 4-1 odds from the 10 post, broke first under apprentice Manny Esquivel, but was immediately confronted and passed by Testosterone. Testosterone led Super Nicky by a half-length after a first quarter in :23.06, with 5-2 **Hampden Fiveone** and 3-1 **Freddie G** alternating in third and fourth.

Testosterone increased his lead to a length and a half through a :47.07 half-mile and continued to draw away, coasting home clearly the best. Hampden Fiveone finished second and Super Nicky was third. **John's Island**, a firster sent off at 17-1 odds, finished fourth.

Team Power Play Racing's four-year-old New York-bred gelding **Ask About Me** opened a two-length lead at the sixteenth pole then held off Moonlite Encounter to win a 5 ½-furlong \$20,000 maiden \$12,500 claimer by three-quarters of a length in a final time of 1:06.74. Both horses went off at 9-5 odds, with Ask About Me a narrow favorite.

Rosario Montanez got Ask About Me to the lead with steady pressure from 50-1 bomb Quiet Value through a quarter in :22.45 and a half in :47.13.

When Quiet Value wilted, Moonlite Encounter moved into second then went after Ask About Me. Ask About Me held on to break his maiden in his fifth dirt start. Sam Gordon bred the son of Disco Rico out of Cheektowaga by Langfuhr, and he is trained by Gary Gullo.

Itsagoodtendollars Whistles Wire-to-Wire in Saturday's Opener

Apprentice jockey Manny Esquivel did a superb job rating Aaron Racing Stable's eight-year-old New York-bred gelding **Itsagoodtendollars** on the lead, and he won a mile-and-an-eighth \$50,000 starter allowance by 4 ½ lengths at 4-1 odds over Frazil, the 2-1 second choice, in Saturday's opener at Aqueduct. Longshot Lure of the South was another neck back in third, and the other state-bred in the field of seven, **Pure Attitude**, finished fourth as the 8-5 favorite.

Itsagoodtendollars was a sharply improved front-running second by 1 ¾ lengths in his previous race, a \$30,000 claimer. He broke smartly from the two post Saturday to immediately take the lead. Cornelio Velasquez settled Frazil in second with longshot Wayward Sailor in third, as Itsagoodtendollars set an even pace: a quarter in :23.92, a half in :48.46 and three-quarters in 1:12.11.

Frazil took over second around the far turn as Pure Attitude began advancing on the inside and Lure of the South moved up on the outside.

Itsagoodtendollars was ready for both of them, and he maintained a comfortable lead through the mile in 1:37.63. He crossed the wire in 1:50.75.

A son of Tale of the Cat out of Goomada Byda Sea by Sea Hero, bred by Navesink Thoroughbreds and trained by Jeremiah Englehart, Itsagoodtendollars improved his outstanding record on the inner dirt track to six victories, four seconds and one third in 14 races. Overall, he now boasts 10 wins, 10 seconds and 10 thirds in 42 starts, with earnings of nearly \$450,000.

C.C. Lopez put F and F Stable's four-year-old filly **Concealed** on the lead, and she became yet another wire-to-wire winner Saturday, taking a one-mile \$57,000 New York-bred allowance by a neck over **Gendarmour** in a final time of 1:39.27. **Penthouse Party** rallied for third. Concealed was sent off at odds of 9-2, Gendarmour was 11-1 and Penthouse Party was 6-1 in the field of eight. **Uman Candy**, the 4-5 favorite, was never a factor.

Concealed is a daughter of Officer out of Royal Thief by Cat Thief, was bred by Ed Lipton and is trained by Luis Miranda. She had finished in the money in four straight races before tiring badly on a sloppy track when a distant sixth at 3-1 odds in her previous race.

A Prettydixie, a 9-1 shot, tracked Concealed in second through a quarter in :24.18, a half in :47.65 and three-quarters in 1:12.62.

When A Prettydixie tired, Gendarmour moved into second. She didn't seem to be gaining on Concealed until the final 100 yards, when she surged. Concealed held on by a neck.

Concealed improved her dirt record to two-for-15 with four seconds and three thirds. She also has a win and a third in five grass starts. Her earnings now top \$150,000.

Making a spectacular debut Saturday, R and H Stable and trainer George Weaver's **Saturday Bliss** crushed nine rivals, capturing a six-furlong \$50,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for three-year-old fillies virtually wire-to-wire by 11 ³/₄ lengths at 8-1 odds under Chris DeCarlo.

The two fillies immediately outside Saturday Bliss, 9-5 **Keep Right** and 13-1 **Heavenly Girl**, broke a couple steps faster from the gate, but Saturday Bliss quickly took the lead, speeding to the quarter in :22.51. She hit the half with a three-length lead in :46.21 and then kept drawing away, getting the six furlongs in 1:11.34. Keep Right nipped 25-1 first-time starter **Prairie Storm** by a head for second.

Saturday Bliss is a daughter of Any Given Saturday out of Miz Audacious by Miswaki, and was bred by Dr. Tom Keenan and Dr. H.G. White, Jr. She was purchased for \$20,000 at the Saratoga August 2012 Yearling Sale.

Breaking from the 10 post in his career debut on New Year's Day, Robert Valeri's homebred four-year-old gelding **Perfect Disco** shied at the start, got away last in the field of 11 and rallied slightly to finish eighth at 9-2 odds. Moving all the way inside to the rail for his second start Saturday, Perfect Disco broke alertly, put away longshot **You Jane**, the only filly in the field of seven, through a grueling :21.97 first quarter and still had more than enough left to win the 5 ¹/₂-furlong \$50,000 New York-bred maiden special weight by 2 ³/₄ lengths in a final time of 1:06.24. Rosario Montanez rode the son of Disco Rico out of Platinum Perfect by Jules, who is trained by Dominic Galluscio and went off at odds of 7-2.

Sir Maurice edged **Giulio Cesari** and **Brass Pear**, the 9-5 favorite, for second.

A heads-up ride by David Cohen helped Island Wind Racing's six-year-old gelding **Precious Metal** win Saturday's finale, a one-mile \$35,000 New York-bred \$20,000 claimer, by 3 ½ lengths at 2-1 odds. **Five Freedoms**, a 30-1 longshot, got up for second, with 10-1 **Indy Tune** and 2-1 **Tycoon Cat** third and fourth, respectively, after Precious Metal won in a final time of 1:37.74.

Precious Metal had the rail, and the track had favored speed all day long. Cohen used Precious Metal to protect his inside position as both **Pin Number** and Tycoon Cat tried making it to the lead from the two outside post positions in the field of seven.

Pin Number led briefly on Precious Metal's outside, and Tycoon Cat managed to poke a head in front three-wide for a couple of seconds, but Precious Metal put both away decisively after three-quarters in 1:12.07 to improve his dirt record to three-for-17 with three seconds. He also has four wins, two seconds and one third in 15 turf starts for career earnings of more than \$270,000.

Precious Metal is a son of Silver Train out of Sugar Is Gold by Slew o'Gold who was bred by Dr. Lance Bell and is trained by Chris Englehart.