Dayatthespa Shows Her Class Winning Her Four-Year-Old Debut

Showing her utter class, Jerry and Ronald Frankel, Steve Laymon and Bradley Thoroughbreds' heavily favored Dayatthespa turned back a serious early-stretch challenge by Kibosh, then drew off to win her four-year-old debut by four lengths in a sparkling 1:33.52 for the mile in the $90,000 New York-bred You Go West Girl Stakes on turf Sunday afternoon at Belmont Park.

Javier Castellano rode the daughter of City Zip out of M'dLady Dot by Doc's Leader, bred by Castellare Di Cracchiolo Stable and trained by Chad Brown, to the popular score at 2-5 odds.

Coming off a five-for-six three-year-old season in which she won three graded stakes including the Grade I Queen Elizabeth's Cup, Dayatthespa worked a five-furlong bullet in 1:00 for her first start since finishing fifth as the 8-5 favorite in the Grade I Matriarch at Hollywood Park last November.

Breaking sharply from the two post in a field of just five older fillies and mares, Dayatthespa was wrangled back into second by Castellano as the filly on the hedge, My Jopia, seemed committed to the lead.

Through a quarter in :23.20 and a half in :46.66, Dayatthespa sat just outside My Jopia. As soon as Dayatthespa went after the front-runner, Jose Ortiz sent Kibosh three-wide coming out of the far turn after three-quarters in 1:09.68.

Kibosh got within a neck of Dayatthespa, but Castellano asked his talented turf filly for more and she had more than enough left, running her final quarter in under :24 to complete a mile in a fast 1:33.52.

Dayatthespa is now seven-for-10 lifetime with one second, and figures to be heading back into open graded stakes company this summer.

Earlier on the card, Joemar Racing Stables' undefeated filly Lovely Syn, the 2-5 favorite, and Sequel Racing's homebred gelding Belief System, a 15-1 longshot, captured separate $100,000 divisions of the 6 ½-furlong New York Stallion Stakes for three-year-olds.

Lovely Syn showed why she was 2-5. The daughter of Freud, out of Lemon Drop Kid, had won her first two career starts easily, taking a maiden race by six lengths at 2-1 and an allowance race by three lengths at 1-4 for trainer Dominick Schettino and jockey Mike Luzzi.
She worked a bullet four furlongs in a blazing :46 4/5 for the Stallion Stakes, and despite breaking a step slow out of the gate, she quickly rushed to the lead and dared her five opponents to keep up. They couldn’t.

Lovely Syn ran a quarter in :21.71, a half in :44.58, three-quarters in 1:09.78 and completed 6 ½ furlongs in 1:16.33, 9 ½ lengths ahead of Bit Bustin, who rallied to get second at 35-1.

Belief System wasn’t given much support at the windows stepping up to stakes company off a near-seven-length win in a New York-bred maiden $20,000 claimer at 8-5 for trainer Rudy Rodriguez.

In Harm’s Way, the 5-2 third choice in the field of five, made the lead while Belief System, ridden by Junior Alvarado, dropped back from second to third when Chapman, the 6-5 favorite under Rajiv Maragh, rushed up to challenge for the lead after a quarter in :21.77 and a quick half in :44.71. Coming out of the far turn, In Harm’s Way drifted out a bit, forcing Chapman even wider. That left a huge hole on the inside and Alvarado took advantage of it, shooting Belief System up the rail to win by a half-length in 1:17.35.

Belief System, a son of Read the Footnotes out of Boatman Road by Lord At War, is now two-for-five with one second and one third.

******************************************************

In a $55,000 New York-bred maiden sprint Sunday, John Hicks and Howard Nolan’s homebred first-time starter Irish Whisper made quite a first impression, winning her debut by four lengths in 1:11.14 under Irad Ortiz, Jr. Trained by Jeremiah Englehart, Irish Whisper is a three-year-old daughter of Langfuhr out of the City Zip mare Tishmeister.

******************************************************

Three Diamond Farm and Jose Bessecker’s six-year-old New York-bred gelding Power Blast powered to a convincing victory in a $34,000 conditional $20,000 claimer Sunday at odds of 13-1. Jose Ortiz rode the son of Jump Start out of the Dynaformer mare Dynatrek, who was bred by Jeremy Peskoff and is trained by Mike Trombetta.

******************************************************

In Sunday’s finale, a $28,000 New York-bred maiden $20,000 claimer for fillies and mares, Bloodlines Racing Partnerships’ Invading Humor, a 15-1 longshot under Luzzi, got up in the final stride to dead-heat with Michael Dubb’s 3-1 favorite Riptherubberoff, ridden by Alvarado. Maxana nearly made it a triple dead heat, finishing just behind the winners, who got the six furlongs in 1:13.18. All three fillies are three-years-old.

New York-Breds Lubash and Hessonite Sweep Grade III Turf Stakes at Belmont

On the 10th anniversary of New York-bred Funny Cide’s victory in the Kentucky Derby, a pair of talented turf-running New York-breds, Aliyu Ben J Stables’ homebred Lubash and William
Punk Jr. and Philip DiLeo's Hessonite, swept a pair of Grade III $150,000 mile-and-a-sixteenth turf stakes, the Fort Marcy and the Beaugay, Saturday at Belmont Park.

Lubash was up first, and he proved a tough act to follow. Perfectly prepared for his second start of the year by trainer Christophe Clement, the six-year-old held off Bombaguia by a long neck to win the Fort Marcy Handicap, nearly breaking the track record in doing so.

Lubash, who had finished second in the Dave Stakes in his first start since mid-November, won in 1:38.89 for the mile-and-a-sixteenth on the Widener Turf Course, not far off Fortitude's 1:38.53 course record set in 1997.

Junior Alvarado, replacing Joe Bravo in the saddle, rode Lubash, who was sent off at 9-2 in the field of six and rallied from dead last. Pacesetter King Kreesa, another New York-bred, outdueled Bombaguia for the lead in a fast :22.23 first quarter. King Kreesa was then confronted by the third New York-bred in the stakes, 25-1 longshot Abilio.

King Kreesa put him away, but had no answer as Lubash and a resurgent Bombaguia sprinted home, with Lubash keeping Bombaguia safe by nearly a half-length. King Kreesa held on for third.

In the Beaugay Stakes, Hessonite, who hadn't race since October 20th, was mighty impressive herself. The five-year-old daughter of Freud out of Lakab by Manila, bred by Berkshire Stud and Waterville Lake Stables and trained by David Donk, had made her four-year-old debut in the Beaugay last year off a similar layoff and finished sixth at 21-1.

Under Donk's care, though, Hessonite improved as a four-year-old, capping off a successful season with an easy win in the New York-bred Ticonderoga Stakes. On Saturday, she went off the 7-2 second choice from the rail under Junior Alvarado. The 3-4 favorite was Dream Peace.

Hessonite settled in fourth as Suroof set a slow pace, going a quarter in :25.05 and a half in :48.94. Around the far turn, Dream Peace ranged up three-wide and was ready to pounce under Jose Ortiz.

Hessonite, meanwhile, was blocked in behind a wall of horses on the hedge. Alvarado swung her out five-wide, and once she got rolling, she exploded past the horses in front of her in hand, defeating Peace Preserver by three-quarters of a length in 1:40.82 in hand. Dream Peace tired to finish third.

Hessonite is now 9-for-16 on turf with three seconds and one third.

*********************************************************************************************

Dragon Squared's three-year-old colt Front was checked early but later found room on the rail, spurted past front-running Hyman Roth and held off favored Toy Cannon by two lengths to win a $62,000 mile-and-a-sixteenth New York-bred allowance grass race at 10-1 Saturday.

Rajiv Maragh rode the son of West Front out of Rose Rhapsody by Pleasant Colony, who was bred by Hidden Lake Farm and is trained by Jimmy Jerkens. Front's victory was his second in three turf starts and just his sixth overall.
Chester and Mary Broman’s homebred three-year-old colt I’m Stoked made good use of the rail under apprentice Guillermo Rodriguez to take a $57,000 New York-bred allowance by a length and a half. That gave the son of Hook and Ladder out of Wouldthisbemagic by Clever Trick his second win in three starts.

Trained by Mike Hushion, I’m Stoked went off at 6-1 in a field of eight state-breds going six furlongs. I’m Stoked zoomed out of the starting gate, forcing the speedy rival next to him, Do I Amuse You, to take back and sit second.

I’m Stoked roared through a first quarter in :22.03 and a half in :44.93, then opened up five lengths on the field. Rodriguez let him coast to the wire in a sizzling 1:09.32, as Master Cip rallied for second.

Later Saturday, Hushion sent out Chester and Mary Broman’s first-time starter Crackerjack Jones in a $55,000 New York-bred maiden sprint. The well-bred son of Smarty Jones was made the 4-5 favorite in a field of seven going six furlongs.

Crackerjack Jones got away fifth under Junior Albarado, while David Cohen placed Team Tristar Stable’s homebred gray colt Street Swagg, the 2-1 second choice, just behind leader Greeley Pack.

Street Swag took over the lead, but Crackerjack Jones made a wide, sweeping move on the far turn into contention, then passed Street Swagg in mid-stretch. But Street Swagg wasn’t done, and came right back to win by a length.

Trained by Joseph Lostritto, Street Swagg, a four-year-old by El Corredor out of Dancing Domenica by Good and Tough, was making his second start of the year off a third at 6-5 on Feb. 2. He got the six furlongs in 1:11.18.

In a $55,000 New York-bred maiden grass route race Saturday, Alex Solis put William Schettine’s three-year-old homebred filly Moonlit Sonnet on the lead. She repulsed a mid-race challenge by Chrissy Girl and went on to a four-length victory over Stock Fund. The top two finishers each went off at 2-1.

Moonlit Sonnet, a daughter of Shakespeare out of the Woodman mare Moonlet Masquerade, had finished a brave third in an open maiden $75,000 claimer at Gulfstream Park in her three-year-old debut before shipping north. Lisa Lewis trains the filly, who now has a win and a pair of thirds in three grass starts.

In Saturday’s opener, a $30,000 conditional $15,000 claimer, Ambassador Bridge, a four-year-old New York-bred gelding owned and trained by Leah Gyarmati, came from far back to edge another New York-bred, Crushin Rock, by a head.
Ambassador Bridge, a son of Best of Luck out of Blushing Queen by Key Contender, was bred by Elizabeth Jerkens. Leaving from the rail, Ambassador Bridge was sent off at 17-1 under Jilver Chamafi. She broke well, but then fell back as 28-1 longshot New York-bred Bwana Booyah set a fast pace. The speed collapsed and Ambassador Bridge rallied five-wide inside of Crushin Rock, who was also closing fast six-wide. Ambassador Bridge won by a head in 1:10.78 for six furlongs.

In Saturday's finale, Hidden Lake Farm's homebred Uncle Mitch won a mile-and-a-sixteenth open maiden $20,000 claimer on turf. Rajiv Maragh rode the three-year-old gray son of Freud out of Fiddlers Shebang by Maria's Mon, who is trained by Jena Antonucci.

At Finger Lakes Saturday, Luch Racing Stables' four-year-old New York-bred colt Cuvee City rolled to a three-length score in a five-furlong $21,000 open allowance race. James Englehart trains the four-year-old son of Cuvee out of Rahy Come Home by Rahy, who was bred by Patricia Purdy and is trained by Jeremiah Englehart.

Carlos Vazquez's five-year-old mare Carlas Express, sent off at 4-1 in a field of six in a $22,000 state-bred allowance route race, upset 3-5 favorite Sassidy by a length under Michael Davila. Manuel Gomez trains the five-year-old daughter of Western Expression, who was bred by Flying Zee Stables. She is now 8-for-31 lifetime.

Fiddlers Green Stable's first-time starter Fiddlers Lassie, a 23-1 longshot, drove through on the rail to edge heavily favored Altar in a five-furlong $24,000 New York-bred maiden race. Jonathan Buckley trains the daughter of Closing Argument out of Team Place by Unbridled Song, who was ridden by Rudy Ignacio.

Ignacio was back in the winner's circle later Saturday when he deftly rated Craig Lanham and Filip Racing's three-year-old filly 6-1 Neptune Road to a one-length, wire-to-wire win over La Wild Speed, the 4-5 favorite in a $24,000 New York-bred maiden race. The son of Fusaichi Pegasus, out of Kevin's Decision by Expensive Decision, was bred by Nustar Breeding and is trained by Troy Smith.

Adriatic Dream and Hear the Footsteps Post Upsets in Allowance Grass Races

Nick-Mike Stable's homebred filly Adriatic Dream and Everythings Cricket Racing's Hear the Footsteps scored back-to-back upsets in a pair of New York-bred grass allowance races at Belmont Park Friday.

Adriatic Dream, a three-year-old daughter of Wild Desert out of the Dynaformer mare Dinah's Pearls, was actually the second choice at 6-1 from the outside post in a field of eight fillies and mares travelling a mile and a sixteenth in a $62,000 New York-bred grass allowance. The 1-4 favorite on the rail was Heart of New York, a gorgeous gray who hadn't raced since dead-
heating for fifth in an open stakes at Gulfstream Park on New Year’s Day. Previously, she won her debut in a New York-bred maiden race easily from the 11 post before finishing second in an open stakes at Aqueduct.

Heart of New York races from well off the pace, and she was last through the early stages as 35-1 Simplistic and 15-1 Porvoo battled on the lead. Porvoo finally put away Simplistic at the head of the stretch as José Lezcano had Heart of New York gobbling up ground on the far outside. It wasn’t surprising to see Heart of New York pass all the horses in front of her, but who would have expected her to be passed?

Cornelio Velasquez had deftly followed Lezcano’s move, and Adriatic Dream surged on the outside, nailing the favorite in the final 20 yards by a head for her second grass victory in six starts for trainer David Donk.

In the next race, a $59,000 state-bred allowance/optional $50,000 claiming six-furlong sprint on turf, Hear the Footsteps made a spectacular six-year-old debut, winning his first race in more than two years by two lengths at 12-1 under Jose Ortiz.

Ortiz’s brother Irad put Mia Poppy, who went off at 3-1, on the lead ahead of Dr. Disco, Writingonthewall and Hear the Footsteps. When Writingonthewall went after Mia Poppy, Jose Ortiz moved Hear the Footsteps three-wide and he stormed down the center of the course to win easily over Mia Poppy, who saved second.

Hear the Footsteps, a gelding by Read the Footnotes out of Herat’s Goldengirl by Gold Alert, was bred by Thomas-Narlinger LLC, Dennis Repp, Atlantis Mares and Lynda Richter. He is trained by Linda Rice.

In Friday’s finale, Harold Lerner LLC and Nehoc Stable’s seven-year-old New York-bred gelding Ziptronic won a $40,000 conditional $25,000 claiming six-furlong grass sprint wire-to-wire under Luis Saez at 4-1. He held off the 2-1 favorite Decisive Move by three-quarters of a length for his fourth victory in 21 grass starts. The son of City Zip out of D J’s Girl by Hay Halo was bred by Linda Rice and Justin and Natalie Marcus. Gary Contessa is the trainer.

Donald Olson and Alleva Vincent’s three-year-old New York-bred filly Jazzington, who was bred by Olson, finally wore down Bozique to capture a $29,000 conditional $15,000 claimer by a length. Both were outsiders in the field of 10 going one mile, Jazzington at 9-1 from the four post under Keiber Coa and Bozique 17-1 from the rail with seven-pound apprentice rider Pierre Tomas.

The two battled on the lead for much of the mile before Jazzington finally edged clear inside the 16th pole, scoring in 1:39.62 for her second dirt win in six starts for trainer Michael Miceli. The daughter of Eddington, out of Time to Jazz by Kentucky Jazz, was making just her second start of the year.
At Finger Lakes Friday, Mark Valentine’s four-year-old New York-bred gelding **Rock Star Charlie**, who was ninth in his last start in a mile race at Aqueduct, raced on the lead, lost it, then came again on the inside to win a $23,000 five-furlong open allowance by a little more than a length over NY-bred **Sunshine Valentino**. Both horses went off at 5-2.

Rock Star Charlie was claimed two starts back for $16,000. The son of E Dubai out of Charlies Paradise by Winrightt is trained by Sal Iorio, Jr. He was ridden by Dean Frates and now boasts a record of three wins and six seconds in 13 dirt starts.

Joseph Bucci’s **Graceful Meghan**, a three-year-old New York-bred filly, also won an open $21,000 allowance at 18-1. The daughter of Read the Footnotes out of Fit Right In by Out of Place is trained by James Banker.

Edwin J. Schatzel’s **Estimator** is still getting the job done at the age of nine. The New York-bred gelding won a $10,000 claimer by a little more than a length for his 11th career victory in 80 starts.

Earlier on the card, showing utter disdain for her 28-1 odds, Joseph and Anne McMahon’s **Saropía** crushed seven rivals by six widening lengths to take a $12,500 state-bred maiden claimer.

**Vicki’s Dancer Holds on Gamely to Win an Open Allowance**

Robert Jarras’ homebred four-year-old New York-bred filly **Vicki’s Dancer** rallied four-wide on the far turn into contention then won a four-horse scramble to the wire, gamely defeating Spooky Kitten by three-quarters of a length in a $72,000 six-furlong open allowance race on grass Thursday at Belmont Park. **Quiet Ending**, the 6-5 favorite in the field of seven, was a nose back in third and **Strategic Missile** was a close fourth, making three of the top four finishers NY-breds.

Vicki’s Dancer, a daughter of Disco Rico out Love That Glitter by Glitterman, had only raced once on grass, when she finished third behind Quiet Ending on a yielding course last October.

She had firm footing Thursday and was sent off at 8-1 from the outside seven post, with Mike Luzzi riding for trainer Bruce Brown.

Gadget Girl and Strategic Missile disputed the early pace through a quarter in :22.18 and a half in :45.11. Luzzi had Vicki’s Dancer rallying wide on the turf, and she maintained her momentum into the stretch as other contenders quickly arrived on the scene. Vicki’s Dancer courageously held off all of them, completing the race in 1:08.87, as Spooky Kitten split horses in deep stretch to get up for second.

Vicki’s Dancer now has four wins, three seconds and four thirds from 14 starts and earnings topping $200,000.
In a $59,000 New York-bred allowance/optional $35,000 claimer Thursday for fillies and mares, Bruce Golden Racing's Golden Galaxy stretched her winning streak to three with a wire-to-wire, 2 ½-length score at 4-5 under David Cohen.

Claimed for $14,000 two starts back, the five-year-old mare quickly took control and was able to set a modest pace in the six-furlong sprint of :23.39 for the quarter and :46.39 for the half. When Cape Cod Carol and Effie Trinkel threatened to make it close, Golden Galaxy had plenty left. The daughter of Gold Fever out of Galaxy Spirit by Galaxy Guide was bred by Joseph Parisi and is trained by David Jacobson.

Cleverly ridden by Luis Saez, Midwest Thoroughbreds' four-year-old New York-bred gelding Charlie's Punch blew away five rivals, taking a $29,000 conditional $15,000 claimer by seven lengths.

Charlie's Punch was claimed for $12,500 two starts back, when he finished third at 6-5. He was second at even-money in his first start for his new connections, and was bet down from 6-1 on the morning line to 2-1 Thursday. Secret Shifters was the slight favorite at 8-5, with Reaganomics at 9-5.

Saez made good use of the rail, getting early position as Reaganomics went for the lead on his outside. Saez kept Charlie's Punch just off the lead on Reaganomics' inside, thus protecting the rail, through a quarter in :23.40 and a half in :46.57. Around the far turn, Charlie's Punch drew even with Reaganomics as Secret Shifters, a stalking third behind the two pacesetters, began to advance three-wide.

Charlie's Punch, however, just shifted into another gear and cruised home in 1:36.19 over Reaganomics, who re-rallied to beat Secret Shifters for second. The victory was Charlie's Punch's second in 11 dirt starts with three seconds and two thirds and earnings topping $61,000.

Jamie Ness trains Charlie's Punch, a son of Silver Wagon out of Uno Dos by Two Punch, who was bred by Better Days Farm.

At Pimlico Race Course Thursday afternoon, benefitting from a brilliant ride by Angel Serpa, Robert Kuzmins' four-year-old New York-bred gelding Barnards Galaxy overcame the outside post in a field of 11 to draw off to a 2 ¾-length victory in a $27,000, mile-and-a-sixteenth starter allowance on turf.

Kuzmins claimed Barnards Galaxy for $5,000 off a third at Laurel in December on dirt. After finishing a distant seventh and sixth in two dirt starts, trainer David Lezell freshened Barnards Galaxy. He returned to run fourth behind Berry Berry Bueno on grass at 7-1. Thursday, Berry Berry Bueno, who had finished second by a neck in that race, went off at 5-2 and Barnards Galaxy 3-1 despite the poor post.

While Berry Berry Bueno got into a three-way duel on the lead, Serpa got Barnards Galaxy away next to last. But he didn't remain there for long, as Serpa found a lot of open room on the hedge.
Barnards Galaxy rushed up the inside heading into the far turn, then angled out to confront Berry Berry Bueno. Barnards Galaxy went past him quickly and opened up on the field. Soup d’Coupe and Baby Time rallied for second and third, respectively, as Berry Berry Bueno tired to fourth. Barnards Galaxy’s winning time was 1:46.09.

Barnards Galaxy is by Greeley’s Galaxy out of Town Charmer by Williamstown, and was bred by Michael McPoland and Sean Finn. Though zero-for-12 on dirt, Barnards Galaxy has now won four of 16 turf tries with one second and three thirds and earnings on grass of over $100,000.

Earlier at Pimlico Thursday, Team Gaudet’s seven-year-old New York-bred horse Tisnow Julie proved to be an astute claim, winning a $14,000 claimer with a $24,000 purse by a length in his first start for his new owners. The son of Tiznow out of Honey Brown by Topsider, bred by Sez Who Thoroughbreds, was claimed for $10,000 in his last start when he won by nearly two lengths at 4-1.

Tisnow Julie stepped up a bit Thursday, and went off at 4-1 again with a new jockey, Xavier Perez, riding for a new trainer, Lacey Gaudet. Breaking fifth in the field of seven, Tisnow Julie moved up three-wide on the far turn to go after front-running Radio Relay, who went off at 6-1. Tisnow Julie wore him down to score his 12th career victory in his 37th start in 1:48.03 for the mile-and-a-sixteenth. Tisnow Julie also has five seconds and 10 thirds and earnings of more than $164,000.