



MONDAY REPORT

A weekly report from the National Steeplechase Association

Monday, August 19, 2019

Smithwick winner Winston C carries highweight for N.Y. Turf Writers Cup

Hudson River Farms' Winston C, who won going away in Saratoga Race Course's A. P. Smithwick Memorial (Gr. 1), will carry the 154-pound highweight for Thursday's \$150,000 New York Turf Writers Cup Handicap (Gr. 1), the signature steeplechase race of the New York showcase track.

Trained by Racing Hall of Fame member Jonathan Sheppard, the Irish-bred drew clear of his competition to win the Smithwick by a widening 3½ lengths on July 25. The five-year-old had a three-win streak in England and was suggested to the Sheppard team by jockey Thomas Garner, who was named to ride Winston C in the 2 3/8-mile on Saratoga's inner turf course.

Garner was cleared to ride after he sustained a fall at Colonial Downs on Saturday.

The Rip Van Winkle gelding will be lining up against a familiar field and will concede at least eight pounds to his eight opponents.

Every member of the New York Turf Writers cast also was entered for the Smithwick, and seven of them started. The Fields Stable's Portrade, winner of the 2016 New York Turf Writers, was on the also-eligible list and did not start.

Sheppard, whose streak of at least one win at each Saratoga meet ended in 2016 after 47 years, also will saddle Buttonwood Farm's All the Way Jose, who finished fifth in the Smithwick at 2 1/16 miles. Winner of Belmont Park's Lonesome Glory Handicap (Gr. 1) in 2017, he will be ridden by Gerard Galligan.

Leading trainer Jack Fisher will take three shots at the winner's circle. Sonny Via's Hinterland ran evenly in the Smithwick and finished third, 4¼ lengths behind Winston C. Willie McCarthy will ride the French-bred veteran.

Fisher also saddled the fourth finisher, Riverdee Stable's Gibralfaro, who was another 4½ lengths back. Leading jockey Michael Mitchell has a return call for the New York Turf Writers.

Gill Johnston's Peppay Le Pugh, Fisher's third shooter, was making his first American start in the Smithwick and has room to improve after finishing ninth. In the saddle will be Darren Nagle, the reigning champion jockey who has returned from a work-related injury.



Tom Marks

Hudson River Farms' Winston C led a large field to the finish in the A. P. Smithwick Memorial.

Trainer Elizabeth Voss also entered three contenders for the New York Turf Writers, including two owned by York, Pa., contractor Robert A. Kinsley. No Wunder, who won the Fair Hill Races' Valentine Memorial in May for Kinsley, finished seventh in the Smithwick. Kieran Norris will ride.

Jack Doyle, who won both Colonial Downs jump races on Saturday, will be aboard Kinsley's Modem for Voss. Second in the 2017 New York Turf Writers during his first U.S. racing season, Modem finished 11th in the Smithwick.

Voss also trains Portrade, who was pulled up in his two starts this year. He will be ridden by Ross Geraghty.

Completing the field is Belisarius, who is owned by Gary Barber, Brous Racing Stable, and Wachtel Stable. The Irish-bred finished

10th in the Smithwick and also was entered for Wednesday's Michael G. Walsh Novice Stakes. Bernie Dalton has the mount.

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Go Jump Racing!



Arch My Boy tops well-matched Walsh Novice

Jacqueline Ohrstrom's Arch My Boy, who made his American debut with a game second in Saratoga Race Course's Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes on July 24, will attempt to advance to the winner's circle on Wednesday when he meets a highly competitive field for Saratoga's \$75,000 Michael G. Walsh Novice Stakes.

Members of the National Steeplechase Association's rising-stars division will stretch out to 2 3/8 miles from the Jonathan Kiser's 2 1/16 miles.

Now trained by Richard Valentine, four-year-old Arch My Boy took the lead at the top of Saratoga's stretch in the Kiser before relinquishing the advantage to Redicean at the last fence. But he never stopped fighting and was advancing on Redicean at the finish line.

He finished three-quarters of a length behind the winner. Kieran Norris gets a return call on Arch My Boy, who won his final two overseas starts by a combined 39 lengths.

Valentine thought enough of Arch My Boy to nominate him to Thursday's \$150,000 New York Turf Writers Cup (Gr. 1) but only entered him in the Walsh.

Also nominated to the 2 3/8-mile New York Turf Writers and entered for both races was Belisarius, who finished 10th in Saratoga's A. P. Smithwick Memorial (Gr. 1) on July 25.

Owned by Gary Barber, Brous Stable, and Wachtel Racing Stable, Belisarius is trained by Kate Dalton and will be ridden by her husband, veteran jockey Bernie Dalton. Belisarius is seeking to regain the form that carried him to a victory in a division of the Far Hills Races' Foxbrook Champion Hurdle last October.

Graham Watters has a return call on Irv Naylor's Chief Justice, a four-year-old who closed well to be fourth in the Iroquois Steeplechase's Marcellus Frost Champion Hurdle for trainer Cyril Murphy.



Arch My Boy finished second in Saratoga's Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes.

Tod Marks

The Frost was Chief Justice's American debut after a successful juvenile career in England and Ireland. Now four, he closed out that phase of his career with a victory in a handicap hurdle at Aintree on April 6.

Racing Hall of Fame trainer Jonathan Sheppard will saddle KMSN Racing Stable's Sportswear, winner of an Iroquois allowance hurdle on May 11.

Undeclared over fences, Sportswear would have been among the Kiser favorites but developed a temporary lameness on the morning of the race. Gerard Galligan will ride the four-year-old by the undefeated Frankel, now a promising sire in Europe.

Leading trainer Jack Fisher will send out

Sheila Williams' and Northwoods Stable's Storm Team and Gill Johnston's Cite. Storm Team, fifth in the Kiser, will be ridden by Jack Doyle, who will be seeking his third straight win after sweeping both hurdle races at Colonial Downs on Aug. 17.

Willie McCarthy has a return call on Cite, who kicked off the Saratoga jump-racing season with a half-length win an allowance hurdle on July 21.

Completing the field is Rosbrian Farm's Veneer of Charm, who finished eighth in the Queen's Cup MPC 'Chase for novices on April 27 in his only 2019 start over fences. Trainer Ricky Hendriks named leading jockey Michael Mitchell to ride.

Snap Decision scores an easy decision

Bruton Street-US's Snap Decision snapped away from front-running Zanzi Win after the final fence on Saratoga Race Course's backstretch and romped home to a 3 1/2-length decision in a \$65,000 allowance hurdle on Aug. 14.

Jockey Willie McCarthy repeatedly looked back for competition and, detecting none, allowed the well-bred Hard Spun five-year-old to gallop home to the easiest of victories. Trained by Jack Fisher, Snap Decision went off as the 7-to-5 favorite and paid \$4.80 to win.

Eve Ledyard's Go Get the Basil, making his first start for trainer Jonathan Sheppard, battled on under Gerard Galligan to claim the place, a neck ahead of Lee Pokoik's Roller Rolls On in third. Armata Stables' Zanzi Win, making

his first U.S. start for trainer Ricky Hendriks, finished fourth in a field of eight.

Snap Decision, bred by the Phipps Stable and formerly trained by Claude R. "Shug" McGaughey III, is no stranger to the New York tracks and won two races on the flat early in his racing career. But he lacked sufficient speed to compete meaningfully in New York Racing Association optional claimers.

Acquired by Bruton Street after a third-place finish at Aqueduct in late November, Snap Decision has never been worse than second over fences. He had two second-place finishes, at the Queen's Cup in April and the Iroquois Steeplechase in May, before his maiden win over fences at Monmouth Park on July 4.

The Saratoga allowance hurdle was the next

step up the ladder, and Snap Decision graduated into the novice ranks with an impressive effort. He ran the 2 1/16-mile distance in 3:38.82 on firm turf.

A four-year-old who won his first jump race at England's Plumpton Race Course in April, Zanzi Win showed some nervousness as he warmed up under Ross Geraghty, and he laid down a solid pace for the first mile and three-quarters.

Another newcomer to American racing, Leipers Ford Steeplechasers' Tomgarrow, tracked Zanzi Win's pace, while McCarthy allowed Snap Decision to idle along in third position. Those three maintained their positions until approaching the final fence, where both Zanzi Win and Tomgarrow began to tire. Snap Decision scooted to the lead and steadily drew away.



Doyle sweeps Colonial Downs' jump races

Jack Doyle rode the winners of both Colonial Downs steeplechase races on Aug. 17, closing well with Riverdee Stable's Snowie Hill in the \$30,000 maiden hurdle for fillies and mares before picking up the mount and a victory aboard Silverton Hill's Bodes Well in the \$20,000 ratings handicap.

Snowie Hill, a full sister to 2016 novice and female champion Get Ready Set Goes, wore down KMSN Stable's Inverness in deep stretch to claim the maiden victory by a nose.

Snowie Hill is trained by F. Hill Parker, who bred the four-year-old and recently transferred her to the Riverdee Stable racing partnership. She is named for the trainer's late mother, Frances Snowden "Snowie" Hill Myers, who bred Get Ready Set Goes.

Inverness, trained by Keri Brion, made a strong move on Colonial's final turn, grabbed the lead early in the stretch, led by two lengths over the last fence, and lost on the head bob in a courageous effort under Michael Mitchell.

Beverly R. Steinman's homebred Paris Lady finished third, six lengths behind Inverness, in



JACK DOYLE

a field of 10. Sent off at 6.40-to-1, Snowie Hill paid \$14.80 to win after running the 2¼-mile distance in 4:13.26 on firm turf.

Owner-trainer Jonathan Sheppard's Sweeter

Surprise fell at the last fence with Thomas Garner, who was to ride Bodes Well in the Virginia track's second steeplechase race of the evening.

Doyle had no mount in the jump-racing nightcap, and trainer Leslie Young gave him the call when Garner was unable to ride.

Doyle maintained Bodes Well in a close-up position as first Steinman's Shamsaan and then Morning Star Farm's Shoreline set the pace. As they tired, Bodes Well, Taking The Lead Stable's Lead Investor, and Irv Naylor's Av A Word took over, with Bodes Well grabbing the lead at the last fence.

Doyle made a quick check under his right arm to be certain that no one was closing on him and gave Bodes Well a hand-ride to the finish line. Both of Doyle's winners went off at 6.40-to-1, and Bodes Well also paid \$14.80 after running the 2¼ miles in 4:02.15. Lead Investor finished second, three lengths ahead of Av A Word in third. Brooklyn Speights finished fourth.

Young picked up her second ratings handicap victory of the meet after Sharon Sheppard's Moorland won on Aug. 10 with Garner riding..

Tom Marks



STEEPLECHASE STANDINGS



THROUGH AUGUST 15

OWNERS BY EARNINGS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Bruton Street-US	28	6	6	5	\$328,000
Mrs. S.K. Johnston Jr.	30	7	4	6	204,000
Riverdee Stable	12	2	3	2	159,800
Irvin S. Naylor	37	4	5	5	128,650
Rosbrian Farm	14	3	3	0	110,300
Hudson River Farms	7	1	0	4	109,000
Ballybristol Farm	9	2	2	1	92,250
Sharon E. Sheppard	11	3	2	3	91,150
Irvin L. Crawford II	2	2	0	0	90,000
Beverly R. Steinmsn	18	2	2	2	84,800

JOCKEYS BY WINS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Michael Mitchell	51	16	6	5	\$444,800
Sean McDermott	49	9	5	9	356,150
Jack Doyle	48	7	4	5	253,100
Thomas Garner	41	5	3	6	253,300
Willie McCarthy	35	5	7	5	219,400
Richard Boucher	15	4	1	2	73,800
Ross Geraghty	34	3	6	4	165,150
Gerard Galligan	34	3	6	3	145,650
Barry Foley	40	3	4	7	127,250
Hadden Frost	10	3	2	0	72,550

TRAINERS BY WINS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Jack Fisher	90	26	15	10	\$949,300
Jonathan Sheppard	44	9	3	7	322,100
Leslie F. Young	26	6	4	4	197,600
Katherine Neilson	37	6	5	5	157,500
Ricky Hendriks	43	5	5	6	176,350
Lilith Boucher	10	4	1	2	71,500
Joseph G. Davies	16	2	2	1	114,700
Doug Fout	24	2	2	4	101,100
Neil R. Morris	22	2	2	5	63,250
Mark Beecher	18	2	1	1	58,700

HORSES BY EARNINGS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Winston C	2	1	0	1	\$100,000
Senior Senator	2	2	0	0	90,000
Scorpiancer (Ire)	2	1	0	0	90,000
And'amu (Fr)	2	2	0	0	78,000
Gibralfaro (Ire)	3	1	0	0	72,000
Snap Decision	4	2	2	0	71,400
City Dreamer (Ire)	2	1	0	0	65,000
Market Alley	4	2	0	0	60,000
Moscato (Fr)	2	1	0	1	60,000
Sportswear (GB)	2	2	0	0	48,000