

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

By Bill Heller

Saharan Serenade Wins Second Straight Powerfully Saturday

Uncorking a powerful rally down the stretch, Bran Jam Stable and Robert Toscano's four-year-old filly **Saharan Serenade**, trained by John Toscano, Jr., stormed to her second straight victory under apprentice rider Angel Cruz, taking a six-furlong \$57,000 New York-bred allowance Saturday at Aqueduct by 3 ¾ lengths on the final day of racing over the inner dirt track. Sent off the 5-2 second choice in the field of nine, she won in a final time of 1:12.91.

My Won Love, the 7-5 favorite under Angel Arroyo, finished second, two lengths clear of 8-1 **Moldavite** in third. **Quit Smokin** grabbed fourth at odds of 29-1.

Saharan Serenade is a daughter of Wild Desert out of Little Legend by Well Noted who was bred by Joe Marx.

Saharan Serenade was far behind early as 4-1 **Kitty Ride** set the pace, clicking off a quarter in :23.16 and a half-mile in :47.37.

My Won Love, who had rallied into second from fifth, went after Kitty Ride in the stretch and took over. Then Saharan Serenade, who was fifth in mid-stretch, flew past My Won Love to win going away.

Saharan Serenade is now two-for-seven with one third on dirt, for earnings topping \$80,000.

Trainer Gary Sciacca decided to add blinkers to Amanda Laderer and Gary Downey's three-year-old colt **Candid Desire** for his fifth career start, and he responded with a brave half-length victory in a six-furlong \$55,000 New York-bred maiden special weight thanks to a flawless ride by new jockey C.C. Lopez. Sent off at 16-1 odds in the field of 11, Candid Desire won in a final time of 1:11.79.

Organic Gemini, the 3-5 favorite on the rail under Manuel Franco, finished second and 5-1 **True Bet** was just another three-quarters of a length behind Organic Gemini in third. There was a gap of nearly nine lengths back to 10-1 **Suckitupbuster** in fourth.

Candid Desire is a son of Yes It's True out of Baby Love by Not For Love who was bred by John and Laura McDermott.

Suckitupbuster, who was adding blinkers, set a pressured pace with 5-1 True Bet glued to his flank through a :23.69 first quarter. Lopez tracked the battling leaders two lengths off them in third.

True Bet took over the lead after a half-mile in :47.14 and Candid Desire moved up on the outside to take him on. Behind them, Organic Gemini, who was far back early, burst onto the

scene, splitting a tiring Suckitupbuster and True Bet before diving back to the rail on the inside of Candid Desire. But Candid Desire maintained a narrow lead to the wire.

With utter determination, Prestine Racing's five-year-old New York-bred gelding **No Nukes** held off Life's a Roar by a head to notch a gutsy wire-to-wire win Saturday under Inoel Beato in a \$25,000 conditional \$16,000 claimer. He covered the one-mile distance in 1:41.18. No Nukes was sent off at odds of 4-1 and Life's a Roar went off at 22-1 in the field of seven. Charitable, the 1-2 favorite on the rail under apprentice Angel Cruz, finished third, three lengths behind Life's a Roar. New York-bred **Sunrise Lover** was another 4 ¾ lengths back in fourth at 18-1 odds.

Gary Gullo trains No Nukes, a son of Golden Missile out of Little Notice by Forever Silver who was bred by Milfer Farm.

No Nukes broke sharply from the three post and Ruben Silvera positioned Life's a Roar in second, and they stayed that way. No Nukes led by a half-length after a :24.79 first quarter and by a little more than a length after a half-mile in :49.94. Life's a Roar drew in closer after three-quarters in 1:15.59 and he and No Nukes battled it out right to the wire, with No Nukes grimly holding on to win.

No Nukes' victory was his second in 25 dirt starts with five seconds, five thirds and earnings of more than \$100,000.

Brian McCall and Richard Roys' nine-year-old New York-bred gelding **Futurazo**, a 15-1 longshot under Manuel Franco, nailed the 3-5 favorite, Duke of the City, late to win a one-mile \$25,000 open \$12,500 claimer by a half-length Saturday in a final time of 1:38.69. Matt and Jesse finished third at 11-1 odds, three-quarters of a length behind Duke of the City, and front-running New York-bred **Petrocelli** was a length behind Matt and Jesse in fourth at 9-2 odds.

Gregg Matties trains Futurazo, a son of Roaring Fever out of Love to Sea by Sea Salute who was bred by Kerin and Kerin, LLC.

Futurazo broke first, but France took him back to third as Petrocelli out-sprinted Duke of the City to the lead through a :24.19 first quarter. Petrocelli nursed a half-length lead over Duke of the City through a half-mile in :48.37 and three-quarters in 1:13.09.

When Duke of the City turned up the pressure, Petrocelli found more and clung to a narrow lead. Franco timed a final three-wide move perfectly. As soon as Duke of the City finally put away Petrocelli, Futurazo was at his throat and went by.

Futurazo's victory improved his dirt record to 11-for-56 with 16 seconds and seven thirds. He also has one victory from four starts on synthetic for combined earnings of more than \$220,000.

In Saturday's finale, the final race of the inner-dirt-track meet, Blue Sapphire Farm's five-year-old New York-bred gelding **Acigarisjustacigar** slithered through a world of traffic to win a six-

furlong \$22,000 conditional \$12,500 claimer by three-quarters of a length. Sent off at 10-1 odds under Andre Worrie, Acigarisjustacigar won in a final time of 1:13.36.

Another double-digit longshot, 16-1 Little Rocco, finished second, two lengths ahead of 12-1 Qui Cœst Moi. Pin and Win, who was shedding blinkers and went off at 7-2 odds, finished fourth.

Jim Ryerson trains Acigarisjustacigar, a son of Freud out of Oh Livie by Event of the Year who was bred by Sequel Stallions New York, Liberty Hill NY Thoroughbreds and Cornell Crest East.

Acigarisjustacigar raced in mid-pack in the field of 11 as 5-2 Boss Daddy took the field to a quarter in :23.80 and a half-mile in :48.26. The entire field then swarmed in, with Acigarisjustacigar splitting horses and then diving to the rail to win.

Acigarisjustacigar is now two for 21 on dirt with five seconds and three thirds. He has also started eight times on turf without hitting the board, for total earnings of nearly \$90,000.

Owner/trainer Charlie Baker's four-year-old New York-bred filly **Kleptocrat** overhauled front-running state-bred **Desert Spirit** and went on to a three-length victory Saturday under Manuel Franco in a \$22,000 conditional \$12,500 claimer. She covered the six-furlong distance in 1:13.85. Kleptocrat was sent off at 8-5 odds and Desert Spirit, who tired to finish fourth in the field of six, was the slight favorite at 7-5.

New York-bred **Soul Opposition** rallied to finish second at 6-1 odds, a length and a half ahead of 3-1 state-bred **Kimmies Lucky Star**, who edged Desert Spirit by a head for third.

Kleptocrat is a son of Performing Magic out of Quidnunc Gulch by Thunder Gulch who was bred by Sugar Maple Farm and H. Lewis Rappaport. He had finished second in his two previous starts.

Franco settled Kleptocrat in second as Desert Spirit took the field to a :24.50 opening quarter and a half-mile in :48.80. Then Kleptocrat went after and passed Desert Spirit to win going away.

Kleptocrat is now two-for-nine on dirt with three seconds and earnings of more than \$70,000.

In a six-furlong \$31,000 New York-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer for three-year-olds Saturday, Inoel Beato navigated Andrew Gurdon and Frank Halay's gelding **Masterkey**, the even-money favorite, through traffic to wear down gallant front-runner **Scorpion's Touch**, the 3-1 second choice, for a length-and-a-half victory in a final time of 1:14.71.

Breaking from the outside post in the field of seven, Masterkey got away in sixth as Scorpion's Touch took a clear lead through a :23.91 opening quarter. Scorpion's Touch stretched his lead to five lengths, hitting the half-mile in :48.40 by himself. By then, Masterkey had rallied on the far outside into second.

Masterkey quickly closed the gap then had to work hard to pass Scorpion's Touch, who fought on gamely. Masterkey eventually put him away to win comfortably. Scorpion's Touch was a

clear second, five lengths ahead of 18-1 **Colonel Jessup**. Another 18-1 longshot, **Bear Clause**, finished fourth, another length and a half behind.

Rudy Rodriguez trains Masterkey, a son of Will He Shine out of UR Key by Albert the Great who was bred by Backwards Stable. He was making just his second career start following a rallying fourth under Beato in his debut at 9-1 odds.

Unbeaten Bar of Gold Impresses in Second Straight Victory Friday

Chester and Mary Broman's homebred **Bar of Gold** exploded past the three horses in front of her in mid-stretch, upping her record to two-for-two with an eased-up 5 ½-length victory in a six-furlong \$57,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$75,000 claimer for three-year-old fillies on a muddy track Friday at Aqueduct. Sent off the 6-5 second choice in the field of just four under Junior Alvarado, she won in a final time of 1:13.87.

Sonora, the even-money second choice under Jose Ortiz, finished second, 5 ½ lengths clear of 5-1 **Awesome News** in third.

John Kimmel trains Bar of Gold, a daughter of Medaglia d'Oro out of Khancord Kid by Lemon Drop Kid who hadn't raced since last August, when she gamely won her debut at Saratoga by three-quarters of a length. Kimmel let Bar of Gold train in Florida before shipping back to New York.

Sonora was dropping to allowance company off a fourth in a \$125,000 New York-bred stakes.

But the early leader was **Song Brook**, who went off at 9-1 odds from the rail under apprentice Angel Cruz. Song Brook led Awesome News by a length after a quarter in :23.21. Heading into the far turn, Song Brook led Awesome News narrowly two-wide. They were joined by Sonora three-wide as Alvarado waited with Bar of Gold in fourth, hoping for an opening after a half-mile in :48.08.

The opening never materialized, so Alvarado yanked Bar of Gold four-wide. Once she got going, the race was over as she quickly blew past the fillies in front of her. Now two-for-two, Bar of Gold has already earned \$78,000.

Bran Jam Stable's New York-bred colt **Copernicus** made his first start off the claim a winning one Friday, dominating five rivals to win a six-furlong \$54,000 open \$40,000 three-year-old claimer by nearly eight lengths at 2-1 odds under Fernando Jara in a final time of 1:12.69.

Leaving from the outside post, Copernicus scrimmaged for the early lead with three horses inside of him: 2-1 Oh Poggibonsi, 5-1 Sunny Puzzle and 5-1 Keep Me Grounded. Once he cleared those three horses after an opening quarter in :24.19, he drew off, hitting the half in :48.10 with an expanding lead.

He cruised home much the best. Keep Me Grounded edged Sunny Puzzle by a head for second. New York-bred **Scattered Dreams** finished fourth at 8-1 odds.

John Toscano, Jr. now trains Copernicus, a son of Munnings out of Wavering Wind by Wavering Monarch who was bred by Thomas Burluson. He was claimed for \$32,000 by Bran Jam Stable in his last start on March 15, when he finished second at even money. Jara rode Copernicus for the first time.

Copernicus now has two wins and two seconds in eight starts, with earnings of more than \$75,000.

Elizabeth Corey's **Bee Noteworthy** blew past pacesetter **Miss Valued** in mid-stretch and rolled to a near-four-length victory Friday in a six-furlong \$41,000 New York-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer for three-year-old fillies. Bee Noteworthy, ridden by Angel Arroyo, went off at 7-2 odds and won in a final time of 1:14.66. Miss Valued, who went off at 5-1 odds from the rail under Manuel Franco, saved second, 3 ¾ lengths clear of 11-1 **Weekend Score**. **Born to Be Mild** was fourth at 3-1 odds.

Devil's Silent, the 9-5 favorite in the field of seven, stumbled out of the starting gate and tossed jockey Irad Ortiz, Jr. Ortiz got up immediately after hitting the ground, and rode in the next race.

Three of the seven fillies were adding blinkers: Devil's Silent, Born to Be Mild and Bee Noteworthy, who was making just her second career start for trainer Jim Bond following a fourth in her debut in a maiden special weight. The daughter of Read the Footnotes out of Beesanees by Anees was bred by Sequel Stallions New York and Willard Freeman.

Miss Valued broke sharply and was immediately in front. Running an opening quarter in :23.63, she built a three-length lead on Born to Be Mild. Bee Noteworthy raced in third.

The loose horse, Devil's Silent, cleared the field before the far turn, but it was tough to determine if it affected Miss Valued. Regardless, Bee Noteworthy rallied into second and went after Miss Valued after a half-mile in :47.20. Bee Noteworthy powered past and won drawing away.

Closing powerfully under Manuel Franco, Barry Schwartz and Marty Cunningham's four-year-old gelding **Flat Leaver** won a 5 ½-furlong \$41,000 New York-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer by two lengths at 2-1 odds Friday. Bred at Schwartz's Stonewall Farm, Flat Leaver is trained by Mike Hushion.

Cat's Landing had the lead in mid-stretch, but had to settle for second at 6-1 odds under Angel Arroyo after Flat Leaver won in a final time of 1:06.91. **Rich Dalone**, who also went off at 2-1 odds under Jose Ortiz, finished third, three lengths behind Cat's Landing. **Sir Maurice**, part of a 12-1 entry, finished fourth, another half-length back.

Rally for McNally, who was adding blinkers and Lasix and went off at 7-1 odds under Taylor Rice, dueled on the lead with Cat's Landing through a quarter-mile in :23.04 and a half-mile in :47.95.

Franco, who had gotten Flat Leaver away sixth in the field of 10, moved up strongly on the far outside in early stretch and kept gaining on Cat's Landing, eventually winning handily.

Flat Leaver now has a win and a third from four dirt starts.

It took the length of the stretch, but E El R Stable's recent claim **Culminating** wore down dead-game front-runner **Mohawk Lily**, winning a mile-and-70-yard \$31,000 New York-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer for three-year-old fillies Friday by three-quarters of a length. Ridden by Jose Ortiz and adding Lasix, Culminating went off the 9-5 favorite in the field of nine and won in a final time of 1:47.70. Mohawk Lily, who was making just her second career start, went off at 11-1 odds.

E El R Stable claimed Culminating for \$25,000 on January 11, when she finished second as the 8-5 favorite. In her first start for her new connections, she finished third as the 9-5 favorite on February 27.

Breaking from the outside post, Culminating settled in second as Mohawk Lily set a reasonable pace: a quarter in :24.20, a half-mile in :49.09 and three-quarters in 1:14.78. Culminating took a narrow lead at the top of the stretch, but Mohawk Lily dug in and fought back. In the final sixteenth of a mile, Culminating and Mohawk Lily separated themselves from the rest of the field and Culminating edged away late.

Mohawk Lily finished 5 ½ lengths clear of 4-1 **Dulce de Leche** in third. There was a 3 ½-length gap back to 5-1 **Real Deal Lady** in fourth.

Now trained by Bruce Levine, Culminating is a daughter of Not For Love out of Portobello Belle by Hansel who was bred by Navesink River Stables. She now has a win, a second and a pair of thirds in five dirt starts.

Brilliantly prepared by trainer Jimmy Jerkens for his first start since New Year's Eve, Tri-Bone Stable's four-year-old colt **Effinex**, the only New York-bred in the field of six, came from well off the pace to score a 3 ½-length victory under Angel Arroyo in a mile-and-70-yard \$69,000 allowance/optional \$62,500 claimer in Friday's feature race at Aqueduct. Sent off at 5-2 odds, Effinex won in a final time of 1:41.76.

Effinex scored the biggest victory of his career when he won the \$300,000 Empire Classic for New York-breds by a neck at 17-1 odds under Arroyo with blinkers added on October 18. He followed that victory with a fourth in the Grade 2 Hawthorne Gold Cup in Chicago and a fourth in the \$100,000 Alex M. Robb Stakes for New York-breds on December 31.

He returned to action showing just three works on the Belmont Park training track, including a good five furlongs in 1:01.20 on March 20, second fastest of 14 horses that morning at that distance.

Arroyo let Effinex settle in well off the early pace set by 9-2 Integrity, who was adding blinkers. With Irad Ortiz, Jr. aboard, Integrity remained well clear through splits of :23.49, :47.04 and 1:12.18. By then, Effinex had moved up boldly into second and he took dead aim at the frontrunner in early stretch. Effinex motored past Integrity to win going away. Integrity saved second.

Effinex is a son of Mineshaft out of What a Pear by E Dubai who was bred by Dr. Russell Cohen. He is now four-for-13 with one second, two thirds and earnings of more than \$385,000.

John's Island Wins in a Wild Finish at Aqueduct Thursday

In a wild finish at Aqueduct Thursday, Angel Arroyo got John Confort and Albert Weis's four-year-old New York-bred gelding **John's Island** up in the final strides to win a six-furlong \$69,000 allowance race/optional \$62,500 claimer by a head over both Green Gratto and Glacken Too, who dead-heated for second. New York-bred **Loki's Vengeance** was just a half-length back in fourth after John's Island won at 7-1 odds in a final time of 1:11.20 on a track rated good.

Green Gratto was sent off at odds of 4-1, Glacken Too went off at 5-1 and Loki's Vengeance was 5-2 in the field of seven. The 3-2 favorite, Maleeh, was close as well, but couldn't find room in deep stretch.

John's Island is a son of Posse out of Morning Gallop by Victory Gallop who was bred by Edition Farm and is trained by Jimmy Jerkens. He hadn't raced since December 27, when he won an open allowance by three-quarters of a length under Arroyo at 3-1 odds.

John's Island tipped off his condition with a bullet four-furlong work on March 9th on the Belmont Park training track, the fastest of 10 horses that morning working that distance.

Loki's Vengeance, who was nosed at 5-1 odds in his return on March 1st, his first race since November 22nd, battled for the early lead with Green Gratto through an opening quarter in :23.20 and a half-mile in a fast :45.97.

John's Island was still fifth in mid-stretch before rallying boldly on the far outside. Loki's Vengeance dug in gamely, but couldn't hold off Green Gratto, Glacken Too and John's Island on his outside.

The horse moving fastest of all was John's Island, who improved his record to five-for-14 with one second and earnings of more than \$235,000.

With an explosive burst of speed under Manuel Franco, Edward McGettigan, Jr.'s home-bred **Busted Handle** rocketed past front-running **Fast At Noon** in mid-stretch and went on to win a six-furlong \$31,000 New York-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer for three-year-old fillies by eight lengths at 9-1 in 1:14.60 in Thursday's finale. **Papa's Missile**, the 3-1 second choice in the field of 10, rallied to finish second, a length and a half past 7-2 Fast At Noon. **Miss Bellamy**, the 9-5 favorite, was fourth.

Gary Contessa trains Busted Handle, a daughter of Bustin Stones out of Ivory Handled by Personal Flag who was making her fifth career start.

Busted Handle raced in third as Fast At Noon and Miss Bellamy battled on the front end through a quarter in :23.21 and a half-mile in :47.20. Fast At Noon put away Miss Bellamy before Busted Handle went flying past.

Avenging a head loss to **Perfect Freud** on February 8, William Butler's homebred **In Spite of Mama** won a one-mile \$57,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$75,000 claimer for three-year-old fillies by 2 ½ lengths Thursday at Aqueduct. Handled beautifully on the front end by Junior Alvarado, In Spite of Mama won in a final time of 1:41.83 on a track rated good at 9-2

odds in the field of nine. Perfect Freud, who went off at 4-1 odds under Jose Ortiz, was second, two lengths clear of **Liberty Island**, the 5-2 second choice. **Golden Gem**, the 2-1 favorite, was fourth, four lengths behind Liberty Island.

Neither In Spite of Mama nor Perfect Freud had raced since their thrilling duel on February 8, when Perfect Freud won in a photo under Manuel Franco. Perfect Freud was 3-1 that day and In Spite of Mama went off at odds of 5-1.

In Spite of Mama had raced from off the pace that day. But after watching speed horses dominate Thursday, Alvarado sent In Spite of Mama to the front and she led 44-1 **Shangala** by a length and a half through a :24.03 opening quarter. In Spite of Mama hit the half in :48.63 with a two-length lead as Shangala began to fade. **Non Finisce Mai** moved into second at 12-1 odds, but she tired too.

In Spite of Mama, meanwhile, continued to hum on the front end, reaching three-quarters in 1:14.50 with a clear lead. Perfect Freud, who was fifth early in the race, rallied sharply into second but never seriously threatened In Spite of Mama.

Trained by Mike Maker, In Spite of Mama is a daughter of Speightstown out of Mama Theresa by Carson City. She is now two-for-seven on dirt with two seconds, one third and earnings of nearly \$110,000.

Flashing sharp improvement off a tiring seventh in her return, Mitre Box Stable's four-year-old filly **Southern Sunshine** put away **Shotgun Love**, the 3-5 favorite in the field of seven, and drew off to a 4 ¼-length victory under Junior Alvarado at 4-1 odds in a six-furlong \$55,000 New York-bred maiden special weight Thursday.

Rick Schosberg trains Southern Sunshine, a daughter of High Cotton out of Sunshine Song by War Chant who was bred by Stephanie Brennan, Marette Farrel and Gaye Swartz. Mitre Box Stable claimed Southern Sunshine for \$40,000 when she finished third in a maiden \$40,000 claimer at 3-5 odds on December 14. Schosberg gave his new filly a freshening and she returned to action in a maiden special weight on March 1. She tired to finish seventh at 5-2 odds.

Shotgun Love shot to the lead under Irad Ortiz, Jr. and Southern Sunshine advanced into second on the outside of **Stonely Heart**, the 2-1 second choice who was shedding blinkers.

Shotgun Love took the field to the quarter in :23.69 and still led Southern Sunshine by a length after a half-mile in :47.78. **Hatta's Appeal**, a 32-1 longshot who went to her knees at the start, moved up inside horses into contention.

When Southern Sunshine took on Shotgun Love at the top of the stretch, the favorite faltered and Southern Sunshine quickly opened a sizable lead on the way to winning in a final time of 1:14.77. Hatta's Appeal got up to edge Shotgun Love by a neck for second. There was a gap of nearly four lengths back to Stonely Heart in fourth.

Southern Sunshine improved her dirt record to one-for-eight with two seconds and one third. She also has a second and a third from two turf tries for total earnings of over \$125,000.

Apprentice jockey Angel Cruz rushed Island Wind Racing's New York-bred **Omagoddonna** up the rail to contest the early lead, and she shook off all challenges to take a six-furlong \$54,000 open \$40,000 three-year-old filly claimer by 2 ½ lengths Thursday. Sent off at 4-1 odds in an extremely balanced betting race, she won in a final time of 1:13.76.

New York-bred **Partytime Chill** went off the 3-1 favorite and New York-bred **Bernstein Flambe** was the longest shot in the field of seven at just 7-1 odds.

Omagoddonna broke fourth, but rushed up to take a hotly contested early lead. Partytime Chill, 5-1 Dariel and 9-2 New York-bred **Zenstone** were stacked up two-wide, three-wide and four-wide, respectively, outside Omagoddonna through a :23.34 opening quarter.

Omagoddonna led Partytime Chill by just a neck coming out of the far turn, then suddenly spurted away after a :47.19 half-mile. She remained strong on the lead and won handily. Dariel finished second, 5 ¼ lengths clear of Partytime Chill in third. Patricia Querida was another three lengths back in fourth at 6-1 odds.

Chris Englehart trains Omagoddonna, a daughter of Wild Desert out of Frances G by Officer who was bred by Gessler Racing. She improved her dirt record to three-for-seven with one third and nearly \$110,000 in earnings.

Well-prepared for her first start since June by trainer Linda Rice, John Witte's homebred New York-bred filly **Bella the Bandit** made the lead early and coasted to a 2 ¾-length victory in a \$26,000 conditional \$16,000 claimer Thursday. Sent off as the even-money favorite in the field of six, she covered the six-furlong distance in 1:13.77.

Subtle Humor, the 2-1 second choice, was a clear second, four lengths ahead of 13-1 New York-bred **Kiss Cat** in third. Another state-bred, 8-1 **Start It Up**, finished fourth, another 4 ½ lengths back.

In her last start last June, the four-year-old daughter of Bustin Stones out of Belongs to Bandit by Belong to Me faded to 11th in her turf debut in a \$100,000 division of the New York Stallion Stakes Series. Rice gave her plenty of time to recover for her return to dirt and drop in company, and she quickly made the lead under Rice's niece, Taylor Rice.

She posted splits of :23.81 and :48.26 and was never threatened. Bella the Bandit improved her dirt record to three-for-seven with one third and earnings of more than \$70,000.

Manuel Franco hustled William Schettine's five-year-old homebred mare **Porcia** to the lead on the rail, and she scored coast-to-coast by six lengths at 10-1 odds Thursday in a \$31,000 New York-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer. She covered the one-mile distance in 1:44.39.

Trained by Joe Orseno, Porcia is a daughter of Shakespeare out of Lake Alice by Mt. Livermore who was making just her fourth lifetime start. Orseno freshened Porcia off a pair of non-threatening thirds.

Porcia accelerated on the clubhouse turn to take the early lead over **Kool Charli**, the 3-1 second choice who was shedding blinkers and breaking on her immediate outside from the two post.

After a :25.43 first quarter, 33-1 **Mini Muffin** advanced into second and **Downtown Alley**, the 6-5 favorite under Taylor Rice, took over third. Porcia led by a head after a :51.12 half-mile. When Mini Muffin bore out while tiring around the far turn, Downtown Alley had dead aim on Porcia. But Franco had a ton of horse left and immediately opened up a five-length lead through a 1:17.72 three-quarters.

Porcia won easily geared down just before the wire. Downtown Alley held off 12-1 **My Little Giuliana** by a length for second. **Dixie Gem** finished fourth at 9-1 odds.

Porcia now has a win, a pair of thirds and a fourth in four starts.

Lulu Rocks Delivers at 6-5 in Allowance Race Sunday

Overcoming the outside post in a field of nine, Roddy Valente and Thomas Lemmeø homebred four-year-old colt **Lulu Rocks** forged to the lead under Kendrick Carmouche in deep stretch to win a \$57,000 New York-bred allowance by one length as the 6-5 favorite Sunday at Aqueduct. He covered the six-furlong distance in 1:13.49. **Sidearm**, who went off at 6-1 odds under Cornelio Velasquez, nosed 5-1 **Pete's Fleet** for second and 19-1 **Jack's R. Wild**, who split horses late, was just another neck behind in fourth.

Bruce Levine trains Lulu Rocks, a son of Valenteø undefeated Bustin Stones out of Devilish Imp by Devilø Bag who was second by a head in his previous start as the even-money favorite in his second start back following a freshening.

Carmouche got Lulu Rocks forwardly placed early as **Ride a Cat**, who went off at 7-2 odds from the rail, took the early lead through a :22.74 first quarter. **Spango**, an 11-1 shot under Jose Ortiz, worked his way into second and 33-1 **Shinnecock Bay** and Lulu Rocks alternated in third and fourth.

Ride a Cat then sprinted away to a 4 ½-length lead, hitting the half-mile in :47.33, but he couldnø maintain his advantage. Both Shinnecock Bay and Lulu Rocks advanced on the outside of the tiring pacesetter, while Sidearm dove to the inside and Jackø R. Wild desperately found room late by splitting horses.

Lulu Rocks held them all off, scoring his third victory in 11 dirt starts. He also has three seconds, one third, as well as a fifth in a lone turf try for total earnings of more than \$110,000.

In an impressive coast-to-coast victory on the rail as the 6-5 favorite in the field of 12, Anthony McCarthy and Our Sugar Bear Stablesø filly **Lakeside Sunset** won Sundayø finale, a six-furlong \$55,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for three-year-old fillies, by four lengths under Manuel Franco in a sparkling final time of 1:12.88. The fact that she won only her second career start easily in a time faster than Lulu Rocksø all-out allowance victory half an hour earlier suggests that she might have a promising future.

Bruce Brown trains Lakeside Sunset, a daughter of Bellamy Road out of Sadlerø Sarah by Wayne County who was bred by Carol Kaye, James Boyce and Jeanne Baker, and sold for \$52,000 at the 2013 Saratoga Yearling Sale.

Bet down to even-money in her debut on February 8, Lakeside Sunset was a solid second by a length.

Lakeside Sunset came out running Sunday, taking a half-length lead over 7-1 **Tricky Zippy** through a :23.24 opening quarter. Lakeside Sunset increased her lead to a length and a half through a :47.33 half-mile and then widened on her rivals.

Camille's Storm finished second at 11-1 odds, three-quarters of a length ahead of Tricky Zippy. **Kathy's Humor**, the 2-1 second choice, was another 3 ½ lengths back in fourth.

Lakeside Sunset has already earned \$44,000 in her two starts.

Obviously benefitting from a sprint return with blinkers added, David Cramer's five-year-old New York-bred mare **Neptune Road** stretched out to a route and won a mile-and-70-yard \$20,000 open \$10,000 claimer wire-to-wire by three lengths at 10-1 odds under Jeremy Rose in a final time of 1:48.09. Karl Grusmark trains Neptune Road, a daughter of Fusaichi Pegasus out of Kevin's Decision by Expensive Decision who was bred by Nustar Breeding.

Making her first start since finishing second in a route try at Finger Lakes on November 20, Neptune Road finished ninth in a sprint on March 13 under Rose at 28-1 odds at Aqueduct.

Neptune Road broke alertly from the two post Sunday, opening a length-and-a-half lead on Taylor Jagger, the even-money favorite under Irad Ortiz, Jr. who was adding blinkers. **My Golden Girl**, a New York-bred who went off at 29-1 odds under Taylor Rice, was a close third through a :24.80 first quarter.

Neptune Road's lead reached two lengths after a :50.18 half-mile, and she began to draw away as Taylor Jagger advanced into second and tried to get closer. She couldn't. Neptune Road led by four lengths after three-quarters in 1:15.97, and coasted home an easy winner. Taylor Jagger held on for second, a head in front of another New York-bred, 7-2 **Maxana**. Hoopskirt finished fourth at 12-1 odds.

Neptune Road's victory was her sixth in 22 starts with four seconds and one third, and upped his earnings to just under \$90,000.