

# New York-Breds at the Races: July 24 to 27

By Bill Heller

## Willow U Wins Wire to Wire on the Turf Monday at Saratoga

Resisting pressure on the lead the whole way, Thomas Brockley's four-year-old filly **Willow U** gamely held on to win a one-mile \$75,000 New York-bred grass allowance by a neck over **Loon River** Monday at Saratoga, giving Manuel Franco his second winner of the sunny afternoon. Sent off at 8-1 odds in the field of 11, Willow U won in a final time of 1:36.48.

Loon River, who was shedding blinkers and was sent off at 12-1 odds from the extreme outside post under Jose Lezcano, finished one length clear of 9-2 **Conquest Superstep**, ridden by Shaun Bridgmohan, in third. **Cosmic Serenity**, an 11-1 shot under Luis Saez, was just a nose behind Conquest Superstep in fourth.

The top four finishers were first, second, third and fourth virtually the entire mile. Neither **Corner Three**, the 8-5 favorite under Jose Ortiz, nor **B Rockett**, the 7-2 second choice ridden by Javier Castellano, were ever involved.

Willow U is a son of Utopia (JPN) out of Overextended (FR) by Entrepreneur (GB) who was bred by Andy Beadnell and is trained by George Weaver. He was returning to New York-bred allowance company after finishing third in an open \$40,000 claimer under Junior Alvarado.

Breaking sharply, Willow U was fourth in the first few steps but quickly took a one-length lead on Conquest Superstep. Loon River and Cosmic Serenity weren't far behind in third and fourth through a :23.77 first quarter-mile. Willow U's lead was just a half-length after a half-mile in :49.17 as Conquest Superstep two-wide and Loon River three-wide continued to chase the front-runner.

But Franco hadn't asked Willow U for his best, and he spurred clear by two lengths after three-quarters in 1:13.12. Loon River gamely tried to run him down, but couldn't.

Willow U improved his turf record to two for 10 with two seconds and one third. He also has one second from five dirt starts for total earnings of more than \$125,000.

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In Monday's finale, a mile-and-an-eighth \$45,000 New York-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer, Team Penney Racing's four-year-old gelding **My Friend Keith** wore down front-running **Gear Jammer** in deep stretch on the way to a length-and-a-quarter victory under Junior Alvarado. Sent off the 7-5 favorite in the field of 12, My Friend Keith won in a final time of 1:49.07.

**Giantpatontheback**, a 35-1 longshot ridden by Samuel Jimenez, edged 16-1 **Greg's Fourwheeler** by a head for third while finishing a head in front of 11-1 **Holy Week**.

Billy Mott, whose six victories, including two on Monday, leads all conditioners at the Saratoga meet, trains My Friend Keith, a four-year-old son of Rock Hard Ten out of Dixie Talent by Dixie

Union who was bred by Shirl Penney. My Friend Keith had finished a close second as the favorite in his last two starts at Belmont Park.

Gear Jammer, who was sent off at odds of 6-1 under Jose Lezcano, led the field to a half-mile in :47.56 and three-quarters in 1:11.89. Holy Roller moved up two-wide and My Friend Keith ranged up three-wide on the far turn to take on the frontrunner.

My Friend Keith had to work hard to get past Gear Jammer, but he did, winning comfortably.

My Friend Keith now has a victory, two seconds and one third from six grass starts. He also has one third from a pair of dirt starts for total earnings of more than \$60,000.

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Clear Stars Stable's five-year-old gelding **Saturday Appeal** rallied from last on the far outside under Junior Alvarado to win a six-furlong \$50,000 New York-bred \$25,000 claimer going away by 2 ½ lengths Monday. Sent off at 12-1 odds in the field of six, Saturday Appeal won in a final time of 1:10.90.

**Johannesburg Smile**, who went off at 5-2 odds, was a much-improved second, a length and a half clear of **Chapman**, the 2-1 favorite. **Seek to Destroy**, who went off at 7-2 odds, was just a head behind Chapman in fourth.

Saturday Appeal is a five-year-old gelding by Any Given Saturday out of Truly Charming by Elusive Quality who was bred by McMahan of Saratoga Thoroughbreds and is trained by Rick Schosberg.

Breaking from the rail, Saturday Appeal was immediately last as Seek to Destroy, ridden by Irad Ortiz, Jr., streaked to the lead from the outside post. Angel Cruz settled Chapman in second on the outside while Javier Castellano kept 5-2 **Wild Finish** three-wide in third. Seek to Destroy led Chapman by 2 ½ lengths after an opening quarter in :22.42 and by two lengths after a :45.83 half-mile.

By then, Johannesburg Smile and Saturday Appeal had rallied into contention.

In mid-stretch, there were five horses stacked across the track. Johannesburg Smile surged between horses but Saturday Appeal was moving fastest of all and struck the lead in deep stretch.

Saturday Appeal improved his all-dirt career record to four for 38 with nine seconds, two thirds, and more than \$260,000 in earnings.

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Taking full advantage when front-running **Vischer Ferry** blew the far turn, four-year-old colt **Devilish Grin** rolled to a two-length victory Monday under John Velazquez in a \$45,000 New York-bred maiden claimer, covering the six and a half furlongs in 1:17.26. Devilish Grin was sent off at 9-2 odds and Vischer Ferry went off at 4-1 in the field of nine.

Devilish Grin was bred by Robert Toscano, who co-owns him with Gary Zecher. Toscano's father, John Toscano, Jr., trains the son of Harlington out of Katie G. by In Excess and elected to add blinkers and drop him back to a maiden claimer off a distant fourth in a longer New York-bred maiden special weight.

**Thank You**, the 8-5 favorite under Luis Saez, finished second, some eight lengths clear of 4-1 **Bustin the Bank** in third. **Hundred Percent**, who went off at 19-1 odds from the rail under Fernando Jara, finished fourth.

Devilish Grin broke first but was taken back to fourth by Velazquez, who can't seem to make a poor decision in the first four days of the meet. Vischer Ferry, ridden by Junior Alvarado, forged to a narrow lead through a :22.20 first quarter. Vischer Ferry carried the lead around the far turn, hitting the half-mile in :45.68 before blowing the turn to lose all chance.

Devilish Grin was second and gaining at the time, and he inherited the lead. Velazquez had plenty of horse left, and Devilish Grin held off Thank You for his first career victory. Devilish Grin now has a win and four seconds from seven starts, for earnings of more than \$55,000.

### Summer Breezing is Awesome in Wire-to-Wire Win Sunday

Fortune Farm's six-year-old horse **Summer Breezing** set a blistering early pace under Jose Lezcano at Saratoga Sunday and still won a 5 ½-furlong \$78,000 New York-bred grass allowance/optional \$40,000 claimer handily by 1 ¾ lengths in a sizzling final time of 1:00.79, just a fifth of a second off Fiddlers Patriot's 2010 track record.

The victory made Summer Breezing two for two in 2015 following a one-length victory from slightly off the pace on May 10<sup>th</sup>, his first start since finishing seventh in open company last August 31<sup>st</sup> at Saratoga.

Jeremiah Englehart trains Summer Breezing, a son of Langfuhr out of Summer Solstice (IRE) by Caerleon who was bred by Sarah Leigh. Englehart has done an outstanding job managing Summer Breezing's career. Sunday was just his 13<sup>th</sup> career start.

Bettors sent him off as the 3-1 second choice in the field of eight. **Saratoga Dreamer**, a colt half Summer Breezing's age, went off the 2-1 favorite under Irad Ortiz, Jr. despite making his first start since winning a New York-bred dirt stakes on January 30<sup>th</sup>. He had won his career debut on grass at Saratoga last August 20<sup>th</sup>.

But Summer Breezing, breaking from the two post, took control of the race early as 5-1 **Global Positioning** pressed him on the outside through a scorching first quarter in :21.62. **Latigo Trail**, who went off at 5-1 odds under Manuel Franco, raced in third and Saratoga Dreamer was fourth.

Summer Breezing led Global Positioning by a length after running a half-mile in an unworldly :43.68. Then he opened up on the field, taking a near-four-length lead. He cruised home easily, giving Lezcano his third win of the afternoon. Saratoga Dreamer rallied to finish second, three-quarters of a length ahead of 37-1 longshot **Lord of Love. Three for Me**, who went off at 7-1 odds from the rail, was fourth, another head back.

Summer Breezing is now four for nine on turf with one second and a pair of thirds. He also has two victories from three starts on synthetic and one start on dirt for total earnings of more than \$250,000.

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Benefitting from another outstanding grass ride by Hall of Famer John Velazquez, Sagamore Farm's three-year-old filly **Courageisamajority** defeated heavily favored **Ack Naughty** by three-quarters of a length for her second consecutive victory in a \$75,000 New York-bred grass allowance. She covered the one-mile distance in 1:37.40. Courageisamajority was sent off at odds of 7-2 and Ack Naughty was the even-money favorite in the field of nine under Irad Ortiz, Jr.

Graham Motion trains Courageisamajority, a daughter of Medaglia d'Oro out of the outstanding grass mare Hostess by Chester House who was bred by Gallagher's Stud and was purchased for \$250,000 as a two-year-old last year.

After finishing sixth and fifth in two starts last year without Lasix, she raced with it in her three-year-old debut at Aqueduct on April 26<sup>th</sup> and was nosed at 5-2 odds after awaiting room. She then broke her maiden at a mile and an eighth by 2 ½ lengths under Velazquez as the 8-5 favorite on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Breaking from the outside post Sunday, she was the second choice in the wagering to Ack Naughty, who was dropping to allowance company off a solid second in an open \$100,000 stakes in her last race on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Ack Naughty compromised her chances by stumbling at the break. **Skinner Box**, who went off at 4-1 odds under Jose Ortiz, set the pace while 17-1 **Resolutely** chased in second. Courageisamajority raced in sixth as Skinner Box took the field to a :50.12 half-mile. Heading into the far turn, Courageisamajority moved up on the outside while Ack Naughty followed her.

Skinner Box was still in front after three-quarters in 1:14.92, but both Courageisamajority and Ack Naughty continued to gain. Courageisamajority struck the lead inside the sixteenth pole as Ack Naughty rallied into second. Courageisamajority held the favorite off for another victory. **Amazing Anne**, a 7-1 shot ridden by Junior Alvarado, finished third, just a half-length behind Ack Naughty while three-quarters of a length clear of Skinner Box in fourth.

Courageisamajority is now two for five in her all-grass career with one second and earnings topping \$90,000.

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In a spectacular effort Sunday, Gainesway Stable's three-year-old filly **First Service**, who was making her first dirt start with Lasix, overpowered eight rivals to take a 6 ½-furlong \$73,000 New York-bred maiden special weight by eight lengths under Javier Castellano in a final time of 1:15.90. First Service took a ton of late money to go off a slight favorite at 5-2 odds in the field of nine.

Chad Brown trains First Service, a daughter of Ghostzapper out of Wings of Gold by Mineshaft who was bred by Elco Stable and sold for \$110,000 as a two-year-old last year.

First Service raced on dirt and without Lasix in both her starts as a two-year-old, finishing eighth and third last fall at Belmont Park. Brown switched her to turf and added Lasix for her three-year-old debut at Belmont on June 10<sup>th</sup> and she was never involved in the race, finishing seventh as the 2-1 favorite.

On Sunday, Castellano let First Service, who broke sharply, settle in fifth early as 6-1 **Foxy Posse** set the pace under pressure from 5-2 **Miss Anna Marie** through a quarter in a rapid :21.86 and a half-mile in :45.13. Castellano sent up First Service up three-wide around the far turn and she powered to the lead and drew off, hitting six furlongs in a sharp 1:09.57 on the way to her maiden victory.

**Women Win**, who went off at 7-2 odds under Jose Ortiz, waited for room around the far turn and rallied to finish a clear second, nearly five lengths ahead of 8-1 **Lady in Shades**. Miss Anna Marie was fourth, another half-length back.

### Dowseø Beach Wins Her Second Straight in Open Company Saturday

Benefitting from a sweet ride by Irad Ortiz, Jr., Patricia Generazioø four-year-old homebred and New York-bred gelding **Dowse's Beach** scored her second straight victory at Saratoga Sunday in her debut in open company. Sent off the 9-5 favorite in the field of seven, Dowseø Beach defeated 7-2 Run for Logistics by a length in a 5 ½-furlong \$85,000 grass allowance.

Christophe Clement trains Dowseø Beach, a son of Disco Rico out of Mary Louø Magic by Concordeø Tune who stepped up to open company after winning a New York-bred grass allowance at Belmont Park by a length at 3-1 odds.

Dowseø Beach broke first, but Ortiz wisely took a hold of his filly as three rivals raced for the front: 5-1 Lewys Vaporizer, Run for Logistics and New York-bred **Asset Inflation**, the 5-2 second choice. Lewys Vaporizer had to work hard to take a slim lead over Run for Logistics, who was two-wide, and Asset Inflation, who broke a step slow and was three-wide, but he had to run an opening quarter in a fast :21.84 to do so. Ortiz had Dowseø Beach perfectly placed in fourth, three lengths off the battle on the front end.

Lewys Vaporizer clung to a narrow lead on her two pace pursuers through a demanding :44.14 half-mile as Ortiz switched Dowseø Beach to the outside for clear running. Run for Logistics took the lead in mid-stretch, but Dowseø Beach rolled right past him at the sixteenth pole with Ortiz asking very little of him. Ortiz checked twice back over his right shoulder and once underneath his arms to make sure no one was gaining. No one was. Dowseø Beach won by a length in hand in a final time of 1:01.62. Run for Logistics held for second, a length in front of 20-1 Natural Order. Big Family finished fourth.

Dowseø Beach improved his all-grass record to four for 11 with one second, two thirds and more than \$220,000 in earnings.

### Sea Raven Rallies from Last to First to Begin Saratogaø 147<sup>th</sup> Meet

Practically walking out of the gate and extremely sluggish early, Gunpowder Farmsø four-year-old ridgling **Sea Raven** rallied from last under John Velazquez to defeat **Royal Posse** by a half-length in a mile-and-an-eighth \$78,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$40,000 claimer to begin Saratoga Race Courseø 147<sup>th</sup> season of racing Friday afternoon under ó at the time ó ideal conditions. Sea Raven was the slight 2-1 favorite, and Royal Posse went off at 5-1 odds in the field of eight.

“It’s nice to get that (first win) out of the way,” a somewhat muddled Velazquez said in the winner’s circle. “He didn’t break good and I had to get him into the race.”

Trainer Leah Gyarmati was obviously delighted. “It’s nice,” she said. “It’s the only time I’m leading the trainer standings. I have 30 minutes to enjoy it.”

Sea Raven is a son of Mineshaft out of Mississippi Charm by 1997 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner Silver Charm. He was bred by Louis Ferrari and purchased for \$130,000 in May 2013. Sea Raven had finished in the money in his previous five starts, and had won his lone start at Saratoga last year.

But he could not have started more slowly Friday. He was quickly last as 9-1 **Fox Rules** shot to the lead from the outside post. Fox Rules set the pace with a lead of one to two lengths as **Beyond Empire**, the 2-1 second choice under Irad Ortiz, Jr., chased in second through a quarter in :24.18, a half-mile in :49.04 and three quarters in 1:13.41. By then, Sea Raven had rallied on the inside into fifth. Velazquez swung him outside for a clear shot at the leaders.

Beyond Empire moved into the lead as Royal Posse, ridden by Javier Castellano, charged into second and Sea Raven advanced into third.

Royal Posse overtook Beyond Empire and opened a clear lead in deep stretch but couldn’t hold off Sea Raven, who got to him with 100 yards left. Royal Posse held second, four lengths clear of Beyond Empire in third. **Fleeting** finished fourth, another four lengths back, at 17-1 odds.

Sea Raven is now three for 10 on dirt with three seconds, two thirds and earnings topping \$175,000.

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In Friday’s second race, a 5 ½-furlong \$73,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for two-year-old fillies, Jose Ortiz drove My Meadowview Farm’s homebred **Lemon Liqueur** past front-running **Freudsalm** in mid-stretch on the way to a 2 ½-length victory in a final time of 1:06.23. Lemon Liqueur then survived a steward’s inquiry and an objection by second-place finisher **Here Comes Rosie** for interference in mid-stretch before the race was declared official. Lemon Liqueur was the 2-1 favorite, Here Comes Rosie was sent off at odds of 7-1 and Freudsalm, who finished third, 2 ½ lengths behind Here Comes Rosie, went off at 4-1 in the field of 10, all first-time starters.

Rick Violette trains Lemon Liqueur, a daughter of Exchange Rate out of Limoncella by Lemon Drop Kid who had been working lights-out at Aqueduct for her debut here.

Lemon Liqueur raced in fourth early as Freudsalm, who broke sharply from the extreme outside post, quickly sprinted clear. Here Comes Rosie, ridden by Manuel Franco, raced in second as Freudsalm led by 2 ½ lengths after an opening quarter in :22.86. Here Comes Rosie got within a length of Freudsalm after a half-mile in :47.27. Lemon Liqueur was three-wide and gaining in third.

After Here Comes Rosie went past Freudsalm, Lemon Liqueur went past both of them to win comfortably. Freudsalm saved third, a length in front of 7-1 **Flatware**.

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A fairly normal Friday afternoon ó if opening day at Saratoga could ever be called normal ó suddenly turned frightening. Seven minutes before the fifth race, a one-mile \$45,000 conditional \$35,000 grass claimer, the skies darkened considerably. There were spectacular lightning bolts in the distance, and NYRA announcer Larry Collmus informed the crowd that the National Weather Service had said there was a tornado warning in the Saratoga area. The fifth race was delayed for maybe 10 minutes before the sky lightened and horses reported to the track.

Then Paul Giacopelli's four-year-old New York-bred filly **Kelly's Prize**, sent off at 55-1 odds under Elvis Trujillo in the field of 12, blew up the toteboard in a remarkable effort. After leading almost the entire way, she was passed on the inside by Reversiontothemean in deep stretch, but surged again to regain the lead and hold off 3-1 Jewelisa by a head. Reversiontothemean was third, a half-length behind Jewelisa, while a head in front of 14-1 Queenofzeenile.

Gary Sciacca trains Kelly's Prize, a daughter of Pure Prize out of Miz Lynne Kelly by Langfuhr who was bred by Allen Hallett and Briggs/Cromartie and sold for \$35,000 as a yearling in 2012. Kelly's Prize finished third in a field of 11 at 32-1 odds in a \$15,000 claimer at Monmouth Park in her previous start.

She broke sharply from the nine post and took the lead while Nile Princess chased in second through a half-mile in :49.92 and three-quarters in 1:14.83. Queenofzeenile was third the whole way, while Reversiontothemean advanced on the hedge.

Reversiontothemean stuck a neck in front of Kelly's Prize, who immediately responded to regain the lead. Jewelisa, ridden by Jose Lezcano, came flying late but Kelly's Prize held her off. When she did, Kelly's Prize, who paid \$112.50 to win, keyed huge payoffs including a Pick Three for \$13,395, a Pick Four worth \$88,793 and a Pick Five of \$228,138.

Kelly's Prize is now two for 11 on grass with one second and a third. She also has a win and three thirds from 10 dirt starts, for total earnings of a tad under \$125,000.

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In a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$45,000 New York-bred maiden \$40,000 grass claimer Friday, Niantic River Racing's three-year-old filly **Khaleesi Kat**, who was eighth in mid-stretch, powered to a two-length victory under Junior Alvarado in a final time of 1:43.02. Khaleesi Kat, who did not finish her debut before running ninth ó both in maiden special weights ó was adding Lasix and blinkers for trainer Billy Mott.

In a three-horse photo, **Flying KC** finished second at 7-1 odds, a nose in front of 14-1 frontrunner **Saratoga by Design**. **Little Mary Ellen** was just another nose back in fourth.

Khaleesi Kat is a daughter of 2005 Preakness and Belmont Stakes winner Afleet Alex out of Nehantic Kat by Tomorrows Cat who was bred by Kat House Stables.

Saratoga by Design, who was also adding Lasix under Shaun Bridgmohan, opened a two-length lead on **Dacoma**, the 3-1 favorite on the rail, through a :23.96 first quarter-mile. She stretched the margin to five lengths by running a half-mile in :48.03 and still led by four lengths after three-quarters in 1:13.00.

Saratoga by Design held strong through early stretch, but Khaleesi Kat was just beginning to find her best stride on the far outside. Khaleesi Kat closed furiously to get the victory going away.