



# MONDAY REPORT

A weekly report from the National Steeplechase Association

Monday, September 16, 2019

## Colonial boosts NSA summer season

With a strong assist from a reborn and revitalized Colonial Downs, the National Steeplechase Association wrapped up a successful summer racing season with the Virginia track's Randolph Rouse Handicap on Sept. 7.

"From two flat races at Parx Racing to Colonial's races, the summer season has been very gratifying," said NSA Director of Racing Bill Gallo Jr. "Monmouth Park rescheduled two maiden races for us, and our Saratoga Race Course program this summer was very strong."

Indeed, Saratoga's two Grade 1 races, the A. P. Smithwick Memorial (Gr. 1) and the New York Turf Writers Cup Handicap (Gr. 1), were won by Hudson River Farms' rising star Winston C, and the New York Racing Association meet also featured two other stakes races and impressive winners in allowance hurdles.

"I can't say enough about Colonial Downs," Gallo said. "Virginia is a stronghold of jump racing, and the Colonial races benefited all of our horsemen by offering 10 racing opportunities that we would not have had otherwise."

"The atmosphere was terrific, and Colonial's Secretariat Turf Course was a wonderful surface to showcase our sport."

Gallo noted that the Colonial races targeted horses that otherwise would have been idle over the summer. "Maidens cannot race at Saratoga, and Colonial provided five opportunities to create new winners," he said. "Ratings handicap horses had no opportunities at Saratoga this year, and they had four races at Colonial."

"As a result, the Saratoga and Colonial racing programs meshed together well to provide a robust menu of jump racing opportunities for our owners and trainers through the summer."

Riverdee Stable's Snowie Hill was a two-time winner at Colonial, scoring in an Aug. 17 maiden hurdle and again in the Rouse Handicap on Colonial's closing program.

Reopened under new ownership and management after a six-year hiatus, Colonial Downs attracted large crowds and large betting fields to the track located between Richmond and Williamsburg. Racing fans of all ages packed the track's apron, and crowds were four deep to watch the horses being saddled before their races.

Colonial Downs welcomed the steeplechase horses and horsemen as well. "We were very



Coady Photography

Riverdee Stable's Snowie Hill won a Colonial maiden hurdle and the Randolph Rouse Handicap.

pleased with the steeplechase races. They were very successful," said Jill Byrne, Colonial's vice president of racing operations.

"Given Virginia's steeplechase heritage, it was a natural to have jump races here. The steeplechase races were well received by the public; people like to watch it. Our flat jockeys would come out to the rail to watch the jump races."

Colonial's spacious and safe turf course also was an attraction. "The ability to race over this course was a big positive," she said.

Steeplechase racing also received strong support from the Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association. "Our board supports steeplechasing, said VHBPA Executive Director Frank Petramalo. "Some of our directors race both flat and steeplechase horses."

"Overall, the horsemen were absolutely delighted with the Colonial meet," said Petramalo, a former NSA director. "We had good support from the steeplechase owners and trainers for the races."

Colonial attracted large fields throughout its meet, and the steeplechase races also filled well. Colonial averaged 8.53 starters per race, and the jump races were close to that average at 8.4 starters in each of the 10 races. Betting on Colonial's races exceeded \$1-million a day, and the track's purse structure--topping \$500,000 a day over the 15 dates--attracted horsemen from all over the country.

"Those purse levels were unheard of for Virginia," Petramalo said. "The new management is very racing savvy and committed to bringing back Virginia racing at a high level."

The summer races at Saratoga and Colonial put the NSA ahead of 2018 figures for both races and starts. The Rouse Handicap, which concluded Colonial's jump-racing schedule, was the NSA's 101st race this season, and those races have had 804 starts. At the same point in the calendar last year, 98 races had accounted for 756 starts.

The Virginia track plans to expand its racing program next year to between 21 and 30 dates from this year's 15, and steeplechasing very likely will be a part of the program. Colonial also is considering a standalone day of steeplechase races in coming years.

"A day of steeplechasing racing with tailgating would be a popular attraction," Byrne said.

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## Go Jump Racing!





# Winston C shoulders 160-pound highweight in Belmont Park's Lonesome Glory Handicap

Hudson River Farms' Winston C, invincible at Saratoga Race Course this summer, will take on many of steeplechasing's leading competitors in Thursday's \$150,000 Lonesome Glory Handicap (Gr. 1). Among his opponents is Eclipse Award winner Scorpiancer, also a Grade 1 race winner this season.

Trained by Racing Hall of Fame member Jonathan Sheppard, Irish-bred Winston C thrashed his competition at Saratoga, winning the A. P. Smithwick Memorial (Gr. 1) by 3½ lengths and the New York Turf Writers Cup Handicap (Gr. 1) by 8¾ lengths.

Ridden by Thomas Garner, who touted the five-year-old to the Sheppard camp last spring, Winston C will be asked to extend to 2½ miles from the New York Turf Writers' 2 3/8 miles, but he was pulling away in both Saratoga races. Those two victories earned him the 160-pound highweight in the Lonesome Glory.

Two pounds below him is Bruton Street-US's Scorpiancer, the 2017 Eclipse winner who won the Lonesome Glory in 2016. Scorpiancer skipped the summer's races after winning the Calvin Houghland Iroquois (Gr. 1) for a second time in May.

The 10-year-old Irish-bred is trained by Jack Fisher and again will have Sean McDermott in the saddle. Fisher also will saddle two other starters, Bruton Street-US's Moscato and Sonny Via's Hinterland.

Moscato won the Temple Gwathmey Handicap (Gr. 2) in April before finishing third in the Iroquois, beaten a length. He locked up the 2017 novice championship with a victory in Belmont Park's William Entenmann Memorial Novice Stakes. Current leading jockey Michael Mitchell will ride the eight-year-old, who carries 148 pounds.

Willie McCarthy will be aboard Hinterland, who finished third in the Smithwick and fourth in the New York Turf Writers. The French-bred 11-year-old was assigned 142 pounds.

Trainer Leslie Young will have a strong hand for the Lonesome Glory with Irv Naylor's Bedrock and Sharon Sheppard's Redicean. Third in the weights at 152 pounds, Bedrock tired to finish sixth in the Smithwick, his U.S. debut. He will be reunited with Rachael Blackmore, who rode him to two victories in Ireland last fall.

Jack Doyle, now second in the jockey standings after a four-win summer season, takes over the mount on Redicean, who graduated from the novice ranks with a victory in Saratoga's Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes under Garner. After his Kiser win, Redicean finished a distant fourth in the John's Call Stakes on the flat at Saratoga. He carries 148 pounds for the Lonesome Glory.



Tod Marks

Winston C won Saratoga's A. P. Smithwick Memorial (Gr. 1) under Thomas Garner.

Wendy Hendriks' Surprising Soul, assigned 114 pounds, will be making his first start since finishing second in the Calvin Houghland Iroquois, a length behind Scorpiancer and a head in front of Moscato. Ross Geraghty rides the Ontario-bred for trainer Ricky Hendriks, the owner's son.

In addition to Winston C, Sheppard will saddle Buttonwood Farm's All the Way Jose, winner of the 2017 Lonesome Glory. The 9-year-old

Sheppard-bred finished fourth in the Calvin Houghland Iroquois and fifth in both Saratoga Grade 1 races. He carries 142 pounds and will be ridden by Gerard Galligan.

Completing the field and also carrying 142 pounds is Belisarius, who finished third in the New York Turf Writers. Owned by Gary Barber, Brous Racing Stable, and Wachtel Stable, Belisarius is trained by Kate Dalton and will be ridden by her husband, Bernie Dalton.

## Maryland Hunt Cup announces changes

The Maryland Hunt Cup Committee has announced a change in leadership. After serving as Secretary from 2007 to 2019, Sherlock S. Gillet Jr. is stepping down, and committee members Nancy M. Roberts and Elizabeth P. McKnight will be filling the position as co-secretaries.

The committee extends its heartfelt thanks to Mr. Gillet, pictured at right, for his many years of impeccable leadership.



Douglas Lees



## Looking ahead

# Belmont's Entenmann draws tough field

A field of young, fresh horses will line up Wednesday for a highly competitive edition of Belmont Park's \$75,000 William Entenmann Memorial Novice Stakes. First post time is 3 p.m. at the Long Island track.

The Entenmann's oldest competitors are five-year-olds, and three of its eight entrants are four-year-olds.

Jack Fisher, all but assured the year's training titles with 27 wins already in the hopper and more than \$1-million in purse earnings, will field three contenders for the 2 1/4-mile Entenmann.

Michael Mitchell, currently leading the jockey standings, will be aboard Hyggelig Haven's four-year-old Cracker Factory, who finished 13th in the Cheltenham Festival's Fred Winter Juvenile Handicap Hurdle in March before being shipped to the U.S.

Fisher named Sean McDermott will ride Riverdee Stable's City Dreamer, who won the Iroquois Steeplechase's Marcellus Frost

Champion Hurdle in May.

Completing the Fisher trio is Bruton Street-US's Snap Decision, a 38½-length winner in a Saratoga Race Course allowance hurdle on Aug. 14.

Snap Decision kicked off the summer hurdle season on July 4 with a daylight victory in a Monmouth Park, Willie McCarthy, who had four wins over the summer season, will ride.

Also coming out of the Marcellus Frost is Irv Naylor's Chief Justice, who finished fourth, beaten 1¼ lengths, in his U.S. debut. He finished 12th in the Fred Winter and won an Aintree handicap hurdle before arriving in time for the Nashville race. Trainer Cyril Murphy named Graham Watters to ride the four-year-old.

Trainer Richard Valentine will saddle Jacqueline Ohrstrom's Arch My Boy, who finished a good second to Redicean in Saratoga's Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes, his U.S. debut, in July. Before arriving in the U.S., Arch My

Boy had scored two easy victories in England. Kieran Norris will ride.

KMSN Stable's Sportswear very likely would have been the favorite in the Kiser, but he developed a fleeting episode of lameness and was scratched on the morning of the race. Trained by Jonathan Sheppard, the four-year-old Frankel gelding won an Iroquois Steeplechase allowance hurdle. Gerard Galligan will ride.

Ricky Hendriks, who finished second to Fisher in last year's trainer standings, will field two Rosbrian Farm contenders. Teodoro flashed to a 33¼-length win at Saratoga on Aug. 28, and the speedy front-runner will again be ridden by Ross Geraghty.

Jack Doyle, who moved into second place in the jockey standings with four summer wins, will ride Rosbrian's Veneer of Charm, who was unplaced in his only jumps start this year, the Queen's Cup MPC 'Chase for novices on April 27. He won on the flat at Delaware Park.

# STEEPLECHASE STANDINGS THROUGH SEPT. 16



### OWNERS BY EARNINGS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Bruton Street-US	28	6	6	5	\$328,000
Riverdee Stable	17	4	5	2	242,400
Mrs. S.K. Johnston Jr.	35	8	4	7	226,600
Hudson River Farms	9	2	0	4	200,800
Rosbrian Farm	15	4	3	0	149,300
Irvin S. Naylor	39	4	5	6	132,050
Ballybristol Farm	10	2	3	1	98,850
Beverly R. Steinman	24	2	2	3	93,400
Sharon E. Sheppard	11	3	2	3	91,150
Irvin L. Crawford II	2	2	0	0	90,000

### JOCKEYS BY WINS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Michael Mitchell	59	16	10	6	\$508,900
Jack Doyle	57	11	6	8	359,700
Sean McDermott	51	9	5	10	359,550
Thomas Garner	41	6	3	6	344,300
Willie McCarthy	38	6	7	5	245,900
Richard Boucher	17	5	1	2	93,800
Ross Geraghty	39	4	6	4	210,950
Gerard Galligan	38	4	7	4	175,250
Barry Foley	45	3	4	9	140,750
Hadden Frost	10	3	2	0	72,550

### TRAINERS BY WINS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Jack Fisher	97	27	17	10	\$1,010,400
Jonathan Sheppard	57	11	5	8	459,800
Leslie F. Young	30	7	7	4	226,100
Ricky Hendriks	51	6	6	7	235,250
Katherine Neilson	39	6	5	5	159,450
Lilith Boucher	12	5	1	2	90,500
Julie Gomena	38	2	7	4	107,750
Joseph G. Davies	16	2	2	1	114,700
Doug Fout	32	2	2	6	116,550
Neil R. Morris	24	2	2	5	66,050

### HORSES BY EARNINGS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Winston C	3	2	0	1	\$190,000
Gibralfaro (Ire)	4	1	1	0	99,000
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
Snap Decision	4	2	2	0	71,400
City Dreamer (Ire)	2	1	0	0	65,000
Teodoro (Ire)	3	2	1	0	62,400
Market Alley	4	2	0	0	60,000
Moscato (GB)	2	1	0	1	60,000