

New York-Breds at the Races: September 17 to 21

By Bill Heller

Saratoga Heater and Temper Mint Patty Win Sunday Stakes

PR Racing's two-year-old colt **Saratoga Heater** and Mark Stanley's two-year-old filly **Temper Mint Patty** won seven-furlong \$150,000 New York-bred stakes Sunday on a muddy main track at Belmont.

Saratoga Heater was up first in the 21st running of the Bertram F. Bongard Stakes for two-year-old colts. Leaving from the rail under Joel Rosario, Saratoga Heater made the lead and scored wire-to-wire by four lengths in a final time of 1:24.63 at 3-1 odds. **Bullheaded Boy**, the 2-1 second choice in the field of six, finished second and **Market Conduct**, the 8-5 favorite, was third.

Lisa Lewis trains Saratoga Heater, a son of Temple City out of Hot Spell by Salt Lake who was bred by Machmer Hall. In his two previous starts, both on sloppy tracks, Saratoga Heater finished sixth in his debut, then won a maiden special weight by 2 ¼ lengths with blinkers added. He has already earned more than \$130,000 in three starts.

Like Saratoga Heater, Temper Mint Patty had the rail for the 21st running of the Joseph A. Gimma Stakes for two-year-old fillies. Coming off a neck victory at 6-1 odds in her maiden debut at Saratoga, she was bet down to 2-1 in the field of five.

Irad Ortiz, Jr. got Temper Mint Patty away in mid-pack as 3-1 **Hard to Stay Notgo**, who was adding Lasix off a second in the Seeking Ante Stakes at 3-5 odds, set the pace under Junior Alvarado. Hard to Stay Notgo opened a three-length lead by running a half-mile in :45.45.

Coming around the far turn, Hard to Stay Notgo left a sizable opening on the rail and Temper Mint Patty took full advantage, spurting by on her inside to take control of the race and win by a staggering 13 ½ lengths in a final time of 1:23.78. **My Super Nova**, who went off at 2-1 odds, salvaged second and Hard to Stay Notgo finished third.

Dale Romans trains Temper Mint Patty, a daughter of Congrats out of His Beauty by Adcat who was bred by Gallagher's Stud. She has earned more than \$130,000 in two starts.

In a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$65,000 New York-bred grass allowance/optional \$40,000 claimer Sunday, Funky Munky Stable's four-year-old gelding **Ocala Jim** made a bold rally on the far turn under Jose Lezcano to post a 2 ¼-length victory at 9-2 odds in a final time of 1:45.37 on a yielding course. **Street Game**, the 3-2 favorite in the field of 10, was a clear second and 10-1 **Majestic Raffy** nosed 24-1 **Alarmed Ndangerous** for third.

Previously trained by Carlos Martin, Ocala Jim, a son of E Dubai out of Merion Miss by Halo who was bred by Berkshire Stud, got a 5 ½-month freshening before making her first start for trainer David Donk. She won her return race by a nose before adding a second and a three-length victory heading into Sunday's race.

Sixth early, Ocala Jim made a powerful move to draw into contention after two longshots battling on the lead, 39-1 **Carson Bandit** and 85-1 **Status of Forces**, both tired. Ocala Jim took over in mid-stretch and won handily. In doing so, he improved his grass record to four-for-seven with one second. He also has one second from five dirt starts for combined earnings of more than \$185,000.

Robert Falcone and All Heart Racing Stable's three-year-old filly **Rumble Doll** rallied from last to first to win a seven-furlong \$62,000 New York-bred grass allowance by a neck Sunday as the 9-5 favorite in the field of eight. Rajiv Maragh rode Rumble Doll, who won in a final time of 1:24.82.

Rumble Doll is a daughter of Street Boss out of Little Buttercup by Labeeb who was bred by Lawrence Goichman and is trained by Robert Falcone, Jr.

Given Fire, the 3-1 second choice under Junior Alvarado, tried going gate-to-wire and nearly pulled it off, setting splits of :22.72 and :46.93.

She put away a challenge from 8-1 **Thatza Wrap** before Rumble Doll came flying down the center of the course to win narrowly. Given Fire finished second, 3 ¼ lengths ahead of Thatza Wrap in third.

Rumble Doll improved her grass record to two-for-four with one third. She also has a win and a third from five dirt starts for combined earnings of more than \$110,000.

In a seven-furlong \$62,000 New York-bred grass allowance Sunday, Javier Castellano rallied Whisper Hill Farm's five-year-old mare **All Mine Tonight**, the 8-5 favorite in a field of nine, to a three-quarter-length victory over 7-1 **Nonnie Connie**. **Aesthetique**, the 2-1 second choice on the rail, finished third, a length and three-quarters behind Nonnie Connie.

Eddie Kenneally trains All Mine Tonight, a daughter of Holy Bull out of Minetonightsfirst by DøAccord who was bred by Edition Farm. She improved her grass record to two-for-five with one second. She also has three seconds and a third from six dirt starts for total earnings of more than \$140,000.

In Sunday's opener, a \$29,000 six-furlong maiden \$20,000 claimer with seven starters, all New York-breds, Lianna Stables' three-year-old filly **Bella Fachi** won by a length and a half under Wilmer Garcia in a final time of 1:12.79. Neal Terracciano trains the daughter of Fusaichi Pegasus out of Spenny by Menifee who was bred by Vincent Vivolo, Jr. She now has a win, a second and a third from four dirt starts.

Artemis Agrotera Catches La Verdad to Win the Gallant Bloom

With a furious rally under Rajiv Maragh, Chester and Mary Broman's three-year-old homebred New York-bred filly **Artemis Agrotera** made up a 7 ½-length deficit in the final 2 ½ furlongs to

nail front-running four-year-old New York-bred **La Verdad** and win the 6 ½-furlong \$300,000 Grade II Gallant Bloom Handicap by a head Saturday afternoon at Belmont. Six-year-old mare **Willet** finished third, just a length behind La Verdad, to complete an all-New York-bred triple. Artemis Agrotera was the 2-5 favorite in the field of six.

Artemis Agrotera, who has benefitted from a superb job by trainer Mike Hushion, won in a final time of 1:15.49 to notch her third straight victory overall and her second straight graded-stakes victory over older fillies and mares. Her five victories in seven lifetime starts include three Grade I stakes and one Grade II.

But she appeared to be in deep water Saturday when Jose Ortiz let La Verdad fly early. Artemis Agrotera, who won her previous race, the Grade I Ballerina, from a length off the pace, was 9 1/2 lengths back Saturday after La Verdad reached the first quarter in :21.81.

“I was concerned she wasn’t firing,” Hushion said. His initial thought that Artemis Agrotera’s two bullet works for the Gallant Bloom, five furlongs in :59 and four in :47 might have been too much. “I was hoping for 49 for the last one, and she went in :47,” he said.

La Verdad went a lot faster than :47. She expanded her lead to five lengths by running an amazing half-mile in :43.78. Artemis Agrotera was still 7 ½ lengths back in last. Then she began to motor, and she gained ground quickly on the front-runner.

“You could see her rev up, getting ready to pounce,” Hushion said. “It kind of reminded me of her last race.”

The effects of that :43.78 half-mile began taking a toll on La Verdad, who had gone off at 5-1 odds. La Verdad had won nine of her first 11 starts for trainer Linda Rice before finishing fifth in the Grade II Honorable Miss and a front-running fifth in the Ballerina behind Artemis Agrotera.

In the final sixteenth of a mile, after six furlongs in 1:08.70, Artemis Agrotera looked like she might get there in time, and she did.

In doing so, she increased her earnings to just under \$950,000 in seven starts. More importantly, she had put her only two defeats, a fifth in the Grade I Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Filly to end her two-year-old season, and an eighth in the Grade 1 Acorn to begin her three-year-old campaign, far behind her. “We’ve been trying to get her to relax,” Hushion said.

Maragh said, “She really didn’t enjoy being that far back. I tried to keep her in her rhythm. I have a lot of confidence in her, and I tried to be a good passenger and let her finish strong. Even if she had run second or third, it would have been a good performance. It shows what kind of filly she is to get up and win the race from where she was.”

Linda Rice was proud of La Verdad’s performance as well. “The :43 half might have got us beat at the wire, but that’s a very nice filly who beat her,” Rice said. “I thought she ran great. We’re proud of her.”

Now Artemis Agrotera, a daughter of Empire Maker out of Indy Glory by A.P. Indy, will go after an Eclipse Award, not for top three-year-old filly ó a title Untapable may have clinched Saturday with her victory in the Grade I Cotillion at Parx five minutes before the Gallant Bloom ó but for filly sprinter, in the Breeders’ Cup at Santa Anita. “I would really love to win that Eclipse Sprint,” Hushion said.

Artemis Agrotera just may get him there.

Another talented three-year-old New York-bred filly, Bloodlines Racing Partnerships' **Distorted Beauty**, didn't let a tough outside post in open company deter her from a second straight victory Saturday.

Under Jose Ortiz, Distorted Beauty captured a one-mile \$77,000 allowance race on the grass by nearly two lengths. Sent off at 5-1 odds from the outside post in the field of 11, she won in a final time of 1:34.90.

Bruce Levine trains Distorted Beauty, a daughter of Invasor (ARG) out of Very Funny by Distorted Humor who was bred by Dr. James Randall Mcglinn. She's a full sister to another accomplished New York-bred filly, four-year-old Invading Humor, who recently won the John Hettinger Stakes. Distorted Beauty is now three-for-four on grass and one-for-two on dirt with combined earnings of more than \$180,000.

Ortiz got Distorted Beauty away in second behind another New York-bred, 9-1 **Palace Dreams**. They remained 1-2 through three quarters in 1:11.90 until Distorted Beauty made her move to take over the lead in early stretch. She won comfortably by a length and three-quarters over 7-2 Cash For Ever (IRE). Sky Painter, the 9-5 favorite, was third.

Making his second start off the claim, Michael Dubb, Bethlehem Stables and Gary Aisquith's six-year-old **Beautyinthepulpit** got up in the final strides to win a four-horse photo in a thrilling one-mile \$75,000 New York-bred allowance Saturday at 17-1 odds. Manuel Franco rode Beautyinthepulpit, who won in a final time of 1:34.40.

Eye Luv Lulu, who went off at 11-1 odds in the field of six, nosed 4-5 favorite **Big Business** for second, while front-running **Spa City Fever** was another neck behind in fourth at odds of 9-1.

This allowance race was stakes-caliber: all of the six horses entered had earned more than \$100,000 heading in.

Beautyinthepulpit was claimed for \$40,000 when he won an optional New York-bred allowance race at Saratoga on July 20. Following a sixth-place finish in the \$100,000 Evan Shipman Stakes for New York-breds on July 31, new trainer Rudy Rodriguez gave Beautyinthepulpit a freshening.

Breaking from the rail, Beautyinthepulpit was last almost the entire way. Spa City Fever, breaking from the outside post under Cornelio Velasquez, made the lead but couldn't clear 26-1 **Baime** on the rail through the :22.86 opening quarter. Velasquez asked Spa City Fever for a bit more and the eight-year-old gelding complied, clearing Baime to lead after a :45.31 half-mile.

Then **Saratoga Snacks**, the 7-5 second choice, made his bid for the lead on the outside of Spa City Fever. John Velazquez sent Big Business three-wide outside of them, while Eye Luv Lulu rallied into fourth.

There were four horses stacked across the track in early stretch: Spa City Fever on the rail, Saratoga Snacks two wide, Big Business three wide and Eye Luv Lulu four wide. Saratoga

Snacks got squeezed a bit between horses and faded. Then the other three were joined by Beautyinthepulpit on the extreme outside.

In the final, frantic yards, Beautyinthepulpit prevailed. The photo finish revealed Eye Luv Lulu had edged Big Business for second.

Albert Fried, Jr. bred Beautyinthepulpit, a son of Pulpit out of Stolen Beauty by Deputy Minister. He improved his dirt record to seven-for-19 with two seconds and more than \$290,000 in career earnings.

Jockey Jose Lezcano coolly waited for room in the stretch, then shot Green Polka Farms' three-year-old New York-bred filly **AP Johnson** between horses to win a seven-furlong \$34,000 conditional \$25,000 claimer on grass by three-quarters of a length Saturday. Sent off at 4-1 odds as one of four New York-breds in the field of eight, AP Johnson won in a final time of 1:22.90.

Dattts Da Boss, who went off at 5-2 odds under Taylor Rice, held second, a half-length in front of 14-1 New York-bred **Rock N Cozy**. Another state-bred, 19-1 **Share 'n Stone**, finished a distant fourth.

Linda Rice trains AP Johnson, a gray daughter of Patriot Act out of Miss Woodruff by Two Punch. AP Johnson was making just her fourth career start. At two, she won her debut by two lengths at Saratoga, then finished fifth in a \$100,000 stakes. She finished a front-running fifth in her 2014 debut at Saratoga at 2-1 odds.

Riding AP Johnson for the first time, Lezcano got her away in third. William's luckygray, the slight 5-2 favorite, took the lead, pursued by 6-1 Stage Name through a quarter in :23.45 and a half-mile in :46.90. Dattts Da Boss made a three-wide move into second at the top of the stretch.

Lezcano waited in third with AP Johnson, then split William's luckygray and Dattts Da Boss past three-quarters in 1:10.65. AP Johnson took the lead in deep stretch to score.

AP Johnson is now two-for-four with earnings topping \$65,000.

Carameway Blows Them Away for Second Straight Win

Sent off at 6-1 odds despite a 3 ½-length stakes victory in her previous start and two bullet works since, Richard Greeley's homebred four-year-old filly **Carameway** rocketed to a 4 ¼-length gate-to-wire score in a one-mile \$75,000 New York-bred allowance race Friday afternoon at Belmont Park. Rajiv Maragh piloted Carameway, who won in a snappy final time of 1:34.08.

This four-year-old daughter of Lawyer Ron out of Adorable You by Grand Slam has really come into her own under trainer Mitch Friedman. After a 2 ½-month freshening, Carameway won the \$100,000 Saratoga Dew Stakes at Saratoga on August 14 as part of a 4-1 entry. She then worked three- and four-furlong bullets at Belmont Park for this challenging allowance assignment.

All seven of the fillies and mares in this race had earned more than \$100,000. **Sunny Desert**, who had seven wins, a second and a pair of thirds in her last 10 starts, went off the even-money

favorite under Irad Ortiz, Jr. Chester and Mary Broman's homebred entry of **Girlaboutown** and **Star Grazing** went off at odds of 6-5.

Carameway came out running from the gate to take the early lead with Girlaboutown, who was seeking her third straight victory, chasing her through a :23.32 first quarter and a half-mile in :46.10. Then Carameway stretched a length-and-a-half lead to three lengths, hitting three-quarters in 1:09.52.

Storied Lady, who went off at 10-1 odds, made a three-wide move into contention. Behind her, 19-1 **Unbelievable Dream** began to close in.

But nobody was getting to the winner. Unbelievable Dream got up for second, two lengths ahead of Storied Lady in third. Girlaboutown finished fourth.

Carameway is now five-for-24 on dirt with five seconds, three thirds and more than \$310,000 in earnings.

Bernard McKenna's four-year-old gelding **Billy the Bull** out-hustled **Dowse's Beach** to the lead and kept right on going to win his second straight race Friday, a six-furlong \$65,000 New York-bred grass allowance/optional \$40,000 claimer, by a length under Luis Saez in a sharp final time of 1:08.45 at 11-1 odds. **With Exultation**, the slight 5-2 favorite in the field of eight, nosed 7-2 **Hear the Footsteps** for second. **Isn'tlovejustgrand** finished fourth.

Gary Gullo trains Billy the Bull, a son of Holy Bull out of Sweet Molly by A.P. Jet who was bred by Joseph Bucci.

Breaking next to each other from the two outside posts, 5-2 Dowse's Beach, who was looking for his third straight win out of the seven post, and Billy the Bull on his outside both went for the lead. Billy the Bull was faster and quickly opened a two-length lead by running an opening quarter in :22.89. He maintained a clear lead through a half-mile in :45.75.

When Dowse's Beach tired, both With Exultation and Hear the Footsteps moved up, but Billy the Bull had enough left to win.

Billy the Bull is now two-for-three on grass. He also has a win and a pair of thirds from six dirt starts, good for combined earnings of over \$130,000.

In his debut on a sloppy track at Saratoga on the final day of August, Michael Hennig's gray colt **Wincoma** showed speed, opened a two-length lead and tired to finish sixth. On a fast track Friday at Belmont, Wincoma shot to the lead from the rail and kept going, taking a six-furlong \$60,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for two-year-olds by 2 ½ lengths under Cornelio Velasquez. Sent off at 6-1 odds in the field of 12, Wincoma won in a final time of 1:09.60.

Thank You rallied to finish second at 9-2 odds and 59-1 **Gabbole**, a first-time starter, was a clear third, a length behind Thank You.

Gary Sciacca trains Wincoma, a son of Badge of Silver out of Receivership by End Sweep who was bred by the Peter J. Callahan Revocable Trust.

Wincoma took the lead while pressed by Gabbole, and set fast fractions of :22.53 and :45.55. Through the stretch, Wincoma was well clear.

Beautifully ridden by seven-pound apprentice Israel Rodriguez, Richard Troncone, Sr. and Richard Troncone, Jr.ø homebred New York-bred, three-year-old colt **Royal Posse**, won a one-mile \$34,000 conditional \$25,000 claimer by five lengths Friday in a final time of 1:35.08. Royal Posse, who had finished fifth in a New York-bred allowance in his prior race, went off at 8-1 odds in the field of eight.

Ice Wagon, who went off at 9-2 odds under Cornelio Velasquez, set the pace, pressured by 8-1 Q Two through a quarter in :23.46 and a half-mile in :46.96. Rodriguez kept Royal Posse on the inside in third.

Around the far turn, Q Two began to tire, allowing Rodriguez to yank Royal Posse off the rail to go after Ice Wagon. Ice Wagon was still ahead by two lengths in mid-stretch before Royal Posse powered past him to win by himself at the wire. Ice Wagon was a clear second, and 45-1 New York-bred **Cat Man Fu** was third. Strueves Star, the 2-1 favorite, finished fourth.

Gary Contessa trains Royal Posse, a son of Posse out of Struckbylightning by Cryptoclearance. Royal Posse is now two-for-10 on dirt with earnings of just under \$70,000.

Repole Stable got an immediate return on its investment when its six-year-old gelding **Indy Tune**, whom they claimed for \$20,000 when he was fifth at Saratoga on August 9, won his first start for his new connections Friday, taking a 6 ½-furlong \$40,000 New York-bred \$20,000 claimer by nearly three lengths under Rajiv Maragh in a final time of 1:15.53 at 4-1 odds. **Star of New York** finished second at 5-1 odds, a neck in front of the 4-5 favorite in the field of seven, **Dr Disco**, in third.

Indy Tune is a son of Suave out of Angelaø Tune by Two Punch who was bred by John Cracchiolo and is now trained by Bruce Levine.

Indy Tune got away second as Luis Saez guided Dr Disco to the front through a :23.36 opening quarter. Indy Tune accompanied him on his flank, drawing within a neck of the favorite after a demanding half-mile in :45.77.

Indy Tune went right on by, taking the lead in mid-stretch through three-quarters in 1:09.14. He won handily to improve his dirt record to six-for-45 with five seconds and nine thirds. He has also won one of four turf starts, for combined earnings of more than \$265,000.

Overcoming a flat-footed start, Carpe Diem Stable and Richard Lodicoø three-year-old colt **King Gettigan** got his elusive first victory Friday, winning a 6 ½-furlong \$41,000 New York-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer by two lengths under Joel Rosario. One of three horses in the field of seven who went off at odds of 5-2, King Gettigan scored in a final time of 1:16.38.

King Gettigan had four seconds and four thirds, but no wins, in his first 12 starts. When he broke sluggishly and got away last, it looked like heød be zero-for-13. But Rosario never panicked and

got King Gettigan back in the game, settling him in fourth after a :22.99 opening quarter as 5-2 **Blue Collar Cat** and 7-1 **Hampden Fiveone** disputed the pace. Those two continued to battle as King Gettigan rallied into third through a :45.99 half-mile.

Around the far turn, Rosario was able to get King Gettigan to the outside to take on the two front-runners. King Gettigan passed both of them through three-quarters in 1:10.13 and maintained a comfortable advantage to the wire. **Mineral Water** got up for second at 6-1 odds, a neck in front of Hampden Fiveone. Blue Collar Cat finished fourth.

Gary Gullo trains King Gettigan, a son of Read the Footnotes out of Red Hot Peppers by Jelly Roll Blues who was bred by Edward McGettigan, Jr. King Gettigan now has earnings topping \$65,000.

Cuantos Leaves No Doubt in Authoritative Victory Thursday

Apparently miffed at his nose loss from off the pace in his last start at Saratoga, Alan Brodsky's three-year-old colt **Cuantos** took the lead immediately from the rail and never came close to relinquishing it Thursday at Belmont Park. With Rajiv Maragh aboard again, Cuantos took a six-furlong \$62,000 New York-bred allowance by two lengths in a quick 1:08.33 as the 2-1 second choice in the field of six.

Giantinthemoonlite, who went off at 3-2 odds, chased him the entire way in second.

Under trainer Mark Hennig, Cuantos has made quick progress in his brief career. Following a fifth in his debut at Belmont Park on June 29, he broke his maiden at Saratoga by nearly five lengths before finishing second by a nose in an allowance race there.

Cuantos broke sharply Thursday, as did Giantinthemoonlite leaving from the outside post in the compact field. Cuantos forced Giantinthemoonlite to take the pocket in second by running a first quarter in :22.68. Cuantos then increased his lead to three lengths by running the half-mile in :45.06. He continued on to the wire with good energy. Giantinthemoonlite was a clear second, a length and a half in front of 6-1 **One More Chief** in third. **Thnxtomyuncle** finished fourth at 29-1 odds.

Cuantos is a son of Read the Footnotes out of Bound On Bi by Bounding Basque who was bred by Gee Zee Stable. He was purchased for \$27,000 as a yearling at Saratoga in 2012. With two wins and a second from four starts, he has already earned more than \$100,000.

Overcoming the outside post in the field of 11 thanks to a fine ride by Irad Ortiz, Jr., Nantucket Thoroughbred Partners and Michael Ryan's first-time starter **Ack Naughty** spurted past another firster, **Congress Park**, to win a one-mile \$60,000 New York-bred maiden special weight on the grass for two-year-old fillies by three lengths Thursday in a final time of 1:36.19. Ack Naughty went off at 7-2 odds and Congress Park was sent off at 12-1.

Ack Naughty is a daughter of Afleet Alex out of Dash for Money by General Meeting who was bred by Waterville Stables and is trained by Chad Brown.

Ortiz let Ack Naughty settle in mid-pack as 21-1 **Cosmic Tale** and **Battle Axe**, the 5-2 favorite, dueled on the front end through splits of :23.79, :47.70 and 1:12.42.

Cosmic Tale finally put away Battle Axe on her inside, but was immediately confronted by Congress Park, who swooped to the lead on the far outside under Javier Castellano. That impressive move was followed by another as Ack Naughty, who had followed Congress Park, went right on by her to win going away. Congress Park was six lengths clear of 13-1 **Midsummer Delight**, another firster, who edged Cosmic Tale by a head for third.

Mark Nienstedt and Dennis Milne's four-year-old filly **Resolutely**, trained by Joan Milne, raced resolutely, setting a crawling pace under Angel Serpa then gamely holding off favored **Graceful Gal** by a neck to win Thursday's finale, a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$60,000 New York-bred maiden special weight on the grass, in a final time of 1:46.32. Resolutely was sent off at 8-1 odds and Graceful Gal went off at 2-1 in the field of 10.

Breaking from the eight post, Resolutely went right to the top, while 11-1 **Escape to Malibu** settled in second behind her. They raced 1-2 through an incredibly slow first quarter-mile in :27.48 and a half-mile in :52.65. Serpa got away with another dawdling quarter, reaching three-quarters of a mile in 1:17.25.

Graceful Gal, ridden by John Velazquez, stayed inside then found room and closed strongly into second. She went after Resolutely and was getting to her late, but Resolutely held on to win. Graceful Gal finished second, four lengths in front of 4-1 firster **Dreaming as Always** in third.

Resolutely is a daughter of Stonesider out of Desert Dream by Olympio who was bred by Chasemedaly Farm. She is now one-for-five on turf and was third in her only dirt start.

Blithely Makes It Look Easy Wednesday

William Parsons, Jr. and David Howe's homebred three-year-old gray filly **Blithely** overpowered nine rivals to win a six-furlong \$62,000 New York-bred allowance by six lengths as the 8-5 favorite at Belmont Park Wednesday. With Joel Rosario aboard, Blithely won in a final time of 1:10.66 over a track that had been upgraded from "muddy" to "good."

Mark Hennig trains Blithely, a daughter of Borrego out of Sarah Accomplished by Performing Magic. She went off at 8-5 odds for a reason. As a two-year-old last year, she finished second by a neck in her debut then won a maiden special weight by 11 ¼ lengths at 2-5 odds. She was out until August at Saratoga, where she led late before finishing second by a length at 6-1 odds in her first start in nearly a year.

Rosario got Blithely away in mid-pack as 53-1 longshot **Manhattan Gin**, who cleared the lead from the outside post immediately under Manuel Franco, opened a length-and-a-half lead through a fast opening quarter of :22.76. **My Girl Madison**, who went off at 9-2 odds under C.C. Lopez, pressured the front-runner through a :46.02 half-mile, then took the lead.

She didn't have it for long. Blithely had commenced her rally and she simply took over in early stretch to win easily. **Ms. Sylvia A.** rallied to be second, a length in front of My Girl Madison. **The Lost Tigress** finished fourth.

Blithely is now two-for-four with a pair of seconds and earnings already topping \$105,000.

Handling an off-track and an outside post like a seasoned veteran, Marc Keller's **Quezon** rolled to an impressive six-length victory under Manuel Franco in her career debut, taking a \$60,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for two-year-old fillies switched from grass to dirt in a quick final time of 1:10.71. Sent off at 8-1 odds in the field of nine, she easily defeated 3-5 favorite **The Lewis Dinner. Go Babe**, who was adding Lasix and went off at 6-1 odds, was a distant third, and 70-1 **Rhody Rendezvous** finished fourth.

Bobby Ribaldo trains Quezon, a daughter of Tiz Wonderful out of Kalookan Dancer by Olympio who was bred by Apache Farm. Keller purchased her for \$90,000 last year at the Saratoga Yearling Sale.

After beginning to get her ready for her debut at Belmont Park, Ribaldo shipped the filly to Saratoga, where she signaled her intentions with a bullet four-furlong work in :47 breezing, the best of 22 horses working that distance that morning. Back at Belmont, Quezon worked a leisurely four furlongs in :51 2/5 on September 11.

Breaking sharply from the eight post, Quezon worked her way up to be a tight second on the outside of front-running Go Babe through a quarter-mile in :22.49 and a half in :46.37.

Quezon made her move coming out of the far turn and quickly took the lead. Behind her, The Lewis Dinner moved up three-wide, as did 10-1 firster **Shoot the Moon** four-wide.

Quezon couldn't have cared less, pulling away from the competition to win by herself. The Lewis Dinner, who was ridden by Joel Rosario, salvaged second.

Jose Ortiz rallied trainer Kathleen Feron and Michael Di Tomasso's three-year-old gray colt **Balderdash** past even-money favorite **Blue Pigeon**, ridden by Ortiz's brother Irad, Jr., to win a one-mile \$62,000 New York-bred grass allowance by three-quarters of a length at 11-1 odds on Wednesday. Over a turf course labeled "good," Balderdash won in a final time of 1:35.50.

Feron also bred Balderdash, a son of Grand Slam out of Them There Eyes by Holy Bull. After Balderdash made a strong middle move before weakening to finish an improved fourth, three-quarters of a length behind second-place Blue Pigeon, at 37-1 odds in his previous start, Feron took off Balderdash's blinkers.

That might have made the difference. A fine ride by Jose Ortiz certainly didn't hurt.

Leaving from the nine post in the field of 11, Balderdash settled in mid-pack early as 6-1 **Charity Reins** set the pace under Javier Castellano. Charity Reins took the field to the quarter in :23.23 and the half in :47.59. Blue Pigeon stayed inside while moving up to third heading into the far turn. **Adams Note**, a 15-1 longshot, moved up three-wide and Balderdash went four-wide.

At the top of the stretch, Blue Pigeon found room between horses and took the lead, but Balderdash kept moving closer and took over in deep stretch. Blue Pigeon finished second, a length and a half ahead of 7-1 **Iced Over**. Adams Note finished fourth.

Balderdash is now two-for-11 on grass with a pair of thirds. He has earned more than \$105,000.

In an exciting finale Wednesday, a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$60,000 New York-bred maiden special weight on the grass, Krenz Stable's **Tiger D**, the 6-5 favorite in the field of eight, chased Sovereign Stable's front-running **Boston Strong**, the 3-1 second choice, the length of the stretch and got up to dead-heat with him at the wire in 1:44.91. Rajiv Maragh rode Boston Strong; Joel Rosario was on Tiger D.

Boston Strong broke on the lead and posted splits of :26.64, :50.36 and 1:14.01, with Tiger D prompting him in second. In early stretch, Boston Strong spurred away to lead by nearly two lengths, but Tiger D wasn't done and took another run at him. Boston Strong looked like he had it won until the final, frantic 50 yards. The photo-finish camera revealed that they had tied. **Talladega** was third at 3-1 odds and 7-1 **Blue Shark** finished fourth.

John Terranova trains Boston Strong, a three-year-old colt by Pioneer of the Nile out of Truly Enchanting by Danehill Dancer who was bred by Grapestock LLC. He had finished third in both of his previous starts.

Tiger D, a three-year-old colt by Grand Slam out of Dynamism by Dynaformer, was bred by MDS Farms and is trained by Jim Baker. Tiger D was also making his third career start. He had finished second by a head in open maiden company at Churchill Downs and third by a neck vs. New York-breds at Saratoga at 1-2 odds.