New York-Breds at the Races: August 6 to 11

By Bill Heller

Skinner Box Fights off Loon River to win Her Debut Monday

In a virtual match race, Patsy Symons’ Skinner Box outdueled Daniel Sullivan III’s Loon River to win a 5 ½-furlong $73,000 New York-bred maiden special weight on the grass for two-year-old fillies by a half-length under Jose Ortiz Monday at Saratoga. Like four others in the field of seven, Skinner Box was making her career debut.

Bettors sent off Battle Axe the 2-1 favorite on the rail under Luis Saez. Both Skinner Box and Smilingsundae, who was ridden by Javier Castellano, went off at odds of 5-2. Loon River went off at 8-1 with Rajiv Maragh riding.

Leaving from the two and three posts, respectively, both Skinner Box and Loon River went for the early lead. They began their battle immediately and finished well clear of their five opponents at the end.

Skinner Box eked out a half-length lead over Loon River on his outside through an opening quarter in :22.94. Loon River went after Skinner Box around the far turn and took a neck lead to the head of the stretch before Skinner Box battled back. They reached the half in :45.85 head-to-head before Skinner Box inched away to score in a final time of 1:03.47. Battle Axe rallied for third, four lengths behind Loon River.

Rick Violette trains Skinner Box, a daughter of Freud out of Talkin Indian by Indian Charlie who was bred by Vivien Malloy. Skinner Box was purchased for $65,000 as a yearling before being entered in the Ocala Breeders Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale in April. After working one furlong in :10 1/5, Skinner Box fetched $190,000. After Monday, he’s already earned $43,800.

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Irad Ortiz, Jr. rallied Rontos Racing Stable Corp’s three-year-old gelding Rontos New York past Downgoesfrazier in deep stretch to win a one-mile $45,000 New York-bred maiden $40,000 claimer on the grass by a long neck in a final time of 1:36.99. There was a gap of 2 ½ lengths back to Chasin Chama in third. Downgoesfrazier was the 8-5 favorite on the rail under John Velazquez, Rontos New York was the 5-2 second choice and Chasin Chama, with Jose Lezcano riding, was the 3-1 third choice in the field of 10.

Downgoesfrazier battled on the front end first with 48-1 Hunter Grey and then with 8-1 Bapu through an opening quarter in :23.41, a half-mile in :47.53 and three-quarters in 1:12.88. Chasin Chama made a wide rally while Rontos New York rallied behind him.

Through the stretch, Downgoesfrazier put away Bapu before being confronted by Rontos New York. They battled to the wire, with Rontos New York finally edging away late.

Rudy Rodriguez trains Rontos New York, a son of Utopia (JPN) out of Syndication by With Approval who was bred by McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds. He improved his grass record to a win, two seconds and a third in five starts, for earnings of nearly $50,000.
Sir Leslie and Ziptronic Win Rich New York-Bred Allowance Races Sunday

Hilly Fields Stable's homebred four-year-old gelding Sir Leslie and Repole Stable's eight-year-old gelding Ziptronic won separate $78,000 New York-bred allowance races Sunday at Saratoga.

In a thriller, Sir Leslie passed Saturday Appeal on the inside to win a mile-and-an-eighth dirt allowance by a nose under Abel Lezcano. Sir Leslie went off at 7-2 odds on the rail while 2-1 Saturday Appeal broke from the outside post in the field of six.

Goodtolook, sent off at 6-1 odds under Luis Saez, set the pace as Junior Alvarado guided Saturday Appeal into a stalking position in second. After an opening quarter in :23.62, Goodtolook led through a half in :48.35 and three-quarters in 1:12.70 with Saturday Appeal sticking close in second.

Around the far turn, Saturday Appeal dropped back and 9-2 Went the Day Well advanced into second. Went the Day Well couldn't sustain his rally and Saturday Appeal made another run at Goodtolook. Sir Leslie moved up the inside into third.

Inside the sixteenth pole, Goodtolook tired and Saturday Appeal took a narrow led on Sir Leslie. Maybe 50 yards before the wire, Sir Leslie stuck a nose in front. Saturday Appeal finished second, The Brothers Rap was third at 9-1 odds and Goodtolook finished fourth. Pinball, who went off at 2-1 odds, got away slowly from the gate and was never involved.

Phil Serpe trains Sir Leslie, a son of Stonesider out of Commander's Lady by Deputy Commander.

Sir Leslie is now three-for-nine on dirt with two seconds and a third. He also has one win from 14 turf starts, good for combined earnings of just over $170,000.

In a 5 ½-furlong grass allowance, Ziptronic, who was making his first start for trainer Bruce Levine off a half-length victory when he was claimed for $40,000, ended a winless history with several near-misses at Saratoga thanks to jockey Javier Castellano. Ziptronic, who had two seconds, three thirds and no wins in 11 prior starts on Saratoga turf, almost always races on the lead. But he was out-sprinted early by Petey Cramer, who opened a five-length lead at one point.

Instead of panicking to force a suicidal pace duel, Castellano was able to get Ziptronic to relax in second, then went after the slight 8-5 favorite in the stretch and blew by. Ziptronic had enough left to hold off With Exultation by a length in a final time of 1:01.97. Petey Cramer, who shipped in from New Jersey with a three-race winning streak, finished third. Both Ziptronic and With Exultation went off at 2-1 odds in the field of six.

Jose Ortiz got Petey Cramer out of the starting gate like a rocket and he immediately opened a two-length lead on Ziptronic through a :22.05 first quarter. But after entering the top of the stretch with a clear lead, Petey Cramer tired. Ziptronic closed in and roared past the front-runner while With Exultation moved up, eventually also passing Petey Cramer.
Ziptronic, a son of City Zip out of DJ's Girl by Hay Halo, was bred by Linda Rice, Justin and Natalie Marcus. He is now seven-for-31 on turf with four seconds and five thirds. He also has two wins, one second and four thirds from 15 dirt starts, and his career earnings now top $360,000.

Two New York-bred maiden races kicked off Sunday’s racing. In the first, a six-furlong $73,000 maiden special weight for two-year-olds, Klaravich Stables and William Lawrence’s first-time-starting colt Market Conduct raced professionally, rallying up the inside under Irad Ortiz, Jr. to a 2 ½-length victory for trainer Chad Brown in a final time of 1:11.45. Sent off at 7-2 odds in the field of seven, Market Conduct rallied past his uncoupled stablemate, Tiz Time to Shine, another first-time starter and the 7-5 favorite under Javier Castellano. Another firster, 31-1 Pierce’s Prize, finished third, and 5-2 Thank You was fourth.

Market Conduct is a son of Super Saver out of Charleston Springs by Capote who was purchased for $100,000 at the 2013 Saratoga August Yearling Sale.

Pierce’s Prize took the early lead under Chris DeCarlo, opening up three lengths on his rivals with a :22.96 opening quarter. Summer Brother, a 21-1 firster on the rail, chased in second with Tiz Time to Shine third, Thank You fourth and Market Conduct fifth.

Heading into the far turn, Tiz Time to Shine rallied into second. Thank You was right behind him in third and Market Conduct moved past Summer Brother into fourth.

After a half in :46.26, Pierce’s Prize dug in as Tiz Time to Shine increased the pressure on his outside. Market Conduct moved through on the inside willingly and went on to win his debut.

Thanks to a sensational ride by John Velazquez, George and Stephanie Audry’s three-year-old gray colt John Bailey overcame a near-11-month layoff to win a one-mile $73,000 New York-bred maiden special weight on the grass by a neck in a final time of 1:38.84 as the 4-1 second choice in the field of eight. Slew’s Brew finished second at 8-1 odds, a head in front of front-running Tiger D, the 1-2 favorite under Shaun Bridgmohan.

Trainer Michael Dilger had John Bailey ready for his three-year-old debut. He had one second from five starts last year, all but one of them on grass.

Tiger D, who had rallied from seventh to finish second by a head at 16-1 odds in only start in open company, got into an early battle for the lead with Little T. Louie, an 18-1 shot with Javier Castellano aboard. Little T. Louie made Tiger D work to clear the front after a quarter in :24.32 and a half in :48.61.

Then Velazquez sent up John Bailey to challenge Tiger D around the far turn as Slew’s Brew drew closer in third. Tiger D grimly nursed a small lead on John Bailey, which shrunk from a neck to a head inside the sixteenth pole. John Bailey wore the favorite down and had enough left to hold off Slew’s Brew.
John Bailey is a son of Cosmonaut out of Whateverwillbwillb by Western Expression who was bred by Flying Zee Stables. He was purchased for $75,000 at the 2012 Saratoga August Yearling Sale.

NY-Bred Storm Stays Unbeaten on Grass with Open-Company Victory Saturday

Glencrest Farm and JSM Equine’s three-year-old New York-bred gelding Storm kept his grass record unblemished Saturday at Saratoga, gamely scoring by a neck over fellow state-bred Iron Power to win a mile-and-an-eighth $85,000 open allowance in a final time of 1:48.31. Sent off the 8-5 favorite in the field of nine under Javier Castellano, Jr., Storm improved his grass record to four-for-four in his first start in open company for trainer Todd Pletcher.

Storm is a son of Artie Schiller out of Thunderously by Wild Again who was bred by Nustar Breeding.

After winning his career debut on turf at Aqueduct last November 23, Storm finished third twice, then eighth and sixth in four dirt starts before returning to his favorite surface.

He won state-bred allowance races at Belmont Park May 22 and June 28, the first wire-to-wire and the second by rallying from seventh, before stepping up to open company Saturday.

Castellano let him settle well off the pace as 17-1 March Reward and 7-1 Iron Power disputed the lead through sensible splits: a quarter in :23.57, a half in :47.51 and three-quarters in 1:11.94.

Castellano got Storm rolling three-wide around the far turn chasing Iron Power, who emerged with a clear lead in mid-stretch. Storm kept coming and prevailed over his stubborn rival by a neck. Iron Power finished three-quarters of a length ahead of 17-1 Lurego in third. New York-bred Adirondack Dancer, the 3-1 second choice, finished fourth.

Thanks to his third straight win, Storm improved his grass record to four-for-four. He now has total earnings of more than $175,000.

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Iron Power’s trainer, Mike Hushion, did a superb job of getting Peachtree Stable’s three-year-old colt Sioux ready for his first start since November 22. Taking control of the race almost immediately from the rail, Sioux blew away his competition Saturday, taking a seven-furlong $75,000 New York-bred allowance by 5 ¼ lengths under Jose Ortiz in a final time of 1:23.08 as the 4-1 third choice in the field of eight.

Sioux, a colt by Awesome Again out of Andraste by Pulpit who was bred by Waterville Lake Stables, raced three times as a two-year-old, finishing third, first with blinkers added, and seventh before getting a vacation.

Ortiz did a splendid job rating Sioux, who turned a narrow lead into a clear advantage after running an opening quarter in :23.35 and a half-mile in :46.73. He repulsed a challenge by 2-1 second choice Gran the Man, and drew off to win easily. Groupthink, the 8-5 favorite under
Javier Castellano, got up for second, three-quarters of a length in front of 11-1 Station Chief in third. Thnxtoymynlce was fourth at 28-1 odds.

Sioux has already earned more than $80,000 in just four career starts.

Rallying from far back under Corey Lanerie, Mosaic Racing Stable's four-year-old gelding Analysis edged Wake Up in Malibu by a neck Saturday, taking a one-mile $75,000 New York-bred grass allowance in a final time of 1:35.79.

Sent off the 2-1 favorite in the field of eight, Analysis got away next to last as 4-1 Archer Hill opened a two-length lead under racing's newest Hall of Famer, Alex Solis.

Archer Hill raced a quarter in :23.26 and a half in :46.59 before both Wake Up in Malibu, the 5-2 second choice in sixth, and Analysis, racing in seventh, began their rallies. Both would be forced wide around the far turn as Archer Hill remained in front through three-quarters in 1:11.45.

In mid-stretch, both Wake Up in Malibu two-wide and Analysis three-wide surged past the front-runner, with Analysis proving a neck better than Wake Up in Malibu. Archer Hill saved third, 2 ½ lengths behind Wake Up in Malibu while a neck ahead of 6-1 Adams Note.

George Weaver trains Analysis, a son of Freud out of Watt Ever by Distinctive Pro who was bred by Arruda & Driver. He improved his grass record to two-for-five with one second. He also has a fourth and 10th in two dirt starts for combined earnings of just over $100,000.

Showing uncommon gameness on the front end, Winning Move Stable's five-year-old gelding Pretension, an 8-1 longshot under Luis Saez, held off challenges on his inside and outside to win a seven-furlong $40,000 New York-bred $20,000 claimer by a half-length in a final time of 1:23.27. Dr Disco, the 2-1 favorite with Javier Castellano aboard, finished second on Pretension's outside, a head in front of 19-1 Joe Mooch on Pretension's inside in third. Star of New York closed well for fourth at 11-1 odds.

The three horses raced 1-2-3 the entire way as Pretension laid down serious fractions: a quarter in :22.91 and a half-mile in a sizzling :45.43. While Dr Disco took to the outside to go after the front-runner, Rajiv Maragh drove Joe Mooch through an enormous opening on the inside after three-quarters in 1:09.82.

But Pretention never stopped fighting and held both challengers safe. Trained by Gary Contessa, Pretention is a son of Bluegrass Cat out of Main Streetin' by Street Cry who was bred by Sequel Thoroughbreds and A. Lakin and Sons. Pretention improved his dirt record to five-for-20 with three seconds and two thirds. He has also made four turf starts and has combined earnings now topping $200,000.
Chasing Paradise Goes Wire-to-Wire to Break Her Maiden Friday Afternoon

Beautifully rated on the front end by Junior Alvarado, Trade Wind Farm’s homebred four-year-old filly **Chasing Paradise** held off first-time starter **Donatienne** to win a one-mile $73,000 New York-bred maiden special weight on the grass by a long neck at Saratoga Friday afternoon. Sent off the 5-2 second choice in the field of 10, Chasing Paradise won in a final time of 1:38.71.

After finishing third on a sloppy track in her only race as a three-year-old, Chasing Paradise was switched to the grass this year. Despite drawing tough outside posts in two of her three races before Friday, she rallied to finish second in all three. She moved inside to the two post Friday.

When she broke alertly, Alvarado committed to the lead and she set a pressured pace with 8-1 **Joshans Giant** prompting her on her flank through a :23.92 opening quarter of a mile. While using just enough horse to maintain a half-length lead, Alvarado got away with incredibly slow middle fractions. She hit the half in :50.38 and the three-quarters in 1:16.03. By then, Irad Ortiz, Jr. had 9-1 Donatienne moving up quickly into contention.

Chasing Paradise finally put away Joshans Giant to open a two-length lead in mid-stretch before Donatienne closed in quickly. Behind them, **Bella Kateri**, the 8-5 favorite under John Velazquez, had found her best stride.

Alvarado kept busy on Chasing Paradise and she held on to win by a neck. Donatienne was second, three-quarters of a length ahead of Bella Kateri in third. Joshans Giant finished fourth.

Arch Kingsley, Jr. trains Chasing Paradise, a daughter of Utopia (JPN) out of The Demon Chaser by Boundary. She now has a win, three seconds and a third in five starts, with earnings of more than $90,000.

Hayward Pressman and Steve Rubell’s homebred, five-year-old mare **Mighty Reward**, took the lead in mid-stretch and gamely held on, defeating **Kimmies Lucky Star** by three-quarters of a length in a 5 ½-furlong $75,000 New York-bred grass allowance at Saratoga Friday. **Baby B** finished third, another three-quarters of a length back.

Angel Arroyo delivered a fine ride on Mighty Reward from the outside post in the field of eight. She went off at odds of 6-1.

There was an eventful start. **Lady Rhubarb** was still in the assistant starter’s hands when the gate opened, then reared up and was declared a non-starter/late scratch. **Fantastic Eyes** just got left at the gate.

**AP Johnson**, who went off at 5-2 odds, set the pace with Kimmies Lucky Star pressing in second, and 4-1 **In Her Day** and 5-2 Baby B alternating third and fourth. Arroyo had Mighty Reward well-placed on the outside in fifth.

Kimmies Star rolled past the frontrunner in early stretch as Mighty Reward moved up on the outside to take a narrow lead. Kimmies Star kept trying on Mighty Reward inside, but couldn’t catch her, finishing second after Mighty Reward won in a final time of 1:04.12.
Carl Domino trains Mighty Reward, a daughter of Grand Reward out of Denville by Candy Stripes. She improved her grass record to three-for-15 with one second and a pair of thirds. She also has one third from three dirt starts for combined earnings of more than $110,000.

New York-Bred Cat Feathers Wins a Saratoga Jump Stakes Again

Sometimes history does repeat itself. Kate and Bernie Dalton’s six-year-old New York-bred mare Cat Feathers drew away late to take the $75,000 Mrs. Ogden Phipps Steeplechase Stakes at Saratoga Thursday by nearly four lengths for the second time in three years. The daughter of Catienus out of Mistress Hemming by Quiet American is owned and trained by Kate Dalton and ridden by her husband Bernie. Happy Hill Farm bred the mare.

“Any win in Saratoga is what you strive for, but to win something several times is just wonderful,” Kate said after the race. Bernie added, “She won very easy, and we couldn’t be happier.”

Cat Feathers won the 2012 Phipps Stakes, but was winless in 10 starts in 2013 and this year, with two seconds and two thirds. She went off at 4-1 odds in the field of seven Monday, which included another New York-bred, Lillehammer, who went off at odds of 8-1.

Brilliant Match, who had won a maiden race by 49 ½ lengths in her last jump try, set the pace for much of the 2 1/16 miles as the 3-1 second choice. She was shadowed by Kisser N Run, the 8-5 favorite, and 6-1 Opera Heroine. Bernie kept Cat Feathers a close fourth.

Heading into the far turn, Kisser N Run took her shot at the lead on the outside of Brilliant Match, while Bernie neatly found room on Brilliant Match’s inside. Cat Feathers spurted past to take the lead and then kissed the rest of the field goodbye, winning in a final time of 3:49.74. Kisser N Run finished second, Brilliant Match was third and Opera Heroine fourth.

Cat Feathers is now three-for-16 over jumps with three seconds, two thirds and just under $150,000 in earnings.

Thursday’s second race, a mile-and-an-eighth $75,000 New York-bred allowance, was surreal. A field of six was reduced to five when Desert Valentine dumped her rider, Javier Castellano, and took off. When an outrider missed her on the backstretch, she found the gap to the backstretch and headed off to parts unknown.

Chester and Mary Broman’s three-year-old filly Star Grazing, who had won a six-furlong maiden special weight at Belmont in her last start, went off the 1-2 favorite. But it was Annie Walker, who broke last then was rushed to the lead under Manuel Franco, who dictated the pace. Rajiv Maragh kept Star Grazing alternating in second and third with Devious Maddy.

Annie Walker’s lead fluctuated between three-quarters of a length to three lengths more than once. Star Grazing worked her way into second, then tried keeping up with Annie Walker, who spurted away from her around the far turn and again in the stretch. But inside the sixteenth pole,
Annie Walker tired and Star Grazing surged past to win by a half-length in a final time of 1:53.32. Annie Walker saved second, two lengths clear of Legally Bay in third.

Jimmy Jerkens trains Star Grazing, a daughter of Sky Mesa out of Unbridled Star by Unbridled who is now two-for-four on dirt with one second. She was fourth in a lone turf try and now has combined earnings of more than $105,000.

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Trainer Chad Brown sent out two uncoupled two-year-old first-time starters in a mile-and-a-sixteenth $73,000 New York-bred maiden special weight on the grass Thursday. Chief Kitten went off at 4-1 odds and finished a clear second in the field of eight. Klaravich Stables and William Lawrence’s Startup Nation went off at 9-1 odds under Joel Rosario and won by two lengths in a final time of 1:42.70.

Navy Blue, an 18-1 shot who had raced twice on dirt, shot to the lead from the outside post under Luis Saez and was immediately in front by three lengths. His margin grew to eight lengths at one point, thanks to a quick six furlongs in 1:11.86.

Startup Nation was a distant fifth and Chief Kitten sixth until Navy Blue headed into the far turn with a quickly diminishing lead. The 7-5 favorite chasing her, Thirst for Glory, had first shot at the tiring pacesetter, but was passed in mid-stretch by both Brown colts. Startup Nation got the job done. Chief Kitten was five lengths clear of 4-1 Brother O’Connell, who edged Thirst for Glory for third.

Startup Nation is a colt by Temple City out of Pennyrile by Wagon Limit who was bred by Spendthrift Farm. He was purchased for $95,000 at the 2013 Saratoga August Yearling Sale.

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Beautifully ridden by Javier Castellano, The Elkstone Group’s four-year-old filly Transplendid kept her position on the inside, waited for room in mid-stretch and then hustled past front-running The Lady’s Cruisen to win a one-mile $45,000 New York-bred maiden $40,000 claimer on the grass by 2 ½ lengths Thursday in a final time of 1:38.53. Transplendid took late money and went off the slight 9-5 favorite in the field of nine. The Lady’s Cruisen, ridden by Cornelio Velasquez, went off at 2-1 odds.

The Lady’s Cruisen took the lead immediately and worked with a small but clear lead the length of the backstretch, with 12-1 Read It and Weep on the outside of Transplendid in second.

Velasquez did a superb job of slowing down the race, reaching three-quarters of a mile in 1:15.31, and was in front in early stretch as Transplendid waited for room. When Read It and Weep tired, Castellano had the room he was looking for. He angled Transplendid to the outside of The Lady’s Cruisen and she rolled past her to win. The Lady’s Cruisen finished second, two lengths clear of 5-1 Miss Motivation in third. Bi Light of Day finished fourth at 8-1 odds.

Transplendid is a daughter of Elusive Quality out of Doyenne by Deputy Minister who was bred by Dr. William Wilmot and Dr. Joan Taylor.

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Hoffman Thoroughbreds’ four-year-old homebred New York-bred gelding Chrisandlorisposse rallied from far back under apprentice jockey Taylor Rice to win a mile-and-an-eighth $42,000 conditional $25,000 claimer by one length Thursday in a final time of 1:58.16. Both Chrisandlorisposse, one of two New York-breds in the field of seven, and Q Two, who nosed out Coldwater Flat for second, went off at odds of 2-1.

Departing from the rail under Corey Lanerie, Q Two set an incredibly glacial pace unchallenged on the lead: splits of :24.81, :51.08 and three-quarters in 1:17.53. Chrisandlorisposse, who broke sharply from the outside post, was taken back into fourth by Rice.

Q Two took the lead around the far turn and into the stretch, while Chrisandlorisposse worked his way into third on the outside. Through the stretch, Chrisandlorisposse wore down the frontrunner to win.

Trained by Tom Bush, Chrisandlorisposse, a son of Posse out of Matter of Trust by Leo Castelli, improved his dirt record to two-for-15 with three seconds and one third. His victory pushed his career earnings to more than $110,000.

The Elkstone Group got its second victory of the afternoon Thursday when their three-year-old filly Make Your Point captured a $45,000 New York-bred maiden $40,000 claimer on the grass by four lengths in a final time of 1:37.67 for the mile. Jose Lezcano rode Make Your Point, who went off at 3-1 odds in the field of eight.

No Tresspassers, a 12-1 shot, duelled with Make Your Point for the early lead through a contentious opening quarter in :23.78. After a half-mile in :48.51, Make Your Point prevailed and took over, hitting three-quarters in 1:13.27 with the 9-5 favorite, Fire Ship, chasing in second. Make Your Point had plenty left and won by herself at the wire. Fire Ship saved second and 44-1 longshot Taramislew edged the 5-2 second choice, Tenacious Indeed, for third.

Phil Serpe trains Make Your Point, a daughter of Not For Love out of Tequila and Run by Storm Broker who was bred by Andy Beadnell.

Farone Stables’ five-year-old homebred mare Given Fire dominated Thursday’s finale, a 5 ½-furlong $73,000 New York-bred maiden special weight on the grass, scoring virtually wire-to-wire under Junior Alvarado by some seven lengths in a final time of 1:03.09 at odds of 18-1.

Trained by Michelle Nihei, the daughter of Point Given out of Willshire by Williamstown, bred by Thomas and Joan Farone, was making her first start since September 28 and only her second since September 13, 2012. Thursday was just her sixth career start.

She came out running and overtook 9-2 Honeychild to make the early lead through a :22.68 opening quarter. She motored to the half in :45.68 with a widening advantage and won by herself. Gu Gu Beans finished second at 6-1 odds and 20-1 Quit Smokin was third.
Bromansâ€™ Homebred Hard to Stay Notgo Dazzles in Debut Wednesday

Chester and Mary Bromansâ€™ homebred, first-time starter **Hard to Stay Notgo**, made it look easy in her debut at Saratoga on a sunny Wednesday afternoon at Saratoga, winning a six-furlong $73,000 New York-bred maiden special weight for two-year-old fillies. Junior Alvarado gunned her to the lead and Hard to Stay Notgo never had an anxious moment, winning her debut by nearly five lengths in a final time of 1:11.56 for trainer Jimmy Jerkens at 9-1 odds.

Another firster, **Sweetpollypurebrd**, finished second under Irad Ortiz, Jr., three lengths clear of **Razia Sultana** in third. Sweetpollypurebrd was sent off at odds of 7-1 and Razia Sultana went off at 7-2 in the field of nine.

Hard to Stay Notgo is a daughter of More than Ready out of Whichwaydidshego by Storm Cat. She showed nine works at Belmont Park and at Saratoga for her debut, including a fast last one, four furlongs in :47 3/5 breezing, seventh fastest of 85 at that distance at Saratoga the morning of August 2.

Breaking from the four post, Hard to Stay Notgo broke third but quickly made the lead, opening a two-length lead on Razia Sultana through a :23.05 opening quarter. Sweetpollypurebrd advanced from fourth into third.

Hard to Stay Notgo increased her lead to three lengths, hitting the half in :46.27. She continued on with a daylight lead and won easily.

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In Wednesdayâ€™s finale, a one-mile $45,000 New York-bred maiden $40,000 claimer on the turf, Copper Penny Stables three-year-old gelding **Island Therapy** swept five-wide past horses on the far turn and went on to score by more than three lengths in a final time of 1:37.10. Irad Ortiz, Jr. rode Island Therapy, who went off at 5-2 odds in the field of 10. **Sole Train** finished second at odds of 3-1, and 5-2 **Copper Core** was third.

Island Therapy broke in mid-pack, but settled in eighth as 41-1 longshot **The Frood Dude** set the pace, pursued by Copper Core in second through an opening quarter in :24.00 and a half-mile in :47.91.

Far behind in ninth, Island Therapy moved up quickly around horses heading into the far turn and continued his five-wide rally to confront and then pass Copper Core, who had the lead in early stretch. Sole Train, who had broken first under Jose Lezcano before falling back to seventh, closed well to finish second, and Copper Core held third.

Gary Gullo trains Island Therapy, a son of Freud out of Semichi by Brushed On who was bred by James Doyle. He improved his grass record to a win and a third in three starts. He also has two seconds and a third from seven dirt starts.