



MONDAY REPORT

A weekly report from the National Steeplechase Association

Monday, August 5, 2019

Competitive field for Mrs. Phipps

The first two finishers from the Margaret Currey Henley Stakes and a 2016 dual champion are part of a competitive field for Saratoga Race Course's \$75,000 Mrs. Ogden Phipps Stakes for fillies and mares on Wednesday.

Owner-trainer Jonathan Sheppard's Wigwam Baby made most of the pace in the Iroquois Steeplechase's Henley for fillies and mares on May 11 and won by 1¼ lengths. In her previous start, she finished sixth in a \$25,000 open ratings handicap at the Cup Runneth Over meet at Camden, S.C., on April 6.

No stranger to Saratoga, she finished second in the 2017 Mrs. Phipps. Gerard Galligan will ride the eight-year-old Langfuhr mare.

Shadowfax Stable's Down Royal closed ground in Iroquois' stretch to finish second in the Henley, her only start over fences this year for trainer Kate Dalton. Bernie Dalton will ride Down Royal in the 2 1/16-mile Mrs. Phipps.

A five-year-old by Alphabet Soup, Down Royal was bred by the Daltons in New York. She came to hand early for the Camden-based couple and looked to be headed for victory in the 2017 Gladstone Stakes for three-year-olds at the Far Hills Races. But she sustained serious interference, finished third, and was placed second. She won her maiden victory in her next start.

Wigwam Baby and Down Royal started in divisions of Parx Racing's flat races for hurdlers on July 1, with Wigwam Baby finishing fourth in her heat while Down Royal was ninth in hers.

Both carry 111 ratings in the National Steeplechase Association's rankings of all winners over hurdles. Carrying the 112 top rating in the Mrs. Phipps field is Get Ready Set Goes, who is attempting to reset her career for trainer F. Hill Parker.

Ohio-bred Get Ready Set Goes took down dual NSA championships in 2016, when she was the leading female and the leading novice by purses. She won the 2016 Mrs. Phipps after her maiden score and then won Far Hills' Peapack Stakes for fillies and mares to secure both crowns.

She will be making her first start of the current season. In her last start, she finished fourth in the 2018 Henley. Richard Boucher will ride.

Before Get Ready Set Goes, the only dual winner of the female and novice titles was The Fields Stable's Guelph, who doubled up in 2005 for Hall of Fame trainer Tom Voss. Guelph also



Tod Marks

Wigwam Baby led Down Royal at the last fence of the 2019 Margaret Currey Henley.

was the Life's Illusion Filly and Mare champion in 2008.

In turn, Guelph is the dam of The Fields Stable's Dawn Wall, winner of the 2018 Iris Coggins Memorial for females at Fair Hill. That was her final jumps start last year, and she returned with a distant fourth-place finish in this year's Coggins Memorial on May 25.

For the Mrs. Phipps, trainer Elizabeth Voss named Jack Doyle to ride the six-year-old mare by top Maryland sire Not For Love.

NSA Chairman Beverly R. Steinman will be represented by Bullet Star and Market Alley, both trained by Doug Fout. In her only 2019 start over fences, Bullet Star finished third in a Foxfield Spring ratings handicap on April 27.

Kieran Norris will ride the five-year-old Bullet Train mare, who was bred by Magalen O. Bryant and is out of 2010 NSA female champion Ptarmigan.

Barry Foley will be aboard Steinman-bred

Market Alley, a five-year-old Flower Alley mare who won her maiden victory at Foxfield Spring and then finished fifth in the Henley.

Completing the field is Virginia Lazenby's Our Frosty, a runaway maiden winner at Aiken Fall last October. She started her 2019 season with a third in an Aiken Spring ratings handicap on March 23 before being pulled up in the Cup Runneth Over ratings handicap.

Trained by Kate Dalton, Louisiana-bred Our Frosty will be ridden by Mark Watts.

On the inside

Colonial Downs opens its doors for the first time in six years on Thursday, and two steeplechase races are on tap for Saturday's rich program.....2

Go Jump Racing!





Looking ahead Colonial Downs opens its doors this week

Entries close today and the overnight sheet will be out tomorrow for the first pari-mutuel steeplechase races to be run at Colonial Downs in Virginia in more than six years.

On tap for Saturday's rich program at the New Kent County track are a \$30,000 Sport of Kings maiden hurdle and a \$25,000 ratings handicap, both at 2¼ miles on Colonial's expansive Secretariat Turf Course.

Steeplechase races, although without betting, were the last Thoroughbred races to be run at Colonial. The Dogwood Classic race meet on April 5, 2014, offered five races, and the entry-level allowance hurdle was won by Edith Dixon's homebred Schoodic, who would become a Grade 2 winner in Virginia and, for a new owner, now is a rising timber horse.

Colonial's final pari-mutuel steeplechase race was run on June 8, 2013, when a rookie trainer named Cyril Murphy pulled a 23.90-to-1 upset

with Inti in the David L. "Zeke" Ferguson Memorial (Gr. 3). Since then, of course, Murphy has become one of the sport's leading trainers.

Much has changed in Virginia, as well. The Virginia Equine Alliance was formed to carry the torch of Thoroughbred racing in one of its American birthplaces, and pari-mutuel racing was inaugurated at the International Gold Cup and the Virginia Gold Cup.

One constant has been the Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA), under the guidance of Executive Director Frank Petramalo Jr., a former National Steeplechase Association director.


The Virginia Equine Alliance and the Virginia HBPA worked to change attitudes toward racing in Richmond, the state's capital and a short drive from the track. Under its former ownership, the track encountered serious difficulties in building out its network of off-track wagering facilities.

The reopening of Colonial on Thursday for a 15-date season was made possible in part by legislative approval of historical racing—machine pari-mutuel wagering on long-ago races—that is now available at the track at its off-track facilities.

Jeffrey Jacobs, who opened the track in 1997 and closed it in 2014, has been succeeded by the Colonial Downs Group, which has built a strong roster of industry veterans.

Colonial's vice president of racing operations is Jill Byrne, whose father was successful Virginia steeplechase trainer Peter Howe. She was a pioneering broadcaster for TVG and held executive positions at Churchill Downs and Breeders' Cup Ltd.

The track's racing secretary, Allison DeLuca, brings decades of experience to her position and has been Tampa Bay Downs' racing secretary since 2006.



STEEPLECHASE STANDINGS THROUGH AUGUST 5

OWNERS BY EARNINGS						JOCKEYS BY WINS					
	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings		Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Bruton Street-US	27	5	6	5	\$289,000	Michael Mitchell	46	16	5	5	\$437,200
Mrs. S.K. Johnston Jr.	28	7	4	6	202,000	Sean McDermott	47	9	5	9	355,150
Riverdee Stable	11	2	2	2	153,200	Jack Doyle	45	7	4	5	248,150
Irvin S. Naylor	36	4	5	5	127,650	Thomas Garner	36	4	3	6	234,700
Rosbrian Farm	14	3	3	0	110,300	Willie McCarthy	33	4	7	4	177,400
Hudson River Farms	7	1	0	4	109,000	Richard Boucher	13	4	1	1	70,200
Ballybristol Farm	8	2	2	1	91,250	Ross Geraghty	31	3	6	4	161,900
Irvin L. Crawford II	2	2	0	0	90,000	Hadden Frost	10	3	2	0	72,550
Sharon E. Sheppard	10	2	2	3	76,150	Eddie Keating	16	3	1	5	74,100
DASH Stable	5	2	2	1	65,900	Aaron Sinnott	13	3	1	0	52,000

TRAINERS BY WINS						HORSES BY EARNINGS					
	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings		Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Jack Fisher	85	25	14	9	\$899,700	Winston C	2	1	0	1	\$100,000
Jonathan Sheppard	40	8	2	7	291,400	Senior Senator	2	2	0	0	90,000
Katherine Neilson	35	6	5	5	155,500	Scorpiancer (Ire)	2	1	0	0	90,000
Leslie F. Young	23	5	4	4	179,000	Andi'amu (Fr)	2	2	0	0	78,000
Ricky Hendriks	42	5	5	6	173,100	Gibralfaro (Ire)	3	1	0	0	72,000
Lilith Boucher	9	4	1	1	67,900	City Dreamer (Ire)	2	1	0	0	65,000
Joseph G. Davies	16	2	2	1	114,700	Moscato (Fr)	2	1	0	1	60,000
Neil R. Morris	21	2	2	5	61,450	Sportswear (GB)	2	2	0	0	48,000
Mark Beecher	18	2	1	1	58,700	Corky Lemon	3	2	0	0	45,600
Julie Gomena	33	1	7	3	85,650	Optimus Prime (Fr)	1	1	0	0	45,000