

New York-Breds at the Races: November 25 to 29

By Bill Heller

Loki's Vengeance Edges Geaux Mets and Empire Dreams in the Thunder Rumble Sunday

Blue Bison Stable's four-year-old colt **Loki's Vengeance** rallied on the outside under Jose Ortiz to win Sunday's seven-furlong \$125,000 Thunder Rumble Division of the New York Stallion Stakes Series by a half-length over **Geaux Mets** and **Empire Dreams** in a final time of 1:24.13 at Aqueduct. The gray gelding Geaux Mets was second, a nose ahead of Empire Dreams. Front-running **Readthebyline** finished fourth, two lengths behind Empire Dreams.

Loki's Vengeance was sent off at odds of 3-1, Geaux Mets went off at 7-1 odds, Empire Dreams was the 3-2 favorite and Readthebyline was 6-1 on the rail in the field of seven.

Mike Hushion trains Loki's Vengeance, a son of Frost Giant out of Subtle Sweetness by During who was bred by Andrew Cohen. Loki's Vengeance was dropping off a sixth-place finish in the \$150,000 Hudson Handicap on New York-Bred Showcase Day October 24th at Belmont Park.

Carmouche hustled Readthebyline to the lead, and Geaux Mets took second on the outside of Loki's Vengeance in third. After a quarter-mile in :23.38 and a half-mile in :46.68, Geaux Mets went after Readthebyline two-wide while Loki's Vengeance advanced three-wide around the far turn.

Geaux Mets wrested the lead from Readthebyline as Loki's Vengeance continued his rally and Empire Dreams finally got into full gear late. Loki's Vengeance struck the lead inside the sixteenth pole and held on for the stakes victory.

“Jose rode him just right,” Hushion said after the race. Ortiz returned the compliment, saying, “The horse was 100 percent ready.”

Loki's Vengeance is now six for 17 in his career with four seconds, two thirds and more than \$390,000 in earnings.

Michael Dubb, Bethlehem Stables, Michael Imperio and David Simon's three-year-old colt **Drama King** held off **Readtheprospectus** by a neck under Javier Castellano in a \$59,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$40,000 claimer Sunday at Aqueduct. He covered the one-mile distance in 1:38.30. Drama King was the 8-5 favorite and Readtheprospectus was sent off at odds of 3-1 under Kendrick Carmouche in the field of six.

Gerald Reid bred Drama King, a son of Nobiz Like Shobiz out of Winters Bell by Winter Glitter who sold for \$13,000 as a two-year-old in 2014. He was also dropping out of the Hudson Handicap, in which he finished fourth at 42-1 odds, beating Loki's Vengeance, who was sent off at odds of 8-1 that day.

Drama King raced in third early as 22-1 **Testosterstone** dueled with **One Sided**, the 9-5 second choice who was adding blinkers, through a quarter in :24.78, a half-mile in :48.95 and three-quarters in 1:14.20. Drama King pounced on both of them in mid-stretch, then held off Readtheprospectus. Testosterstone finished third, 3 ½ lengths behind Readtheprospectus while a half-length ahead of One Sided in fourth.

Drama King is now four for 14 with three seconds, a pair of thirds and earnings topping \$180,000.

In a 6 ½-furlong \$55,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for two-year-old fillies Sunday, Newman Racing's homebred **Absatootly**, who had finished second at 11-1 odds in her debut, rolled to a 2 ¼-length, gate-to-wire victory under Jose Ortiz. Sent off at 5-2 odds from the two post, Absatootly won in a final time of 1:19.88.

Charlie Baker trains Absatootly, a son of Mineshaft out of So N So by Freud. He took the lead immediately from the two post, led 11-1 first-time starter **One Sharp Cat** narrowly through a :47.79 half-mile, then opened daylight in the stretch. He won handily over 5-1 **Riot Worthy**, his uncoupled stablemate in Baker's barn.

Another firster, 19-1 **Time Squared**, finished third, a length and three-quarters behind Riot Worthy. **Bea Bea** was a distant fourth at 5-2 odds.

In just two starts, Absatootly has earned \$44,000.

Before the start of Sunday's finale, a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$55,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for two-year-olds on the grass, Acqua Nova Stable's **E.J.'s Legacy**, who would go off the 5-2 second choice in the field of 12, took off galloping full speed in his warm-up with jockey Junior Alvarado. A very alert outrider quickly came over to calm E.J.'s Legacy down. Then E.J.'s Legacy went out and won the race by a head over **Yummy Bear** in a final time of 1:47.08. **Ranger's Coming** finished third, a half-length behind Yummy Bear while a half-length clear of **There Goes Ben** in fourth. Yummy Bear was sent off at odds of 4-1, Ranger's Coming went off at 2-1 odds and There Goes Ben was 25-1.

Barry Ostrager bred E.J.'s Legacy, a son of Freud out of Jb's Golden Regret by Banker's Gold who sold for \$19,000 in 2013. In his debut on November 1st in a six-furlong grass sprint, he rallied from 12th to finish second by a half-length under Angel Cruz for trainer Linda Rice.

Soon after the start, 46-1 first-time starter **Celtic Serenade** dumped jockey Aaron Gryder. E.J. Legacy was well back as four horses went for the early lead: 50-1 **Courageous Colonel**, who was adding blinkers and Lasix; 7-1 **Potentially**, who broke from the extreme outside post; Yummy Bear; and 25-1 **Hopper Dropper**.

After a half-mile in :50.20 and three-quarters in 1:15.47, Potentially took a brief lead before tiring. Yummy Bear rallied on the outside while E.J. Legacy got through on the hedge. E.J. Legacy just got up late.

E.J. Legacy has already earned \$45,000 in two starts.

Jose Ortiz shot Epona Racing Stable, Clyde X. Jasinski and The Horse Game Stable's three-year-old New York-bred gelding **No Texting** to the lead, and he wired eight opponents by 2 ¼ lengths in a one-mile \$40,000 conditional \$35,000 claimer on the grass Sunday. Sent off the 5-2 favorite, No Texting won in a final time of 1:38.52.

Bruce Brown trains No Texting, a son of Stormy Atlantic out of My Dinah by Victory Gallop who was bred by Akindale Farm. No Texting was second by a head in his previous start at 7-1 odds in a New York-bred allowance.

No Texting led another New York-bred, 15-1 **Foxhall Drive**, narrowly through a quarter in :23.86, a half-mile in :48.99 and three-quarters in 1:14.12. No Texting then spurred to a three-length lead and won handily. Comes the Dream finished second at 7-2 odds, a head in front of 8-1 Successful Brothers.

No Texting is now two for eight on grass with one second and one third. He also has a win from three dirt starts, for combined earnings of more than \$95,000.

In a six-furlong \$26,000 conditional \$14,000 claimer Sunday, John Moirano, Monty Foss and Steven Wecker's three-year-old New York-bred filly **Dunn Listening** ran down front-running New York-bred **Kitty Ride** to win by 2 ¾ lengths under Javier Castellano in a final time of 1:12.93. Dunn Listening was sent off at 3-1 odds from the rail in the field of seven, and Kitty Ride went off at odds of 6-1 under Pablo Fragoso.

Dunn Listening was bred by Tony and Elizabeth Everard and was purchased for \$30,000 as a two-year-old in April 2014. She is trained by Gary Contessa.

Kitty Ride made the front from the two post and held a clear lead. She led 5-1 **Gabby's Brown** by two lengths after a :23.33 first quarter, then by three. Kitty Ride stretched her cushion to four lengths after a half-mile in :46.87. Dunn Listening had advanced into second by then and she caught Kitty Ride in mid-stretch and drew off, winning handily. Kitty Ride held on for second, a

length and a half ahead of 5-1 New York-bred **Enduring Touch**. Another state-bred, **Over My Head**, who was adding blinkers and went off at 17-1 odds, finished fourth.

Dunn Listening is now two for 12 on dirt with two seconds and a pair of thirds, for earnings of more than \$130,000.

A one-mile \$41,000 New York-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer on the grass produced fireworks on the toteboard Sunday after Jackie Davis rallied Patricia Moseley's homebred three-year-old gelding **Dream Breaker** to a half-length victory over **Holy Week** in a final time of 1:40.34. Dream Breaker was sent off at 54-1 odds and Holy Week went off at odds of 5-1 under Samuel Camacho, Jr. **Brudda Colton**, who also went off at 54-1 odds, finished third under Gabriel Saez, two lengths behind Holy Week, then survived a claim of foul by Davis's brother Dylan on 22-1 **Risky Sour**, who finished fourth. The stewards let the original order of finish stand.

Dream Breaker paid \$111.00 to win and keyed an \$801 exacta, a \$23,709 triple and a superfecta worth \$229,460.

Dream Breaker is a son of Freud out of Silver Surge by Silver Ghost who was making his second start after finishing seventh by 20 ³/₄ lengths at 19-1 odds under Junior Alvarado for trainer Tim Woolley.

Dream Breaker shadowed front-running 8-1 **Secret Scholar**, then took a narrow lead over 13-1 **Longisland Expressway** when Secret Scholar tired after a half-mile in :49.00. Dream Breaker then took off, hitting three-quarters in 1:15.21 with a 2 ¹/₂-length lead and holding on for the victory.

Albert Fried, Jr.'s Homebred Escape to the Moon Wins in Open Company

Albert Fried, Jr.'s homebred, the five-year-old New York-bred gelding **Escape to the Moon**, ran down front-running Do I Amuse You then held off New York-bred **Between the Lines** by a nose to win a six-furlong \$77,000 open allowance race under Manuel Franco Saturday at Aqueduct in a final time of 1:10.34. Escape to the Moon was sent off at odds of 10-1 and Between the Lines went off at 4-1 odds in the field of seven.

Bruce Brown trains Escape to the Moon, a son of Malibu Moon out of Towering Escape by Giant's Causeway whose full-brother, the six-year-old gelding Towering Moon, won a \$67,000 open allowance race Friday by a head at Aqueduct.

Franco got Escape to the Moon away second behind Do I Amuse You and Javier Castellano. Do I Amuse You led Escape to the Moon by a length and a half through a :22.51 first quarter. Escape to the Moon narrowed the front-runner's lead to three-quarters of a length heading into the far turn, then took the lead after a half-mile in :45.85.

Between the Lines rallied strongly under apprentice Eric Cancel, but Escape to the Moon dug in and bravely held him off. Between the Lines settled for second, nearly two lengths ahead of 29-1 Spartiatis in third. New York-bred **Possilicious**, who was sent off at 5-2 odds under Jose Ortiz, finished fourth, 2 ¾ lengths behind Spartiatis.

Escape to the Moon is now four for 18 with six seconds, one third and more than \$250,000 in earnings.

Luis Saez rallied Andrews T and S Racing's three-year-old gelding **All Is Number** along the hedge from seventh in mid-stretch, and he got up in the final stride to beat **Island Therapy** by a nose in a scintillating one-mile \$67,000 New York-bred grass allowance Saturday. **Sonnyandpally** was just another neck back in third, a half-length ahead of **Wicked Freud**. All Is Number won the fantastic four-horse finish in a final time of 1:40.17.

All Is Number was sent off at odds of 6-1, Island Therapy went off at 2-1 odds, Sonnyandpally was 17-1 and Wicked Freud was 7-2 in the field of 10.

Rick Violette trains All Is Number, a son of Bernstein out of Universe by Pulpit who sold for \$70,000 as a yearling at Saratoga in August 2013. All Is Number was stretching out from six furlongs to eight off a rallying sixth at 20-1 odds.

All Is Number was far back early as 12-1 **Gear Jammer** and Javier Castellano set the pace, chased by Sonnyandpally and Angel Arroyo through a :50.97 half-mile and three-quarters in a 1:16.00 crawl.

A whole pack of closers rallied on the outside when Gear Jammer tired, but Saez got through on the inside of the tiring frontrunner and he just got up for the victory.

All Is Number is now one for five on grass and one for six on dirt with one third, for total earnings of a tad under \$100,000.

In his debut on November 7th, Paul Braverman's homebred, the two-year-old New York-bred gelding **Gehrig**, chased a runaway winner, finishing second by 9 ½ lengths in the field of 10. In Saturday's opener, he took the next important step after a promising debut, taking a six-furlong \$65,000 New York-bred maiden special weight by 2 ½ lengths wire-to-wire under Jose Ortiz. Sent off the 7-5 favorite in the field of nine, he won in a final time of 1:11.74.

Gehrig is a son of Ghostzapper out of Captivating Cathy by Forest Wildcat.

Breaking from the two post, Gehrig beat 23-1 **Coach Potenza**, ridden by Luis Saez, to the early lead. Gehrig led Coach Potenza by a half-length after a :23.18 first quarter, and maintained that

margin heading into the far turn. When Coach Potenza tired, 3-1 **Hit It Once More** and 10-1 **Sherry's Miracle** moved up two- and three-wide, respectively.

Gehrig was up to their challenges. He began drawing away after a half-mile in :47.27, and won comfortably. Sherry's Miracle nosed Hit It Once More for second and 13-1 **New York's Zip**, who was adding blinkers, finished fourth, 4 ¾ lengths behind Hit It Once More.

Gehrig has already earned \$50,000 from his first two starts.

Saturday's finale was a mile-and-sixteenth \$65,000 New York-bred maiden special weight on the grass for two-year-old fillies. Dylan Davis rallied Very Un Stable's **Kitty Maddnes** to a half-length victory in a final time of 1:48.92. **Out of Nowhere** finished second under apprentice Eric Cancel, a length in front of **Sophia's Choice** while a length ahead of front-running **Alabama Bound**. Kitty Maddnes was sent off at odds of 4-1, Out of Nowhere went off at 19-1 odds, Sophia's Choice was 2-1 and Alabama Bound was 4-1 in the field of 12.

Will Farish bred Kitty Maddnes, a daughter of Courageous Cat out of Top Value by Mineshaft who sold for \$30,000 as a yearling. Trained by John Morrison, Kitty Maddnes rallied from 10th to finish third by a length and a half under Davis at 58-1 odds in her debut. Just like Gehrig, Kitty Maddnes took the next step Saturday.

Davis settled Kitty Maddnes in fourth as Alabama Bound forged a narrow lead over 7-1 **Preying Mantis**, who was adding blinkers. **Silver Vixen**, who was also adding blinkers and went off at 9-1 odds, wasn't far behind the top pair while racing three-wide in third through a quarter in :24.66 and a pokey half-mile in :51.34.

Alabama Bound put away Preying Mantis and Silver Vixen as Kitty Maddnes made her bid. Kitty Maddnes struck the lead after three-quarters in 1:17.34, then held off fast-finishing Out of Nowhere.

Kitty Maddnes has earned \$45,000 in her first two starts.

Towering Moon Just Gets Up to Win Open Allowance Friday

Michael Dubb, Bethlehem Stables and Gary Aisquith's six-year-old New York-bred gelding **Towering Moon** got up in the final frantic yards under Luis Saez to nip Shaken Not Stirred by a head in a one-mile \$67,000 allowance race at Aqueduct Friday afternoon. Towering Moon went off at 4-1 odds and Shaken Not Stirred was the 9-5 favorite in the field of six.

Albert Fried, Jr. bred Towering Moon, a son of Malibu Moon out of Towering Escape by Giant's Causeway who was claimed by Dubb and partners for \$50,000 when he finished third on May

21st at Belmont Park. Racing for new trainer Rudy Rodriguez, Towering Moon posted two wins, a second and a third from six starts heading into Friday.

Breaking from the outside post, Towering Moon set up three-wide on the outside of 21-1 Backsideofthemoon and 9-1 Coaches Challenge behind the dueling pacesetters, 2-1 Dannieø Deceiver and Shaken Not Stirred. After a quarter in :23.70 and a half-mile in :47.15, Shaken Not Stirred moved for the lead two-wide while Towering Moon rushed up three-wide.

Shaken Not Stirred eventually collared Dannieø Deceiver in mid-stretch as Towering Moon drew ever closer. The two separated themselves from the rest of the field, with Towering Moon inching past Shaken Not Stirred in the final 100 yards. There was a gap of nearly five lengths back to Backsideofthemoon in third. Dannieø Deceiver finished fourth.

Towering Moon improved his dirt record to four for 20 with three seconds and five thirds. On grass, Towering Moon is one for three. Heø now earned more than \$250,000.

In his career debut, Chester and Mary Bromanø homebred, the New York-bred three-year-old filly **Half Dreamin**, ran 10th on grass at 71-1 odds on May 30th. She made her second career start Friday on dirt and she overpowered seven opponents, rallying from fourth under Cornelio Velasquez to a 4 ¼-length victory in a six-furlong \$55,000 New York-bred maiden special weight. Sent off at 7-2 odds in the field of eight, she won in a final time of 1:12.28.

Linda Rice trains Half Dreamin, a daughter of Noonmark out of Boø Dream Catcher by Yes Itø True.

Departing from the two post, Half Dreamin raced in fourth as 5-1 **Aquarius** led narrowly on the rail over 8-1 **Lilikoi** two-wide and 5-2 **Stone Supplier** three-wide. After a first quarter in :22.13 and a half-mile in :46.96, Half Dreamin rushed up to challenge for the lead.

Half Dreamin streaked by the three fillies in front of her in mid-stretch and drew off in an impressive performance. **Paradise Peak** finished second at 7-2 odds, three-quarters of a length in front of Stone Supplier in third. **Rice and Beans** finished fourth at 44-1 odds, two lengths behind Stone Supplier.

After Shooting Star Stableø three-year-old New York-bred colt **The Crocheron Kid** finished a much-improved second by a length in a maiden \$40,000 claimer on the grass at 37-1 odds on November 15th, trainer David Donk moved him up to a one-mile \$55,000 maiden special weight on the grass Friday. Sent off at 11-1 odds under Angel Arroyo, The Crocheron Kid seized the lead immediately from the two post and dusted nine rivals, winning by 2 ½ lengths in a final time of 1:40.65.

Miracle Man Racing Partners bred The Crocheron Kid, a son of Miracle Man out of Five Songs by Forestry. The Crocheron Kid was trained by Billy Turner before being switched to Donkø barn. Trying turf for the first time, he finished seventh in a maiden \$40,000 claimer before posting that strong second with Arroyo aboard. He was even more impressive Friday.

The Crocheron Kid posted splits of :24.56, :50.31 and 1:16.40, with 16-1 **Freedom Seven** and 9-1 **Junger** chasing him from second and third, respectively. The Crocheron Kid had plenty left for his final quarter and he remained strong to the wire. **Tiz a Chance**, who went off at 5-2 odds under Irad Ortiz, Jr., finished second, three-quarters of a length ahead of 8-1 **Cliffs of Dover**. Junger finished fourth.

The Crocheron Kid now has a second and a third from three turf tries. Heø also raced five times on dirt, for total earnings of more than \$45,000.

Rallying in deep stretch under Angel Arroyo, Team Clear Stars Stableø three-year-old gelding **Elusive Talmo** beat favored **Apache Warrior** and Jose Ortiz by three-quarters of a length in a \$41,000 New York-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer Friday, completing the six-furlong distance in 1:11.45. Elusive Talmo was sent off at odds of 5-1 and Apache Warrior went off at 6-5 odds in the field of eight.

Rick Schosberg trains Elusive Talmo, a son of Elusive Quality out of Jesseø Justice by Lear Fan who was bred by Lawrence Goichman and was purchased for \$70,000 as a two-year-old in April 2014. He was making his second start with blinkers added after finishing a late-weakening third as the 2-1 favorite under John Velazquez.

Arroyo settled Elusive Talmo in third while 4-1 **Memory Keeper** and Irad Ortiz, Jr. took a narrow lead over Apache Warrior through a :22.42 first quarter. Apache Warrior moved for the lead heading into the far turn as Elusive Talmo rallied. After a half-mile in :45.52, Apache Warrior led while Elusive Talmo kept coming at him. Elusive Talmo wore him down late for the victory. Apache Warrior finished second, 2 ½ lengths clear of 6-1 **Bustin the Bank**. **Ant and Bee** was just a head behind Bustin the Bank at 14-1 odds.

Elusive Talmo now has a win and two thirds in four dirt starts. Heø also raced five times on turf, for total earnings of more than \$40,000.

Sugar Mags Rallies Late to Win a Maiden Grass Claimer

After finishing a strong rallying second in three straight starts, Thomas Thienel and Monika and Thomas Callananø three-year-old gray filly **Sugar Mags** got the job done on Thanksgiving Thursday at Aqueduct. Rallying from far back under Irad Ortiz, Jr., Sugar Mags won a mile-and-an-eighth \$41,000 maiden \$40,000 claimer on the grass by three-quarters of a length. Sent off the

5-2 second choice from the extreme outside post in the field of 12, Sugar Mags won in a final time of 1:55.01.

Justenufflaughter, a 24-1 shot ridden by Israel Rodriguez, edged 6-1 **Weekend Hottie** and Kendrick Carmouche by a head for second. **Pleasure Cruise**, who went off at 9-2 odds under Angel Arroyo, finished fourth, a length behind Weekend Hottie.

David Donk trains Sugar Mags, a daughter of Cosmonaut out of Whateverwillbwillb by Western Expression who was bred by Michael Spielman.

OK by Me, a 42-1 longshot, and Pleasure Cruise dueled on the front end through a quarter in :24.62 and a half-mile in :50.65. Then **That Warrior Girl**, a 65-1 shot, made a rush to take a narrow lead on Pleasure Cruise, who countered immediately to regain the lead. Pleasure Cruise spurred away to a two-length lead before Justenufflaughter and Weekend Hottie bid for the lead and Sugar Mags, who was still 10th after three-quarters of a mile in 1:16.19, arrived on the scene on the far outside.

Justenufflaughter gained a narrow, brief lead before Sugar Mags flew past her.

Sugar Mags is now one for eight on grass with three seconds and earnings of more than \$50,000.

In Thursday's feature, the 102nd running of the six-furlong \$250,000 Grade 3 Fall Highweight Handicap, Antonino Miuccio's six-year-old New York-bred horse **Palace**, who went off at 7-1 odds under Cornelio Velasquez, finished second by a head to 24-1 wire-to-wire winner Green Gratto. Kendrick Carmouche rode Green Gratto, who carried 124 pounds and won in a final time of 1:09.95. Palace was carrying 133 pounds, yet nearly got the job done with a rally on the rail after Green Gratto set fast fractions: a quarter in :22.29 and a half-mile in :44.71.

Two other New York-breds, the great filly sprinter **La Verdad** and **Captain Serious**, didn't hit the board. La Verdad went off the 9-5 second choice and finished sixth; Captain Serious went off at 9-1 odds in the field of seven and finished last. This was expected to be the last race for both Palace and La Verdad, with the former going to stand at stud and the latter to begin her career as a broodmare.

Wild About Harry Wears Down Elowesael in Grass Allowance Race

It took the length of the stretch, but Edition Farm's homebred **Wild About Harry**, the 4-5 favorite in a field of eight, wore down 9-1 front-runner **Elowesael** and jockey Cornelio Velasquez to capture a \$57,000 New York-bred grass allowance/optional \$75,000 claimer for two-year-old fillies by a half-length at Aqueduct Wednesday. She covered the mile and a sixteenth in 1:49.13.

Tom Bush trains Wild About Harry, a daughter of Henrythenavigator out of Ouchy Night by Cactus Ridge who followed a maiden debut victory with a pair of sevenths in two open-company stakes. She was dropping considerably Wednesday, with a jockey change from Pablo Fragoso to Castellano, who had ridden Wild About Harry in her winning debut.

Velasquez sent Elowesael, who broke from the two post, right to the lead. **Queens Tiara**, who went off at 15-1 odds with John Velazquez aboard, raced in second on her flank with the 8-1 gray **Flatware** in third and Wild About Harry fourth on her outside.

After a :24.10 first quarter, Velasquez got away with an incredibly slow second quarter in :28.04, reaching the half in :52.14 with a one-length lead. Flatware went after Elowesael around the far turn while Wild About Harry gained on them three-wide.

Elowesael put away Flatware, but Wild About Harry kept advancing. Elowesael dug in gamely at mid-stretch to stay narrowly ahead, but Wild About Harry surged again to get the job done in the final 100 yards.

Elowesael finished second, a length and a half ahead of Flatware in third. Queens Tiara finished fourth, a neck behind Flatware.

Wild About Harry is now two for four with earnings topping \$70,000.

In Wednesday's opener, a six-furlong \$55,000 New York-bred maiden special weight, Dream Team One Racing Stable's three-year-old gelding **Chief of State** collared front-running **Miroc** inside the sixteenth pole to win by three-quarters of a length under Cornelio Velasquez. Chief of State, the 5-2 second choice in the field of five, won in a final time of 1:11.95. Miroc was sent off at 7-2 odds under Angel Arroyo.

Aracri Stable & Breeding bred Chief of State, a son of Canadian Frontier out of Cool the Economy by Mazel Trick who is trained by Pat Quick. Chief of State had finished in the money in four straight races heading into Wednesday, when he graduated thanks to a perfectly timed rally under Velasquez.

Miroc out-sprinted **Hunter Cat**, the 6-5 favorite under Manuel Franco, to the early lead while Chief of State settled into third. Miroc led Hunter Cat by three-quarters of a length after an opening quarter in :23.18. He stretched the lead to two lengths, then to three after a half-mile in :46.77 as Chief of State rallied strongly into second.

Chief of State cut into Miroc's lead quickly, drew even and then began pulling away at the wire. Miroc finished second, 6 ¼ lengths clear of Hunter Cat. First-time starter **Gorelli**, who went off at 11-1 odds under Kendrick Carmouche, finished fourth.

Chief of State now has a win, two seconds and a pair of thirds in seven starts, for earnings of more than \$65,000.

Junior Alvarado hustled Thomas Mina's three-year-old filly **First Charmer** to the lead then rated her beautifully on the front end, and they never had an anxious moment, taking a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$55,000 New York-bred maiden special weight on the grass by two lengths. Sent off at 5-1 odds in the field of 11, she won in a final time of 1:45.82.

Bill Mott trains First Charmer, a daughter of Smart Strike out of Southern Charmer by Dixie Union who had finished in the money three straight, including a late-weakening second by a length from the 11 post in her previous start. She moved inside eight spots Wednesday and took control of the race immediately.

Chased by 4-1 **Madison Blues** and Javier Castellano in second, First Charmer led by two lengths after a :24.13 first quarter, but by just three-quarters of a length after a half-mile in :49.32. Madison Blues got within a neck of First Charmer after three-quarters in 1:14.64, but Alvarado had a ton of horse left. First Charmer spurted away in early stretch, led by four lengths in mid-stretch and cruised home an easy winner.

Sweet Advance, who went off at 10-1 odds under Luis Saez, finished second, a length and a half clear of 7-1 **Congress Park**, ridden by apprentice Eric Cancel. **Broken Border**, a 9-1 shot ridden by Manuel Franco, was just another half-length back in fourth.

First Charmer is now one for four on turf with one second. She also has a second and a third from three dirt races, for total earnings of more than \$70,000.

Saving ground every step of the way under Luis Saez, Alfred Kowalewski and Wachtel Stable's five-year-old gelding **Chapman** edged **Pegasus Red** and Dylan Davis by a head Wednesday in a \$47,000 New York-bred \$25,000 claimer, covering the six and a half furlongs in 1:18.76. Chapman was sent off at odds of 2-1 and Pegasus Red went off at 7-1 odds in the field of six.

Chris Englehart trains Chapman, a son of Stanislavsky out of Redheaded Girl by Scarlet Ibis who was bred by Merrylegs Farm North.

Sol the Freud, who went off at 3-1 odds under Manuel Franco, and **American Creed**, Chapman's uncoupled stablemate in Englehart's barn who also went off at 2-1 odds under Irad Ortiz, Jr., dueled on the front end with Chapman in third and Pegasus Red fourth. Sol the Freud led American Creed by a length through an opening quarter of :23.90, and by a half-length around the far turn as Pegasus Red rallied on the far outside and Chapman gained ground on the rail through a :47.72 half-mile.

American Creed took a head lead on Sol the Freud at the top of the stretch, but the game frontrunner responded immediately and re-took a short lead as both Chapman and Pegasus Red made it four across the track. Both Chapman on the rail and Pegasus Red on the far outside cleared Sol the Freud and American Creed in deep stretch, with Chapman holding off Pegasus

Red narrowly in the final, frantic yards. Sol the Freud finished third, a length and three-quarters behind Pegasus Red while three-quarters of a length ahead of American Creed.

Chapman is now five for 27 with seven seconds, three thirds and earnings topping \$300,000.