

New York-Breds at the Races: October 17 to 23

By Bill Heller

My Super Nova Holds Off Sonora to Break Her Maiden

R.A. Hill Stable's **My Super Nova**, the 3-5 favorite under Joel Rosario, survived pressure the entire length of the stretch from first-time starter **Sonora**, the 5-1 second choice under Junior Alvarado, to win a six-furlong \$60,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for two-year-old fillies by a short head in a final time of 1:11.94 on a sloppy track at Belmont Park Thursday afternoon.

First Service finished third at 10-1 odds, seven lengths behind Sonora, and 14-1 **Moondance Joy** was fourth in the field of 12.

George Weaver trains My Super Nova, a daughter of Super Saver out of Reforestation by Forestry who was bred by SF Racing and sold for \$100,000 at last year's August Saratoga Yearling Sale.

My Super Nova debuted at Saratoga, finishing second by a neck in a sharp effort at 5-2 odds. She then finished a distant second in the \$147,000 Joseph A. Gimma Stakes as the 2-1 favorite. Bettors made her odds-on Thursday, and the only other filly who took serious action at the windows was Sonora, who broke from the 11 post.

My Super Nova shot to the lead immediately from the six post, as First Service settled in second on the outside and Sonora raced a close third through an opening quarter in :22.63.

My Super Nova took the field into the far turn narrowly ahead of both First Service, racing two-wide, and Sonora three-wide.

My Super Nova kept the lead through a :46.12 half-mile. First Service couldn't keep up, but Sonora did, slowly whittling away at My Super Nova's advantage. Sonora continued to inch closer with every stride in the final 100 yards, but My Super Nova gamely held her off.

My Super Nova now has a win and two seconds in three starts, for earnings topping \$80,000.

Ivery Sisters Racing's two-year-old colt **Gypsum Johnny**, the 6-5 favorite in the field of eight, collared 25-1 longshot **B.B.'s Remington** in mid-stretch Thursday and went on to a five-length victory under Irad Ortiz, Jr. in a \$41,000 two-year-old New York-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer, completing the 6 ½ furlongs in 1:19.33. **H Man**, a first-time starter sent off at 8-1 odds under John Velazquez, rallied to finish second, a half-length ahead of B.B.'s Remington in third.

David Cannizzo trains Gypsum Johnny, a son of City Zip out of Jb's Golden Regret by Banker's Gold who was bred by Barry Ostrager. Gypsum Johnny was dropping into maiden claimers for the first time after finishing fourth and eighth in his first two starts in maiden special weights.

Gypsum Johnny got away fourth from the rail as 3-1 **Jacapo** took a narrow lead over 5-2 **Igotthediscoinme** on his outside. B.B.'s Remington was a close third while racing three-wide.

After a quarter mile in :22.84 and a half-mile in :46.96, B.B.ø Remington made his move and took the lead, opening a two-length advantage at the top of the stretch. Behind him, Ortiz had Gypsum Johnny rolling on the far outside.

Gypsum Johnny quickly moved up to take the lead and then drew away late.

Wildniteattheopera Rallies Erratically, But Wins Anyway in the Slop

Jockey Joel Rosario deserved a bonus after rallying Camelia Casbyø homebred three-year-old gray gelding **Wildniteattheopera** to a three-quarter-length victory in a one-mile \$62,000 New York-bred allowance race on a sloppy track at Belmont Park Wednesday.

Sent off the 2-1 favorite in the field of eight, Wildniteattheopera veered outward at a 45-degree angle in mid-stretch just as he seemed poised to rally past the two horses in front of him: front-running **One More Chief**, the 5-2 second choice under Jose Ortiz, and 9-2 **The Spotted Wonder** under seven-pound apprentice Andre Worrie.

Rosario kept his cool and straightened out Wildniteattheopera, and he surged again to get the job done, completing the distance in 1:38.05. One More Chief nosed out The Spotted Wonder for second, and 5-1 **Jesses Giant Dunk** finished fourth.

Mark Hennig trains Wildniteattheopera, a son of Offlee Wild out of Moon Singer by Wolf Power (SAF) who was making his third career start. He followed a second by a head in his seven-furlong debut on a muddy track at Saratoga with a neck victory in a 6 ½-furlong maiden special weight at Belmont Park on a fast track.

Wildniteattheopera was fifth early as Ortiz hustled One More Chief from the outside post to an immediate two-length lead through a :22.80 opening quarter-mile. **Futurazo** chased in second at 4-1 with 21-1 **Caleb's a Survivor** in third and The Spotted Wonder on the rail in fourth.

One More Chief led by 2 ½ lengths after a half in :46.22 before horses stacked up four across the track behind him. From the rail out, they were: The Spotted Wonder, Futurazo, Calebø a Survivor and Wildniteattheopera. Only The Spotted Wonder and Wildniteattheopera sustained their rallies to draw in closer on the front-runner.

In mid-stretch, Wildniteattheopera zipped outside, then back inside, and passed both One More Chief and The Spotted Wonder on their outside.

Wildniteattheopera now has two wins and a second in three starts, for earnings of \$87,200.

Patiently ridden by Jevian Toledo, Springcroft Racingø gelding **Man of Mystery** won a six-furlong \$60,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for two-year-olds by 3 ½ lengths over **Keen's Cupla** in a final time of 1:11.46 Wednesday.

Man of Mystery was sent off at odds of 2-1 and Keenø Cupla went off at 9-2 in the field of six.

Mark Shuman trains Man of Mystery, a son of Smoke Glacken out of Land On Your Feet by Silver Deputy who was bred by Eaton & Thorne, Inc. Man of Mystery was making his second career start off a strong, hard-fought third in his debut at 27-1 odds.

He broke sharply from the five post Wednesday but conceded the early lead to **Ziggy Moondust**, who also went off at 2-1 odds on the rail under Cornelio Velasquez. Keenø Cupla settled in third behind Ziggy Moondust and Man of Mystery through a :23.04 opening quarter. The trio remained 1-2-3 into the far turn, when Jose Ortiz made a three-wide move to take the lead through a :46.21 half-mile.

Keenø Cupla opened a clear lead before Man of Mystery came calling on his outside. Man of Mystery went right on by to win comfortably. Keenø Cupla saved second, 3 ¼ lengths clear of Ziggy Moondust in third. **Flat Lover** finished fourth at 5-1 odds.

Man of Mystery was purchased for \$117,000 as a two-year-old last year. Heø already earned \$42,000 in two starts.

Seven-pound apprentice rider Israel Rodriguez guided Bernard McKennaø four-year-old gray gelding **Billy the Bull**, a 15-1 longshot, to a gate-to-wire two-length victory over 16-1 **Sol the Freud** in a six-furlong \$65,000 New York-bred allowance/optional claimer.

Cuantos, the 7-5 favorite in the field of eight under Joel Rosario, was never involved.

Gary Gullo trains Billy the Bull, who had won his two previous starts on turf at 6-1 and 11-1 odds. On dirt, he had one win from four starts on a fast track and a pair of thirds in two starts on wet tracks.

Sol the Freud, who had a win at 5-1 odds and a troubled fourth at 3-1 in his previous two starts, went off at double-digit odds Wednesday despite having finished second in his only start on a wet track and picking up the meet and the nationø leading rider, Javier Castellano.

Billy the Bull left sharply to make the lead, while 5-1 **Half Nelson**, 6-1 **The Rhythmisright** and Sol the Freud chased him through a sharp opening quarter-mile in :22.11. Billy the Bull opened a three-length lead while Sol the Freud rallied into second through a fast half-mile of :45 flat.

Through the stretch, Sol the Freud closed a bit on the outside before Castellano angled him to the rail to be on the inside of Billy the Bull. It didnø matter. Billy the Bull won handily in a sharp final time of 1:10.17. Sol the Freud was two lengths behind in second, 3 ½ lengths clear of 4-1 **Wake Up in Malibu** in third. **Frost Jordan** finished fourth at odds of 5-1.

Billy the Bull paid \$32.80 to win and teamed with Sol the Freud for a \$471 exacta.

Billy the Bull is a son of Holy Bull out of Sweet Sweet Molly by A.P. Jet who was bred by Joe Bucci. Billy the Bull is now four-for-10 lifetime with two thirds and earnings of nearly \$170,000.

Funky Munky Fever Edges Keen Katana by a Nose Sunday

Funky Munky Stable's three-year-old filly **Funky Munky Fever** misbehaved before the start of Sunday's finale at Belmont Park, a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$62,000 New York-bred allowance race on the grass, then came from last in the field of 11 under Junior Alvarado to nose out **Keen Katana** in a final time of 1:45.83 on a course rated "good." Funky Munky Fever was sent off at odds of 10-1 and Keen Katana went off at 7-2.

Lady Kreesa, who encountered traffic problems in the stretch, was third, a length and a half behind Keen Katana at 3-1 odds, and 10-1 **G Note** finished fourth.

Alvarado had to get off Funky Munky Fever before the start for her to be loaded. Then she got away last in the bulky field. Up front, 12-1 **Willow U** and 39-1 **Resolutely** battled early until Willow U took a clear lead through six furlongs in 1:15.27. **Jennys Creek** was also close up early.

Then the front end collapsed and it was anybody's race. The two horses moving fastest were Keen Katana on the far outside and Funky Munky Fever even wider.

Keen Katana took a neck lead, but Funky Munky Fever kept advancing and got up in the final strides on a nose bob.

David Donk trains Funky Munky Fever, a daughter of Roaring Fever out of Nonrecourse by Fortunate Prospect who was bred by Mark Kerin. She now has a win and a second from eight grass starts. She also has a win and a second from four dirt starts for combined earnings of more than \$105,000.

Patiently ridden by Irad Ortiz, Jr., Jonathan Thorne's three-year-old filly **Piccolo Flats** took over the lead in mid-stretch, opened a four-length lead and cruised home, winning a one-mile \$60,000 New York-bred maiden special weight Sunday by 2 ½ lengths in a final time of 1:39.02 as the 5-2 favorite in the field of eight. **Shades of Indigo** finished second at 17-1 odds, 12 ½ lengths clear of 6-1 **All Luv Me** in third. **Literata** was fourth at odds of 5-1.

Danny Gargan trains Piccolo Flats, a daughter of A.P. Warrior out of Gold Muff by Touch Gold who was bred by Dr. Frank Ariosta. Piccolo Flats was returning to dirt off a third and a seventh in his last two races on grass.

Piccolo Flats, Literata, 9-1 **Confessa** and 13-1 **Escape to Malibu** all went for the early lead. Ortiz took a hold of Piccolo Flats, who settled in third as Literata emerged in front through a :23.57 opening quarter and 3-1 Sleek rushed up the inside into second. Sleek went on with it to lead by a length after a half-mile in :47.28.

Literata moved up on the outside to challenge for the lead again with Piccolo Flats right behind him and gaining on his outside.

Piccolo Flats went past Literata and quickly opened up after three-quarters in 1:13.13. Piccolo Flats held on to win by himself.

Piccolo Flats now has a win and a second from four dirt starts, one third from three turf starts and earnings of more than \$55,000.

Wilfred Johnson's four-year-old New York-bred filly **Kate Is a Ten**, the 2-1 favorite in a field of six, rolled to a 5 ¼-length romp under Navin Mangalee in a \$28,000 conditional \$16,000 claimer Sunday, covering the mile and a sixteenth in 1:46.34. New York-bred **Golden Cheetah** finished second at 7-2 odds.

Joseph Parker trains Kate Is a Ten, a daughter of Tenpins out of Crypto Kate by Tabasco Cat who was bred by Rojan Farms.

Kate Is a Ten got away third as 7-2 New York-bred **Andromeda's Risk** and 7-1 Pitched battled for the lead through a quarter in :24.12 and a half-mile in :48.52. Andromeda's Risk took a half-length lead, but Pitched responded and finally cleared the front.

By then, Mangalee had Kate Is a Ten motoring on the outside. After a mile in 1:39.79, Kate Is a Ten blew past Pitched, who held on for third, 2 ½ lengths behind strong-closing Golden Cheetah.

Kate Is a Ten's victory was her first on dirt in 16 starts with one second and five thirds. She also has a win and a third from seven turf tries, good for combined earnings of more than \$105,000.

With a perfectly timed rally under Cornelio Velasquez, Bruce Golden Racing's six-year-old New York-bred gelding **Socialsaul** rallied from last in mid-stretch to nail front-running favorite Ten Items Or Less by a half-length in a six-furlong \$20,000 open \$10,000 claimer. Bruce Golden Racing claimed Socialsaul for \$16,000 when he was eighth on September 1, and returned him to trainer David Jacobson, who trained and co-owned him before he was claimed for \$25,000 nearly a year earlier. Heading into Sunday, Socialsaul had been claimed in six of his last 10 starts.

Jacobson made an equipment adjustment on Socialsaul, adding blinkers.

Socialsaul, one of two New York-breds in the field of six, went off at 2-1 odds and got away in last as Ten Items Or Less, sent off at 8-5 odds under Javier Castellano, broke immediately on the lead.

With no pressure on him, Ten Items Or Less opened a two-length lead through a :22.65 opening quarter, then stretched his advantage to five lengths by running a half-mile in :46.10.

Ten Items Or Less started to tire near the sixteenth pole as 6-1 Volastic closed on the inside and Socialsaul moved up quickly on the outside. Socialsaul kept coming and got up in time, winning in a final time of 1:11.47.

Socialsaul improved his dirt record to seven-for-32 with seven seconds, three thirds and earnings of nearly \$450,000.

Effinex Adds Blinkers and Delivers a Stunning Upset in the Empire Classic

Tri-Bone Stable's three-year-old New York-bred colt **Effinex** deserved to be a longshot in the 39th running of the mile-and-an-eighth \$300,000 Empire Classic Handicap Saturday on New York Showcase Day at Belmont Park. Heck, he was beaten 10 lengths when he finished third as

the 2-1 favorite in a second-level state-bred allowance race in his last start, the first time Angel Arroyo rode him. That was Effinex's sixth straight defeat.

Trainer Jimmy Jerkens, whom you may have noticed is having a rather remarkable year with two other three-year-olds named Wicked Strong and V.E. Day, made two important decisions for Effinex's next start in the Empire Classic. He let Arroyo, who had already won one of the Showcase stakes Saturday, keep the mount, and he added blinkers.

The blinkers helped and Arroyo delivered a brilliant ride as Effinex wore down front-running **So Lonesome** to win by a neck.

Bettors had difficulty selecting a favorite for the Empire, sending both **Saratoga Snacks** and **Sioux** off at 5-2 odds, with Sioux the slight favorite.

Saratoga Snacks, who switched barns from Gary Sciacca to Bill Mott earlier this year, finished second to Lunar Victory in the 2012 Empire Classic and won the 2013 version by three-quarters of a length. But he hadn't won since, finishing eighth in the Grade I Cigar Mile, then second and fourth in a pair of New York-bred stakes. In his last start, a New York-bred allowance, he'd finished sixth at 7-5 odds behind two other horses he was facing Saturday: **Beautyinthepulpit** and **Eye Luv Lulu**.

Sioux had won two consecutive state-bred allowance races by wide margins and was making his first start in a stakes race.

Of his opposition, So Lonesome went off the 7-2 third choice under Jose Lezcano. The entry of **Empire Dreams** and **Awesome Vision** was 6-1, Beautyinthepulpit was 9-1, **Sinistra** went off at 12-1 odds, Eye Luv Lulu was 13-1 and Effinex was the longest shot on the board at 17-1.

So Lonesome, who needed a saddle adjustment before walking into the starting gate, went immediately for the lead from the five post. So did Eye Luv Lulu, who was ridden by Mike Luzzi from the six post.

So Lonesome led Eye Luv Lulu by a neck through a :23.66 opening quarter. Sioux got away third on their outside, while Sinistra moved up on the inside. Effinex, on the outside of Saratoga Snacks, alternated with him in fifth and sixth.

So Lonesome increased his lead to 3 ½ lengths through a :47.09 half-mile, still tracked by Eye Luv Lulu and Sioux in second and third, respectively.

Heading into the far turn, Arroyo kept Effinex on the inside and he moved up into fourth after three-quarters in 1:11.31. While Eye Luv Lulu and Sioux tried gaining on the outside of So Lonesome, Effinex continued to gain on his inside.

In mid-stretch, Eye Luv Lulu and Sioux tired, and Arroyo took Effinex to the outside to go after So Lonesome, who was still two lengths clear after completing the mile in 1:35.92.

Effinex moved up on his outside, kept grinding and wore So Lonesome down in deep stretch to get up by a neck in a final time of 1:48.51. There was a gap of 5 ¾ lengths separating So Lonesome from Beautyinthepulpit in third. Saratoga Snacks was fourth, another 1 ¾ lengths back.

“We figured we'd take a shot,” Jerkens said.

Arroyo was certainly happy that Jerkens did. "The blinkers made a big difference today," Arroyo said. "He ran great."

Effinex is a colt by Mineshaft out of What a Pear by E Dubai who was bred by Dr. Russell Cohen. Effinex now has three victories, a second and two thirds in 10 starts, for more than \$325,000 in earnings.

Kharafa Powers to an Impressive Victory in the Mohawk Stakes

Paul Braverman and Timothy Pinchø's five-year-old gelding **Kharafa**, sent off at 6-1 odds under Angel Arroyo, powered past even-money favorite **King Kreesa** at the top of the stretch Saturday, opened a three-length lead in mid-stretch and held off **Lubash**, the 3-1 second choice, by a length and a quarter to win the 36th running of the mile-and-a-sixteenth \$200,000 Mohawk Stakes in a final time of 1:45.01 on a grass course rated "good." King Kreesa was third, 1 ³/₄ lengths behind Lubash in third. **Notacatbutallama** finished fourth, another three-quarters of a length back, at 9-1 odds.

Tim Hills trains Kharafa, a son of Kitalpha out of Exquisite Cassie by King of Kings who was bred by High Meadow Farm.

That Kharafa, who had finished in the money in five straight starts, went off at 6-1 odds spoke of the immense quality of this field of seven, which had collectively earned more than \$3.5 million. Four of them had more than a half-million in earnings. Kharafa had earned the least of the quartet with \$533,497. Lubash (\$911,079), King Kreesa (\$772,370) and Notacatbutallama (\$685,534) were 1-2-3.

King Kreesa, who had won the West Point Handicap by a head over Lubash and finished second by a neck to Lubash in the Ashley T. Cole in his last two starts, was made the clear favorite. Kharafa had finished a tiring third at 5-1 odds in the Ashley T. Cole, but that stakes was at a mile-and-an-eighth. At a mile-and-a-sixteenth, Kharafa had three wins, two seconds and a pair of thirds in eight starts.

Four horses vied for the early lead: Kharafa on the rail; King Kreesa from the two post; Notacatbutallama, who was ridden by John Velazquez from the five post; and Lubash, who was ridden by Junior Alvarado from the six post.

King Kreesa was squeezed momentarily between horses, but then went on to take the early lead by a length and a half. Kharafa raced in second, with Notacatbutallama on the rail in third and Lubash a half-length back on his outside in fourth through a slow quarter in :25.67 and a glacial half-mile in :51.25.

Ocala Jim, a 7-1 proposition under Jose Lezcano, made a bold middle move into second but tired.

Arroyo sent up Kharafa on the outside of King Kreesa and he went right on by, hitting three-quarters in 1:15.73 with a two-length lead. Lubash rallied into second, but couldn't threaten the winner.

“If Kharafa gets in tight, and they slow the pace down, he gets really rank,” Hills said. “So Angel’s job was to hustle him out of there and get in the clear, so that when King Kreesa took the lead, he could get around him. He did that to perfection.”

Arroyo said Kharafa “was doing it pretty easy.”

Kharafa improved his turf record to eight-for-23 with seven seconds and four thirds. He now has earnings of nearly \$650,000.

La Verdad Is the Queen of New York-Bred Female Sprinters

Pushed early and tested late, Lady Sheila Stable’s four-year-old filly **La Verdad** proved she is the queen of New York-bred filly and mare sprinters, winning the 36th running of the 6 ½-furlong \$150,000 Iroquois Stakes by a length and a quarter Saturday as the 3-5 favorite in the field of eight. Ridden by Jose Ortiz, La Verdad defeated the 9-5 second choice **Willet** under Joel Rosario, in a final time of 1:17.13.

Risky Rachel was third at 9-1 odds, well clear of 33-1 **Make the Moment** in fourth.

“It’s nice to get her back in the winner’s circle,” La Verdad’s trainer, Linda Rice, said.

La Verdad had a career record of nine-for-11 before finishing fifth twice and second by a head in three graded stakes in open company. She was beaten just a head in her last start by **Artemis Agrotera**, arguably the best three-year-old filly sprinter in the country, in the Grade II Gallant Bloom Handicap.

For the Iroquois, she posted identical 1:00 2/5 five-furlong works ó one of them a bullet, the other second best ó and was pounded at the windows for her drop back to state-bred company.

She didn’t disappoint.

Beautifully drawn in the outside post, she broke as sharply as she does in all her starts. But **Irish Whisper**, a 13-1 shot ridden by Ortiz’s brother Irad, Jr., left hard from the five post inside of La Verdad.

Irish Whisper led for a couple strides before La Verdad took over. She had run hard to do so, reaching the quarter in :22.51.

La Verdad opened a four-length lead by running a half-mile in :45.52. Irish Whisper couldn’t keep up, but Risky Rachel and Willet moved into contention, Risky Rachel on the outside and Willet on the rail.

La Verdad still had a comfortable lead after six furlongs in 1:10.43. Willet closed resolutely without threatening La Verdad. Risky Rachel finished third, 2 ¼ lengths behind Willet.

Jose Ortiz said, “Linda Rice did a tremendous job with the filly because she brought it one hundred percent today.”

She usually does. La Verdad improved her record to 10-for-15 with two seconds and more than \$770,000 in earnings.

“She’s a star,” owner Sheila Rosenbaum said. “She’s been up against the best of them and she’s proven she’s one of the best. She’s New York.”

Princess Violet Starts Slowly, Then Crushes the Competition

Barry Schwartz’s homebred three-year-old filly **Princess Violet** gave her eight rivals a head start and still blew them away, taking the inaugural running of the mile-and-a-sixteenth \$250,000 Empire Distaff Handicap by 5 ½ lengths in a final time of 1:43.81 to give jockey Jose Ortiz his third consecutive victory on Saturday’s card.

“It was sweet,” Princess Violet’s trainer, Mike Hushion, said. “She relaxed better than ever and when Jose stepped on the gas, she came on.”

Bettors who made Princess Violet the 6-5 favorite may have been concerned when she turned her head as the starting gate opened, but Ortiz didn’t bat an eye as she broke next to last. She worked her way up to fourth behind 74-1 **Pennymine**, 6-1 **Sunny Desert** and **Carameway**, half of a 2-1 entry.

Pennymine took the field to the quarter in :23.19 and the half-mile in :46.51 before both Sunny Desert and Carameway roared past her two- and three-wide, respectively. Behind them, Princess Violet quickly drew closer.

Racing three-wide around the far turn, Princess Violet went by the two fillies in front of her easily, assuming complete command after three-quarters in 1:11.48. She hit the mile in 1:37.08 on the way to her impressive victory. “When I made my move, I had a lot of horse,” Ortiz said.

Princess Violet, a daughter of Officer out of Lady Rapper by Grand Slam, is now four-for-seven in her career with two seconds ó including a distant one to Untapable in the Grade I Mother Goose ó and earnings of more than \$330,000.

In Saturday’s opener, a six-furlong \$70,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for two-year-olds, Joel Rosario rallied Gold Mark Farm’s **Tizquick**, the 1-5 favorite in the field of seven, to a one-length win over front-running 12-1 firster **David Rocks** in a final time of 1:11.97. **Scattered Dreams** finished another two lengths back in third at 6-1 odds and another firster, **Andrew’s Got Zip**, was an extremely distant fourth at odds of 5-1.

John Kimmel trains Tizquick, a son of Tiz Wonderful out of All for Fashion by Mutakddim who was bred by Spendthrift Farm. Tizquick was making his third start following a second in his debut and a tiring sixth in the \$150,000 B.F. Bongard Stakes.

Tizquick got away sixth as Irad Ortiz, Jr. hustled David Rocks to the lead. Yet another first-time starter, **Summer Hawk**, chased in second at 8-1 odds as David Rocks took the field through moderate fractions: a quarter in :23.58 and a half-mile in :47.30. By then, Tizquick had begun his rally.

David Rocks repelled a challenge from Summer Hawk and Scattered Dreams, but had no answer for Tizquick, who took over and drew away.

Tizquick, who was a \$50,000 purchase at the 2013 Saratoga August Yearling Sale, has already earned more than \$65,000.

Racing on the far outside, John Esposito and Anthony LoGrippe's homebred **Ode to the Hunt**, ridden by Jose Ortiz, out-finished **Brother O'Connell**, **Gear Jammer** and **Persuasive Devil** to win a one-mile \$70,000 New York-bred maiden special weight on the grass for two-year-olds by a length and a half Saturday in a final time of 1:39.80. Brother O'Connell was second, a length in front of Gear Jammer in third. Persuasive Devil finished fourth.

Ode to the Hunt, who had finished a rallying second in his debut, went off at 4-1 odds. Brother O'Connell was sent off at 7-2, Gear Jammer was 7-1 and Persuasive Devil was 9-1.

The horses who dueled for the lead, 13-1 **No Texting** and 20-1 **Threes Are Wild**, came up empty late after running a half-mile in :50.42.

Brother O'Connell moved up the rail while Gear Jammer advanced three-wide and Ode to the Hunt four-wide after three-quarters in 1:15.71.

Ode to the Hunt proved strongest to get his first victory. Rick Violette trains Ode to the Hunt, a colt by Artie Schiller out of Images in Jade by Jade Hunter.

Angel Arroyo got his third winner Saturday in the finale, when he rallied Jeffrey Pankow's three-year-old gelding **Runaway Posse**, the 5-2 second choice in the field of 11, to a five-length, come-from-behind romp in a \$70,000 New York-bred maiden special weight on the grass. Runaway Posse covered the six-furlong distance in 1:11.55.

Arroyo didn't panic when 5-1 **Spark to Ignite** opened a 10-length lead heading into the far turn. Runaway Posse was some 20 lengths behind in fifth in the spaced-out field. When Spark to Ignite called it a day, 16-1 **Junger**, who had been a distant second, inherited the lead after a :46.26 half-mile.

Junger opened a three-length lead before Runaway Posse went storming past him, winning by himself. Junger finished second, three lengths clear of **Spider Roll**, the 2-1 favorite, in third. A 30-1 firster, **Port Au Prince**, was fourth, another half-length behind.

Tim Woolley trains Runaway Posse, a son of Posse out of Runaway Zia by Runaway Groom who was bred by Edition Farm. In his previous three starts, Runaway Posse finished third and fourth on dirt, then fourth in his turf debut.

Street Game Prevails Under Jose Ortiz

Rallying from dead last in the field of nine under Jose Ortiz, Brian and Kerry Novak Inc.'s six-year-old **Street Game** stormed down the center of the course to win a one-mile \$65,000 New York-bred grass allowance by 3 ½ lengths as the 7-5 favorite Friday afternoon at Belmont Park. On a course labeled "yielding," Street Game won in a final time of 1:38.00.

Front-running **Mr Rosenthal**, the longest shot in the field at odds of 44-1, gamely held on for second, a half-length in front of 7-2 **Went the Day Well**. **Majestic Raffy** finished fourth at 18-1 odds.

Sylvester Camacho, Jr. hustled Mr Rosenthal to the lead as 11-1 **Special Selection** settled into second. Went the Day Well and 30-1 **Carson Bandit** alternated in third and fourth as Mr Rosenthal hit the first quarter in :23.53, the half-mile in :48.32 and three-quarters in 1:13.47.

Mr Rosenthal was still strong on the front end before Street Game came charging at him on the outside. Street Game went on with it to win going away, giving Ortiz his second consecutive victory Friday.

Street Game's victory was his eighth in 24 grass starts. He also has two seconds, three thirds and earnings now totaling more than \$375,000.

Michelle Nevin trains Street Game, a son of Street Cry out of Thunder Achiever by Thunder Puddles who was bred by Nustar Breeding.

Under patient handling by Jose Ortiz, My Meadowview Farm's homebred three-year-old filly **Canal Six** backed up her even-money odds with an authoritative three-length victory Friday in a \$62,000 New York-bred allowance. She covered the mile and a sixteenth in 1:44.85. **Jcs American Dream**, the 9-2 second choice in the field of six who received a saddle adjustment before the start, edged 19-1 **Kelly's Prize** by a neck for second. **Annie Walker**, the 8-5 second choice, finished fourth.

Tom Morley trains Canal Six, a son of Noble Causeway out of Prom Dancer by Touch Gold who had finished a solid third in the \$200,000 Fleet Indian Stakes at Saratoga in his previous start on August 24.

Kelly's Prize broke first, but quickly fell back to fifth as 13-1 **Wisdom of Oz** and Annie Walker battled on the front end through a :23.28 opening quarter. Wisdom of Oz led Annie Walker by three-quarters of a length before Annie Walker took over after a half-mile in :46.73.

By then, Canal Six, who was fourth early, had begun a sustained rally. He took over the lead at the head of the stretch and drew away.

Canal Six is now two-for-seven with two seconds and two thirds, for earnings of more than \$140,000.

Preferred Pals Stable and The Mirage Ranch's five-year-old New York-bred gray mare **Double the Energy** stalked front-running Insolvent, took over the lead in early stretch and went on to capture a six-furlong \$47,000 open \$25,000 claimer on the grass by one length over Sunrise Kitty as the 9-5 favorite Friday. Breaking from the outside post in the field of nine under Cornelio Velasquez, Double the Energy won in a final time of 1:12.26 over the yielding course.

Linda Rice trains Double the Energy, a daughter of Unbridled Energy out of Double Doubleville by Mt. Livermore who was bred by Cheryl Prudhomme and Dr. Michael Call.

Double the Energy was dropping from a seventh-place finish in a New York-bred grass allowance into open claimers. She tracked Insolvent through a quarter in :22.79 and a half-mile in :47.33 before taking the lead.

She improved her grass record to seven-for-16 with one second and one third. She also has three wins and one second in nine dirt starts, for combined earnings of more than \$340,000.

My Purple Haze Stables' three-year-old gelding **Invasion Point**, the 6-5 favorite in a field of seven, seized control early, opened a huge lead in mid-stretch and then held off 3-1 **Hampden Fiveone** by two lengths \$41,000 New York-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer Friday. Under Javier Castellano, he completed the six-furlong distance in 1:11.43. **Bad to the Roan**, who was adding blinkers and went off the 5-2 second choice, finished third, six lengths behind Hampden Fiveone.

My Purple Haze Stable claimed Invasion Point on September 17 for \$20,000 when he finished third at 6-5 odds. He was second in his first start for his new connections on September 25 at odds of 7-2.

Breaking sharply from the six post, Invasion Point out-sprinted 62-1 **Little T. Louie** on the rail to make the lead through a :22.46 opening quarter. **Discreet Kaz**, a first-time starter who went off at 5-1 odds, moved up from third to second, just a neck behind Invasion Point, after a half-mile in :45.89.

Then Castellano let Invasion Point loose, and he sprinted to a gaping lead. Hampden Fiveone closed well for second without threatening the winner.

Chris Englehart trains Invasion Point, a son of Invasor (ARG) out of Point Clear by Elusive Quality who was bred by Carl Bennett. Invasion Point now has a win, a second and a third in five dirt starts. He didn't hit the board in two turf tries.