

New York-Breds at the Races: May 20 & 21

By Bill Heller

Invasion Point Gets the Job Done at 6-5 Odds on the Grass

Patiently ridden by Javier Castellano, My Purple Haze Stables' four-year-old New York-bred gelding **Invasion Point** took command late and drew off to win a six-furlong \$28,000 conditional \$16,000 grass claimer Thursday at Belmont Park by 3 ½ lengths as the 6-5 favorite in the field of six.

There was as much action before the race as during it. First, New York-bred longshot **Roaring Seasons** was a late scratch. Then both 3-1 Face and 5-2 New York-bred **Super Nicky** busted through the starting gate early. Face was apprehended by an outrider while Super Nicky simply stopped on his own. Both horses were cleared to race and reloaded in the gate.

Boss Daddy, a 13-1 longshot on the rail ridden by Jose Ortiz, Super Nicky, ridden by Junior Alvarado, and Invasion Point all broke sharply. Boss Daddy took a narrow lead over Invasion Point, who was three-wide outside Super Nicky through a :22.60 first quarter. Then both Invasion Point and Super Nicky went past Boss Daddy, with Invasion Point taking a short lead on the outside of Super Nicky through a :46.35 half-mile.

Invasion Point then struck the lead and went on to win by himself in a final time of 1:11.57. Super Nicky saved second, 2 ¼ lengths clear of 6-1 Billypaysthebills in third. New York-bred **Campion Lane**, who went off at 15-1 odds with Fernando Jara aboard, rallied from last to finish a distant fourth.

Chris Englehart trains Invasion Point, a son of Invasor (ARG) out of Point Clear by Elusive Quality who was bred by Carl Bennett and sold for \$15,000 as a yearling in the fall of 2012. My Purple Haze Stables claimed Invasion Point for \$20,000 on September 17th, when he finished third as the 6-5 favorite.

Invasion Point is now two for eight on dirt with one second and two thirds. He also was off the board in two turf tries and has earned more than \$60,000.

Kendrick Carmouche rallied Louis Zito's four-year-old filly **Talk to Me** from last to a 7 ½-length victory in a \$28,000 conditional \$16,000 claimer Thursday. She went off at 9-2 odds in the field of five, all of them New York-breds, and covered the one-mile distance in 1:40.83.

Don't Blame Her, the 1-5 favorite on the rail under seven-pound apprentice Eric Cancel, edged 6-1 **Over My Head** by a neck for second. **Regifting** was fourth, nearly five lengths behind Over My Head, at 25-1 odds.

Bruce Levine trains Talk to Me, a daughter of A.P. Warrior out of Deer Berry by Deerhound who was bred by Steeplechase Farm. Zito claimed Talk to Me for \$25,000 when she finished second in a one-mile race at Parx on November 8th. Scott Lake trained Talk to Me for her next three starts before the filly changed barns to Bruce Levine's.

Talk to Me was last as Donøt Blame Her set a pressured pace while pushed by Over My Head. Donøt Blame Her led by a length after an opening quarter in :23.91, and by three-quarters of a length after a :47.55 half-mile. By then, Carmouche had rallied Talk to Me into fourth by passing Regifting on the inside.

Around the far turn, Over My Head drew even with Donøt Blame Her as Talk to Me continued to gain while racing three-wide through three quarters in 1:13.17.

Talk to Me flew past both fillies in front of her and drew off to win impressively. Talk to Me is now two for 19 on dirt with seven seconds. She has one second from four grass starts for total earnings of just under \$100,000.

In Thursday's finale, a seven-furlong \$41,000 New York-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer on grass, Goodwin Farms, Guy LaMotta and Louth Racing's three-year-old colt **Kerry Boy** held off **Hushhushmushmush** by three-quarters of a length in a final time of 1:23.81 at 11-1 odds. Wilmer Garcia contributed a fine ride on Kerry Boy, a son of Quiet American out of Chi Chi's Dream by Phone Trick who was bred by Martin Minella and is trained by Gabriel Goodwin.

Kerry Boy was making his turf debut after finishing ninth and third in his first two starts on dirt. Breaking from the eight post in the field of nine, Kerry Boy stalked 33-1 front-runner **Sunny Afternoon**, who was shedding blinkers and was ridden by seven-pound apprentice Eric Cancel. Hushhushmushmush, the 8-5 second choice ridden by Manuel Franco, worked his way into third after a half-mile in :47.59.

Kerry Boy took a narrow lead over Sunny Afternoon after three-quarters in 1:11.60. In the final sixteenth, Hushhushmushmush put the pressure on Kerry Boy, who refused to wilt and held on gamely. Hushhushmushmush finished second, a half-length in front of 7-1 **Dr. K'eogh**. Sunny Afternoon was just another head back in fourth.

Barrel of Love Overcomes Disastrous Start to Win Easily at 2-5 Odds

Michael Dubb, Bethlehem Stable and Gary Aisquith's eight-year-old gelding **Barrel of Love** didn't let a disastrous start prevent him from powering to an impressive five-length victory under Javier Castellano as the 2-5 favorite in a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$65,000 New York-bred grass allowance/optional \$40,000 claimer at Belmont Park Wednesday.

Chad Brown trains the son of Not For Love out of Wide Barrel by Broad Brush who was bred by Tri County Stables. Barrel of Love was making his second start back off a two-month freshening. In his April 15th return in an open mile-and-a-sixteenth grass allowance/optional \$62,500 claimer under Junior Alvarado, he led late before being nosed at 7-2 odds.

With Castellano taking the mount Wednesday and a drop back to state-bred company, Barrel of Love was pounded at the betting windows in the field of seven.

But when the gates opened, he fell to his knees and nearly hit the ground. Castellano kept his balance, got Barrel of Love straightened out and didn't panic despite breaking last, gradually getting Barrel of Love into the race.

On the front end, Luis Saez had taken control with 4-1 **Goodtolook**. **Blue Pigeon** chased in second, **Mark My Way** was third and **Majestic Raffy** raced in fourth through a quarter-mile in :24.64 and a half-mile in :48.50. By then, Barrel of Love had advanced into fifth.

Goodtolook took a two-length lead through three-quarters in 1:12.38 and headed into the far turn in control. But Barrel of Love quickly ranged up on the extreme outside and went after the front-runner.

Once out of the turn, Barrel of Love hit another gear and blew past Goodtolook to win going away in a final time of 1:44.31. Majestic Raffy rallied to finish second, three-quarters of a length ahead of Goodtolook. **Elroi** was just another length back in fourth.

Barrel of Love's victory was his seventh in 40 turf starts with nine seconds and six thirds. He also has five out-of-the-money finishes on dirt for total earnings of more than \$350,000.

Following Barrel of Love's last-to-first victory in Wednesday's featured race, Susan Harris's four-year-old filly **Celtic Sunrise**, the 2-1 favorite in the field of seven, rallied from last to win a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$60,000 New York-bred maiden special weight on the grass by three-quarters of a length under Joel Rosario in a final time of 1:43.07.

Front-running **Outtacypresshills**, who went off at 8-1 odds under Kendrick Carmouche, was a game second, a length ahead of 5-2 **Isthatallthereis** in third. **Fredaq** finished fourth at odds of 3-1.

Christophe Clement trains Celtic Sunrise, a daughter of Freud out of Uppity by Colony Light who was bred by Brian Moran and sold for \$50,000 as a yearling at Saratoga in 2012. She was third in her only start as a two-year-old last June 6th at 5-1 odds with Irad Ortiz, Jr. aboard.

On Wednesday, Outtacypresshills held a clear lead over Fredaq through a quarter-mile in :24.49 and a half-mile in :49.35. Celtic Sunrise was still last as Outtacypresshills hit three-quarters in 1:13.33.

Then Celtic Sunrise kicked in and roared down the center of the course. Outtacypresshills dug in, but couldn't hold on.

Jockey Luis Saez sent Mark Valentine's three-year-old colt **Ex Ex Ex** to the lead, and he won his grass debut wire-to-wire by 2 ½ lengths at 14-1 odds in a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$60,000 New York-bred maiden special weight on the grass at Belmont Park Wednesday afternoon.

Gary Contessa trains the son of Read the Footnotes out of Stelluchella by Honor Grades, who was bred by Sequel Thoroughbreds and A. Lakin & Sons and sold for \$52,000 as a two-year-old last year. Ex Ex Ex had raced four times previously on dirt. In maiden special weights, he finished seventh and 11th. Contessa added blinkers and dropped Ex Ex Ex into a maiden \$40,000 claimer and he finished a tiring seventh and then a much-improved, front-running second under seven-pound apprentice Eric Cancel.

On Wednesday, Contessa switched Ex Ex Ex to grass and changed riders to Saez, who is 11th nationally in jockey earnings and extremely adept on turf.

Assigned the five post in the field of nine, he broke sharply and out-quickened the rail horse, 3-1 **Apollo Eleven** ridden by Jose Ortiz, to the front through a pedestrian :25.70 opening quarter. **Lotza Heat**, who went off at 6-1 odds with the nation's leading jockey, Javier Castellano, was a close third on the outside of Apollo Eleven as Saez got away with a glacial half-mile in :51.32.

Ex Ex Ex extended his lead to 2 ½ lengths, hitting three quarters in 1:15.83 as Apollo Eleven and Lotza Heat duled for second behind him.

Ex Ex Ex remained strong on the front end and won by himself in a final time of 1:44.22. Apollo Eleven finished second, two lengths ahead of Lotza Heat in third. Not far behind Lotza Heat, **Memories of Peter**, the 4-5 favorite under Jose Lezcano, got up for fourth after rallying from last.

With consummate ease, owner/trainer David Jacobson's striking 7-year-old New York-bred gray mare **Rock N Cozy** wired three rivals, taking a six-furlong \$26,000 conditional \$14,000 claimer under Angel Cruz by 7 ½ lengths in a final time of 1:12.23 as the 1-5 favorite.

The complexion of the race changed dramatically when the only non-New York-bred in the field of five, the 3-5 favorite Iknewweretrouble, acted up in the starting gate, appearing to injure an assistant starter. Jockey Jose Ortiz appeared uninjured, but Iknewweretrouble was scratched.

Seizing the opportunity, Cruz gunned Rock N Cozy to the lead from the two post. **My Golden Girl**, who went off at 30-1 odds from the rail under Angel Arroyo, tried to keep up but couldn't. Once Rock N Cozy cleared My Golden Girl, she steadily increased her lead to three lengths after a half-mile in :48.03, then by a gaping margin at the end. **Bella Fachi**, who went off at 2-1 odds under Fernando Jara, rallied for second, a length and a half ahead of 15-1 **Sharpandwitty**.

Rock N Cozy is a daughter of Rockport Harbor out of Sari by Cozzene who was bred by Lawrence Goichman. Jacobson claimed Rock N Cozy last October 24, when she won a \$40,000 claimer by a length. Jacobson lost her when she was claimed by Abigail Adsit for \$50,000 on January 15, then claimed her back for \$12,500 when she ran fourth on April 2.

Jacobson switched Rock N Cozy to grass, and she finished fourth in a \$50,000 claimer in her previous start on May 7. He switched her back to dirt and dropped her considerably Wednesday.

Rock N Cozy is now two for 23 on dirt with six seconds and seven thirds. She also has three seconds and four thirds from 16 turf tries, for total earnings of more than \$230,000.