

New York-Breds at the Races: November 30 to December 6

By Bill Heller

Willet Wins Another Stakes in the Mud Friday at Aqueduct

Trainer Jim Iselin and Charlotte Assoulin and Eli Gindi's wonderful mare **Willet** toyed with five opponents at Aqueduct Friday afternoon, rolling to a 4 ½-length victory over **Miss Valentine** in the 7 ½-furlong \$100,000 The Touch of Love Stakes for New York-bred fillies. Sent off the 1-2 favorite in the field of six, Willet won in 1:32.12 under Angel Arroyo on a muddy track.

Willet, a four-year-old daughter of Jump Start out of Katina K by Distinctive Pro, bred by Michael Martin, improved her career record to seven wins in 15 starts with five seconds and one third, for earnings of nearly half a million dollars.

In her prior start, Willet finished fourth in the Grade II Go for Wand Handicap. In her last start on a wet track in the \$150,000 Iroquois Stakes on Oct. 20, 2012, Willet won by 9 ¼ lengths over Miss Valentine, who went off the 4-1 second choice Friday, on a muddy track at Belmont Park.

Arroyo let Willet settle into fourth early as 34-1 **Erin Enchanted** and 5-1 **Harbor Mist** scrimmaged on the front end. Arroyo moved Willet up on the outside heading into the far turn and she gained on the leaders quickly.

Miss Valentine, ridden by Irad Ortiz, Jr., followed that move to gain into second, but couldn't get near Willet through the stretch. Harbor Miss finished third.

WellSpring Stables' four-year-old favored filly **Royal Suspicion** rallied under Rosario Montanez to win a one-mile \$69,000 New York-bred allowance by a length over longshot **Victoryat Last** in a final time of 1:40.97 Friday afternoon at Aqueduct. Royal Suspicion went off the slight 2-1 favorite in the field of six, while Victoryat Last was 15-1.

Royal Suspicion, a daughter of Raffie's Majesty out of Shady Lane by Peaks and Valleys, was bred by Majesty Stud and is trained by Jim Ryerson. She had finished in the money in five consecutive starts, including a dead heat for second in her previous race.

Typhoon Teri, a 9-1 shot, led early with 4-1 **Stock Fund** pushing him on the outside and Royal Suspicion perched three-wide through a half-mile in :49.21.

Royal Suspicion ranged up on the outside to take the lead while Victoryat Last rallied into contention past three-quarters in 1:15.11. Royal Suspicion maintained his lead to the wire. **Hot Splash**, the 5-2 third choice, rallied for third and **Great Gracie Dane**, the 2-1 second choice, finished fourth.

Royal Suspicion's victory was her fifth in 26 dirt starts with nine seconds, four thirds and earnings of just under \$260,000.

It took a while for Irad Ortiz, Jr. to get Howard Whitbred's favored four-year-old gelding **Sunnysider** going, but once he did he ran down 15-1 longshot **My Teddy Bear** to win a one-mile \$65,000 New York-bred maiden special weight by a length and a half in 1:40.76 on Friday. **Jesses Giant Dunk**, the 8-5 second choice in the field of seven, finished third, a length and a half behind My Teddy Bear.

Sunnysider, a son of Stonesider out of Reign Or Shine by Majesty's Time, was bred by Thinking Cap Stable and is trained by Jimmy Jerkens. He was making his 11th career start, but only his fourth on dirt. He'd finished second and third in his two prior races on grass.

Shot to Win, a 12-1 shot who had blinkers removed, led much of the way with My Teddy Bear a close second through splits of :24.04 and :48.52. Sunnysider was a couple of lengths behind My Teddy Bear in third.

My Teddy Bear made his move for the lead coming out of the far turn and kicked clear through three-quarters in 1:14.63. Sunnysider, who'd moved into second, got going late and took control, drawing away at the end.

MAT Stables's six-year-old New York-bred gelding **Quick Money** overpowered odds-on New York-bred **Notmyfirsttime** to win a 6 ½-furlong \$50,000 conditional \$35,000 claimer by an expanding 3 ½ lengths at Aqueduct Friday afternoon in a final time of 1:19.28. Cornelio Velasquez rode the 7-2 winner for trainer Linda Rice.

The entry of Notmyfirsttime and New York-bred **Sportswriter** went off at 3-5 odds in the field of six.

Lots of Love Mom, an 11-1 longshot, took the early lead with Notmyfirsttime flanked on his outside through a :24.03 quarter and a half in :48.09. Sportswriter moved up on the outside of Quick Money into third around the far turn before tiring badly. Then 3-1 Sokitumi Samurai roared into contention on the far outside.

Notmyfirsttime went past Lots of Love Mom quickly at the top of the stretch, then put away Sokitumi Samurai. But he had no answer for Quick Money, who took over the lead and opened up on the field. Notmyfirsttime saved second and Sokitumi Samurai was third.

Quick Money is a son of City Zip out of What a Price by Repriced, and was bred by Barry Ostrager. His victory was his ninth in 43 career starts with 11 seconds, six thirds and earnings of nearly \$370,000.

Mississippi Duel Wins Again in New York-Bred Grass Allowance

Cagily ridden on the front end by Jose Ortiz, owner/trainer Dale Romans's four-year-old colt **Mississippi Duel** won his second straight race and fourth in his last five starts, scoring by two lengths in a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$67,000 New York-bred grass allowance at Aqueduct Thursday as the slight 5-2 favorite. **Uncle Mitcho**, a 30-1 longshot in the field of 10, finished second, a neck in front of 7-1 **Sunlover**. **Madam I'm Adam**, the 5-2 second choice, was fourth.

Originally trained by Bill Mott, Mississippi Duel won one of five starts as a two-year-old. He didn't return to the races until May 11th of this year. After finishing seventh on a sloppy track, he returned to the turf, where he'd finished fourth in two starts in 2011. He's raced exclusively on grass ever since, taking two straight \$20,000 claimers before getting a near-three-month layoff. He finished a front-running fourth in his return in a New York-bred allowance, then won another \$20,000 claimer.

Though he was stepping up in company Thursday, he ran the best race of his career. Ortiz got him away alertly and he made the lead, chased by Sunlover in second. Mississippi Duel set a slow pace on a course labeled "good": a quarter in :25.13, a half in :50.98 and three-quarters in 1:15.79.

Sunlover went after Mississippi Duel around the far turn, and in early stretch took a narrow lead on Mississippi Duel's outside. Mississippi Duel came back immediately to regain the lead. Behind them, Uncle Mitcho had to wait to find room on the inside. Uncle Mitcho did get loose, but it didn't matter. Mississippi Duel had plenty left to win handily in a final time of 1:47.54.

Mississippi Duel, a colt by Bernstein out of River Nore by Archers Bay, was bred by Christophe Clement and Oak Bluff Stable. He now has three victories and a second in seven turf tries, with earnings of more than \$90,000.

Bran Jam Stable and David Clark's three-year-old New York-bred **Miss Da Point** was game enough to run down odds-on Trail Walker, then hold off longshot Madre Ditutticapi by a head to capture a six-furlong \$55,000 starter allowance/optional \$50,000 claimer by a desperate head Thursday in a final time of 1:11.17. Cornelio Velasquez rode the 7-1 winner for trainer John Toscano. Trail Walker was the 3-5 favorite in the field of seven; Madre Ditutticapi went off at odds of 18-1.

Miss Da Point is a daughter of Strong Contender out of Long Distance Love by Dehere, and was bred by James Roberts.

Trail Walker rushed to the lead as Velasquez settled Miss Da Point in second through a quarter in :23.11. Girl Code made a mid-race brush to engage Trail Walker, who quickly put her away through a :46.18 half. Then Miss Da Point went after the favorite and they battled the length of the stretch. They were joined late by Madre Ditutticapi. Miss Da Point held on barely, a head in front of Madre Ditutticapi, who took second by half a length over Trail Walker.

Miss Da Point improved her record to five wins in 17 dirt starts with one second, two thirds and earnings of more than \$175,000.

In Thursday's opener, trainer Gary Gullo, WAIS Stable, Tony Borusso and Russ Regan's New York-bred favorite **Bridget Moloney** got passed in deep stretch by New York-bred longshot **Looksgoodfromhere**, but came again under C.C. Lopez to win an open \$50,000 allowance/optional \$25,000 claimer for two-year-old fillies by a head in a final time of 1:12.38. Bridget Moloney, who is now two-for-two, went off at 3-2 odds; Looksgoodfromhere was 14-1 under Jose Ortiz in the field of seven.

Bridget Moloney, a daughter of Pollard's Vision out of Margarita Nites by Distorted Humor, bred by Spruce Lane Farm, won an open maiden \$25,000 claimer by seven lengths in her debut on Oct. 24.

Despite being squeezed at the start by With Delite and New York-bred **Kiss Cat**, Bridget Moloney took the early lead Thursday while pressed by yet another New York-bred, 26-1 longshot **House Red**.

Bridget Moloney got the quarter in :22.68 and the half in :46.60, and seemed headed to victory when Looksgoodfromhere came flying down the middle of the track.

Looksgoodfromhere passed Bridget Moloney, but she came right back to win. My Jimmy Chew Girl, the 2-1 second choice, rallied strongly from last to finish third, two lengths behind Looksgoodfromhere.

NY-Breds Spa City Fever, Compliance Officer Win Rich Open Allowance Races

Wednesday was a great day for seven-year-old New York-bred geldings at Aqueduct. La Marca Stable's **Compliance Officer** won the featured grass allowance after trainer David Jacobson and Drawing Away Stable's **Spa City Fever** took an allowance on dirt. Both horses, who have combined earnings of more than \$1.1 million, won convincingly.

Benefitting from a super ride by Javier Castellano, Compliance Officer won a one-mile \$79,000 allowance/optional \$62,500 claimer on turf by three lengths over Cheyenne Nation in a final time of 1:37.75 over a course labeled "good."

Compliance Officer, who was dropping from three consecutive stakes tries, went off at 9-2 odds in the field of 10. Castellano tucked Compliance Officer in second as another New York-bred, double-digit longshot **Mia Poppy**, went out winging on the lead under Luis Saez. At one point, Mia Poppy opened a six-length lead on Compliance Officer.

Heading into the far turn, Mia Poppy's lead evaporated as Compliance Officer made his move.

Compliance Officer opened a clear lead through three-quarters in 1:14.25, then raced his final quarter in a strong :23.50 to score by three lengths over Cheyenne Nation. Another New York-bred, **Royal Blessing**, finished third.

Compliance Officer's victory was his 12th in 31 grass starts with six seconds and four thirds, for earnings of more than \$670,000. A son of Officer out of Purple Hills by Dynaformer, Compliance Officer was bred by Ken and Sarah Ramsey and is trained by Bruce Brown.

Earlier Wednesday, **Spa City Fever** overpowered front-running Regulus in mid-stretch and drew off to win a seven-furlong \$76,000 allowance/optional \$100,000 claimer by 2 ½ lengths in a sparkling time of 1:22.39. The victory was Spa City Fever's second straight in open allowance company and pushed his earnings to nearly half a million dollars.

Junior Alvarado, a replacement for David Cohen, who took off all his mounts Wednesday, rode the son of Roaring Fever out of Lady Di Huntley by Shuailaan, who was bred by Adam Madkour.

Jacobson and Drawing Away claimed Spa City Fever for \$62,500 when he finished a front-running fourth on a sloppy track April 12. Spa City Fever won an allowance/optional \$75,000 claimer in his first start for his new connections, then posted a close second, four fourths and a fifth in six stakes tries. Dropped back to allowance company in his last start, he won handily.

Regardless, he went off the 3-1 third choice in the field of five Wednesday. New York-bred **Johannesburg Smile**, making his first start since late March, was the slight 9-5 favorite over Farhaan, who also went off at odds of 9-5. Honorable Dillon was 4-1 and Regulus 14-1.

Regulus and Spa City Fever broke sharply, with Regulus taking a short lead and Spa City Fever a close second. There was a two-length gap to the other three through a quarter in :23.20 and a half in :46.09. Spa City Fever went after Regulus around the far turn and didn't waste time going by him to take a clear lead. Spa City Fever continued on strongly, hitting three-quarters in 1:09.88 and winning comfortably. Honorable Dillon got up for second. Farhaan was third, Regulus fourth and Johannesburg Smile last.

Spa City Fever now has eight wins, five seconds and eight thirds from 42 starts.

Junior Alvarado rallied Whisper Hill Farm's three-year-old filly **Run to Mama** to a three-quarter-length victory Wednesday in a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$67,000 New York-bred allowance race on the grass over a course labeled "good." **Rebellious Chic** nipped heavily favored **The Lady Said Yes** for second. Run to Mama was 7-1, Rebellious Chic 17-1 and The Lady Said Yes 6-5.

Miracleonbroadway, a 94-1 bomb ridden by Phil Teator, set an extremely slow pace: :26.06, :52.66 and three-quarters in 1:17.59. Rebellious Chic, **Image of Noon** and Run to Mama moved on the front-runner around the far turn as the entire field bunched up.

Rebellious Chic emerged from the pack with a two-length lead as Run to Mama rallied closer. The Lady Said Yes, racing outside of the top two, finally kicked in to challenge. Run to Mama held them both off, winning in a final time of 1:48.14. Rebellious Chic saved second by a nose.

Run to Mama, a daughter of Cherokee Run out of Behrly Mine by Behrens, was bred by Edition Farm and is trained by John Kimmel. Her victory was her second in her last three starts.

Benefitting from an excellent ride by Luis Saez, Hibiscus Stables' three-year-old New York-bred filly **Your Time Is Up** scored a 14-1 upset, gamely winning a six-furlong \$39,000 conditional \$35,000 claimer Wednesday by a neck over Off My Cloud in a final time of 1:11.71. Another New York-bred, 7-1 **Yampa River**, edged The Royal Boot for third. Saez replaced David Cohen.

Your Time Is Up, a daughter of Freud out of Time for a Buck by Damascus, bred by Hidden Lake Farm and trained by Rick Violette, was making her first start in open company off a badly tiring seventh and a freshening.

Your Time Is Up, 3-1 The Royal Boot, 2-1 favorite Evasive Cat and 5-1 Queen Nine all broke sharply from the gate. Saez took his filly back to fourth and let the other three battle through a fast :22.30 opening quarter and a half in :46.06.

Saez took Your Time Is Up four-wide on the far turn, and she passed the three fillies in front of her, opening a length-and-a-half lead past mid-stretch. Then Off My Cloud took her shot, and she gained on Your Time Is Up quickly. Your Time Is Up, though, dug in and held on. She now has two victories and one second in eight starts, with earnings topping \$100,000.

Mark Valentine's **Margaret Ownzit** made a strong brush to the lead in mid-stretch and went on to a 2 ¼-length victory in a six-furlong \$32,000 New York-bred maiden \$25,000 claimer for two-year-old fillies Wednesday. Sent off the 5-2 favorite in a field of nine, she was making her second start after being claimed by Valentine for \$20,000. Gary Contessa trains the daughter of Utopia (JPN) out of Sunrise At Six by Salt Lake, who was bred by Gabrielle Farm.

Margaret Ownzit got away fifth as **Recovered**, a 6-1 shot who added blinkers, set a reasonable pace, pressed by 9-2 **Possetivevibration** and another 6-1 shot, **Lucky Nancy E**. Rallying four wide under Wilmer Garcia, Margaret Ownzit stormed to the lead as Possetivevibration was shut off on the inside and had to wait for room. Possetivevibration split Recovered and Lucky Nancy E., but Margaret Ownzit had a comfortable cushion in front, winning in a final time of 1:12.84.

Margaret Ownzit improved her record to one win, one second and two thirds in six starts.

Bake Shop Edges Favored Go Get the Basil in Allowance Race Sunday

Seemingly beaten in mid-stretch, Blue Top Holdings Stable's **Bake Shop** got up on the inside to nip favored **Go Get the Basil** in a one-mile \$69,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$25,000 claimer at Aqueduct Sunday afternoon. **Bernardo** was third, just a neck behind Go Get the Basil.

Though he had finished in the money in eight of nine starts this year, including a third at 4-1 odds in his last start, Bake Shop was sent off at 9-1 on Sunday beneath Cornelio Velasquez. His lone finish out of the money was a ninth in a restricted stakes. Go Get the Basil was sent off at 8-5 and Bernardo 7-2.

Bake Shop is a four-year-old gelding by Patriot Act out of the Pulpit mare Sugar Cookie, bred by Will Farish and BCWT LTD and trained by John Vasquez.

Dan's Gold, a 24-1 longshot, led the field of 11 through a quarter in :23.06 and a half in :46.08. **Ultimate Empire**, who went off at 9-2 from the outside post in the field of 11, Go Get the Basil and Bake Shop were in close pursuit through three-quarters in 1:10.83.

Go Get the Basil emerged with a short lead in mid-stretch while Bake Shop gained on his inside and Bernardo moved up on his outside. Velasquez got Bake Shop up in the final strides, completing the mile in 1:36.63.

Bake Shop's victory was his fourth in 13 dirt starts with two seconds and five thirds. He has earned more than \$145,000.

Trainer David Jacobson and Richard Abrams' three-year-old New York-bred filly **Start It Up** lived up to her even-money odds Sunday, taking a six-furlong \$25,000 conditional \$12,500 claimer by 2 ½ lengths in a final time of 1:12.34. David Cohen rode the three-year-old filly, who was claimed by her current connections for \$35,000 when she finished fifth at Saratoga.

In her first three starts for Jacobson and Abrams, the daughter of Jump Start out of All of Me by Unbridled's Song, bred by Stephen Peskoff, finished third by a neck, sixth and second.

Start It Up got away fifth as Colorme Kitten, the 3-1 second choice in the field of nine, led through a quarter of :23.06. Start It Up moved up to second and continued to gain through a half in :47.15. She took the lead readily, opened a comfortable lead and won handily. Blue Ballerina finished second.

Start It Up now has two wins, two seconds and a third from nine starts, with earnings of just under \$70,000.

In another six-furlong \$25,000 conditional \$12,500 claimer on Sunday, Jonathan Zayas guided Guyana Rocky's three-year-old New York-bred colt **Sneaky Freud** to a length-and-a-half victory over favored El Oh El in a final time of 1:11.65. Sneaky Freud was sent off at 5-1 odds, and El Oh El was 8-5.

Sneaky Freud raced in third and then fourth early behind front-running 30-1 longshot Two More Jacs through a half in :46.70.

Sneaky Freud moved up on the far turn, took the lead in mid-stretch and held off El Oh El for his second career victory in 14 starts, with four seconds and a pair of thirds. Randy Persaud trains the son of Freud out of Aqualung by Geiger Counter, who was bred by Mrs. James Moseley.

Captain Gaughen Noses Out Campogiovanni in Saturday Allowance

Patricia Generazio's homebred, gray three-year-old colt **Captain Gaughen** took the lead in mid-stretch, then held off fast-finishing **Campogiovanni** by a nose to win a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$67,000 New York-bred allowance race on the grass Saturday at Aqueduct. Both horses went off at 4-1 odds in the field of 10.

Captain Gaughen had finished second and third in a pair of New York-bred stakes before finishing eighth twice in this allowance company. Jockey Jose Lezcano kept the mount for trainer Jim Ryerson.

Captain Gaughen sat a close second on front-running **Mister Dooley's** outside through a :49.15 half-mile. Lezcano asked Captain Gaughen for a bit more around the far turn and he went right by Mister Dooley and opened a three-length lead. Past the mile in 1:39.71, Captain Gaughen had only one legitimate threat: Campogiovanni, who was ridden by Luis Saez.

Captain Gaughen dug in and held on by the narrowest of margins, winning in 1:46.15 on a turf course labeled "good." Campogiovanni finished three lengths clear of 25-1 **Irish Jade** in third. **Mr Algebra** rallied to be fourth.

A son of Disco Rico out of V for Vera by Concorde's Tune, Captain Gaughen improved his grass record to two victories, one second and three thirds in nine starts, with more than \$120,000 in the bank. He is zero-for-five on dirt.

Trainer Jim Iselin, Robert Kaufman and Jeffrey Schechter's four-year-old colt **Crafty Dreamer** dominated nine opponents Saturday, taking a seven-furlong \$62,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$14,000 claimer by 4 ½ lengths under Angel Arroyo as the 8-5 favorite in a final time of 1:23.60.

Crafty Dreamer is a four-year-old colt by War Front out of Love Doll by Crafty Prospector who was bred by Iselin. He had one win, three seconds and a third in six starts before Saturday.

Leaving from the outside 10 post, Crafty Dreamer got away in fifth, then moved up to fourth as 18-1 longshot **Joe Mooch** led through a :22.93 first quarter. **Cay to Pomeroy**, the 4-1 third choice, was second and 50-1 **Carson Bandit** ran in third through a half in :46.30.

Crafty Dreamer made a wide sweep on the far turn and took control. He drew off through the stretch to win handily. **Here Comes Tommy** edged Joe Mooch by three-quarters of a length for second.