

# Hangover Kid Rallies From Far Back to Win a \$79,000 Open Allowance Grass Race

By Bill Heller

Seemingly out of it in mid-stretch, Four Tags Stable's five-year-old New York-bred **Hangover Kid** rallied under Irad Ortiz, Jr. to defeat Film Shot by half a length in a \$79,000 allowance/optional \$62,500 grass claimer at Belmont Park Thursday at 10-1.

Hangover Kid was making just his second start since November for trainer Jason Servis. Ortiz replaced Cornelio Velasquez, who didn't ride in New York Thursday.

Another New York-bred in the one-mile race, **Mia Poppy**, tried going gate-to-wire under Javier Castellano at 6-1. He led for most of the way until Film Shot, ridden by Hall of Famer Edgar Prado, made his move. Film Shot cleared Mia Poppy, but Ortiz had Hangover Kid flying down the center of the course to get the job done, covering the mile in 1:35.27.

Hangover Kid's victory was his fourth in nine turf starts with two seconds. The son of Lemon Drop Kid, out of Absolute Patience by Rakeen, was bred by Steve Taglienti.

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Patsy Simon's **Effie Trinket** ran down front-running **Margaret Lilian**, then held off **Quiet Ending**, the 3-4 favorite, by a long nose in an eventful \$59,000 New York-bred allowance grass sprint for fillies and mares.

As the horses were being loaded into the starting gate, announcer Tom Durkin informed the crowd that **Nice Stuff**, one of the contenders in the field of nine, would be running for purse money only because she had thrown a shoe. Any bettors who had used Nice Stuff in multiple wagers were given the post-time favorite, which really wasn't a positive Thursday. Quiet Ending became the fourth consecutive odds-on favorite in the fourth race Thursday. Only one of the quartet won.

Margaret Lilian, a 6-1 shot breaking from the outside post in the field of nine, rocketed to the lead under Rajiv Maragh and opened up a gaping advantage through extremely fast splits of :22.24 and :45.46 in the six-furlong sprint.

Just past mid-stretch, Margaret Lilian caved in, allowing 18-1 **Barrel of Joy**, who had been chasing her in second, to gain the lead. It didn't last.

The two horses moving fastest to the wire were Effie Trinket and Quiet Ending on her outside. Effie Trinket, with Joel Rosario up, reached the wire first, a long nose ahead of Quiet Ending and Jose Ortiz. Effie Trinket, who had finished fourth in an open grass stakes last year, was making her second start of the year following a third on dirt. Rick Violette trains the daughter of Freud out of Maya's Note by Editor's Note, who was bred by McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds.

Effie Trinket now has three wins and a third from six starts and earnings of more than \$140,000.

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Joseph Birnbaum's homebred three-year-old colt **Dark Roast** made his turf debut a successful one, defeating favored **Sunbio** by a length in a \$55,000 six-furlong New York-bred maiden special weight on grass.

Dark Roast, a son of Mingun out of Jenny Bean Girl by Sefapiano, trained by Russell Cash, had three seconds and four thirds from 11 dirt starts before switching to grass Thursday and adding the services of Edgar Prado.

Dark Roast sat third behind dueling front-runners **Pie's First Lady** and **Deferred Asset**, took the lead inside the 16<sup>th</sup> pole and held off a fast-closing Sunbio to win in 1:10.24.

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Nobody told Guyana Rocky LLC's New York-bred **Run a Dubb Dubb** that one of her two opponents in Thursday's opener, Tanglewood Tale, wasn't supposed to lose as the 1-5 favorite in a field of three. So Run a Dubb Dubb ran her down in the stretch, capturing a \$35,000 conditional \$30,000 claimer by half a length under Rajiv Maragh.

Randi Persaud trains Run a Dubb Dubb, a three-year-old filly by Harlington out of Dominating by Cherokee Run, who was bred by Kelly and Paul Zanella. Run a Dubb Dubb was good enough to win an open allowance/optional \$60,000 claimer by a neck at 32-1 four starts back in her first start after being claimed for \$25,000, then bad enough in her last race to finish seventh at 10-1 in a New York-bred allowance/optional \$14,000 claimer. Bettors Thursday made her the 5-2 second choice in a field reduced to three by four scratches.

Tanglewood Tale led most of the way, opening a five-length lead at one point, but Run a Dubb Dubb went after her at the top of the stretch and wore her down to win in 1:16.46. She is now three-for-11 in her career with two seconds and one third.

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At Finger Lakes Thursday, in a \$22,000 New York-bred allowance sprint for fillies and mares, Sheila Englehart's five-year-old mare **Ecoach**, trained by her husband Chris and ridden by John Davila, Jr., lived up to her 1-5 odds, crushing five opponents by some seven lengths.

Davila put the daughter of Zavata out of Alytazm by Alydeed, bred by Maspeth Stables, on the lead and Ecoach had no trouble going gate-to-wire, getting six furlongs in 1:11.93 for her seventh career victory in 17 starts with one second and a pair of thirds.

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Chris Englehart and Davila were right back in the winner's circle an hour later with another heavy favorite who got the job done impressively, Wachtel Stable's five-year-old gray **All Class**, who flew past front-running **The Grievance Man** to take a \$21,000 New York-bred allowance by nearly nine lengths as the 1-2 favorite.

The son of Value Plus, out of Tangerine Spice by Woodman, bred by Avandelle Farm, had won a conditional \$7,500 claimer in his previous start easily. He had no trouble making it two straight Thursday and is now four-for-18 in his career with one second and one third.

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Adding blinkers in her last start didn't seem to do much for trainer and owner Donna Bireta's four-year-old New York bred filly **Awesometrack**, who finished a distant fifth at 13-1. So Bireta removed them Thursday and, thanks also to a nice ride by Jeremias Flores, Awesometrack scored a wire-to-wire upset at 14-1 by a length over 1-2 favorite and fellow NY-bred **Bay Shore Blaze** in a \$16,700 conditional \$12,500 claimer.

Awesometrack, a daughter of Awesome Again out of Track Gal by Track Baron, bred by Dr. Jerry Bilinski, made the lead in a :22.70 opening quarter and held on to win the six-furlong sprint by a length over Bayshore Blaze in 1:14.07. It was her second victory in 14 career starts.