

New York-Breds at the Races: September 24 to 28

By Bill Heller

Sioux Romps Again Sunday at Belmont Park

Peachtree Stable's three-year-old colt **Sioux** backed up his 5 ¼-length winning return at Saratoga with an even more impressive score Sunday at Belmont Park. With Jose Ortiz along again for the ride, Sioux humbled eight opponents, taking a one-mile \$65,000 New York-bred allowance/optional \$40,000 claimer by 9 ¾ lengths in a final time of 1:35.86.

Sent off as the 5-2 second choice, Sioux sparred with 13-1 **Petrocelli** on his outside for the first half-mile in a testing :45.29, then simply drew off. He covered six furlongs in 1:09.71 on the way to his second straight blowout victory. **Saturday Appeal**, a 15-1 shot, edged the 2-1 favorite, **Effinex**, for second. **Modern Child**, a 57-1 bomb, finished fourth.

Mike Hushion trains Sioux, a son of Awesome Again out of Andraste by Pulpit who was bred by Waterville Lake Stables. He was purchased at the Saratoga August Yearling Sale for \$200,000 in 2012.

As a two-year-old last fall, Sioux finished third in his debut, then won a maiden special weight by a neck with blinkers added, and finished seventh in his first allowance try.

Off from November 22 to August 9, Sioux took the lead early and never looked back to win a seven-furlong allowance race in his 2014 debut. With three wins and a third from five starts, he has now earned more than \$125,000.

Harold Lerner, Nehoc Stable and Magdalena Racing's three-year-old colt **Gridley Here** made a wide rush into contention and then drew off to a near-five-length victory under Joel Rosario in a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$62,000 New York-bred allowance as the 8-5 favorite Sunday. **Futurazo** finished second at 7-1 odds and **Sea Raven**, the 3-1 second choice in the field of nine, was third, another length and three-quarters back. **Jesses Giant Dunk** finished fourth.

Kenny McPeck trains Gridley Here, a son of Repent out of Chicopee by Mr. Greeley who was bred by Windhorse Thoroughbreds. Only one of Gridley Here's seven previous starts was on dirt, and it was a good one, a second by a neck at 7-2 odds at Saratoga.

Rosario got Gridley here away in mid-pack as 10-1 **Salisbury Knight**, who was adding blinkers, set an honest pace with splits of :23.21, :46.75 and 1:11.79. Futurazo chased him the whole way in second. Gridley Here rushed into contention and took over, drawing off to an easy victory.

Gridley Here is now two-for-eight overall with one second and earnings topping \$105,000.

Eric Fein's homebred two-year-old colt **Ostrolenka** caught a sloppy track when he made his debut for trainer Todd Pletcher at Saratoga on the final day of August and finished a distant

seventh. In his first start on a dry track Sunday, he was absolutely sensational. With John Velazquez aboard, Ostrolenka won a one-mile \$60,000 New York-bred maiden special weight by 14 ½ lengths.

Sent off the 3-1 second choice from the outside post in a field of nine, Ostrolenka broke sharply, scrimmaged briefly for the early lead and took off. He hit the quarter in :23.44, the half in :47.68 and three-quarters in 1:12.50. He added a fine final quarter in under :24 to win in a final time of 1:36.34.

Bellamy Way finished second at 5-1 odds, two lengths ahead of the 5-2 favorite, **Persuasive Devil**, in third. There was a gap of 10 ¼ lengths back to 31-1 **Black Tide** in fourth.

Ostrolenka is a son of Musket Man out of Pumpkin's Pride by Louis Quatorze.

In Sunday's finale, a 6 ½-furlong \$60,000 New York-bred maiden special weight, Camelia Cosby's homebred three-year-old gelding **Wildniteattheopera** made a furious rally from sixth in mid-stretch to nip **Freudex** by a neck in a final time of 1:18.52. Joel Rosario rode Wildniteattheopera, the 2-1 favorite who had made a similar rally in his debut at Saratoga, finishing second by a neck. Freudex was sent off at 5-1 odds in the field of 11, which included four first-time starters.

Jose Ortiz put 9-1 **Dusk to Dawn** on the lead, and he opened up a five-length advantage by running a blistering quarter in :22.00 and a half-mile in :45.61. Heading for three-quarters, the field caught up in a hurry.

Man of Mystery, a firster on the rail who went off at 27-1 odds, and Freudex, ridden by Cornelio Velasquez, had the first two shots at the tiring pacesetter after three-quarters in 1:11.70. Freudex proved the stronger closer to take the lead inside the final sixteenth before Wildniteattheopera came flying up, nailing him in the final 20 yards.

Mark Hennig trains Wildniteattheopera, a son of Offlee Wild out of Moon Singer by Wolf Power. He's already earned more than \$55,000 in just two starts.

Drawing Away Stable and trainer David Jacobson's seven-year-old New York-bred gelding **Abilio**, the even-money favorite in a field of eight Sunday, rallied up the inside under seven-pound apprentice rider Andre Worrie to edge 7-1 Bobby V. by a neck in a one-mile \$25,000 open \$12,500 claimer in a final time of 1:37.89.

Abilio was claimed three starts back by his current connections for \$40,000 when he finished fifth in a grass race. Kept on the turf, he was seventh in a \$40,000 claimer, then fifth in a \$25,000 claimer before being switched back to dirt.

Abilio's first victory in two years improved his dirt record to two-for-seven with a pair of thirds. The son of Pioneering out of Mini Sanguie by Slew Sanguie, bred by Michael Marseda, is four-for-26 on grass with one second and two thirds. He now has total earnings of more than \$260,000.

Noble Cornerstone Finds Room Late and Scores Saturday

Stuck behind a wall of horses in front of him, My Meadowview Farms' homebred New York-bred **Noble Cornerstone** waited under a patient Jose Ortiz then found room, split horses decisively and won a 6 ½-furlong \$92,000 allowance race by two lengths as the 2-1 favorite in the field of nine Saturday at Belmont Park. Another New York-bred, 7-2 **Chapman**, finished second after Noble Cornerstone won in a final time of 1:15.99.

Tom Morley trains Noble Cornerstone, a three-year-old gelding by Noble Causeway out of Besige by Polish Numbers who had finished sixth in the Grade I King's Bishop Stakes in his last start after winning two consecutive state-bred races.

Noble Cornerstone signaled his intentions with a :59 3/5 five-furlong work, second fastest of 10 that morning, on September 18.

Both he and Chapman, who started in adjacent stalls, broke sharply. Chapman, with Cornelio Velasquez aboard, took a one-length lead while Ortiz took Noble Cornerstone back to fourth as a pair of longshots, 16-1 Gombey Dancer and 45-1 Inmyfathersimage, advanced on the outside.

Chapman led Gombey Dancer by a neck after a half in :46.19. When both Inmyfathersimage and 11-1 Casiguapo also advanced, Noble Cornerstone had nowhere to go in early stretch. Then Ortiz found a gap between Chapman and Inmyfathersimage, and shot Noble Cornerstone through. Noble Cornerstone quickly zipped to the lead and won handily. Chapman saved second, a length and a quarter in front of Round, the 5-2 second choice who rallied for third.

Noble Cornerstone improved his record to four-for-nine with two seconds while increasing his earnings to more than \$240,000.

Perfect Disco Makes It Look Easy in Wire-to-Wire Score

Seven-pound apprentice rider Israel Rodriguez hustled Robert Valeria's four-year-old New York-bred gelding **Perfect Disco** to the lead from the outside post in a field of eight and he won a 6 ½-furlong \$28,000 conditional \$16,000 claimer gate-to-wire by 3 ½ lengths in a final time of 1:18.90 as the 5-2 third choice Friday at Belmont. Artemus Paperboy finished second at 9-5 odds and **Keltic Fighter**, the other New York-bred in the race, was third at odds of 9-1.

Gary Gullo trains Perfect Disco, a homebred son of Disco Rico out of Platinum Perfect by Jules. He was making just his sixth lifetime start.

Perfect Disco won one of three starts to begin his career for late trainer Dominic Galluscio. In his first start for Gullo off a near-three-month layoff, he finished second in an open \$25,000 claimer with blinkers added in mid-May. After another freshening, Perfect Disco was a distant sixth at 2-1 odds in an open \$16,000 claimer on September 11.

On Friday, Perfect Disco out-sprinted the horse immediately inside him, 76-1 Wild Flash, to make the lead. He opened a two-length advantage through a :22.95 first quarter with 18-1 Life's a Roar chasing in second. Perfect Disco continued clear on the lead through a half in :46.19 and was never threatened the rest of the way. Artemus Paperboy rallied for second, a length and a half ahead of Keltic Fighter in third.

Perfect Disco is now two-for-six with one second and earnings of more than \$50,000.

With an explosive late rally, Real Air Farms' three-year-old filly **La Reverie** made her turf debut a winning one Friday, capturing a seven-furlong \$41,000 New York-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer by a length and a half under Luis Saez. Sent off at 9-2 odds in the field of 12 from the rail, La Reverie defeated 7-2 **Traipse in Utopia** by a length and a half.

Kenny McPeck trains La Reverie, a daughter of Freud out of Day Trading by Capote who was bred by Michael Michalisin and was making just her second career start. Racing on dirt in her debut in a maiden special weight at Saratoga, she finished seventh in a field of nine at 16-1 odds.

Lil' Zilla, who had the 12 post and went off at 4-1 odds under Irad Ortiz, Jr., took the early lead, opening a five-length advantage by running a half-mile in :46.50. Traipse in Utopia chased her in second, then went after her around the far turn.

Traipse in Utopia took over the lead in mid-stretch, while La Reverie remained in eighth. But once Saez got her going, she took off, winning going away. Traipse in Utopia saved second, 2 ½ lengths clear of 31-1 **La Dama de Hierro** in third. **Kevin's Steel** finished fourth at 7-1 odds.

Sandyøz Slew Comes Through in the Mud to a Popular Victory

Team Clear Star Stable's four-year-old New York-bred gelding **Sandy'z Slew** delivered as the 4-5 favorite Thursday afternoon at Belmont Park, winning a six-furlong \$77,000 allowance by a length and a half over the only other New York-bred in the field of six, **Knockher Off**. With Junior Alvarado aboard, Sandyøz Slew won in a final time of 1:10.61 on the muddy main track.

Sandyøz Slew, a four-year-old gelding by Limehouse out of Charlotte Springs by Capote, was bred by Robert Hahn and is trained by Rick Schosberg. Sandyøz Slew was dropping to bottom-level open allowance company off a third by three-quarters of a length in the \$98,000 Troy Stakes at Saratoga on a sloppy track.

Run for Logistics, breaking from the rail under Larry Mejias at 5-1 odds, took a narrow lead as Alvarado positioned Sandyøz Slew on his flank in second. Run for Logistics led by a neck through a :22.97 quarter before Sandyøz Slew moved even closer heading into the far turn.

Sandyøz Slew went after the frontrunner in early stretch and put him away to take a clear lead. He held on to win while Angel Arroyo rallied 6-1 Knockher Off, who had stumbled badly soon after the start, into second.

Sandyøz Slew is now two-for-11 on dirt with two seconds and a pair of thirds. He also has two wins, two seconds and a third in six turf starts, for total earnings of more than \$250,000.

Jim and Susan Hill's three-year-old gelding **Wake Up in Malibu**, the 8-5 favorite on the rail under John Velazquez, surged from third to first in mid-stretch then held off 2-1 **Ogermeister** by three-quarters of a length to win a six-furlong \$62,000 New York-bred allowance Thursday that

was switched from turf to dirt. **One More Chief**, the 5-2 third choice in the field of seven, finished third after Wake Up in Malibu won in a final time of 1:10.92.

George Weaver trains Wake Up in Malibu, a son of Malibu Moon out of Wake Up Kiss by Cure the Blues who was bred by Edition Farm.

A pair of longshots, 7-1 **Stalagmite** and 26-1 **Greeley Pack**, battled on the front end through a quarter in :22.05 and a half-mile in :45.33. Wake Up in Malibu made his rush to confront them and was followed by Ogermeister, who couldn't get to the winner after they both cleared the tiring pacesetters.

Wake Up in Malibu is now two-for-four on dirt with one third. He also has a pair of seconds from three turf starts for combined earnings of more than \$115,000.

Norman Stable's three-year-old filly **Jet Majesty** led early, surrendered the lead, then regained it and pulled away to win a one-mile \$62,000 New York-bred allowance race by two lengths. Rafael Hernandez contributed a fine ride on Jet Majesty, who went off at 2-1 odds in the field of six and won in a final time of 1:37.51.

Wesley Ward trains Jet Majesty, a daughter of Raffie's Majesty out of Jet's Tradition by A.P. Jet who was bred by Cloyce Clark, Jr.

After posting a fifth, a third and a win on grass to begin her career, Jet Majesty made her dirt debut at Saratoga on August 13, finishing a front-running second on a sloppy track as the 2-1 favorite.

She and **Annie Walker**, ridden by Manuel Franco, both went off at 2-1 odds Thursday. Jet Majesty broke on top, but Annie Walker quickly challenged on her outside to take the lead by a half-length after an opening quarter in :23.74.

Annie Walker went on with it to open a three-length lead after a half-mile in :46.77. Jet Majesty cut into that lead around the far turn, then went after the frontrunner. Hitting three quarters in 1:11.27, Jet Majesty powered past Annie Walker and won comfortably. **Legally Bay** finished second at 9-2 odds. **Jo's American Dream** was third at odds of 8-1 and Annie Walker finished fourth.

Now with two wins, a second and a third in five starts, Jet Majesty has earned more than \$105,000. She was purchased as a two-year-old for \$75,000 in May 2013.

Charging to the lead in mid-stretch under Javier Castellano, Klaravich Stables and William Lawrence's **Building Permit** drew off to win a one-mile \$60,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for two-year-old fillies by six lengths as the 8-5 favorite in the field of eight Thursday. **In Spite of Mama** was second at 6-1 odds after Building Permit won in a final time of 1:39.08.

Building Permit was making her second career start. The daughter of Bellamy Road out of Unbridled Blessing by Unbridled's Song, bred by William Jones, Frank Antonacci, Geoff Stein and David Reid and trained by Chad Brown, finished a distant fourth at 5-2 odds in her debut at Saratoga.

Castellano settled Building Permit into third as 13-1 **Moondance Joy**, who was adding Lasix, and In Spite of Mama, who was adding blinkers, dueled on the front end through a quarter in :23.13 and a half in :46.96.

Building Permit motored up three-wide around the far turn to join them and then took over with authority. Purchased for \$80,000 at the Saratoga 2013 August Yearling Sale, she has already earned nearly \$40,000.

Andrew Gordon's five-year-old mare **Marcy**, the 2-5 favorite ridden by Manuel Franco, briefly relinquished the lead to fellow NY-bred **Wisdom of Oz** in early stretch, then put that challenger away and cruised to a six-length victory in Thursday's opener, a seven-furlong \$31,000 conditional \$16,000 claimer that featured five New York-breds. Wisdom of Oz, who went off at 4-1 odds under Angel Arroyo, finished a clear second after Marcy won in a final time of 1:25.11.

Rudy Rodriguez trains Marcy, a daughter of Afleet Alex out of End of the Hill by Ends Well who was bred by Cascade Farm.

Marcy broke first and Wisdom of Oz settled in second through splits of :25.17 and :49.64. Wisdom of Oz moved closer around the far turn, then stuck a head in front of Marcy at the top of the stretch.

Marcy responded immediately and quickly opened a three-length lead, which kept increasing right to the finish line.

Marcy improved her dirt record to three-for-13 with three thirds. She also has two thirds from 13 turf tries for combined earnings of more than \$100,000.

Trainer Jeremiah Englehart added blinkers and Hobby Horse Stables' homebred three-year-old gelding **Super Nicky** responded with a bullet work on September 13 and a brave wire-to-wire victory in his first start in a maiden claimer Thursday.

Departing from the rail at 5-1 odds under Manuel Franco, Super Nicky rebuffed challenges by 7-2 **Invasion Point** and 3-5 favorite **Hidden Warrior** to win a six-furlong \$41,000 New York-bred maiden claimer switched from grass to dirt by three-quarters of a length in a final time of 1:10.09. Invasion Point was second, 2 ½ lengths ahead of Hidden Warrior, who was fractious before the start and was loaded into the gate without jockey Cornelio Velasquez, who then climbed aboard.

Super Nicky is a son of Utopia (JPN) out of Audrey's Secret by Salt Lake. Making just his fourth career start, he posted splits of :22.51 and :45.45.

Courageous Writingonthewall Wins His 17th Race Wednesday

Despite setting a fast pace under pressure and losing the lead, James Riccio's nine-year-old New York-bred gelding **Writingonthewall** came back on the inside under Jose Ortiz to win a 6 ½-furlong \$56,000 starter allowance by three-quarters of a length over Glickman on Wednesday at

Belmont Park in a quick final time of 1:15.31. Sent off at 3-1 odds in the field of 10, he recorded his 17th career victory in his 55th start while increasing his career earnings to more than \$680,000.

Now trained by Michelle Nevin after being claimed for \$20,000 four starts back on May 22nd, Writingonthewall is one of those rare Thoroughbreds who is equally proficient on dirt and turf. On dirt, he is now 12-for-32 with seven seconds and four thirds. He is five-for-22 on grass with two seconds and a pair of thirds.

Wednesday's race was a two-horse battle the entire way between Writingonthewall and Glickman, who was ridden by Abel Lezcano and went off at 7-1 odds.

Breaking two posts inside of Glickman, Writingonthewall made the lead, but led Glickman by just three-quarters of a length after a fast first quarter of :22.46. Heading to the far turn, Glickman inched closer, getting within a neck of Writingonthewall after a demanding half in :44.52.

At the top of the stretch, Glickman took the lead by nearly three-quarters of a length. In mid-stretch, Writingonthewall came again on the inside and regained the lead. Glickman had to settle for second, three lengths clear of Street Shark in third.

Not even the photo finish camera could separate Tristar Farm's **Life's a Stage** and Capi Racing Stable's **Devious Maddy** at the wire in a mile-and-a-sixteenth \$62,000 New York-bred grass allowance on Wednesday. They finished in a dead-heat in a final time of 1:42.41.

Rajiv Maragh rode Life's a Stage, a four-year-old filly by Shakespeare out of Bounding Boldly by Bounding Basque who was bred and is trained by Joseph Lostritto. She went off at 23-1 odds in the field of 11.

Devious Maddy is a four-year-old daughter of Forest Danger out of Port A by Alydeed who was bred by Bradley & Browne and is trained by Leah Gyarmati. She was ridden by Joel Rosario and went off at 5-1 odds.

Lady Kreesa, the 2-1 favorite ridden by Irad Ortiz, Jr., tried going wire-to-wire. She set a strong pace, hitting three-quarters of a mile in 1:10.93 chased in second by 27-1 **Take It Inside**.

Around the far turn and well into the stretch, Lady Kreesa maintained a clear lead before Life's a Stage, Devious Maddy and 12-1 **As Well** rushed into contention.

Lady Kreesa led until the final 100 yards, when both Life's a Stage and Devious Maddy rolled past. Lady Kreesa finished third, a length behind them while a half-length in front of As Well in fourth.

Life's a Stage is now two-for-14 on grass with a pair of seconds and two thirds. She failed to hit the board in four dirt tries. Devious Maddy improved her turf record to one-for-eight with three seconds and a pair of thirds. She also has a win and a couple of thirds from five dirt races.

Diamond in the Sky Racing Stable's three-year-old filly **Sweet Sweet Afleet** documented how much improvement a horse can make in her second career start. In her debut at Saratoga on

closing day September 1, she bolted at the top of the stretch when jockey David Michael Lopez struck her left-handed, yet she still finished second at 8-1 odds. On Wednesday, as the 3-5 favorite under Lopez in the field of seven, she ran as straight as a string, which she needed to do, nailing front-running 5-2 second choice **Moonlight Fantasy** by a head in the final 10 yards to win a 6 ½-furlong \$60,000 New York-bred maiden special weight in a final time of 1:17.86.

Before the start, Moonlight Fantasy reared up behind the gate, dumping jockey Mike Luzzi. Moonlight Fantasy, who was also making her second career start, was loaded sans rider into the gate and Luzzi climbed back aboard.

Lopez hustled Sweet Sweet Afleet from the rail to the early lead before Moonlight Fantasy took the front through a :22.86 opening quarter. Moonlight Fantasy extended her lead to four lengths through a :46.08 half before Sweet Sweet Afleet and 23-1 **All Luv Me** closed in.

Moonlight Fantasy still had a length-and-a-half lead in mid-stretch, but both Sweet Sweet Afleet and All Luv Me continued to gain. Sweet Sweet Afleet got the job done, narrowly. Moonlight Fantasy saved second, three-quarters of a length in front of All Luv Me. **Kleptocrat**, a 15-1 shot adding blinkers, finished fourth.

Mike Ferraro trains Sweet Sweet Afleet, a daughter of Northern Afleet out of Sweet Sweet by Honour and Glory who was bred by Stonewall Farm.

Under excellent handling by jockey Joel Rosario, Barry Ostrager's five-year-old New York-bred mare **Ave's Halo** won Wednesday's opener, a six-furlong \$47,000 open \$25,000 claimer on grass, by two lengths as the 2-5 favorite in a final time of 1:09.23.

Leaving from the outside post, Ave's Halo, the only New York-bred in the field of six, broke a step in front, just ahead of the speedy Insolvent, but Rosario wisely took a hold of Ave's Halo to race in second. Apprentice Andre Worrie let Insolvent roll on the lead and she opened a gaping lead through a fast first quarter of :22.25.

Rosario never panicked, even though Insolvent stretched her lead to eight lengths by running a half-mile in :44.92. Ave's Halo closed into that deficit quickly and was drawing away at the end. Insolvent held second.

David Cannizzo trains Ave's Halo, a daughter of Harlan's Holiday out of Boatman Road by Lord At War who was bred by Sequel Thoroughbreds and Anthony Grey. Ave's Halo improved her grass record to four-for-19 with three seconds and a third. She also has one win from four dirt starts for total earnings of nearly \$260,000.

Well-placed early under Manuel Franco, Michael Schrader's homebred three-year-old gelding **Chasin Chama** took the lead in mid-stretch and went on to win Wednesday's finale, a one-mile \$41,000 New York-bred maiden \$40,000 claimer, by two lengths in a final time of 1:36.85 at 10-1 odds. **Lotza Heat** finished second at 9-1 odds, a head in front of even-money favorite **Hushhushmushmush** in third. **Wake Up and Go** was fourth at odds of 9-1.

Breaking from the 10 post in the field of 12, Chasin Chama, co-owned by Paul O'Neil, got away fourth as 13-1 **Startripenterprise** set the pace under Joel Rosario. After three-quarters in 1:12.60, Chasin Chama made his bid for the lead. He went on to win by himself.

Bruce Brown trains Chasin Chama, a son of Posse out of New Britski by Polish Numbers. He now has a win and a pair of thirds in four starts, all on turf.