



# MONDAY REPORT

A weekly report from the National Steeplechase Association

Monday, May 20, 2019

## Pured It rebounds in Radnor Hunt Cup

Steeplechase racing is a generational game, passed down lovingly from parent to child to grandchild. It's always been that way, and very likely always will be.

At any race meet, it's not unusual to see parent and child and grandchild with their prized steeplechase horse. Some of the connections are less visible but no less abiding.

More than 45 years ago, John V. Latta II raced a nice timber horse named Stormy Kantar, who won three races in 1972 and finished second to timber champion Jacko in that year's Radnor Hunt Cup. Stormy Kantar was ridden by Louis C. "Paddy" Neilson, a leading timber jockey of that era.

Member of a prominent Philadelphia family, Latta passed on his love of jump racing to his daughter Paula, who also was an accomplished rider and fox hunter as well as a prominent environmentalist in eastern Pennsylvania's Chester County.

Paula Latta Coyne died in 2012, but her love of racing has been carried on by her husband, attorney Charles C. Coyne, and her daughter, financial executive Anna Coyne, a member of the Radnor Hunt Races board of trustees.

The Coynes race as Sycamore Run Farm, and they are partners with Move Up Stable in Pured It, who is trained by Kathy Neilson, daughter of Paddy Neilson. The horses entwine generation to generation.

When Kathy Neilson approached Charles Coyne with the offer of a partnership in Pured It, he readily agreed, and the payoff came Saturday when the 10-year-old Purim gelding, coming back on six days rest, gamely held off a determined challenge from Le Chevalier to win the \$35,000 Radnor Hunt Cup by a neck. Two's Company finished third, 7¼ lengths behind Le Chevalier, and Lemony Bay was fourth.

Timber horses in many ways are a different breed. The path to a Maryland Hunt Cup victory frequently is a run in the Grand National seven days earlier. The tightly spaced races can be an advantage rather than a disadvantage.

The evidence is clear that six days was beneficial for Pured It, who had chased a very slow pace in a very wet edition of the Willowdale Steeplechase and finished third on the previous Sunday.

Trainer Neilson and jockey Eddie Keating



Tod Marks

*Pured It and jockey Eddie Keating, right, turned back a sharp challenge from Le Chevalier after the final fence of the Radnor Hunt Cup and won by a neck.*

adopted a different approach for the 3¼-mile Radnor Hunt Cup, the signature race of the 89th annual Radnor Hunt Races in Malvern, Pa.

Pured It, regarded as one of the longshots in a field of seven timber specialists, jumped out to an early, uncontested lead over Lemony Bay and Two's Company, both owned by Bruton Street-US, while Michael A. Smith's Le Chevalier was in his usual position at the back of the field.

They changed positions very little until Kieran Norris asked Virginia Gold Cup runner-up Le Chevalier for a bit of run on the last trip down the backstretch. The 10-year-old Broken Vow gelding responded readily and was in striking range nearing the final fence.

Le Chevalier bid for the lead on the outside after the last, but Pured It was up to the challenge. Le Chevalier and Norris appeared ready to take the lead, but Keating kept Pured It moving forward, and they held off Le Chevalier to secure a hard-fought victory.

Two's Company, the 2016 timber champion, ran evenly to best Lemony Bay, who had finished

second in the Willowdale Steeplechase on the preceding Sunday.

Pured It, who had been disqualified from an allowance victory at the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup last November, ran the Radnor Hunt Cup's distance in 7:13 1/5 on turf rated as good.

### On the inside

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**Go Jump Racing!**



## Radnor Hunt Races Undercard



Owner-trainer Kathy Neilson's Soluble held the early lead over Heather and Peter Austin's Corky Lemon, left, who scored his second consecutive victory.

## Corky Lemon uncorks late move to win \$35,000 National Hunt Cup

Heather and Peter Austin's Corky Lemon uncorked a strong late move in a small field for Radnor Hunt Race's \$35,000 National Hunt Cup allowance hurdle, overtook leader Soluble, and prevailed by 1¼ lengths on Saturday.

Lee Pokoik's Roller Rolls On finished third, and Woodslane Farm's Other Cheek finished fourth in the 2 1/8-mile race for horses who had never won two races.

Trained by Mark Beecher, Corky Lemon had won his second start of the year, a maiden hurdle at the Queen's Cup Steeplechase in Charlotte on April 27. With Sean McDermott in the saddle, the five-year-old West Virginia-bred gelding had set all the pace and won by 5¼ lengths.

For the National Hunt Cup, McDermott was committed to owner-trainer Kathy Neilson's Soluble, a maiden winner at the Aiken Spring Steeplechase on March 23, and Beecher tapped Willie McCarthy to ride.

Soluble, a highly consistent German-bred by leading sire Galileo, had run six days earlier at the Willowdale Steeplechase and finished second in a similar allowance hurdle. One race

before the National Hunt Cup, Neilson had saddled Pured It, who won the Radnor Hunt Cup after also starting at Willowdale.

McDermott put Soluble on a soft lead, with Corky Lemon not far behind him. They raced in that position for two miles before both jockeys asked for the best from their mounts. Corky Lemon took over in the stretch and drew clear late to a victory in 4:15 3/5 on turf rated as good.

### Maccabee wins Thompson

Mason Hardaway Lampton's Maccabee became the spring season's first three-time winner when he made his usual late run under Richard Boucher and won the \$30,000 Thompson Memorial ratings handicap by two lengths over Irv Naylor's Stormy Alex. Naylor's Mathayus finished third.

Trained by Lilith Boucher, Maccabee had gotten the season off with a disqualification win in an Aiken Spring maiden claiming hurdle before finishing seventh in a ratings handicap at The Cup Runneth Over meet two weeks later. He then won Foxfield Spring's Daniel Van Clief Memorial ratings handicap on April 27.

## Mitchell scores hat trick to open four-race lead

Michael Mitchell had begun to feel some pressure from Sean McDermott in the jockey standings, but three winners on Saturday's Radnor Hunt Races program opened daylight on his chief pursuer and the remainder of the jockey colony.

The England-born rider bookended the six-race Radnor meet, taking the first race and the last two races on a sun-splashed, pleasantly warm afternoon in eastern Pennsylvania.

Mitchell ended the day with 12 victories, four more than McDermott, and took back the top spot by purse earnings. He now has earnings of \$333,850 to McDermott's \$320,000.

He struck first with DASH Stable's Prayer Hope for leading trainer Jack Fisher in a \$30,000 maiden hurdle. A four-year-old Tapit gelding, Prayer Hope had only one prior career start, a third-place finish on the flat last summer at Monmouth Park.

Gil Johnston's Brianbakescookies, second in a Virginia Gold Cup maiden hurdle two weeks earlier, set the early pace with Mitchell keeping Prayer Hope in second position. Prayer Hope and Riverdee Stable's Gostisbehere fired through the stretch, with Prayer Hope reaching the line first.

Johnston's Master Plan, a \$25,000 claim off his last flat start at Saratoga Race Course last summer, finished third, two lengths farther back. Merrielle Stable's Mr Singh, a Group 3 winner on the flat in England in 2015, was a close fourth. Prayer Hope ran the 2 1/8-mile distance in 4:09 1/5 on turf rated as good.

Mitchell closed out the program with back-to-back wins in a \$20,000 ratings handicap hurdle aboard Irv Naylor's Av A Word and a victory in a \$20,000 maiden claiming hurdle with Turks Head Turf's Brooklyn Speights in the nightcap.

Kinross Farm's Mutin set the early pace in the ratings handicap for horses ranked at 110 or lower. Mitchell moved late with Av A Word on the outside and scored by 4½ lengths over Beverly Steinman's First Friday. Sharon Sheppard's Moorland finished third in a field of 10.

Trained by Cyril Murphy, Av A Word ran the two-mile distance in 4:05 4/5 on good turf. The five-year-old Aussie Rules gelding had won a maiden claiming hurdle at the Aiken Spring Steeplechase in March 2018, his prior start.

Fenneka Bentley-trained Brooklyn Speights joined the ranks of winners with a neck victory over Gil Johnston's Knockholt in the maiden claiming hurdle. Wendy Hendriks' Argentic finished third. With Mitchell in the saddle, Brooklyn Speights ran 2 1/8 miles in 4:07 3/5.

Tod Marks





## Next Up

### Fair Hill doubleheader closes out NSA spring season

The 85th anniversary edition of the Fair Hill Spring Races will be a two-day affair on Friday and Saturday. In addition to the traditional Saturday program, the popular Northern Maryland meet will open its gates for a Friday twilight program featuring two timber races and two training flat races. First post time is 3:30 p.m.

The Saturday card will feature six hurdle races, including the \$50,000 Iris Coggins Memorial and the \$40,000 Valentine Memorial Handicap, and a training flat race. First post time for that session will be 1 p.m.. Pari-mutuel wagering will be available on Saturday but not for the Friday card.

Two mares owned by The Fields Stable will be the horses to watch in the 2¼-mile Coggins Memorial, which attracted 16 nominations.

Dawn Wall went into last year's Coggins Memorial as a maiden and emerged as a half-length

stakes winner at generous odds of 17.80-to-1. Ridden by Jack Doyle, she made a big move on Fair Hill's final turn, led at the final fence, and held on well for the victory.

The Fields Stable of Dede and Laddie Merck has had a long association with the Voss family and particularly with Dawn Wall, who was bred in Maryland by Mimi Voss and is trained by Elizabeth Voss.

Also nominated was the The Fields Stable's Sarah Joyce, a multiple stakes winner who finished third, beaten two lengths, in her attempt to win a third straight Margaret Currey Henley Stakes at Nashville's Iroquois Steeplechase on May 11. The Irish-bred seven-year-old mare also is trained by Elizabeth Voss.

The Henley produced several nominees to the 2¼-mile Coggins Memorial, including owner-trainer Jonathan Sheppard's winner Wig-


wam Baby, who prevailed by 1¼ lengths over Joseph Fowler's Down Royal, a Coggins nominee from the stable of trainer Kate Dalton.

Owner-trainer-jockey Bethany Baumgardner nominated Mavourneen, who finished fourth in the Henley after a second-place finish in Foxfield Spring's Daniel Van Clief Memorial, a ratings handicap against male opponents.

Also nominated out of the Henley were KMSN Stable's Inverness, seventh; Clarke Ohrstrom's Furiosa, ninth; Beverly Steinman's Go As You Please, 10th; and Gil Johnston's Amnicalola, who was pulled up.

Owner-trainer F. Hill Parker's 2016 champion Get Ready Set Goes was nominated for a comeback effort in what would be her first start of the year. The Ohio-bred most recently finished fourth to Sarah Joyce in last year's Henley.

Entries for the two cards will be drawn today.



## STEEPLECHASE STANDINGS THROUGH MAY 20

| OWNERS BY EARNINGS     |     |     |     |     |           | JOCKEYS BY WINS  |     |     |     |     |           |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
|                        | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Earnings  |                  | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Earnings  |
| Bruton Street-US       | 24  | 4   | 6   | 5   | \$267,250 | Michael Mitchell | 34  | 12  | 4   | 5   | \$333,850 |
| Riverdee Stable        | 7   | 2   | 1   | 2   | 140,900   | Sean McDermott   | 37  | 8   | 4   | 9   | 320,000   |
| Irvin S. Naylor        | 29  | 5   | 4   | 4   | 118,400   | Jack Doyle       | 36  | 6   | 3   | 4   | 207,900   |
| Mrs. S.K. Johnston Jr. | 20  | 5   | 2   | 4   | 116,200   | Richard Boucher  | 11  | 4   | 1   | 0   | 65,700    |
| Rosbrian Farm          | 12  | 2   | 3   | 0   | 90,350    | Hadden Frost     | 9   | 3   | 2   | 0   | 72,550    |
| Irvin L. Crawford II   | 2   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 90,000    | Eddie Keating    | 15  | 3   | 1   | 5   | 74,100    |
| Ballybristol Farm      | 5   | 2   | 2   | 0   | 86,100    | Aaron Sinnott    | 10  | 3   | 1   | 0   | 49,950    |
| DASH Stable            | 2   | 2   | 2   | 1   | 65,900    | Eric Poretz      | 10  | 2   | 3   | 1   | 112,650   |
| KMSN Stable            | 6   | 2   | 0   | 1   | 50,750    | Willie McCarthy  | 26  | 2   | 6   | 2   | 97,000    |
| Mason H. Lampton       | 4   | 3   | 0   | 0   | 42,000    | Gerard Galligan  | 22  | 2   | 3   | 3   | 95,550    |

| TRAINERS BY WINS  |     |     |     |     |           | HORSES BY EARNINGS |     |     |     |     |          |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
|                   | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Earnings  |                    | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Earnings |
| Jack Fisher       | 63  | 18  | 11  | 7   | \$680,850 | Senior Senator     | 2   | 2   | 0   | 0   | \$90,000 |
| Jonathan Sheppard | 32  | 7   | 1   | 6   | 181,100   | Scorpiancer (Ire)  | 2   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 90,000   |
| Katherine Neilson | 31  | 6   | 5   | 5   | 155,200   | Andi'amu (Fr)      | 2   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 78,000   |
| Leslie F. Young   | 15  | 4   | 3   | 3   | 117,800   | City Dreamer (Ire) | 2   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 78,000   |
| Lilith Boucher    | 7   | 4   | 1   | 0   | 63,400    | Gibralfaro (Ire)   | 2   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 64,500   |
| Ricky Hendriks    | 35  | 3   | 5   | 6   | 141,650   | Moscato (Fr)       | 2   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 60,000   |
| Joseph G. Davies  | 15  | 2   | 2   | 1   | 113,500   | Sportswear (GB)    | 2   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 48,000   |
| Neil R. Morris    | 18  | 2   | 2   | 4   | 56,350    | Corky Lemon        | 3   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 45,600   |
| Mark Beecher      | 16  | 2   | 1   | 1   | 56,700    | Optimus Prime (Fr) | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 45,000   |
| Julie Gomena      | 28  | 1   | 6   | 2   | 71,250    | Maccabee           | 4   | 3   | 0   | 0   | 42,000   |